

## What is the **LIFTS** Program?

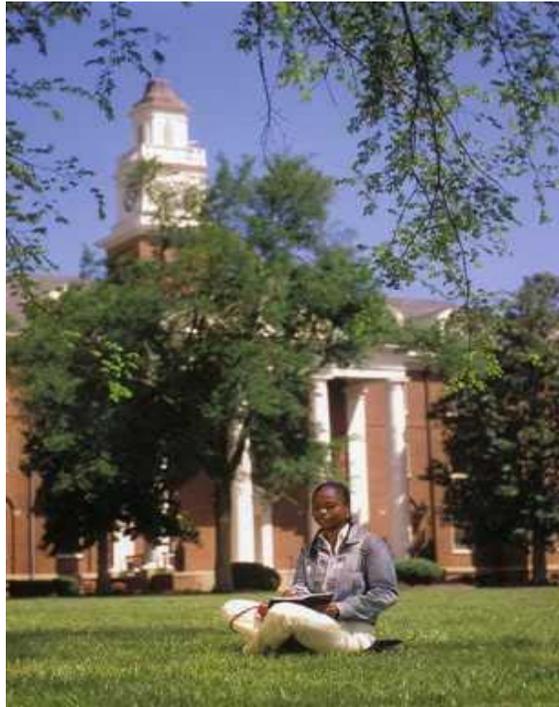
The Virginia State University's Low Income Families with Talented Students (LIFTS) Program seeks to provide access to academically talented students. An applicant's family income that is below twice the poverty level with a family size of four or more would meet the criteria for this program. The assistance will be in the form of Grants and Scholarships to Presidential, Provost and University Scholars. Loans are limited to 25% of the in-state cost of attendance over four-years, regardless of state residency.

The barriers that low income and minority students face in financing a postsecondary education is monumental. VSU's LIFTS Program is designed to give our most-academically talented students their best chance at achieving a higher education.

Higher education is the passport to the ultimate American Dream, and one of the best investments students, parents, and the institution can make. According to studies, college graduates earn, on average over the course of a lifetime, \$1 million more than their high school graduate counterparts. There are also some non-monetary benefits; greater workplace productivity and flexibility, increased personal and professional mobility, better physical health, better quality of life for off springs, even a longer life expectancy.

### How It Works

This proposed financial aid program would meet 100% of a student's demonstrated financial need with Scholarship and Grant Assistance and limit debt to 25% of Virginia State University's in-state cost of attendance over four years, regardless of state residency.



### Program Requirements

Students that meet the following conditions will be eligible to participate in this program:

- Applicant must be selected as a Presidential or Provost Scholar and participate in the Honors Program or University Scholars Program.
- Applicant must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA) on or before the priority deadline date of March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- Applicant will be encouraged and/or be provided assistance in seeking outside scholarship assistance through a scholarship search program.

- New applicants or entering Freshmen must accept their official admission to the University on or before June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Renewal applicants must maintain a 3.00 or higher Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) and earn 30 credit hours per academic year.
- Applicants must complete the VSU Low Income Families with Talented Students (LIFTS) Application at [www.vsu.edu/finaid](http://www.vsu.edu/finaid) on or before June 1st.

### To Apply

Go to [www.vsu.edu/finaid](http://www.vsu.edu/finaid)

Go to [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov)

### Benefits of the **LIFTS** Program

Participants may receive additional funding over and above what they would otherwise receive based on academic and co-curricular performance. Additionally, participants may receive other benefits that include the following:

- Develop their leadership skills through involvement in organizations that promote and enhance diversity on Virginia State University's campus.
- Attend informational meetings and dinners with other LIFTS students.
- Received information about programs and presentations that will help them learn and understand different cultures, and
- Are paired with upper-class mentors.



### Virginia State University's Commitment to the Community

Virginia State University is a public land-grant university, committed to teaching and learning, research, and outreach to the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world community. Learning from the experiences that shape Virginia State University as an institution, we acknowledge those aspects of our legacy. Therefore, we adopt and practice the following principles as fundamental to our on-going efforts to create a community that nurtures learning and growth for all of its members:

- To maintain a climate for work and learning based on mutual respect and understanding.
- We encourage open expression within a climate of civility and sensitivity.
- We take individual and collective responsibility for helping to eliminate bias and discrimination for increasing our own understanding of these issues through education, training, and interaction with others.

“Making your Dream a Reality at VSU”



Office of Student Financial Aid  
P.O. Box 9031  
Petersburg, Virginia  
23806  
(800) 823-7214  
[www.vus.edu/finaid](http://www.vus.edu/finaid)

Office of Admission  
P.O. Box 9018  
Petersburg, Virginia  
23806  
(800)-871-7611  
[www.vsu.edu](http://www.vsu.edu)

*Introducing . . .*

**Virginia State  
University's**



**LIFTS**

(Low Income Families with  
Talented Students)

**Program**