

# 4-year College Bachelors' Degree - Spring Semester 2021

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*Virginia Early Childhood Foundation*

## *Are you eligible to fill out this application?*

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### **4-year College Bachelors' Degree - application is for those:**

1. who are currently employed working with preschoolers,
2. who have *already graduated* from a VA community college with the newer/transferable/2+2 EC AAS degree, and
3. who plan to now continue their education towards seeking the Early Childhood Bachelors' Degree at one of these colleges: James Madison, George Mason, Longwood, or Bluefield.

*Note: If you are eligible to apply for the Bachelor's Degree scholarship, please contact [pathfinders@vecf.org](mailto:pathfinders@vecf.org) for the access code to this online application.*

*This application is valid for select associate-to-bachelor degree in ECE transfer programs at the following schools only:*

- *Bluefield College: BS ECE*
- *George Mason University: BSEd in Early Childhood Education for Diverse Learners*
- *James Madison University: BIS in Early Childhood Education*
- *Longwood University: BS in Early Childhood Education*

*If you are unsure about which application to complete, please email Mila Spaulding, Project Pathfinders Advisor, at [pathfinders@vecf.org](mailto:pathfinders@vecf.org) or call her at 804-749-8149.*

## *Pre-Application Information*

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Your Pathfinders Application can be completed in just a few minutes.

Here's what you need before you start:

- You must have completed the 2020-2021 FAFSA.
- You must be enrolled as a degree-seeking student in one of the eligible associate to bachelor degree transfer programs and have a valid student ID.
- You'll need the **name and number of the courses** that you want to take.
- You'll need the name & address of your current employer.

*Your application cannot be processed without these items.*

### **Navigating the Degree Pathway:**

Information about the various degree pathways in VA can be found here: <http://www.vecf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CertificateandDegreeNavigation.pdf>

### **Note about Transfer Credits:**

If you completed the OLD 67-credit AAS degree, and want to transfer into a 4-year program you *may* need to take the following courses at the community college:

EDU 200

ENG 250 or 241, or 242

PSY 230

HIS 121 or 122

BIO 101

***Important Notice about Funding:*** Pathfinders awards will be applied to a student's account only if a balance exists after other financial aid or grants (such as Pell or VDSS scholarships) have been applied. All payments are paid directly to the college.

### **Important Tips for Using the Application Form**

- Questions with an **\*** are required and must be completed to successfully submit your application.
- The system will **automatically save your answers as a draft.**
- Clicking "**save application**" at the bottom of the form is a good safe guard before exiting the system to ensure that your last few responses are saved.
- **When returning to a draft application**, locate the draft on your user dashboard (the first page you see after log in), then click the blue "**Edit Application**" link to begin where you left off.
- When you're ready, click **Submit Application.**

- Each applicant needs a unique user name, password, and email address.

## *Application- Student Information and Eligibility*

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### **Privacy Notice**

This privacy notice discloses the privacy practices of Project Pathfinders as administered by Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.

#### Information Collection, Use, and Sharing

We are the sole owners of the information collected on this site. We only have access to/collect information that you voluntarily give us in the application process or via direct contact from you. We will not sell or rent this information to anyone.

We will use this information to respond to you, regarding the reason you contacted us.

We may use this information to share data with higher education institutions and state agencies in Virginia.

We may use this information to contact you about future opportunities for the early childhood workforce.

#### Your Access to and Control Over Information

You may contact us via the email address/phone number on our website to:

See what data we have about you

Change or correct data we have about you

Express concern about our use of your data

#### Security

We take precautions to protect your information. When you submit sensitive information, your information is protected both online and offline.

Information you provide on the online grant and scholarship portal is encrypted (you can verify this by looking for the “https” in the address bar of the web page).

Only VECF employees or contractors who need the information to perform a specific responsibility related to fulfillment of the scholarship program objectives are granted access to personally identifiable information. This information is password protected and available only to the personnel whose responsibility it is to safeguard the success of the program and

scholarship recipients.

If you have any questions or concerns about the security or use of your information, please contact us immediately at 804.358.8323 or [info@vecf.org](mailto:info@vecf.org).

### Agreement to Privacy Notice\*

I have read and agree to the privacy notice.

#### Choices

Yes

No

### Financial Aid Assistance to Applicants

### Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)\*

I have filed a FAFSA for the 2020-21 academic year.

#### Choices

Yes

No or not sure

Assistance needed with application

### Results FAFSA Application\*

Please indicate the EFC shown on your FAFSA results.

*Character Limit: 1000*

### Pathfinders Application History\*

Pathfinders scholarship funds are available to both new applicants and returning recipients.

- **New applicants** have never been approved for the Pathfinders Scholarship Program.
- **Returning recipients** have been approved for the Pathfinders Scholarship Program in the past.

Please select one of the following that best describes your history with Pathfinders.

#### Choices

I am a new applicant to Pathfinders Scholarship Program.

I am a returning recipient - I have ONLY been approved for the current semester, fall 2020.

I am a returning recipient of Pathfinders Scholarship Program.

### Transcript Upload

If you are a RETURNING Pathfinders recipient, please upload your transcript for the last semester for which you received Pathfinders funding. (This does not include the CURRENT semester, fall 2020.)

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

**EC AAS Degree\***

Have you already completed the newer/transferable AAS in Early Childhood Development from a Virginia community college? If you have NOT, then you are NOT eligible to complete this application. Instead you should abandon this application at the bottom of the page and then fill out the application for funding to attend a VA community college by clicking here.

