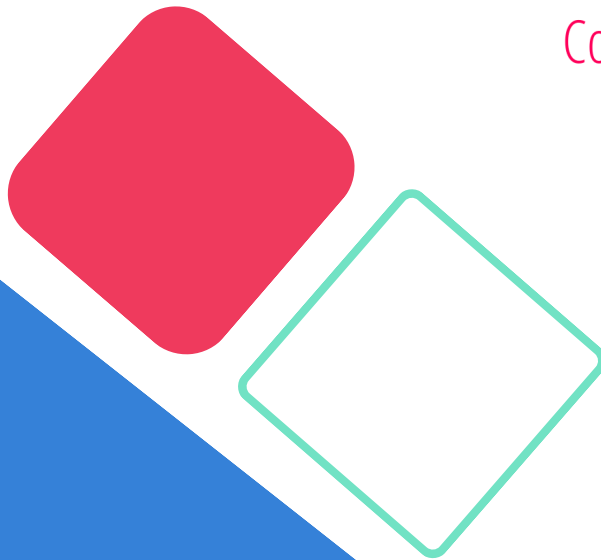




College & Career Services



IMPACT REPORT

JULY 2024-JUNE 2025
Celebrating 3 Years of Impact

Your wings already exist,
all you have to do is fly!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

We made it to the end of Year 3! Can we still call ourselves new? I think so, because there is still so much ahead of us. At the start of 2025, I was recruited to work for another organization while also balancing my family and Volar. It didn't take long to realize that pace wasn't sustainable. **In August, I made a bold decision to step away from my amazing day job and commit fully to Volar for the first time ever.** Since our founding, I have always juggled a newborn or toddler, day job responsibilities, and fitting Volar into nap times and late evenings.

God has started something good here, and I believe I have a responsibility to see it through. This next year, I'm focused on clarifying what's next for Volar, where we need to pivot, how we can continue growing, and how we remain sustainable. **I'm working to finalize our advising training guide and developing a long-term strategic plan for our organization.**

This year, we took a leap of faith and committed to awarding every graduating senior with a transition scholarship upon completing their senior year requirements. **Our dream is to one day award each senior \$5,000 to support their first year in college,** because we know how important this transition is.

Volar remains dedicated to supporting all first-generation students. The same love and commitment I pour into my own family is what inspires my passion for every student and family we serve. **Just as I want to see my children grow, flourish, and step confidently into their future, I want the same for our students.** I was in their shoes not too long ago, and I remember all the unknowns I had to navigate alone. That experience is why I walk with them now, so no student has to do this journey by themselves. **Thank you for believing in us, and for being part of this family we are building together.**

Let's go
¡A volar se ha dicho!
With gratitude,



CYNTHIA M. GUDIEL
MOM,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ADVISOR





About Us

Volar provides free individualized college and career advising to first-generation students in the Dallas area. We are an additional layer of support outside of school. We empower students with an innovative hybrid advising model. By combining virtual, individualized support with in-person opportunities, we extend our reach far beyond zip codes and high school campuses

As an organization, we understand the value of a diverse workforce and value ALL career pathways.

Our Mission

Volar empowers and educates students about their higher education and career options.

Together with their families, we help students find the path that most aligns with their values and strengths.

Year 3 Impact

INDIVIDUALIZED ADVISING

24 Cohort of 10 high school seniors and 14 high school juniors who received personalized advising

25 College and Career students who received continued support as they navigated their postsecondary path

55 College Acceptances **1** Questbridge Scholar

11,070 Total minutes dedicated to student 1:1 advising

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



24 Community Events & Workshops

591 Attendees

6 New community partnerships

25+ New Volunteers

SCHOLARSHIPS



\$30,000 Awarded in scholarships since founding (2022)

80% Volar Class of 2025 students attending college debt free

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

100%

Students of Color

100%

First Generation

90%

Pell Grant Eligible Students

Our Impact

At Volar, we prioritize first-generation students within Dallas County. We do not select our students based on GPA, test scores, or class rank. We believe that academic metrics alone do not define a student's potential or future success. We serve on a first come, first served basis until our cap is reached.

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION SUBMISSION

69.3%

Texas average according to
National FAFSA Tracker (2025)

100%

Volar Average (2025)

FULL-TIME RETENTION RATE IN POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

77.5%

National average according to
National Center for
Education Statistics (2023)

88%

Volar Average
(Rate is expected to rise as 2
students will re-enroll this year)

IMMEDIATE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATE

62%

National average according to
the National Center for
Education Statistics (2022)

100%

Volar Average (2025)

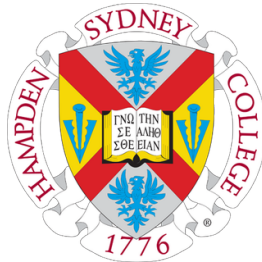
Our comparisons are based on the most recent national averages available. While Class of 2025 data has not been released yet, we hope this provides a useful reference against typical national and state figures.

