



Virginia Tech Graduate Student Newsletter Washington, DC Metro Region April 8, 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

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	Professional Photographer
Apr	21	DCHokies Blood Drive in Honor of 4/16 Remembrance
Apr	21	Breaking Up with Stress Workshop
Apr	27	Virtual CPT Workshop for International Students
May	15	2022 Spring VT Commencement in the DC Region

News About the Northern Virginia Center

The future plans for academic programs at the Northern Virginia Center were announced this week after a vote by the VT Board of Visitors. The NVC will be closing its doors by the end of 2024. Classes will continue at the NVC until that time. Provost Cyril Clarke and Deans Aimée Surprenant, Julie Ross, and Laura Belmonte visited the campus to relate the news to the faculty and staff. The Provost also held a zoom meeting for students on April 6th to discuss the future plans. Please see the following VTNews articles for more information.

- [Board approves reorganization of academic programs and new college name; authorizes university to convey ownership of the Northern Virginia Center](#)
- [New Smart Construction Research Center Planned for Falls Church](#)

In his email message to the students after the meeting, Provost Clarke wrote;

“...As we move forward, we look forward to engaging you and your fellow students in further discussions as we continue to serve and support your needs. I, along with college deans and department heads, welcome your comments and suggestions and will ensure your input is integrated into our development and implementation plans for the region. To that end, we have created an [online form](#) through which you can share additional feedback, ideas, questions, and concerns. We are also in the process of updating a website that will include background on the program alignment process, FAQs, and current information and resources...”

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.



NVC Meditation/Prayer Space, Room 338

We have created a temporary meditation/prayer space in Room 338 (adjacent to T3). There is a sign on the door and in the room so that you know you are in the correct place. The room is unlocked at all times.

This space is a quiet place to meditate, pray, or just enjoy a few peaceful moments to melt away stress. The room is accessible to everyone and free to use. We encourage visitors to refrain from extended use, bringing in food and drinks, talking, sleeping, and using electronics.

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 you 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 <i>All participating students should be checked in by 12:30 pm.</i>
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

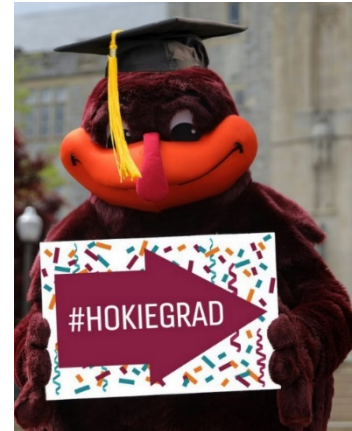
Masters

- 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 website:

Hokieshop.com

- Type in Regalia
- Go to the Master's package or PhD package



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

A pop-up flower shop will sell 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.

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

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



VTGrATE Info Sessions, Every Friday, 3-4pm via Zoom

Join us every Friday 3-4 pm during Spring 2022 with your teaching-related questions or to talk about teaching & learning, troubleshooting, & more questions about being a GTA. We are available on zoom <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/82839594294> Come when you can for as long as you can!

The Spring 2022 program manager is Jonilda Bahja jonildab@vt.edu. Ernesto Acosta ela2ness@vt.edu is a GrATE Fellow in the DC Metro Region. Please feel free to reach out to them with questions regarding the Academy.

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.

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.

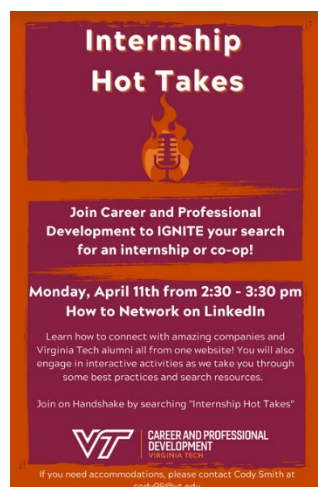
ICAT invites all members of the Virginia Tech community to come and experience the multi-day festival, **including three Virginia Tech exhibitions**. Admission is free and open to the public.

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!

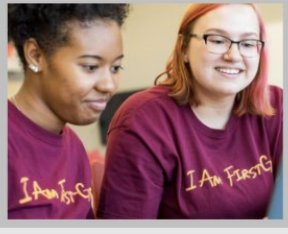


If you are interested in attending any of these events, please feel free to register on Handshake by searching "Internship Hot Takes" in the events tab!

