



Virginia Tech Graduate Student Newsletter Washington, DC Metro Region April 22, 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	26	Earth Day Potluck
Apr	27	Virtual CPT Workshop for International Students
Apr	28	International Student Support Group
May	5	Reading Day (more info to follow)
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.

Register for Fall 2022!

The Drop/Add period for finalizing your Fall 2022 Schedule is open now and throughout the summer.

Get the classes and schedule you want by registering early!

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**.



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 all graduates and their guests in the Main Lobby immediately following the Commencement.

Program Receptions

If your program is giving a reception, you should have been notified and have already RSVPed. For your information, here is the schedule of receptions being given by some of the programs:

10:30am	MIT Reception, Tier 2
Post Ceremony	COE Reception, Tier 2 STS/SPIA Reception, Tier 3

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.

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>

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



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.

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

Architectural Student Forum

Washington Alexandria Campus (WAAC), Looking for New Candidates

Escape to a Park!

[U.S. National Arboretum](#), Washington, DC

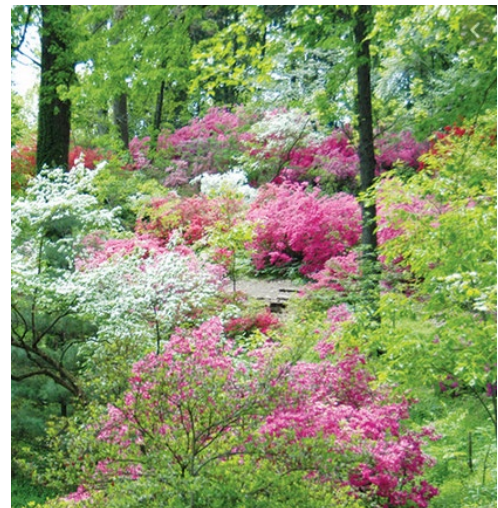
“Mission: The U.S. National Arboretum enhances the economic, environmental, and aesthetic value of ornamental and landscape plants through long-term, multi-disciplinary research, conservation of genetic resources, and interpretative gardens and exhibits.”



Established in 1927 by an Act of Congress, the National Arboretum is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service. It is a garden, a park, and a research institution. Its 446 acres include 9.5 miles of winding roadways. The arboretum is home to several famous collections of Azaleas, Bonsai and Penjing, dwarf conifers, ferns and much more. (Before you visit, check online to see the current visiting hours and open collections).

Like so much in Washington, DC this arboretum is free and open to the public. If you are here year-round, visit the park in the spring and the autumn. It is in spring time when the [Azalea Collections](#) display a rainbow of colors, while the rest of the plantings are beginning to bloom.

Peak bloom for Azaleas is beginning now so get out there this weekend or next to see them! Walk the grounds of the Arboretum, enjoy the incredible beauty of the various plant collections, and reflect on the importance of honoring our planet.



[Hours and Directions](#)

[Map](#)



Earth Day 2022

doodles @vt.edu

Earth Day 2022

This is the 50th year of the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. The theme of Earth Day this year is “Invest in Our Planet”. Earthday.org is the global organization which works to “activate the environmental movement worldwide.” For more information about this organization and Earth Day in Virginia, peruse their websites.

<https://www.earthday.org/virginia/>

“EARTHDAY.ORG asks the Commonwealth of Virginia to come together to combat climate change and restore, conserve and protect our environment. Communities across Virginia face devastating impacts from fracking, sea level rise, climate change, biodiversity loss and other environmental challenges. Now is the time to build a more diverse, inclusive environmental movement and accelerate the green economy!”

***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



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GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES Office (GSSO)

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



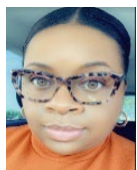
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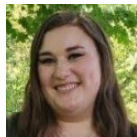
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