



Virginia Tech Graduate Student Newsletter Washington, DC Metro Region February 18, 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

Mar	1	Application for Degree Conferral (Submit request via Hokie Spa)
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	1	Application for Degree Conferral
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...)

Mar 1 Application for Degree Conferral

May 13 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.

Special Workshop for Students Completing All Degree Requirements for Spring 2022, February 23rd, 6:30pm

Are you hoping to complete your degree this Spring? Make sure to attend this important workshop offered by the GSSO for students that are completing their degree requirements for Spring 2022 to prepare for degree completion.

When: Feb 23, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Student: Dates and Deadlines (Spring 2022)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85184647480>

Contact the GSSO if you have any questions: gssoncr@vt.edu or (703) 538-8327

Need a Mask? Pickup Points in the DC Metro Region

KN95 masks for individuals are available at these two pickup points in the DC Metro Region campus locations:

- **Northern Virginia Center, Falls Church**, in the Lobby at the Guard's desk.
- **VT Arlington Research Center**, Ballston, at the second floor Reception.

These masks are free to the campus community. Individuals should continue to use these resources in a responsible manner.

VT COVID Testing Program in the DC Region

The university's COVID testing program in the DC Region is through a mail-in testing program. The test kits are distributed in the library. An overview of instructions is shown below. Please be patient as we bring this new program online, and remember that the program is for people without symptoms. If you are experiencing COVID symptoms, please contact your health care provider.

1. Register online to pick up a test. The scheduling website is <https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=20170330&appointmentType=29318318>
2. Select Falls Church or Arlington on the website to see available pickup times.
3. Pick up your test from the NVC Library (1st floor) or Arlington Main Desk (2nd Floor) as scheduled. You will need to show ID. Hokie Passport is preferred, but another government-issued ID such as a driver's license or passport is acceptable.
4. **DO NOT ADMINISTER THE SELF-TEST IN THE LIBRARY.** Preferred locations are your private office, home, or car. You can also administer the self-test outside, or in some part of the building where you can be far away from other people.
5. Carefully follow the sampling and shipping instructions included with the test kit. On Mondays and Tuesdays between noon and 4 pm, the NVC library will have a collection box at the service desk. The regular UPS driver will pick up completed test kits from this box. Outside of these hours, you must ship your test through UPS from a nearby office or public collection box.
6. Tests are processed by the testing company, and the results will be communicated to the university by Friday. Negative test results will be communicated by email only. Positive
7. results will be communicated by either EH&S (for employees) or Schiffert Health (for students) using a combination of email and phone.

International Students: Virtual OPT Workshops

Graduating International Students Virtual OPT Workshops

If you are graduating in Spring or Summer 2022, and have not attended a virtual OPT workshop, please register to attend the last **one**.

Advanced registration is required:

-Wednesday, February 23, 5 - 6 PM: [REGISTER HERE](#)

We will be sharing helpful information about applying for **post-completion OPT**.



Student graduating in May 2022 can submit this e-form to apply for OPT:

IntlHokies > F-1 post-completion OPT > **Optional Practical Training (OPT) request**

All immigration workshops scheduled for Spring 2022 are posted on the **NVC events and activities calendar** and shared weekly in the DC campus Friday email newsletter.

Important Tax Information

It is important to be aware that, as a nonresident student in the U.S., you are legally required to file a tax return if you received U.S. income during 2021.

Please note that even if you did not work or receive income in the U.S., you are still obligated to file [Form 8843 \(Statement for Exempt Individuals and Individuals with a Medical Condition\)](#) with the **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**. Form 8843 is due by **May 1, 2022**.

This tax season runs **January 24, 2022 – April 18, 2022**. To assist in filing your taxes, Virginia Tech has arranged access to **Sprintax Tax Preparation** for you. Sprintax will guide you through the tax preparation process, arrange the necessary documents and check if you are due a tax refund. **Sprintax does not need to be used if you are only filling out Form 8843.**

Sprintax was used by over 170,000 international students, scholars and nonresidents last year. The average Federal refund received by eligible students was over \$1,185.

To receive access to Sprintax:

1. Submit the **2022 Request for Sprintax Software Access**.
2. Indicate in the form if you received income in 2021. If you did, you will be emailed a unique code that will provide access to free **federal** tax filing assistance through Sprintax.
3. **IMPORTANT:** Sprintax codes are only emailed out on **Friday afternoons**. We appreciate your patience as we work to make sure students receive their codes each week.

