## 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. 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 74 percent. Additionally, the number of need-based borrowers has decreased by 72 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.**

### BY THE NUMBERS (2013–2014)

| $43,698 | Total expenses |
| $61,112 | Total expenses |
| $20,551 (2012–2013) | Average net price |
| 2.0 percent (from 2012–2013 to 2013–2014) | Tuition increase |
| 93 percent; 87 percent | Six-year graduation rate; four-year graduation rate |
| 60 percent | Over 60 percent of first-year students received aid |
| 1.3 percent | Two-year default rate (2009–2010) |
| 15 percent | Pell eligible (2012–2013) |
| 11th | U.S. News and World Report ranked Vanderbilt as the 11th best-value research university |
| 11th | Kiplinger ranked Vanderbilt as the 11th best-value private university |
| $44,720 | Average financial aid award received by students 2013–2014 |
| $144,752,785 | Total Vanderbilt funded gift assistance (2013–2014) |

### Average debt of graduates (2012–2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average debt of graduates (2012–2013)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt ................................................................. $17,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Tenn. Graduates .......................................................... $21,775</td>
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<tr>
<td>MTSU ................................................................. $22,039</td>
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<tr>
<td>Univ. of Memphis .......................................................... $22,214</td>
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<tr>
<td>UT–Knoxville ................................................................. $22,860</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY’S STUDENT DEBT REDUCTION PROGRAM

- **96 percent**
  - Overall satisfaction with VU

- **83.5 percent**
  - Would probably or definitely come to VU again

- **$43,698**
  - Tuition and fees

- **$61,112**
  - Total expenses

- **$20,551 (2012–2013)**
  - Average net price

- **2.0 percent**
  - (from 2012–2013 to 2013–2014)
  - Tuition increase

- **93 percent; 87 percent**
  - Six-year graduation rate; four-year graduation rate

- **60 percent**
  - Over 60 percent of first-year students received aid

- **1.3 percent**
  - Two-year default rate (2009–2010)

- **15 percent**
  - Pell eligible (2012–2013)

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**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.

- 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 educational communications regarding fee-waiver information and assistance in navigating the college application process.

- Now in its eighth year, the Vandy Fan for a Day program hosts for one day 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, the Center for Student Opportunity, Say Yes to Education, Venture Scholars and more than 100 other organizations and foundations worldwide. In 2014, Vanderbilt will launch a unique campus visit program called ACCESS Vanderbilt that will host leaders of community-based organizations with the goal of deepening these partnerships for the benefit of students nationwide.

- In the fall of 2014, Vanderbilt will welcome its first class of 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.

For more information, please contact Vanderbilt’s Office of Federal Relations:

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