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VSAC office closings through December 31, 2008

Monday, October 13
Tuesday, November 11
Wednesday, November 26*
Thursday, November 27
Friday, November 28
Wednesday, December 24*
Thursday, December 25
Friday, December 26
Wednesday, December 31*

Columbus Day
Veterans Day
Day before Thanksgiving
Thanksgiving Day
Day after Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
Day after Christmas
New Year's Eve

**VSAC closes at noon.*

Mark your calendar

October 15: VSAC fall training for financial aid administrators at VSAC

October 21: EASFAA training at Vermont Technical College

October 30: VASFAA business meeting at Vermont Law School

Need supplies?

Although many of us are going paperless, there may still be a need to offer paper applications and financial aid literature. To request VSAC materials, please e-mail schoolservices@vsac.org or call us at 888-307-8722.

Volume 4 • No. 1
October 2008



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Entrance and exit counseling

VSAC is pleased to announce that federal guidelines allow us to continue offering your institution student loan entrance and exit counseling presentations tailored to your students. Contact your School Services representative to schedule a presentation on your campus.

Vermont grant update

At this time, we anticipate being able to accept full-time applications through September 2008, part-time applications through December 2008, and non-degree applications through January 2009. Please encourage your Vermont students who have not submitted their Vermont grant applications to do so as soon as possible. Contact VSAC at any time to check on funding availability.

On September 5, we began mailing school enrollment reports for the fall semester. These need to be completed before we can disburse grants to your institution. If you have not done so, please return the report to us as soon as possible.

Scholarships update

We've sent the majority of scholarships disbursed in one installment to schools. Scholarships that require verification of enrollment and academic standing prior to disbursement will be disbursed on or before November 30, 2008, for the fall semester and on or before March 31, 2009, for the spring semester.

Beginning next spring, all VSAC-assisted scholarships listed in VSAC's scholarships booklet will have one postmark deadline of March 1 (previous deadlines ranged from April 1 through July 15). Copies of the 2009–2010 booklet will be available for distribution the third week of October 2008.

myVSAC

myVSAC is a new portal that allows school staff to use VSAC's School Account Access (SAA) to view loan and grant information for students attending their institutions. Through SAA, users can hold and release loan disbursements and generate student loan exit interview forms.

Current **myVSAC** users who need help logging in or accessing loan/grant information are encouraged to contact their school's **myVSAC** administrator. For more help, the **myVSAC** user's manual is a great reference tool located on the Financial Aid Professionals page in the Quick Links section at www.vsac.org.

As always, you're welcome to contact our School Services team with questions and feedback.

VSAC's new auto debit borrower benefits

Effective November 15, 2008: VSAC's Stafford, PLUS, and Graduate PLUS loans with a first disbursement on or after July 1, 2008, are eligible to receive a 0.25% interest rate reduction.

Students and parents who elect to participate in auto debit and paperless billing during active repayment will automatically receive the interest rate reduction. If they fail to meet any of these requirements or if any of their VSAC loans become 15 days past due, the interest rate reduction will no longer apply. Once all criteria are met again for benefit eligibility, the eligible loans will resume receiving the interest rate reduction.

Look for our next issue in the winter!

Volume 4 • No. 1

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