Higher Education

Governance

The coordination and governance of higher education are shared responsibilities among the General Assembly, the Governor, institutions and SCHEV.

Governor

- Appoints members to institutions' boards of visitors and SCHEV
- Issues executive orders
- Prepares and submits a biennial budget

General Assembly

- Confirms Governor's nominations for boards of visitors and SCHEV
- Adopts a biennial budget
- Enacts legislation pertaining to higher education

State Committees

- Six-Person Operating Advisory Committee (OpSix) reviews and provides feedback on institutions' six-year operating plans
- Six-Year Capital Outlay Plan Advisory Committee reviews institutions' six-year capital plans and makes recommendations to the General Assembly

SCHEV

- Develops statewide strategic plan
- Provides policy and funding recommendations
- Approves new academic programs and changes to institutional missions
- Regulates private and out-of-state postsecondary education
- Provides assurance that enables Virginia colleges to qualify for Title IV and military financial aid benefits
- Administers state student aid programs

Public Institutions' Governing Boards

- Sets institutional policy goals and priorities
- Selects, reviews, and if necessary, dismisses the chief executive
- Sets tuition and fees
- Approves budget requests to the Governor and General Assembly
- Ensures institution effectively and efficiently uses state funds

SCHEV staff work closely with the 13-member Council to advocate for and promote the development and operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive and coordinated system of higher education in the Commonwealth.

SCHEV Roles and Responsibilities

- Makes policy and budget recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly
- Coordinates academic policies and approves new degree programs for public institutions
- Collects, analyzes and publishes higher ed data
- Certifies private and out-of-state institutions to operate in Virginia
- Administers state financial aid programs
- Supports PreK-12 student transition to postsecondary education
- Provides orientation training for new board of visitors' members
- Develops Virginia's strategic plan for higher education
- Reviews public institutions' operating plans
- Handles student complaints and assists with student loan issues
- Partners with institutions and employers to increase work-based learning opportunities

For more detailed descriptions of SCHEV's responsibilities, please visit www.schev.edu/about/overview/schev-responsibilities.



About Virginia's Higher Education System

November 2025



Virginia Higher Education

Enrollment

15 Public Four-Year Institutions **24** Public Two-Year Institutions **5** Regional Higher Ed Centers 45 Private, Non-Profit Colleges & Universities **220** For-Profit, Out-Of-State or Vocational Institutions

2025 data

Fall Headcount Total: 553,296



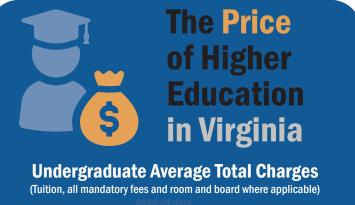
Enrollment by race:

Students of color make up 44.7% of enrollments, a 22% increase since 2015.

Virginia Higher Education

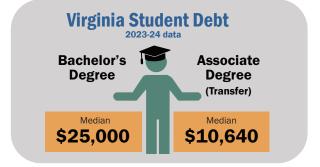
4-Year Public

\$29,538



Community Colleges (2-Year) \$5,049

A 3% increase from previous year 2025-26 data



of students receive Pell awards. 2023-24 data

Students who complete an associate degree at a community college and transfer to a baccalaureate institution can save an average of **\$21,968** on the cost of a bachelor's degree. 2024-25 data

Cost

Virginia Higher Education





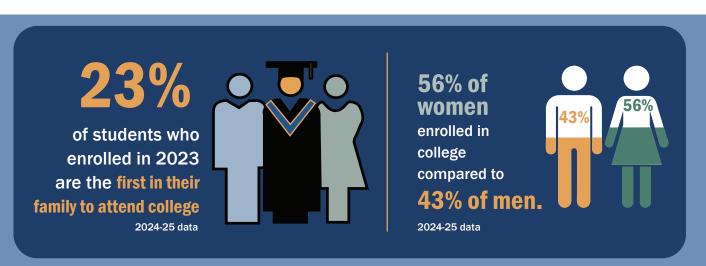
In general, those with a post-secondary degree earn higher wages, are more likely to have health insurance, pay taxes, vote, volunteer and are less likely to rely on public assistance.

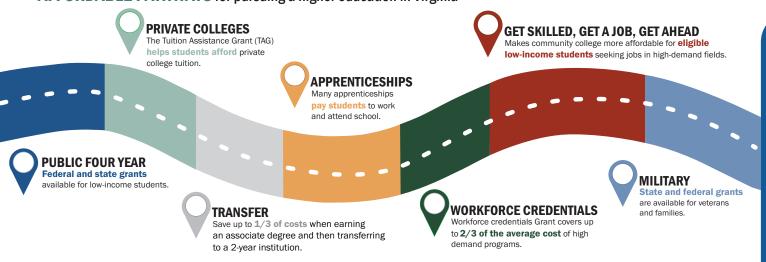




The median annual wage five years after graduation for someone with a Bachelor's degree is \$61,502 and \$46,505 for an Associate degree (transfer).

AFFORDABLE PATHWAYS for pursuing a higher education in Virginia





More than 100,000 students have participated in an internship since 2020.

2025 data

VIRGINIA TALENT + **OPPORTUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

of students pursuing a four-year degree at a public institution graduated within four years.

2022-23 data