



Virginia Tech Graduate Student Newsletter Washington, DC Metro Region April 15, 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!

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	26	Earth Day Potluck
Apr	27	Virtual CPT Workshop for International Students
Apr	28	International Student Support Group
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.

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](#).

Bus to Attend Graduate Commencement in Blacksburg, May 11th

In addition to the DC Area Graduate Commencement, we are pleased to offer the Commencement Bus again this year, so that students, family, and friends have an easy way to participate in the Graduate Commencement ceremony in Blacksburg, which is scheduled for Wednesday May 11, 2022. The bus will make a round-trip journey from Falls Church.

Students are welcome to participate in both the Blacksburg and the DC Area Commencement ceremonies!

The fee for the bus is \$35 per person and includes free parking at the NVC. If space is available, VT staff and faculty can ride for free. Payment is not required at this time, but please sign up to indicate your interest through this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/hBqH2ggJV3ZuMBg77>

If the cost is a barrier for you, travel subsidies are available (in exchange, we may ask for your help in serving as the “bus captain” and assisting other passengers).

Information about the Graduate Commencement in Blacksburg can be found here:

<https://vt.edu/commencement.html>

Graduating students (or those who graduated in a previous semester) should indicate their planned attendance through HokieSPA.

Bus Schedule for Wednesday May 11, 2022

9:00 am: Depart Falls Church

1:00 pm: Arrive Blacksburg, Lane Stadium

3:30 pm: Graduate Commencement Ceremony Begins

6:30 pm: Commencement ends

7:00 pm: Depart Blacksburg

11:00 pm: Arrive Falls Church

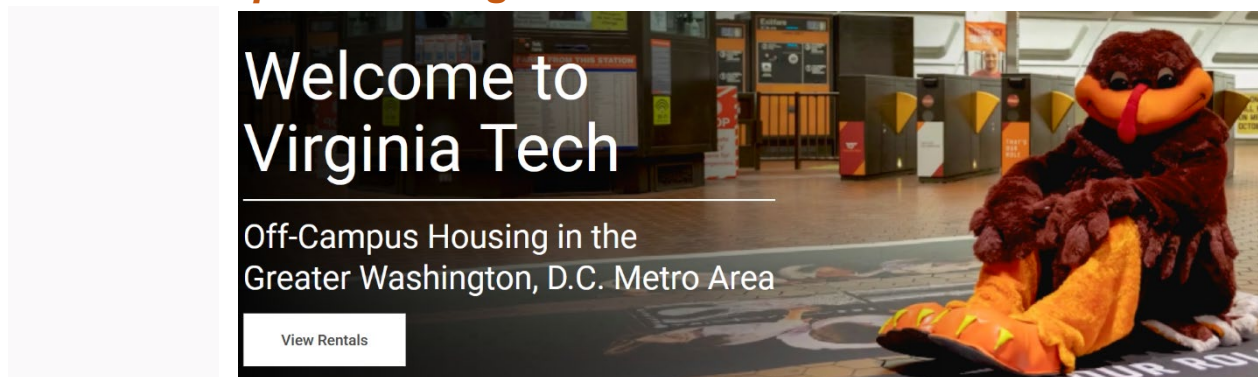
New Facebook Group for VT DC Graduate Students



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>

DC Off-Campus Housing Site



Virginia Tech has a website that allows students to search for off campus housing in the DC area based on their campus location and other search criteria. The website includes a roommate finder for students looking to share housing with others.

· For a list of housing and apartment options in the Falls Church, Alexandria, or Arlington areas, visit the [DC Off-Campus housing site](#). The site supports single sign-on using your VT credentials.

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.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Virginia Tech Publishing, housed in the University Libraries, released a new open textbook on March 2 titled "Teaching in the University: Learning from Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty."

As an open educational resource, this textbook provides free access to peer-reviewed guidance and reflection on becoming an instructor based on the experiences of fellow new instructors.

<https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2022/02/cals-open-educational-resource-book.html>



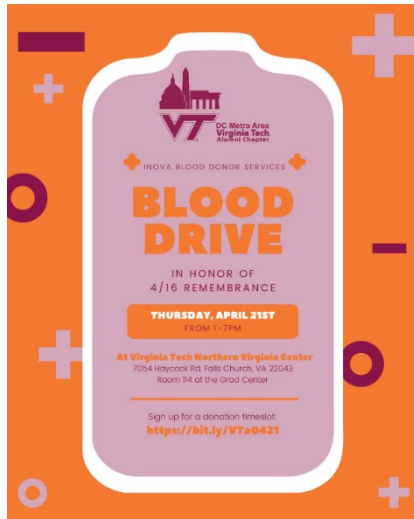
Saturday Soccer Group, Every Weekend, Looking for More Players!

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 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.



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

Walking: Noon to 1pm

Workshop: 4pm to 5pm



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](https://forms.gle/4E9DAFNHYKX4556)

**WHOLENESS SERIES: Mental Health Myth Busters with Cook Counseling Center,
April 21st, 1 pm, via Zoom**

To conclude our Wholeness series, have you ever wondered if some of the beliefs you have about mental health are accurate? Do you want to learn how to cope with stress, imposter syndrome, anxiety, depression, and improve your mental health while playing a game? Come to our virtual Kahoot Myth Buster event as part of the Grad Schools Wholeness series. Meet the Cook Counseling Center's mental health providers who are embedded in Blacksburg, Northern Virginia, and Roanoke. Win a prize by winning the game.

