

## **VSC Valedictorian/Salutatorian Tuition Waiver Program** **Guidelines**

**Amount:** The amount of the Tuition Waiver is half of the In-State Tuition Rate.\*

**Definition:** Valedictorian or Salutatorian, for the purpose of these guidelines, is defined as any individual who graduated first or second in their class.

**Eligibility:** Any individual who can provide proof of valedictorian or salutatorian status from a Vermont public or independent high school approved by the Vermont State Board of Education will be eligible for the VSC Valedictorian/ Salutatorian tuition waiver. Class ranking may be provided on an official high school transcript. If class ranking is not provided on the transcript, the student must ask the high school to send a letter, on high school letterhead, indicating the students class rank.

To be eligible, students must enroll in a degree program and take a minimum of six credits at one of the state colleges, until the degree is completed. This includes students enrolled in the Johnson State College External Degree Program.

Tuition waiver recipients will receive half tuition benefit for the entirety of their attendance for a maximum of 180 credits for a bachelor's degree and a maximum of 90 credits for an associate's degree at one of the Vermont State Colleges, as long as they maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

Students currently enrolled in one of the state colleges who can provide proof of Vermont valedictorian or salutatorian status will be eligible for the tuition waiver beginning in the Fall semester, 2000. Students enrolled in Johnson State College's External Degree Program will be eligible for the tuition waiver in Summer, 2000.

Students transferring from another institution of higher education with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher are eligible for the valedictorian/salutatorian tuition waiver.

There is no time limit on when the student graduated from a Vermont high school as long as valedictorian/ salutatorian status can be verified.

The Vermont State Colleges are not responsible for identifying candidates for the Valedictorian/Salutatorian tuition waiver. That responsibility lies solely with the student.

### **Loss of Eligibility**

Students whose cumulative grade point average drops below 3.0 will lose eligibility for the tuition waiver in the semester following that drop. Students must complete one semester at the cumulative 3.0 average in order to be re-eligible for the tuition waiver. Tuition waiver recipients whose cumulative grade point average drops below the

minimum 3.0 for a second semester will lose all eligibility for the tuition waiver and will not be allowed to receive the tuition waiver in the future.

Eligibility will be denied to those individuals who already have a baccalaureate degree.

**Proof of Eligibility:**

Proof of Eligibility must be provided to the college Financial Aid Director through a high school transcript listing the student's academic standing in the class, or a letter from the high school indicating the student's class rank.

**Administration of Program:**

The Valedictorian/Salutatorian Tuition Waiver Program will be administered by the College Financial Aid Offices. Financial Aid Directors will have flexibility to award tuition waivers based on the student's academic standing at the time of their application. Financial Aid Directors will notify the Chancellor's Office of an individual's eligibility, and will provide address information on a semester basis.

**Funding**

Half of the cost of tuition will be waived from the recipient's bill. Other outside scholarships or waivers could affect the amount of this scholarship. Tuition waiver recipients will be responsible for room and board charges, if applicable, and mandatory and other fees. Students are encouraged to apply for financial aid to offset other costs of attending college.

**Statement of Understanding by Tuition Waiver Recipients**

Tuition waiver recipients will be required to complete a statement of understanding detailing any restrictions attached to the tuition waiver (Appendix A). In addition, this form will contain language authorizing the Vermont State Colleges to publicize their names, or any photos or video footage in which the tuition waiver recipient may appear.

\*The scholarship is contingent upon continued funding support.

(revised 2/26/2010)

**Signature and Statement of Understanding**

- I, the undersigned, certify that all of the information given on my college application, including my Vermont high school transcript listing my class standing, is correct.
- I certify that I have not previously obtained a baccalaureate degree at any other institution of higher education.
- I hereby give permission to the Vermont State Colleges to use, in booklets, press releases, reports to donors, and other promotions, my name and photographs or video footage in which I may appear. I realize I must notify the College Registrar in writing within a week of registration, if I would prefer that this information be held in confidence.
- I understand that I must enroll in a degree program at one of the state colleges and must take a minimum of six credits in order to be eligible for the tuition waiver.
- I understand that my VSC Valedictorian/Salutatorian tuition waiver award waives the cost of half tuition only. All other fees or room and board charges will be my responsibility.
- I understand that I must maintain a cumulative college grade point average of 3.0 or better to receive continued funding of the tuition waiver. I understand that I will lose my tuition waiver in the semester or semesters following a drop in cumulative grade point average below 3.0. In this case, I understand that I must raise my cumulative grade point average to 3.0 to become re-eligible for the tuition waiver. I understand that I will lose the valedictorian/salutatorian tuition waiver if my cumulative grade point average drops below 3.0 for more than one semester.

Signed:

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(applicant)      (if applicant is under 21 years of age, parent or guardian must sign below)      (date)

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