

New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

This information regarding New York State TAP pertains to all New York State residents who received a financial aid decision from Student Financial Services, regardless of whether or not a TAP award appears on the Statement of Financial Aid. Final determination of eligibility rests with the Higher Education Services Corporation and what follows are the steps required to determine that eligibility.

General Eligibility Requirements: U.S. citizens that are legal residents of New York State. Eligibility for TAP is based on the combined New York State Net Taxable Income of the student applicant and parent(s) not to exceed \$80,000 with awards up to \$5,165. For more information about the TAP program, go to www.hesc.ny.gov or call the New York State Higher Education Services Corp. (HESC) at 1-888-697-4372.

In addition, continuing students must maintain satisfactory academic progress based on the following guidelines in order to remain eligible for the TAP program:

Before being certified for this payment	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
A student must have accrued at least this many credits	0	7	14	28	39	49	67	81	95	109
Units	0	2	4	8	11	14	19	23	27	31
With at least this GPA	0	1.5	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

Application Process: The TAP program requires completion of both the FAFSA and the TAP Application. If the electronic application is not completed in conjunction with filing FAFSA online, you will an email with a link to the application. Be sure you complete and submit the form listing Vassar's school code of **1030**. After HESC processes your completed ETA you will receive either a request for further information or notification indicating your eligibility and amount of your award. Please respond promptly to any request for further information.

Disbursement to Student's Account: The estimated TAP award for the fall term that appeared on your Statement of Financial Aid will appear as a memo item on your bills until the actual funds are received in October. If all TAP requirements have not been completed, the estimated award will no longer appear as a memo item on your November bill.

Adjustments to Vassar Scholarship: If the actual TAP award is less than the amount estimated on your Statement of Financial Aid, your Vassar Scholarship will be increased so that your total of TAP plus Vassar Scholarship remains constant. Similarly, if the actual TAP award is greater than the amount estimated on your Statement of Financial Aid, your Vassar Scholarship will be reduced. It is also possible for Vassar Scholarship to be adjusted during the year due to changes in the TAP award. HESC will adjust awards based on Change Forms or Income Verification of NY taxable income received from the NYS Department of Taxation. TAP will not be replaced by Vassar Scholarship due to non-compliance with HESC's requests for further information or for verification of full-time enrollment of other family members.

Additional Assistance: If you are having difficulties with your TAP application or other issues, please contact HESC at 1-888-697-4372. For further assistance, please feel free to contact the Student Financial Services Office at 845-437-5320.

Other New York State awards: Students who were notified by the NY State Education Department of an academic performance or other non-need based awards must file an application with HESC. If you were notified of such an award, and did not file a FAFSA, contact HESC for further instructions on securing your award.