



# **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) College and University Symposium**



## **Colleges & Universities**

Enriching educational experiences using Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)



## **SPEC MISSION STATEMENT**

Assist taxpayers in satisfying their tax responsibilities by building and maintaining partnerships with key stakeholders, seeking to create a shared value by informing, educating and communicating with our shared customers.



# What Our Educational Partners Do

- Provide quality educational programs to support academia and career growth.
- Educate taxpayers on tax credits and deductions for which they qualify.
- Offer free tax preparation.
- Assist taxpayers in building financial security.

**SPEC provides the VITA Program at no cost!**





## 2023 College and University Statistics

- 434 Colleges and Universities offered VITA services.
- Over 130,093 tax returns were prepared.
- Over \$149 million in refunds were created by students and returned to the community.
- An estimated \$19 million in tax preparation fees were saved.

IRS Statistics of Income Data

**COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS  
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!**



## What Students Say About VITA

“VITA gave me the chance to work with clients that were not aware of the different resources IRS provides to the public. It also brings like minded people together for similar goals; such as getting prepared for the workforce.”

University Student



# Benefits for School or Campus Organizations

- Returns money back to the community through refunds.
- Builds skills through hands-on learning.
- Strengthens the connection with local and neighboring communities.
- Promotes community service and volunteerism.

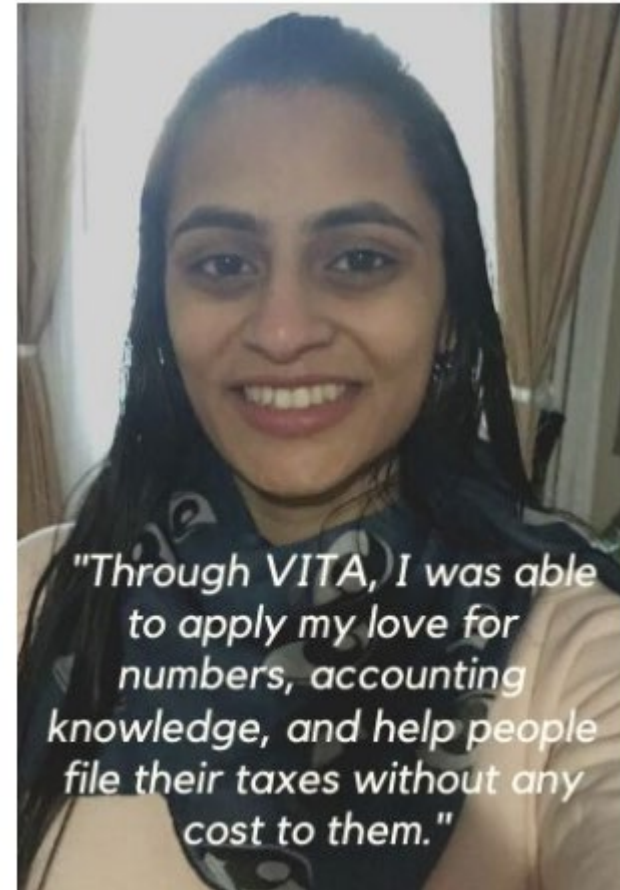
“I chose to participate in the VITA program, and I loved it. I was able to have that hands-on experience preparing taxes for the community. I plan to volunteer for the VITA program every year as it increases my knowledge and expands my skill set.”

-Student Volunteer



## Benefits for Students

- Develops tax law knowledge.
- Provides practical life skills.
- Supports classroom learning.
- Builds professional confidence.
- Enhances resume.
- Offers leadership opportunities.
- Increases networks and connections with tax professionals.



Texas A&M University Central Texas student.





## Who Can Sponsor a VITA Site?

- Faculty, department chairs, administrators and staff.
- Student activity clubs and organizations.
- Professional societies.
- Fraternities and sororities.
- Alumni associations.



## VITA Program Types

**Traditional VITA** – IRS-certified volunteers prepare electronically filed returns face-to-face with taxpayers at their college or university location.

**Virtual VITA** – Tax preparation services provided in a virtual environment to taxpayers remotely where face-to-face activities are not performed during the tax preparation process.

**Facilitated Self-Assistance (FSA)** - FSA empowers the taxpayer to prepare their own return. The volunteer acts as a tax coach or “facilitator”, answering the taxpayer’s in-scope questions as they complete and file their return.



# VITA Training

## Training & Resources Provided

The [Link & Learn – Home](#) portal provides training, tests and certifications.

- Instructor led or self-study.
- Basic, Advanced, Military & International tax law training.
- [TaxSlayer Practice Lab](#).
- TaxSlayer software.
- All program materials.



## Get Involved

- IRS VITA partners support the program through:
- Sponsorship of a VITA tax preparation site on campus.
- Provide student volunteers at a local VITA site.
- Adopt and link a Facilitated Self-Assistance site to the school web page .
- Select sites provide space and other resources such as computers and printers.
- Engage student organizations and clubs. Build student confidence by applying classroom knowledge and assisting community.

**IRS provides the VITA program at no cost**





## Join our Cause

The VITA program can serve as the starting point for building a strong financial and career-oriented path. Give back to your community through free tax preparation and prepare students to engage with career ready skills.

**Join Us - Bring VITA to Your Community!**





## Area Contact Information

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