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

DC Hokies Blood Drive in Honor of 4/16 Remembrance, April 21, 1-7pm

In honor of 32 Hokie lives lost on 4/16, the DC Hokies will be hosting a blood drive on Thursday 4/21 from 1-7pm at the Virginia Tech Northern Virginia Center campus in Falls Church, VA. To

sign up for a donation slot, please visit <https://bit.ly/VTa0421>. The blood drive is sponsored by [Inova Blood Donor Services](#)- please visit their site for more information and any questions.



DC Metro Area
Virginia Tech
Alumni Chapter

INOVA BLOOD DONOR SERVICES

BLOOD DRIVE

IN HONOR OF
4/16 REMEMBRANCE

THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST
FROM 1-7PM

At Virginia Tech Northern Virginia Center
7054 Haycock Rd, Falls Church, VA 22043
Room 114 at the Grad Center

Sign up for a donation timeslot:
<https://bit.ly/VTa0421>



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.

- 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.

Breaking Up With Stress, April 21st, Noon

GSSO, ORDI & COOK COUNSELING CENTER PRESENTS

Breaking Up With Stress

NATIONAL STRESS AWARENESS MONTH

Stress Management

Moderator
JULIE KAPLAN
Embedded Counselor
Cook Counseling Center

Speaker
TORRI BROWN
Graduate & Int'l Student Advisor
Graduate Student Services Office

Guest Speaker
JAMI JONES
Personal Trainer & Nutritionist
JaiFit Health & Wellness

APRIL 21, 2022

WALKING GROUP
12:00PM-1:00PM
(Meet Up/NVC front lawn area)

Register for FREE

WORKSHOP
4:30PM-5:30PM
(In-Person & Virtual)

Let's Break Up With Stress together by participating in a series of events.

All participants will receive a FREE anti-stress kit.

Participants to sign up and attend the walk will receive Hokie Wellness swag & a Starbucks drink on us.

Participants to sign up and attend the in-person workshop will receive a FREE boxed meal from Jason's Deli.

Registration Deadline: April 19th

REGISTRATION LINK: [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/4EH9AFN9YKQX4S16](https://forms.gle/4EH9AFN9YKQX4S16)

VT INNOVATION CAMPUS GSSO ORDI COOK COUNSELING CENTER HOKIE WELLNESS

FREE Professional Photo Shoot, April 21st, 3-6pm

Back by popular demand, our professional photographer will be at the Northern Virginia Center, Room 200 on April 21st from 3-6pm. Sign up for a free professional headshot (business attire) or formal Graduate Portrait (regalia)! If you are working on your LinkedIn or want to celebrate your graduate accomplishments, our professional photographer will have both Virginia Tech and business backdrops to showcase your formal photo!



All participants must wear a mask before and after the shoot. Registration is required.

[Sign up for your FREE photo shoot](#)

Escape to DC!

[National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade presented by Events DC](#), April 9th, Starts at 10am

Rediscover the incredible spectacle of DC's grandest petal procession with the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade. Catch everything from giant helium balloons to elaborate floats to live musical performances. Stand along the parade route which runs for 10 blocks along Constitution Avenue NW for free.

[Sakura Matsuri – Japanese Street Festival](#)

The largest one-day Japanese cultural festival in the United States will be a TWO-DAY celebration this year in honor of its 60th anniversary. Sakura Matsuri produced by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC offers more than 80 cultural groups, art vendors, food booths and dozens of hours of



programming. The event is held on Pennsylvania Avenue from 3rd to 7th Streets NW and also features a Ginza Marketplace, the popular Japan Now! Pavilion, a cosplay contest, sake tasting and much more. **Saturday: 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Sunday: 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.** (Washington.org)

There will be lots of crowds so wear your masks and take public transportation!

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](#)



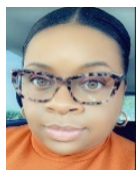
Corinne Julien

Assistant Director, Graduate Admissions and Academic Progress
Room 492, corinne3@vt.edu or (703) 538-8439



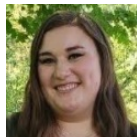
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