College Tuition and Affordability at Vanderbilt

BY THE NUMBERS (2015–2016)

$44,712
Tuition and fees

$63,532
Total expenses

$46,002
Average financial aid award received by students

Average net price

$150,729,994
Total Vanderbilt-funded gift assistance

2.0 percent (from 2014–2015 to 2015–2016)
Tuition and fees increase

92 percent/87 percent
Six-year graduation rate/four-year graduation rate

69 percent
First-year students who received aid

1.2 percent (2011–2013)
Three-year federal student loan default rate

14 percent (2014–2015)
Students who are Pell eligible

4th
Kiplinger ranked Vanderbilt as the 4th best-value private university in 2017

93.8 percent
Graduating students who are satisfied with Vanderbilt

82.8 percent
Graduating students who would probably or definitely come to Vanderbilt again

Vanderbilt University’s Student Debt Reduction Program

In fall 2009, Vanderbilt instituted a no-loan program called Opportunity Vanderbilt that gives grants instead of need-based loans for undergraduate students. Vanderbilt has seen a tremendous drop in total student debt upon graduation since the program’s implementation. Compared with 2008–09 borrowing figures before the program, our students’ total amount borrowed has decreased by 70 percent. Additionally, the number of need-based borrowers has decreased by 70 percent over the same time period. Vanderbilt’s financial aid program includes three very distinct commitments to our undergraduate students:

1. Since talent and promise recognize no social, cultural, economic, or geographic boundaries, our admissions process is need-blind.
2. Vanderbilt will meet 100 percent of a family’s demonstrated financial need.
3. Financial aid awards do not include loans.

Average debt of graduates (2014–2015)

Vanderbilt .......................................................... $21,506
UT–Knoxville .................................................. $24,272
MTSU .............................................................. $25,352
Univ. of Memphis ........................................... $25,947
All Tenn. graduates ......................................... $26,083
College Access and Success

Vanderbilt University has a long-standing tradition of actively and aggressively recruiting students from a diverse range of socio-economic backgrounds. From our pioneering commitment to diversity outreach as the original POSSE Foundation partner university, to award-winning access recruitment programs and one of the most generous access and completion/attainment-oriented financial aid policies in the nation, Vanderbilt has led the way in low-income student outreach and recruitment.

• In 2016, Vanderbilt became one of 30 colleges and universities participating in the new American Talent Initiative, which seeks to substantially expand the number of talented low- and moderate-income students at America's top-performing undergraduate institutions with the highest graduation rates. ATI hopes to grow from 30 institutions to 270, and to have those 270 institutions attract, enroll, and graduate 50,000 additional high-achieving, lower-income students by 2025.

• Vanderbilt currently recruits in more than 45 U.S. states and territories and emphasizes visits to a huge variety of high schools, including many low-resourced, magnet, charter, or other types of high schools that serve low-income and first-generation students and families. Vanderbilt also features a generous travel assistance program that defrays some of the financial costs of visiting campus for low-income students.

• Vanderbilt is energetically engaging potential Pell-eligible students and is among the less than 1 percent of American private universities that communicate with these prospects as early as eighth and ninth grades. Using a multitude of sources, we specifically target low-income and first-generation students and families with a robust communication strategy that includes fee-waiver information and assistance in navigating the college application process.

• For over nine years, the Vandy Fan for a Day program has hosted students from grades 9 to 12 who are nominated by their teachers or counselors from the greater Nashville area (encompassing a four-state region). After the students participate in small group workshops on academic, admission, and financial aid issues, they attend a Vanderbilt football or basketball game.

• Vanderbilt has been on the forefront of partnering with local and national community-based organizations to broaden access to thousands of students. In addition to being the original POSSE Foundation partner institution, Vanderbilt is now a national partner with the KIPP Schools, YES Prep Academies, Chicago Scholars, the Center for Student Opportunity, Say Yes to Education, Venture Scholars and more than 100 other organizations and foundations worldwide. In 2014, Vanderbilt launched a unique campus visit program called ACCESS Vanderbilt that hosts leaders of community-based organizations from across the country with the goal of deepening partnerships to benefit students.

• Since the fall of 2014, Vanderbilt has welcomed QuestBridge Scholars to campus, further enhancing an already vast array of recruitment activities for low-income students. QuestBridge “recruits, develops, and supports motivated low-income students—beginning in high school through college to their first job—to be successful at America’s best colleges, graduate schools, and companies.”

• In 2010, Vanderbilt University was recognized by the Advocacy and Policy Center of the College Board as a model of national best practices in the recruitment of low-income and first-generation students.

• Vanderbilt University has been a participant in the Yellow Ribbon Program under the Post-9/11 GI Bill since it began. This program provides Yellow Ribbon funding for veterans or their dependents at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels. Because of Vanderbilt’s commitment to those who have served or are serving our country, Vanderbilt was chosen as a top Military Friendly School by Victory Media and Military Advanced Education & Transition for 2016.

For more information, please contact Vanderbilt’s Office of Federal Relations:
Christina West (202) 216-4370 • Gabriella Ra’anana (202) 216-4368 • federalrelations@vanderbilt.edu

January 2017