

College Tuition and Affordability



VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY®

BY THE NUMBERS (2019–2020 unless otherwise noted)

\$52,070 / **\$73,148**
Tuition and fees / Total expenses

\$54,138
Average financial aid award

\$24,855
Average net price (2018–2019)

67 PERCENT
First-year students receive aid

38 PERCENT
Undergraduate students receive gift aid exceeding tuition**

78 PERCENT
Undergraduate students graduate without debt

\$175.6 MILLION
Total Vanderbilt-funded gift assistance

\$1.92 BILLION
Total institutional undergraduate aid given since 2008*

69 PERCENT
Growth in institutional undergraduate aid budget since 2008*

18 PERCENT
Pell-eligible students in the 2020 First Time in College class

8 PERCENT
First-generation students in the 2020 First Time in College class

93 PERCENT/88 PERCENT
Six-year graduation rate/Four-year graduation rate (2014 entering cohort)

91 PERCENT
Six-year graduation rate of Pell recipients (2014 entering cohort)

1.0 PERCENT
Three-year federal student loan default rate, 2015–2017

*Opportunity Vanderbilt was launched in 2008. **Aid includes institutional, federal, state, and private gift assistance.

NUMBER 1
GREAT FINANCIAL AID
PRINCETON REVIEW, 2021

NUMBER 9
BEST VALUE, NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES
U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 2021

Opportunity Vanderbilt

In 2008, Vanderbilt instituted *Opportunity Vanderbilt*, a no-loan program that gives grants instead of need-based loans to undergraduate students. Vanderbilt's financial aid program includes three very distinct commitments to our undergraduate students:

1. Since talent and promise recognize no social, 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.

Vanderbilt has seen a tremendous drop in total student debt upon graduation since the program's implementation. Compared with 2008–2009 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 68 percent over the same time period.

Average debt of graduates (2018–2019)

(Source: TICAS)

VANDERBILT	\$22,727
UT-KNOXVILLE	\$27,060
MTSU	\$24,936
UNIV. OF MEMPHIS	\$30,931
ALL TN GRADUATES***	\$27,525

***4-year and above.

College Access and Success

Vanderbilt University has a long-standing tradition of actively and aggressively recruiting students from a diverse range of socioeconomic 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, completion, and 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 the original 30 colleges and universities participating in the American Talent Initiative (ATI), 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. Together, the members of ATI, now numbering more than 100, have vowed to enroll and graduate 50,000 more low- and moderate-income students by 2025. Over three years, participating institutions have already increased their enrollment of students eligible for federal Pell grants by nearly 12,800—and that number is set to grow in the years ahead.

Vanderbilt currently recruits in more than 45 U.S. states and territories and emphasizes visits to a 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 one percent of American private universities that communicate with these students as early as eighth grade. Using a multitude of sources, Vanderbilt specifically targets 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.

Vanderbilt has been in or at the forefront of partnering with local and national community-based organizations to broaden access to thousands of students. Vanderbilt is now a national partner with the KIPP schools, Questbridge, 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.

First-generation students at Vanderbilt receiving Opportunity Vanderbilt support

First-generation student Jane Yao, Class of 2021, is the daughter of low-income, immigrant parents and was accepted into Vanderbilt University as a Questbridge Scholar. The program has had a big impact on her personal, academic, and professional growth. Her experience as a first-generation student has inspired her educational journey and career interests in healthcare advocacy and serving the underserved. Her goal for the future is to help reduce socioeconomic disparities in healthcare and work to provide equitable and accessible patient care.



With no real guide to college life prior to enrolling at Vanderbilt, first-generation student Ammar Bin Zulqarnain, Class of 2022, has learned a lot about self-motivation, continuing the journey despite hurdles, and becoming self-sufficient. His father served as an army officer in Pakistan and was recruited right after graduating high school, while his mom completed an associate degree from a vocational school. With his dad taking out a loan to pay for his first year, college for Ammar has not only been about academics or extracurriculars but also working from the dining halls to the IT department to support his parents in their contributions towards college expenses.

