

Web submission – Prep Courses

Question/Comment: Why does UR no longer offer PSAT, SAT, & ACT prep courses? It appears there were in-person and online options that were discontinued after COVID. Can the University consider bringing back this Tuition Remission benefit? It is a valuable non-credit option for employees with dependents who have aged out of Little Scholars. It also supports the University's mission to educate in an academically challenging, intellectually vibrant, and collaborative community. Here are two examples of past offerings from Spiderbytes: Is your ninth-grader ready for an early start to test prep? Our PSAT Prep English Sessions offer an introduction to the grammar, reading, and writing sections of the new PSAT. In relaxed, yet informative sessions, students will learn tips, techniques, and strategies for the test next fall. Class meets on two Sundays, May 15 and 22, from 2-4 p.m. in the Special Programs Building. STEPS to SUCCESS: Our uniquely designed classes taught by local RVA educators return this summer, with more options than ever! MON-THURS day-time classes now include PSAT, SAT (comprehensive: Math, English, Essay) and SAT Math-targeted or English-targeted lessons. Sessions begin July 15 through August 15. Summer is the optimal time to help your teens prepare early! Thank you for looking into this, USAC!

Response: *Thank you for your question and for highlighting the value these programs provide to employees and their families.*

Prior to COVID, SPCS offered PSAT, SAT, and ACT preparation courses in both in-person and online formats. Like some other programs in our Professional Education portfolio, those offerings were paused during the pandemic and were not reinstated afterward. Our Professional Education portfolio no longer includes as many youth-focused offerings; our team's capacity is now focused primarily on serving adult learners through upskilling and reskilling programs, which aligns with the current mission of our unit(SPCS).

We appreciate the interest in these programs and the role they once played for employees with college-bound students. We will certainly take the request under consideration as we continue to evaluate priorities, capacity, and alignment with partners across the university.

Thank you again for bringing this forward.

Web submission – Loan Forgiveness

Question/Comment: Full-time staff are eligible to pursue Public Service Loan Forgiveness for their federal direct student loans, but in talking with staff it seems that few are aware that they could be eligible for this benefit. Would it be possible to make this opportunity more apparent during onboarding/orientation and somewhere on the HR website related to benefits? The way it is currently presented on the HR website makes it seem as though someone must work with Savi to access PSLF, when in reality anyone can learn about PSLF and take the necessary steps to check their eligibility and work towards qualifying directly through studentaid.gov (the federal student aid website). If I have missed any other ways this information is being shared, please let me know.

Question/Comment: Information about PSLF eligibility should be included in the new hire onboarding process. Additionally, it'd be great if this info could be communicated more clearly on the HR website to ensure employees know about this option.

Response: *Thank you for sharing this feedback. We appreciate the insight and will look into adding more information about Public Service Loan Forgiveness, including how Savi can help, both on our HR website and in the NEO presentation, to ensure it's more visible and clear for staff. We will be drafting content and looking to have the website updated in the next few weeks.*