



Virginia Tech Graduate Student Newsletter Washington, DC Metro Region April 1, 2022

Important Academic Dates and Deadlines

This information only applies to students completing **ALL required coursework for their program and students eligible to graduate in Spring 2022**. The dates and deadlines listed below are to keep you on track for degree completion and graduation this semester.

Spring 2022 Masters/EDS Deadlines

May 11 Final Exam Defense (**Submit request 2 weeks prior to defense date**)
May 27 Electronic Thesis/Dissertation

Spring 2022 PhD/EDD Deadlines

PhD/EDD Students planning to participate in Commencement for 2022 follow dates below, if not follow the dates above for Masters/EDS.

Mar 24 Final Exam Defense (**Submit request 2 weeks prior to defense date**)
Apr 7 Electronic Thesis/Dissertation

Non-Thesis ONLY Programs (MNR, MIT, MBA, MEng...)

May 16 Non-Thesis Final Exam/Evaluation

Each respective program will send out an email with detailed instructions for Final Exam/Evaluation scheduling towards the end of the semester to ensure you are on track for degree completion and exam scheduling.

Important: An approved Plan of Study is required to Apply for Degree Conferral and to Schedule your Final Exam! You can check to see if you have an approved Plan of Study in Hokie Spa. **If you do not have an approved Plan of Study, please reach out to your department for assistance!** Your department will work to complete your Plan of Study and ensure that it is received with the Graduate School for Final Approval. [Link to Schedule Final Exam](#)

All students graduating are required to have a Final Exam scheduled with the Graduate School for degree awarding.

Save the Date! Events, Info Sessions, Workshops, etc

Apr	8-10	ACCelerate Festival
Apr	11	How to Network on LinkedIn, CPD Workshop
Apr	20-21	Hokie Pop-Up Shop
Apr	21	Breaking Up with Stress
Apr	27	Virtual CPT Workshop for International Students
May	15	2022 Spring VT Commencement in the DC Region

NVC Library News

7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church VA 22043, lib.vt.edu nvclibrary@vt.edu, 703-538-8340

Library Hours: April 4 – May 12

Monday - Thursday 11am-9pm

Friday 11am-6pm

Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday Closed

[Reserve a Study Room](#) (by color) through the online reservation system or use the short URL bit.ly/nvcseats (case sensitive).

Get your Hokie Passport, the official university ID card, [by appointment](#)

The following short URL is case sensitive. bit.ly/nvcHokieP

For an appointment at other times, please contact us by phone or email.

Students must be currently enrolled. Please bring photo identification. We will take your photo and print the ID while you wait.

International Students Important Information

Virtual CPT workshop, Wednesday **04/27/22**, 5-6 pm

Eligible F-1 students may apply for Co-Op/CPT by completing the following at least 30 days before the internship's start date in **Summer 2022**:



Step 1: Apply for Co-Op with [the graduate school](#). The CPT course (GRAD 5944 or 7944) is a 1 credit course that should be added to your POS for the Summer 22 term **before** submitting this step.

Step 2: After grad school approval, [apply for CPT](#) with an immigration advisor using IntlHokies > F-1 Curricular Practical Training > **CPT request**.

For International Students Graduating in Spring 2022

Please take a moment to look at the **program end date** listed on page 1 of your **most recent I-20**.

If the end date is not listed as **05/15/2022** – please send Jessica Mullins a message this month. Your program end date in SEVIS will need to be shortened. This date edit is needed in order to be eligible to apply for [post-completion OPT](#).

Jessica Mullins, mullins1@vt.edu

Assistant Director for DC International Student Services ([DC ISS](#))

Virginia Tech Graduate School in the Greater Washington DC metro area

Virtual zoom advising appointments can be booked [here](#).

VT Graduate Student Commencement in the DC Metro Region, Spring 2022, May 15th, 1pm at the GMU CFA

The [Commencement website](#) for the DC Area is live. Please bookmark this page as it will be updated frequently during the semester. Here are the summary details:

Date: Sunday May 15th, 2022

Venue: GMU Center for the Arts
4373 Mason Pond Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

Schedule:

11:30 am	Student Check-in begins on Main Level All participating students should be checked in by 12:30 pm.
12:15 pm	Doors open to the Auditorium for Guests to be seated
12:30 pm	Faculty Line-up
12:50pm	All Students seated by program in the Auditorium

- 1:00 pm Processional
 3:00 pm Light reception for graduates and their guests in the Main Lobby immediately following the Commencement.