95%

of our workshop attendees report being satisfied or
highly satisfied with our programming and would
recommend our workshops to others

Acceptances

Volar students received acceptances to many schools across the country, not limited to but including the following.



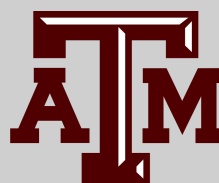
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT ARLINGTON



BOSTON
UNIVERSITY



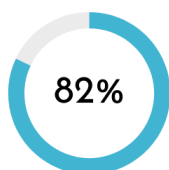
Our Why

We want to ensure that the next generation of our workforce is strong and empowered, and that every student is empowered to take charge of their destiny. Volar works to address the degree attainment and college advising gaps illustrated in the graphics below.

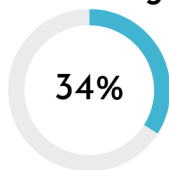


Percent of students who have completed at least a bachelor's degree, among those with...

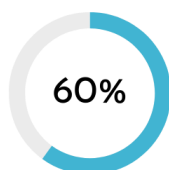
Two parents
with bachelor's+



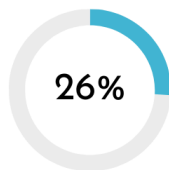
At least one parent with
some college



One parent
with bachelor's+



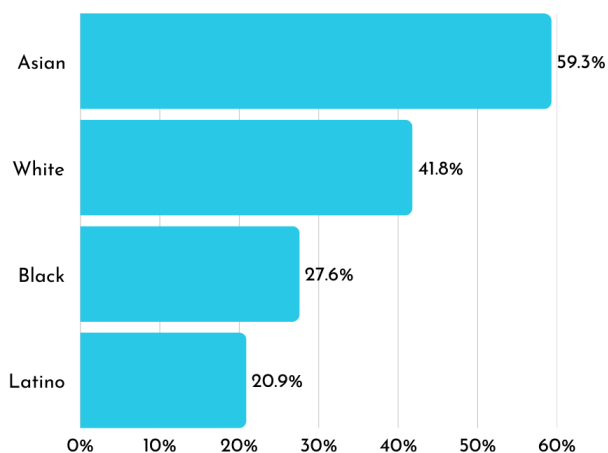
No parent
with bachelor's+



Source: Pew Research Center (2021)



Students with
Bachelor's Degree Attainment
(Age 25 and older)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2023)



Senior Year Counseling



1:376

National average student-to-counselor ratio for high schools



40 min

Average time senior receives for college admissions counseling

Source: 2023-24 Counseling Ratios Report, American School Counselors Association (2024)
Source: 2019 State of College Admission, American School Counselors Association (2019)



Independent
Educational Consultants (IEC)



1:25

IEC to Student Ratio



\$5,000

Average cost for IEC
per admission season

Source: Road2College (2024)
Source: Independent Educational Consultants Association (2024)

Our How



INDIVIDUALIZED ADVISING

Volar provides comprehensive college and career advising to high school juniors and seniors as they navigate their postsecondary goals. We continue supporting students throughout college to help ensure they persist and graduate.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Volar achieves more significant and sustainable outcomes by leveraging shared resources, expertise, and support networks. Partnerships foster a sense of unity, cooperation, and shared responsibility for student success.



COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Volar empowers students and their families by providing workshops covering a wide range of topics, from navigating financial aid options to selecting the right institutions. Workshops are open to ALL students and families in the DFW area, allowing us to support students beyond our cohort.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Volar expands access to higher education by offering transition scholarships to all seniors who complete their advising requirements. These scholarships help alleviate financial stress. By reducing financial barriers, Volar is creating pathways for social mobility.

Testimonials “



*Volar was the best choice I made... thanks to a Class of 2024 Volar student, Maria. This program has helped me immensely during my stressful senior year. **It's huge to know I have help outside of my own school to lean on.** I am glad to be part of the Volar family and would recommend this helpful program to future juniors and seniors!*

Vanessa Jocelyn F.
Parker University



The Volar program is like a a second family. They're always helping you when ever you need it and they will always do it with a smile on their face. Volar is a great program to help high schoolers who are struggling with their next steps in life.... make sure to join the Volar program.

