

Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) Program

The Data

- Pick your 50!
 - 2022 - 50 years since program authorization
 - 2022-23 - 50th year of making awards
 - 2025-26 - 50th year making grants
- Financial commitment (through FY22):
 - Over \$1.6 billion appropriated
- Thousands served (through FY22):
 - Nearly 800,000 individual awards
 - Approximately 300,000 unique recipients
- Private, nonprofit, accredited, degree-granting Virginia institutions
 - 35 different participating institutions over the 50 years, 28 are current

TAG Highlights

July 1, 1972: Program authorized. Starts with 26 participating institutions

1972-73: No awards in the initial year as SCHEV focused on developing the administration for the program;

Also process begun to make the program a grant instead of a loan

1973-76: \$400 loans, forgivable if the individual worked in Virginia post-graduation

1974: Ratification of Constitutional amendment to permit grants

1976-78: Phase-in from loans to a grant program

1978-79: First year in which all awards are grants

1984-85: Began awarding graduate students

1985-86: Maximum award exceeds \$1,000

1997-98: Maximum award exceeds \$2,000

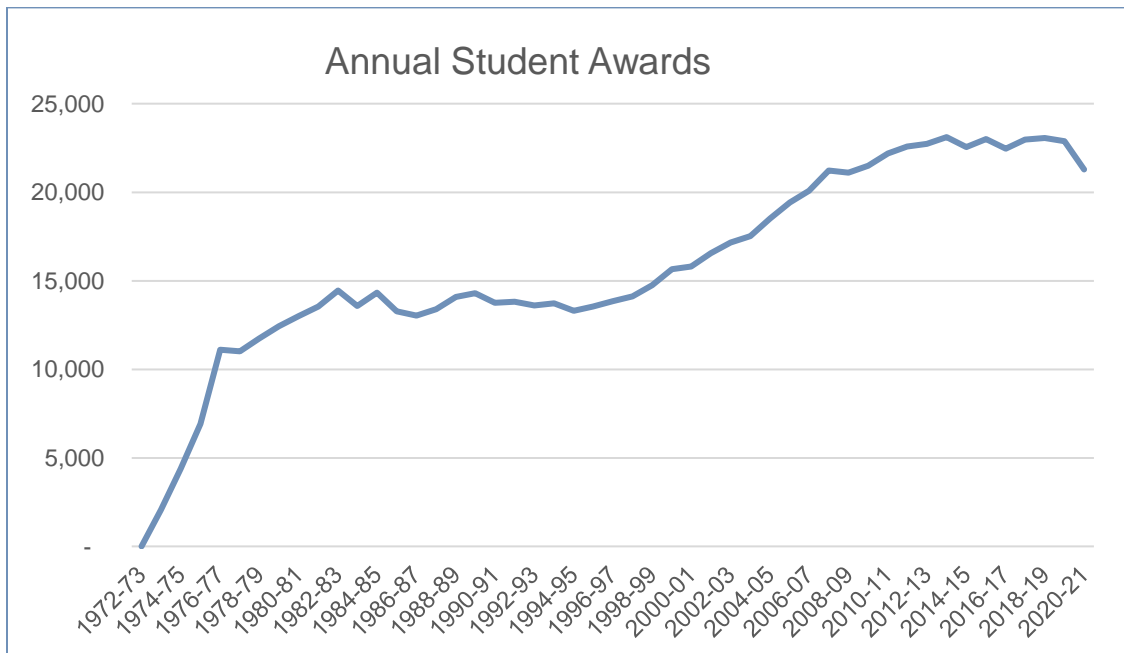
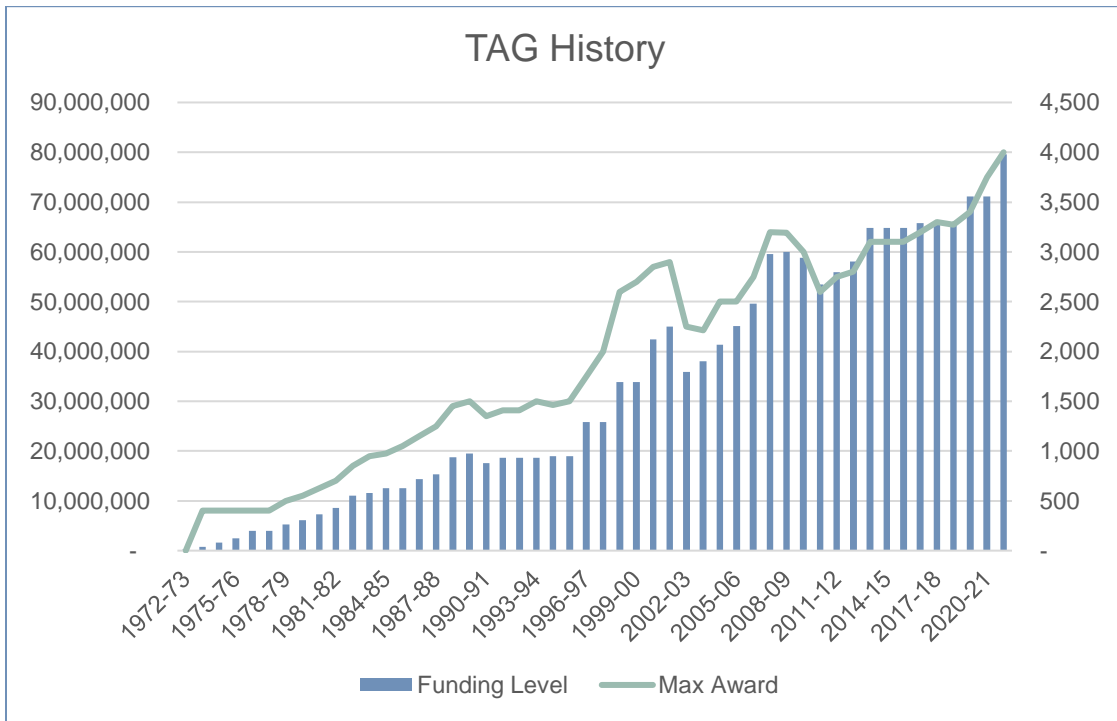
2001-02: Maximum award exceeds \$3,000