**Choices**

Yes

No

**College Where you Completed the AAS in Early Childhood Development**

If you answered yes to the question above, Please list the specific college, semester, and year you graduated with your transferable AAS degree.

*Character Limit: 100***Program Completers\***

Project Pathfinders is interested in tracking program completion and employment data. Please indicate here whether you have completed a certificate or degree using Pathfinders scholarship funds.

I have completed a certificate or degree using Pathfinders scholarship funds.

**Choices**

Yes

No

**Applicant Name\****Character Limit: 100***Applicant Current Employment**

Eligible applicants are those who are currently employed by and working in a child care or preschool program, located in family child care homes, centers, faith-based programs, and/or schools.

**\*\*Note:** If you have experienced a layoff or job loss due to COVID-19, please enter the information for the employer you were working with at the time.

**COVID-19**

Have you experienced a layoff or job loss due to COVID-19?

**Choices**

Yes

No

## Program Operations

Is your program currently open and serving children?

### Choices

Yes

No

## Program Name:\*

Please list the name of the program where you are employed.

*Character Limit: 250*

## Supervisor's Name:\*

*Character Limit: 250*

## Work Address\*

*Character Limit: 250*

## City\*

*Character Limit: 50*

## Zip\*

*Character Limit: 5*

## Email address:\*

*Character Limit: 254*

## Phone Number:\*

*Character Limit: 50*

## Registered Apprenticeship

Are you applying for this scholarship as a Registered Apprentice?

**Note:** This means your employer has enrolled in the Registered Apprenticeship program through the Virginia Department of Labor & Industry. You should also have a Registered Apprenticeship card.

To learn more about Registered Apprenticeships, contact Alyson Williams at [Alyson@vecf.org](mailto:Alyson@vecf.org).

### Choices

Yes

No

## Program Setting\*

Please indicate the type of child care or preschool program where you are employed.

### Choices

Family child care home

Private center (not faith-based)  
Faith-based center  
Head Start program  
School based pre K  
Other

### Program Setting - Other

If you answered "Other" to the question above, please explain:

*Character Limit: 250*

### Role at Time of Application\*

Eligible applicants are those who are lead teachers, assistant teachers (aides), or administrators in child care or preschool programs.

What is your current role?

#### Choices

Lead teacher  
Assistant teacher (aide)  
Director  
Assistant Director  
Principal  
Other

### Role at Time of Application - Other

If you answered "Other" to the question above, please list your current job title and job description:

*Character Limit: 250*

### Work With Children Birth through Preschool at Time of Application\*

Eligible applicants are those who are currently working directly with infants, toddlers, and/or preschoolers (birth through preschool).

With what age children do you currently work?

#### Choices

Infants  
Toddlers  
Preschoolers (3 and/or 4 year olds)  
Mixed Age Group (infants - 4 year olds)  
Other

### Work With Children Birth Through Preschool at Time of Application - Other

If you answered "Other" to the question above, please list ages:

*Character Limit: 250*

### Children At-risk at Time of Application\*

VECF will prioritize scholarship recipients who are working with children who are at-risk.

*Note: Children may be considered at-risk for school readiness based on a variety of factors, including socioeconomic status, receipt of child care subsidies, qualifying for free- or reduced price lunch, identified with special needs, or participating in public preschool programs such as Head Start or Virginia Preschool Initiative.*

Please indicate whether at least some of the children in your care are at risk.

### Choices

Yes

No

## Academic Institution Information\*

Which academic institution do you plan to attend?

### Choices

Bluefield College

George Mason University

James Madison University

Longwood University

## Student ID # at Time of Application\*

*Character Limit: 20*

## Course/s Number and Name

**What course(s) and related costs would you like covered by Pathfinders this semester?**

*(Note: Project Pathfinders scholars may request scholarships for up to two courses per semester.)*

## Course # 1- Number and Name\*

*Character Limit: 100*

## Course # 1-Tuition Assistance\*

Do you need Pathfinders to cover the cost of tuition for this course?

### Choices

Yes

No

## Course #1- Mandatory Fees\*

Do you need Pathfinders to cover the mandatory fees related to this course?

### Choices

Yes

No



**Course # 1- Support for Books\***

Do you need Pathfinders to cover the cost of the required textbook?

**Choices**

Yes

No

**Course # 2- Number and Name**

*Character Limit: 100*

**Course # 2- Tuition Assistance**

Do you need Pathfinders to cover the cost of tuition for this course?

**Choices**

Yes

No

**Course # 2- Mandatory Fees**

Do you need Pathfinders to cover the mandatory fees related to this course?

**Choices**

Yes

No

**Course # 2- Support for Books**

Do you need Pathfinders to cover the cost of the required textbook?

**Choices**

Yes

No

**Signature- Application\***

By typing my name in this space, I verify that all information is accurate and request consideration for this scholarship opportunity.

*Character Limit: 100*

This completes the Pathfinders application questions.

Please scroll down to click **Submit Application** so your request can be reviewed by VECF.

If you have any questions, please email Mila Spaulding, Project Pathfinders Advisor, at [pathfinders@vecf.org](mailto:pathfinders@vecf.org) or call her at 804-749-8149.

## *Optional Demographic Information*

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Project Pathfinders is interested in learning more about you. We hope you will answer these optional questions to help us better understand our participants.

### **Race--check all that apply**

#### **Choices**

American Indian or Alaska Native  
Asian  
Black or African American  
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  
White

### **Ethnicity**

#### **Choices**

Hispanic or Latino  
Not Hispanic or Latino

### **Date of Birth**

*Character Limit: 10*

### **Years of Experience in Early Childhood Education**

*Character Limit: 2*