

## **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 the Office of Financial Aid, 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 \$5,000. For more information about the TAP program, go to [www.hesc.com](http://www.hesc.com) and select “Students, Families & Counselors” or call the New York State Higher Education Services Corp. (HESC) at 1-888-697-4372.

**Application Process:** The TAP program requires completion of both the FAFSA and an Express TAP Application (ETA). If the electronic ETA is not completed in conjunction with filing FAFSA online, you will receive a paper copy of the ETA in the mail. Be sure that you complete the form, listing Vassar’s school code of **1030**, and return it as instructed. After HESC processes your completed ETA you will receive either a request for further information or notification indicating your eligibility and the 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 July, September, and October bills. If all TAP requirements have been met, an actual disbursement will be made to your student account in October when a remittance advice is received from HESC. 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 your 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 your 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. However, 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 Financial Aid Office at 1-845-437-5320.

**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.