Take a moment to fill out the form below and let us know that you will be joining us! <https://forms.gle/5RhQMPAuxCADFqpJ9>

If you have any questions email René Hernandez, rhernandez@vt.edu

Earth Day 2022 Potluck, April 26th, Noon to 1pm

You Are Invited

To a

Pot-Luck Earth Day

**Vegetarian Luncheon & Short
Presentation**



Tuesday, April 26 12:00 – 1:00

Community Café at Northern Virginia Ctr.

**One entrée will be provided. Staff & faculty please
sign up to bring a dish. For students, this is
optional, but much appreciated. Registration
required by 4/24 at**

[Earth Day 2022 Luncheon - Google Sheets](#)

International Students Support Group at the NVC, April 28th, 3-4:30pm

Cook Counseling Center invites you to join:

International Students Support Group

Meet other students and discuss common concerns.

We'll have pizza and drinks

Please join Julie Kaplan on Thursday, April 28, 2022, from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm, at the picnic tables outside of the NVC. Meet more students and discuss common issues! We will have pizza and drinks. More information to follow.

Please contact Julie Kaplan at iskaplan@vt.edu with any questions.

Hokie Wellness: MoneySmarts U

Hokie Wellness offers students "MoneySmarts U" modules on Canvas, short lessons that provide students with information for making smart financial decisions. These modules can be completed at any time throughout the academic year and are accessible to all students through Canvas. Topics include budgeting, credit, and the repayment of student loans. In addition, Hokie Wellness offers in-person and virtual financial wellness [workshops](#). Students interested in discussing their specific financial status are encouraged to sign up for a meeting with a Hokie Wellness financial coach. For more information, visit <https://hokiewellness.vt.edu/students/financial-wellness-resources/fwservices.html> or email FinancialWellness@vt.edu with any questions.

Architectural Student Forum

Washington Alexandria Campus (WAAC), Looking for New Candidates

ASF

WE ARE...
student leaders + faculty

WE DO...
as a student advocacy group, we strive to strengthen the connection and communication between students and faculty invoking positive change and community building.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR...
we are recruiting new candidates for the architecture student forum for the upcoming 2022-2023 academic year. we are looking for student leaders with an interest in engaging in the CAUS community.

ARCHITECTURE STUDENT FORUM

HOW TO APPLY:
google form:

find us on instagram:

CONTACT: bellawick@vt.edu

Escape to a Park!

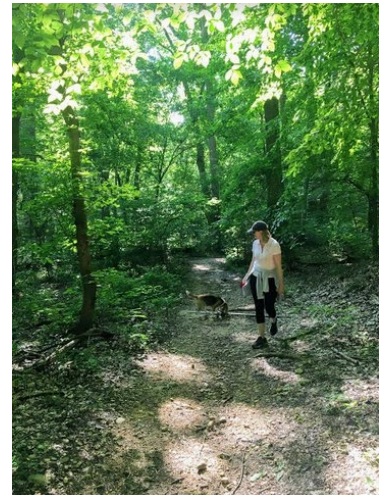


River Bend Park, Fairfax County, VA

River Bend Park is tucked away off of a curvy two-lane road. Entrance is free and you can park at the Visitor's Center. There is a beautiful hike along the Potomac River from the Visitor's Center to the Great Falls Park Visitors Center (the two parks adjoin each other). After you park to the right of the Visitor's Center, go to the end of the parking lot and follow the trail. It's an easy 3-mile hike there and back, with a little challenge of some rock climbing

beside the smaller falls. Take a few moments to look across and above the Potomac from time to time; you may see the Bald Eagles that are nesting across the river. In addition to the eagles, look for the other big birds that inhabit the Potomac; the majestic Grey Blue Heron, the Red-Tailed Hawk and the Turkey Vulture. And ponder at the immense beauty and force of the river at Great Falls Overlook.

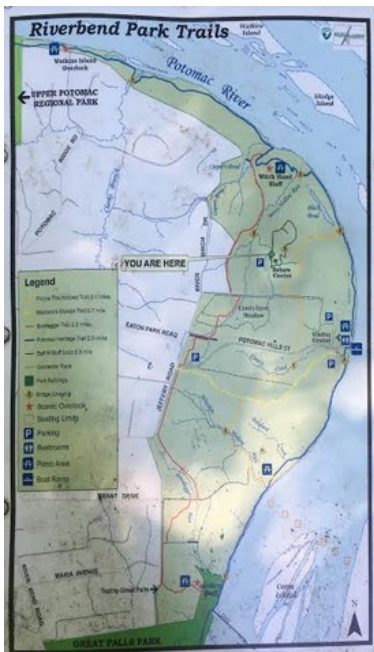
There are a lot of other trails that are fun to walk as well. The trail to the left of the Visitor's Center (going west) follows the river to the bend, hence the park's name. If you take the path to the left (about half way along this trail) it will lead you into the forest and come out at the River Bend Nature Center.



This is a popular park so if you haven't started yet, always bring masks to throw on when passing people.

Trails and Map

Special Note: April is the season for enjoying the native wildflower, [Virginia Bluebells](#). They are blooming now in many parks along the Potomac.



***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](#)



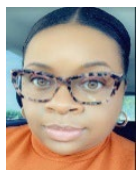
Corinne Julien

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



Jessica Mullins

Assistant Director, DC International Student Services
Room 488, mullins1@vt.edu or (703) 538-8326



Torri Brown

Immigration & Graduate Student Advisor
Room 490, torribrown@vt.edu or (703) 538-3775



Erin Mahoney

Admissions & Academic Progress Advisor
Room 494, erinm23@vt.edu or (703) 538-3789