

## **Volunteer as a Tax Preparer to Gain Skills and Help the Community**

As you progress through college, you gain knowledge that you will use for the rest of your life. Though you may still be in school, there is a way to use your talents now to assist others. By helping taxpayers complete their tax returns, you can ensure that they claim the tax credits they've earned, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit and education credits. While doing so, you will gain first-hand experience that will improve your own tax law expertise.

The [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly \(TCE\)](#) volunteers offer free tax help in the community. VITA sites serve people who generally make \$56,000 or less, persons with disabilities and taxpayers with limited English proficiency. TCE sites specialize with assisting taxpayers who are 60 years of age and older. Since – in most cases – VITA/TCE tax preparation results in a tax refund, volunteers can help set taxpayers on a course to financial security.

VITA/TCE volunteers receive free training to become IRS-certified. Students can volunteer individually at nearby sites, but they may like to “inVITA” friend to accompany them. They can keep each other motivated and celebrate one another’s successes. Your chapter could even volunteer as a group, either by adopting a nearby VITA/TCE site or by offering VITA services on campus. Participating BAP chapters are eligible for [VITA awards](#).

Get started with the VITA/TCE program today. You will improve the lives of others while gaining an important life skill.