Degree Conferring Dates

In order to participate in Commencement, please make sure you have completed the necessary work by the [Degree Conferring Dates](#). If you have any questions, please contact the Graduate Student Services Office (GSSO) at 703-538-8327 or see [here](#) for more information or to make an appointment. **Please note the important Dates and Deadlines Workshop offered by the GSSO on February 23rd at 6:30pm for those who plan on graduating in Spring 2022.**

Regalia

Regalia is required for attending Commencement, and celebrating your academic achievements! Order by April 30th to ensure you will receive the regalia in time for the ceremony.

PhD

- Hoods are edged with dark blue
- Doctoral gowns are faced with black velvet with three bars across the sleeves.
- Tassels are gold

Masters

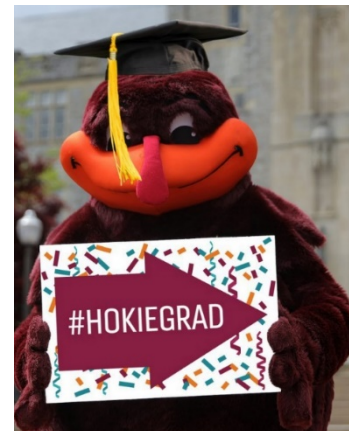
- The colors for the edging of hoods for master's students are determined by the college and discipline granting the degree. You can find the proper hood color [here](#)
- Tassels of caps are black

Both Master's and PhD regalia can be ordered from the VT Bookstore through the following link: <https://colleges.herffjones.com/college/vt/>.

- Click on "Keeper Cap and Gown" (Order Now),
- From the drop down, choose "Graduate School"
- "Washington, DC Ceremony"
- "Degree Type" (You can select Masters or Doctors)

Graduate Student Speaker Competition (Deadline Extended!)

Each year we invite students to submit a speech for the Graduate Student Speaker Competition. If selected, the graduating student will have the opportunity to attend the Faculty/VIP Reception prior to the Commencement, and give remarks in front of family, friends and graduates! Speeches should be no longer than 10 minutes. **The deadline for submission has been extended to April 1, 2022 and the applicants will be notified by April 15, 2022.**



To participate please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/j7Tgz8HRXibxfSbR6>

Images and Reflections Photo Slideshow

We welcome submissions of photos or short videos that tell the story of your student experience at Virginia Tech. Submit them using this [Google Form](#) or email them to Susan Merten at smerten@vt.edu.

VT Commencement Pop Up Flower Shop

As with previous years, there will be a pop up flower shop selling VT flowers and some swag outside the Commencement venue. If you would like to review the bouquets and/or pre-order, see [here](#).

New Facebook Group for VT DC Graduate Students

In order to provide informal space for discussion and peer-to-peer information sharing, we've set up a Facebook group and encourage you to join in. It's our hope that many people will contribute to the group and it can be a living and useful resource.

**About - VT Grad School DC Community**

This group is for Virginia Tech graduate students in the Washington, D.C. area. One of our primary goals is to make it easier for new students to learn about life in this region and how to succeed in their academic life. Students from all majors and campuses are welcome to participate!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/vtgradcommunity>

Events, Workshops, etc.**Thursday Walking Group with Julie!**

Join us for a relaxing, healthy break in the day! Relieve stress, and enjoy the fresh air. We'll walk near the Northern Virginia Center. Featuring mindfulness walking moments. The walking group meets in the NVC Lobby (7054 Haycock Road) Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. RSVP to Julie Kaplan, jskaplan@vt.edu, or just drop in that day.

Sponsored by the Cook Counseling Center
at the Northern Virginia Center
Julie Kaplan, Ph.D., Embedded Counselor at NVC



Saturday Soccer Group, Every Weekend, Looking for More Players!



Every Saturday from 10:30-11:30 at George Mason High school training fields. If anyone wants to join the group, there is a WhatsApp Group run by students. Contact Aziz @ hamdani@vt.edu.

DC GSA Hike Postponed to this Saturday, April 2nd



ACCelerate Festival, April 8-10

The [Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology \(ICAT\)](#), in partnership with the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, will host [ACCelerate: the ACC and Smithsonian Creativity and Innovation Festival](#) from April 8-10 at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

ICAT invites all members of the Virginia Tech community to come and experience the multi-day festival, **including three Virginia Tech exhibitions**. Admission is free and open to the public.

View the [campus notice](#) for details.



How to Network on LinkedIn - Monday, April 11th, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM, Via Zoom

In our How to Network on LinkedIn Workshop, we will share some hot takes about navigating the world of LinkedIn and how to leverage it to your benefit! You will also engage in interactive activities as we take you through some best practices and search resources. Learn how to connect with amazing companies and Virginia Tech alumni all from one website!

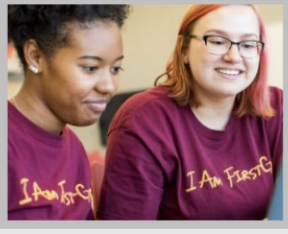




If you are interested in attending any of these events, please feel free to register on Handshake by searching "Internship Hot Takes" in the events tab!