2002-03: Undergraduate and graduate awards split

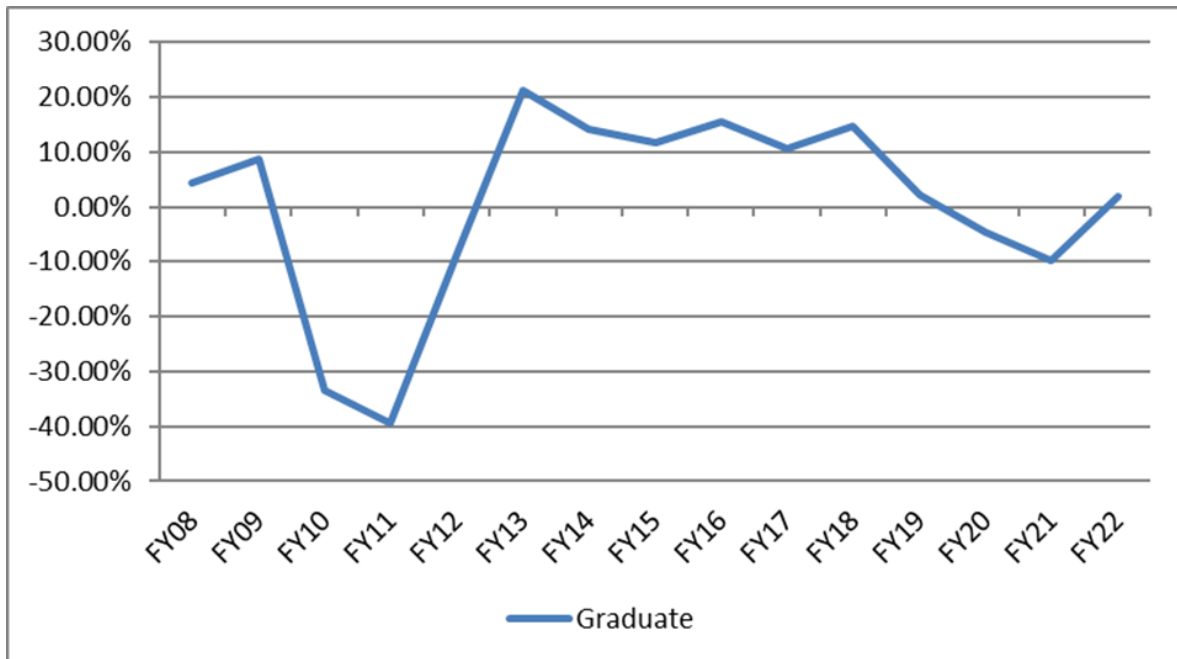
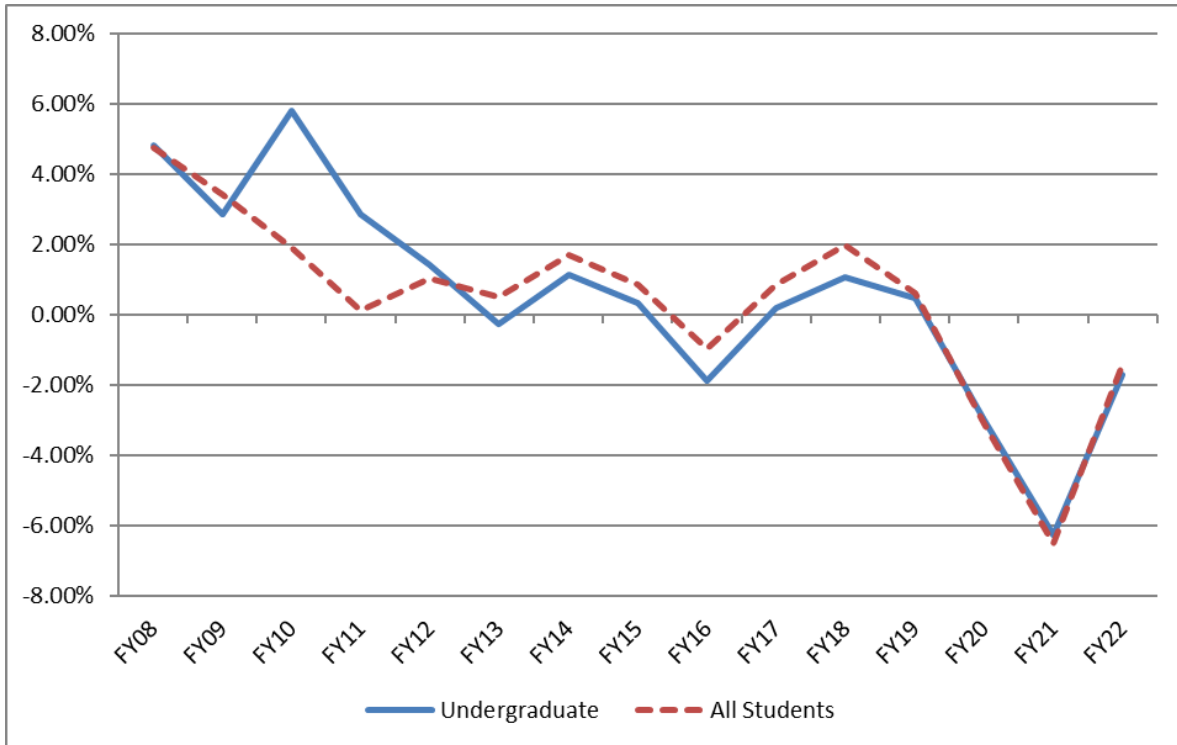
2009-10: Graduate awards limited to health professions

