

Volunteer as a Tax Preparer: Gain Valuable Skills and Serve Your Community

As a college student, you are developing knowledge and skills that will support your future career. Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs, you can put those skills to work now—helping individuals and families while gaining valuable, hands-on experience.

VITA/TCE volunteers provide free basic tax return preparation to eligible taxpayers in communities nationwide. For the 2026 filing season, VITA generally serves taxpayers with annual incomes of \$69,000 or less, individuals with disabilities, and taxpayers with limited English proficiency. TCE primarily serves taxpayers age 60 and older and specializes in retirement- and pension-related tax matters.

Make a Meaningful Difference

As a volunteer tax preparer, you can help taxpayers:

- File accurate federal and state tax returns.
- Claim valuable tax benefits for which they qualify, including the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and education credits.
- Better understand their tax responsibilities.
- Avoid unnecessary tax preparation fees.
- Consider ways to use their refunds to build savings, reduce debt, and strengthen their financial well-being.

Your service can make a meaningful difference for taxpayers who may otherwise have difficulty accessing reliable tax preparation assistance.

Build Career-Ready Skills

VITA/TCE volunteers receive free tax law training and must complete the applicable certification requirements before preparing returns. The IRS also provides access to Link & Learn Taxes, a self-paced online training platform, and the Practice Lab, which allows volunteers to gain experience using tax preparation software. [IRS Link & Learn Taxes](#)

Through the program, students can develop:

- Practical tax law knowledge.
- Experience using professional tax preparation software.
- Attention to detail and analytical skills.
- Communication and customer service skills.
- Experience working with people from diverse backgrounds.
- A stronger understanding of ethics, confidentiality, and quality service.
- Volunteer experience can strengthen a résumé, internship application, or professional portfolio.

Volunteer Individually—or InVITA Friend

Students may volunteer individually at an established VITA/TCE site or “InVITA” a friend to serve with them. Volunteering with a classmate can help students stay motivated, learn together, and celebrate their accomplishments throughout the filing season.

Beta Alpha Psi chapters can also participate as a group by:

- Adopting or supporting an existing VITA/TCE site.
- Recruiting and training chapter members as volunteers.
- Partnering with a community organization.
- Establishing a VITA site on campus.
- Promoting free tax preparation and financial education to students and community members.

Participating Beta Alpha Psi chapters may also be eligible for VITA recognition and awards based on their level of service and community impact.

Get Started Today

VITA/TCE welcomes volunteers from many backgrounds, including college and high school students, working professionals, and retirees. Previous tax preparation experience is not required training is provided.

By becoming a VITA/TCE volunteer, you can gain important professional and life skill, strengthen your community, and help taxpayers access the credits and benefits they have earned.