If you have any questions prior to the event or accommodation requests, please contact Cody Smith at cody98@vt.edu.

First Gen Affinity Group, April 12th, 1pm – 1:45pm

FIRST-GEN AFFINITY GROUP



GREATER WASHINGTON, D.C., AREA

Zoom Meeting: Tuesday, April 12th 1:00pm - 1:45pm

Discussion topics will include financial support resources and graduate student leadership. Please join us to connect, build community, and stay the course in graduate school!!!

For more information or meeting access contact:
chontresehayes@vt.edu

Wednesday, April 20 / 3-7 pm
Thursday, April 21 / 11 am-4 pm

HOKIE SHOP

visits D.C.



sponsored by


- Wednesday, April 20, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Thursday, April 21, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Hokie Shop is open to everyone - Virginia Tech students, employees, alumni and community members in the D.C. area. An assortment of merchandise will be available, from clothing, to gifts and collectibles, graduation accessories and memorabilia. In addition, activities will be set up on the lawn in front of the NVC - Cornhole, Jenga, Connect Four and the Spin to Win Wheel.

Hokie Shop, April 20-21, at the Northern Virginia Center

The Virginia Tech Hokie Shop, Virginia Tech's official bookstore, will host a two-day pop-up shop, April 20-21, at the Northern Virginia Center (next to the West Falls Church metro stop) in the greater Washington, D.C., metro area.

Breaking Up With Stress, April 21st, Noon



Jobs

Working with Professors Buehler and Hankey: National Park Service Project

We are looking for two graduate students to work with us on a project for the National Park Service and the Highway Safety Center at UNC Chapel Hill in the Washington, DC area. For this project, students will work with Professors Steve Hankey and Ralph Buehler on the tasks listed below. The hourly rate will be \$20 per hour working between 10 to 20 hours per week. The position will be available in the last weeks of the spring semester and focused on summer 2022.

Responsibilities will include: Conduct validation counts at pedestrian and bicycle counters along federal trails. This will include temporary installation of cameras to record traffic and processing these videos. Download data from counters along federal trails to compare to the data collected by video. Troubleshooting counters (i.e. identifying counters that do not work and what issue has caused a malfunction).

Students should be able to work independently and correspond with professors and fellow team members as needed. Students should have transportation to reach the counters. This can be by bicycle or by car (and then on foot to access the counters). The project may purchase an ebike to facilitate travel, but delivery times may be long due to supply chain issues. Please submit your CV and a short statement indicating your interest in this project and your qualifications to hankey@vt.edu and ralphbu@vt.edu. We will then follow up with Zoom interviews for interested candidates. Please submit materials by 8 April 2022.

Escape to a Park!

Huntley Meadows Park, Virginia

“Huntley Meadows Park connects you to treasured homes and habitats. The Park is home to a nationally significant historic house, majestic forests, wildflower-speckled meadows and vast wetlands bursting with life. Some of the best wildlife watching in the Washington metropolitan area is here.”

This Fairfax County park of 1500 acres with a half mile of board walks is located just south of Alexandria. And it is a bird’s paradise! Over 200 different species of birds can be spotted throughout the year in the forest, the meadows and from the board walks snaking through the wetlands. There are three different entrances but go to the one with the Visitors Center which gets you onto the board walks fairly quickly. Dawn and dusk are the best times to observe the multitude of birds, and you are helped by the observation towers. Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed on the board walks but they can go everywhere else. You will also see the occasional turtle, deer, frogs and beaver.



Trails

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows/map>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows/trails>

***Welcome to the Virginia Tech Graduate School
in the DC Metro Region***

***The Newsletter is compiled, written and/edited by Susan Merten. It is circulated every Friday.
Please send information of interest for graduate students by COB Wednesday to***

smerten@vt.edu

Connect with the VT Graduate School through the following sites



[Graduate Student Assembly-
VT-National Capital Region](#)



[VTGradSchDC](#)



[NVC Website](#)

VT Graduate School in the DC Metro Region



Kenneth H. Wong

Associate Dean for Graduate Education

And Director of the Northern Virginia Center (NVC)

Room 412, khwong@vt.edu or (703) 538-8312



Susan Merten

Assistant to the Associate Dean and Director of the NVC

Room 410, smerten@vt.edu or (703) 538-8310

GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES Office (GSSO)

Contact: gssoncr@vt.edu or (703) 538-8327. To schedule appointments, click [here](#)



Corinne Julien

Assistant Director, Graduate Admissions and Academic Progress

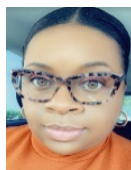
Room 492, corinne3@vt.edu or (703) 538-8439



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