2021-22: Maximum award exceeds \$4,000

Growth Over Time



Percent Change in Participation: Year over Year.



2021-22 Summary:

- Maximum annual awards set at \$4,000 for undergraduate students.
- Restoration of awards for on-line students, set at \$2,000 maximum annual.
- With a surplus created by a 3.4% decline in participation, Virginia was able to award all categories of students, including late applicants and spring-only students.

2022-24 Outlook:

Confidence in the projected award amounts for on-campus undergraduate students:

On-campus students

- 2022-23: Undergraduate: **\$4,500** (\$2,250 per term)
- 2023-24: Undergraduate: **\$5,000** (\$2,500 per term)

All other categories depend on final budget approval:

- Graduate awards: projected to be equal to undergraduate awards
- Exempt distance learning students / enrolled 2019-20: no change projected
- Distance learning students (on-line): projected at half on-campus rate
- Increased TAG award at private HBCUs?

10-Year Summary:

Fiscal Year	Undergraduate	Graduate	Appropriations
2014-15	\$3,100	\$1,550	\$64,812,665
2015-16	\$3,100	\$1,550	\$64,812,665
2016-17	\$3,200	\$1,600	\$65,812,665
2017-18	\$3,300	\$1,650	\$65,812,665
2018-19	\$3,270	\$1,640	\$65,812,665
2019-20	\$3,400	\$1,700	\$71,098,303
2020-21	\$3,750	\$2,200	\$71,098,303
2021-22	\$4,000	\$2,200	\$79,598,303
2022-23	\$4,500	?	?
2023-24	\$5,000	?	?

Tuition Equity Update:

In 2020, policymakers created a provision – commonly referred to as the Tuition Equity provision – to provide access to the in-state tuition rate for undocumented students.

To be eligible, the student must:

- Complete two years of high school in Virginia (public or private, homeschool also permitted).
- Complete high school education in Virginia (diploma or GED).
- File state taxes for at least two years immediately prior to beginning enrollment.
- Have any legal status other than the F, H3, J, or M visas.

The new law provided access for in-state tuition as of the 2020-21 award year.

In 2021, legislation extended benefits for students meeting the above requirements to include consideration for state financial assistance, including TAG, effective with the 2022-23 award year.

To support awarding of the students who are ineligible to complete the federal FAFSA, SCHEV created a state application – called the Virginia Alternative State Aid (VASA) application - that mirrors the FAFSA in creating an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculation.

While TAG is not need-based, private institutions with students ineligible to complete the FAFSA could use the state VASA application to calculate an EFC equivalent so that the institution can determine eligibility for the Two Year College Transfer Grant (requires maximum 12,000 EFC) or institution-controlled need-based programs.

Nearly all TAG institutions have been named at least once by students completing the VASA application. Marymount University is listed on the most applications with Hampton University, Liberty University and University of Richmond rounded out those institutions listed on at least ten student applications.