



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Master Financial Educator Volunteer FAQs

Q: Do I have to have a financial background?

A: No, but we do require you attend three full-day training sessions. In fact, most of our volunteers are not financial professionals.

We also recommend you do outside reading and attend our quarterly continuing education classes. Like Extension on Facebook for news articles. We also recommend Michelle Singletary's *Washington Post* column. We also recommend *Financial Counseling: A Strategic Approach. Communication Skills for Financial Professionals*. It is by Charles and Carol Pulvino.

Q. I'm a financial professional. Can I volunteer with you?

A: Yes, but you must use our branded materials and cannot tout your firm's products or services when volunteering under our banner because we receive federal, state and local funding and must remain impartial.

Q: How many volunteer hours do you require?

A: We require 40 hours of service in your first year of involvement with Extension.

Q: When would I be volunteering?

A: Most of our volunteer opportunities are on weeknights. Senior center classes and youth financial simulations are held during the day. We have occasional weekend volunteer opportunities and continuing education is typically held on Saturday mornings. To get a sense of our volunteer opportunities, please see this list of current public classes <http://bit.ly/VCEFinancePrograms>.

Q: What is the application process?

A: We strongly recommend you attend at least one of our public programs before the training to ensure this is the type of programing you would like to teach. To register to attend one of our free public programs, please visit: <http://bit.ly/VCEFinancePrograms> The application process involves a 20-minute phone interview, reference questionnaire and a criminal background check as well as completion of the VA-114 Application and supplemental forms.

Q: Who is the typical client I would assist?

A: We don't have a typical client. We serve homeless shelter residents, residents of affordable housing properties, young professionals and retirees. Many but not all of our coaching clients are in financial distress. We also work with elementary through high school children and teens.

Q: I live in Maryland. May I still volunteer with you?

A: You are welcome to volunteer. If you prefer not driving to Arlington County or the City of Alexandria during rush hour, we suggest Maryland Cash Campaign for similar volunteer opportunities.