Michael B.
The University of Texas at Arlington



*This program was so supportive! It was a joy to be able to have so many knowledgeable people helping with the college application process and continuing to follow up with [my] college plans after. **The aid through planners, advice, recommendations, and overall guidance was exactly what I needed** to get through this process!*

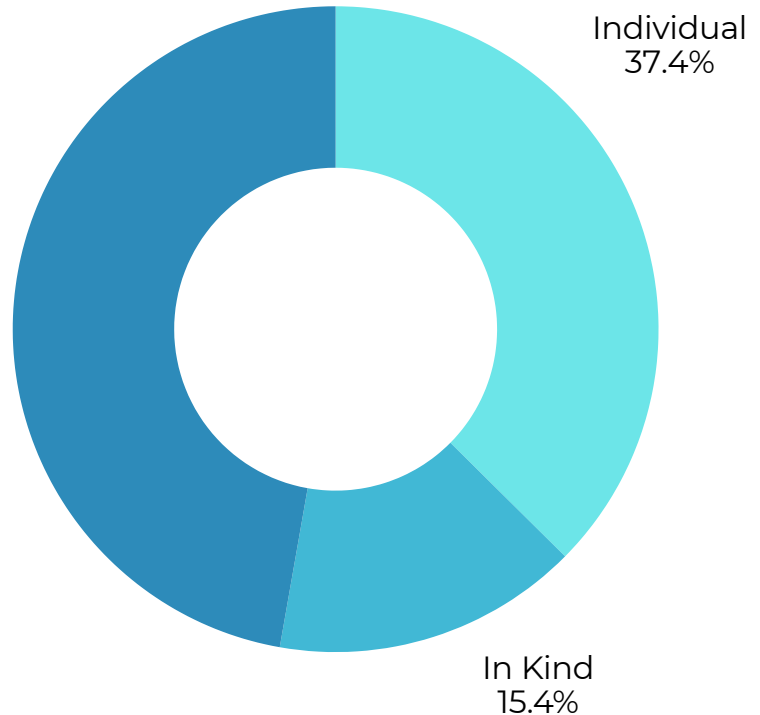
Dulce S.
Augustana College

Financials

for fiscal year 2024 (Jan-Dec)

Revenue
\$58,226

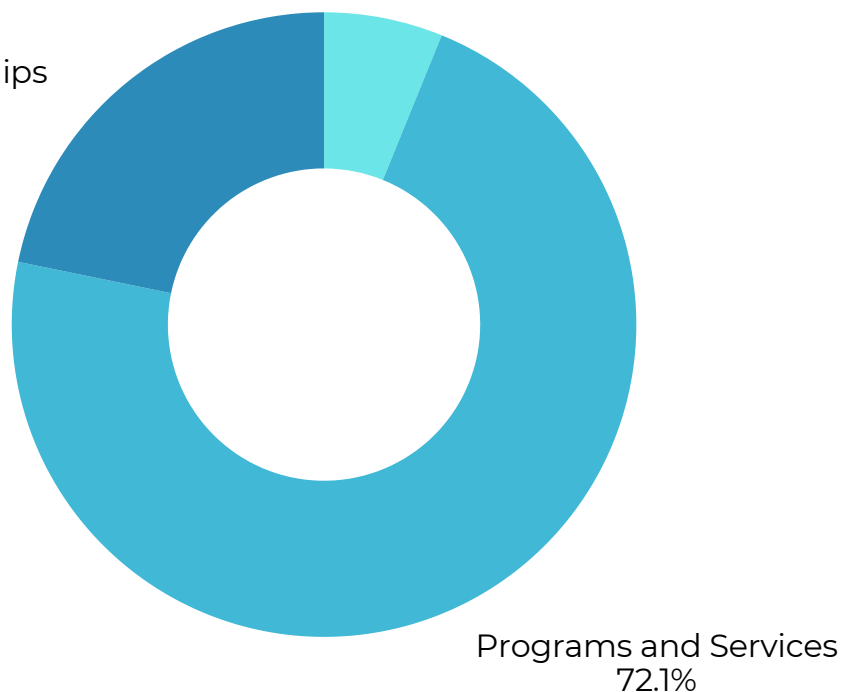
Corporate &
Foundation Grants
47.2%



Over 90% of every
dollar you give
directly supports
students.

Business Operations
6.1%

Student Scholarships
21.8%



Expenses
\$34,436



Thank You

to our individual supporters who make
this work possible!

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Shareea Woods
Tania Gudiel
Vanessa Larez
Veronica Flores
Yhurixi Rodriguez

And a BIG thank you to
everyone who has also given
through our social media
initiatives, Amazon wishlists,
fundraising events, silent
auctions, or shirt fundraisers!

Thank you!
Thank you!
Thank you!

Donors listed are from our 2024 Fiscal Year (Jan-Dec)

Thank You

to our community supporters. We cannot do this work without you.

Thank you to our community partners:



Thank you to our grant sponsors:



STRONG WOMEN. BETTER WORLD.



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Contact Us For More Information



volartx.org



cynthia@volartx.org



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"Vuela Alto"
Matthew 6:25-26