



## Virginia Tech Graduate Student Newsletter Washington, DC Metro Region April 29, 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	29	VTGrATE Info Sessions
Apr	30	Soccer Group
May	5	Walking Group with Julie
May	5	Reading Day (more info to follow)
May	15	2022 Spring VT Commencement in the DC Region

## ***VT Graduate Student Commencement in the DC Metro Region, Spring 2022, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 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><b>All participating students should be checked in by 12:30 pm.</b></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	Faculty 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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



### 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](#).

### Accessible Seating

The CFA has accessible seating available for patrons. If you and/or your guests require accessible seating, please contact Susan Merten, [smerten@vt.edu](mailto:smerten@vt.edu), to arrange it with the venue.

**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

**NVC Library News**

**7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church VA 22043, [lib.vt.edu](http://lib.vt.edu) [nvclibrary@vt.edu](mailto: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](http://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](https://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!

## ***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](https://www.vtc.edu/off-campus-housing). The site supports single sign-on using your VT credentials.

## ***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.

### 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> Our last meeting is May 6. Come when you can for as long as you can!

The Spring 2022 program manager is Jonilda Bahja [jonildab@vt.edu](mailto:jonildab@vt.edu). Ernesto Acosta [ela2ness@vt.edu](mailto: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.

GrATE Fellows Jonilda Bahja and Sara Lamb presented a *Teaching 101: Refresher* at GrATE's Semi-Annual Teach-In. This updated slide presentation offers eleven tangible tips for teaching. It offers new content and resources for those interested in teaching. The presentation is available at

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1a6zYAVfm6mKagTT3l\\_dv5n-8aM7gamEd/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=110988247506976325370&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1a6zYAVfm6mKagTT3l_dv5n-8aM7gamEd/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=110988247506976325370&rtpof=true&sd=true)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:hamdani@vt.edu).

## 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](#)

***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](mailto: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  
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**Susan Merten**

Assistant to the Associate Dean and Director of the NVC  
Room 410, [smerten@vt.edu](mailto:smerten@vt.edu) or (703) 538-8310

**GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES Office (GSSO)**

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



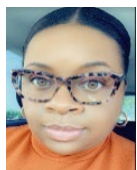
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