Additionally, the IRS requires that any foreign national claiming tax treaty benefits on wages or salary earned in the U.S. file a [Form 8233 \(Exemption from Withholding on Compensation for Independent \[and Certain Dependent\] Personal Services of a Nonresident Alien Individual\)](#) each year they wish to claim the tax treaty. The **VT Payroll Office** is currently preparing 2022 tax treaty documents, and you can find the **schedule of available appointments** on our **tax website** under the "Tax Treaties" tab.

Our **tax website** has lots of resources and information for you to access to assist you in preparing for this tax season. **However, please note that our office (and all other university staff) are not qualified or allowed to provide individual tax advice.*

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, Students and their Hooders Line-up |
| 1:00 pm | Processional |
| 3:00 pm | Light reception for graduates and their guests in the Main Lobby immediately following the Commencement. |

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.**

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.

Graduate Student Speaker Competition

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 is March 22, 2022 and the applicants will be notified by April 1, 2022.

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

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

Feb	21	Presidents Day
Feb	21	APIDA Graduate Mentoring Program
Feb	22	PDW: Navigating the US Job Market for International Students
Feb	22	Virtual Discussion on VT Lands Once Worked by Enslaved People
Feb	23	OPT Workshop for Graduating International Students
Feb	23	GSSO Dates and Deadlines Workshop (for students completing degree in Spring 2022)
Feb	23	PDW: Preparing the Academic CV Workshop
Feb	24	Black History Month Trip to The National Museum of African American History and Culture
Mar	1	PDW: National Capital Region Job Fair Prep
Mar	17	I See You: Navigating Free Speech and Civil Discourse

NVC Library News**7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church 22043****lib.vt.edu nvclibrary@vt.edu, 703-538-8340****LIBRARY HOURS**

January 18 - February 27:

Monday - Thursday 11am-8pm

Fridays 11am-6pm

Saturdays 9am-5pm Sundays Closed

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

Hokie Passports (VT ID) are not being processed at this time. The Hokie Passport ID workstation is being updated. New ones will be processed later in the semester.

Exciting news for accessing the **New York Times** (includes the official app on mobile devices) for all current students and employees!

Please see https://guides.lib.vt.edu/new_york_times for more information on obtaining an academic pass. [Obtain and activate an academic pass](#) or use the [New York Times](#) through the University Libraries' website.

Check out the latest [library workshops](#) – look for “online” or “Zoom” options.

Virginia Tech Black History Month Events



Virginia Tech has organized several events, discussions, etc., to honor Black History Month at the university. Most are in person but some of the events are virtual. Check the site frequently as more are posted. Below are a few that are coming soon.

Virtual Discussion: VT Land Once Worked by Enslaved People, February 22nd

12:15 via Zoom

Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus occupies land that was once worked by dozens of enslaved people. The oldest building on campus, Solitude, is a former plantation home. Smithfield, another plantation owned by members of the same slaveholding family, sits adjacent to campus and now operates as a museum.

As Virginia Tech commemorates its 150th anniversary, join our distinguished panel of speakers to discuss the intertwined histories of Solitude, Smithfield, and VT--and how those histories are being re-imagined during the sesquicentennial.

Date: Tuesday, February 22 at 12:15

Location: Zoom: tinyurl.com/2p8zkb4d

Price: Free

Sponsor: Department of History

Celebrate Black History Month In the DC Metro Region!

Trip to The National Museum of African American History and Culture, February 24th at 12:30pm

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Let's Celebrate Together
 Join GSSO & OEA
 as we explore
The National Museum of African American History and Culture
 Thursday, February 24, 2022
 12:30 PM

Registration will close Friday, February 18th at 5 PM OR once 20 registrations have been received, whichever comes first.
 Attendees must provide their own transportation to and from the museum.
 We will meet at Federal Triangle Metro Station for ticket distribution at 11:45 AM

Register for FREE

VT
 VIRGINIA TECH

i see you.

Navigating Free Speech and Civil Discourse
 Featuring Professors Cornel West and Robert George
March 17, 2022 | Haymarket Theater
 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM | Squires Student Center

RSVP by 3/14

In our very fractured society, how can we bridge real differences while maintaining meaningful relationships and civil conversation? Is it possible to have vigorous free expression while demonstrating genuine respect towards others? All Hokies are invited to attend this special event as we delve into these important topics with two leading political scientists who share a friendship across authentic difference.

hxo **Bradley** **VT** **STUDENT AFFAIRS**
 Department of Political Science, Department of Religion and Culture, and the Kellogg Center for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

I See You Navigating Free Speech and Civil Discourse is supported in part by Heterodox Academy. The ability for HxA to provide Grants for HxCommunities events and other activities are made possible in full through the support of the John Templeton Foundation. The content of this event (or through such activities) are those of the individual Grantees, organizers, speakers, presenters, and attendees of such events/activities and do not necessarily reflect the views of Heterodox Academy and/or the John Templeton Foundation.

If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, please contact Alicia Cohen at 540-231-1822 or acohen@vt.edu during regular business hours at least 10 business days prior to the event.

I See You: Navigating Free Speech and Civil Discourse, March 17th, 7pm

Featuring Professors Cornel West and Robert George

In our very fractured society, how can we bridge real differences while maintaining meaningful relationships and civil conversation? Is it possible to have vigorous free expression while demonstrating genuine respect towards others? Join us as we delve into these important topics with two leading political scientists who share a friendship across authentic difference.

RSVP by March 14:

https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3x8C9yDz6BjK6N0

Other Events, etc.



APIDA GRADUATE MENTORING PROGRAM

APPLY TODAY!

Create connections between graduate students and faculty within the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) community who share similar identities and experiences and to create safe and culturally sensitive environments for graduate students to seek guidance and support!

Program starts on **Monday, Feb 21 at 11:30am, via Zoom or GLC Room C in Blacksburg!** If you are paired with a mentor/mentee, you will receive an invitation by **Saturday, Feb 19.**

INTEREST FORMS
Due Feb 18, 2022 at 5pm

MENTEES



<https://bit.ly/34oTYnV>

MENTORS



<https://bit.ly/35PIQSI>

Contact Gia Ha at giaha@vt.edu or Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu for more information

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Graduate Mentoring Program, February 21st, 11:30am via Zoom

The purpose of the program is to create connections between graduate students and faculty within the APIDA community who share similar identities and experiences and to create safe and culturally sensitive environments for graduate students to seek guidance and support. The program is open to graduate students and faculty from all Virginia Tech campuses.

The application deadline is **Friday, February 18 at 5pm** and there are separate applications for [Mentees](#) and [Mentors](#).

Professional and Development Workshops for Graduate Students in the DC Metro Region, Online, Various Tuesdays at Noon

February 22 - Navigating the US Job Market as an International Student:

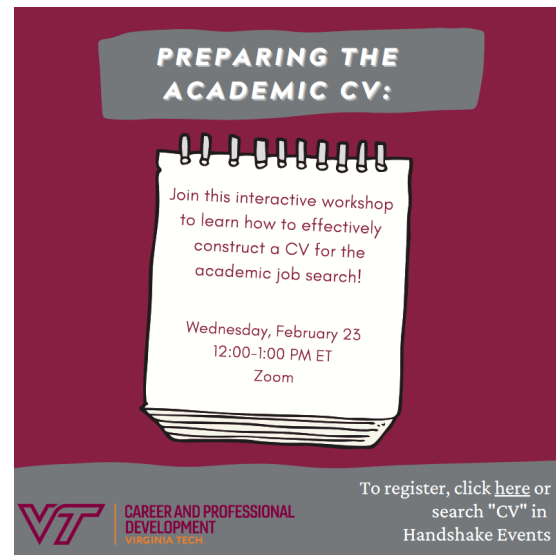
In this interactive session, we will be discussing job search challenges and strategies for international students - where to look for positions, how to make connections, and how to navigate applications. Bring your questions as well! This presentation will be recorded. Register [here](#).

February 23 - Preparing the Academic CV (see announcement below)

March 1 - National Capital Region Job Fair Prep:

In this interactive session, we will discuss how to best prepare for and navigate the March 7th national capital region job fair in order to get the most out of the experience. Bring your questions! This presentation will be recorded. Register [here](#).

CPD: Preparing the Academic CV Workshop, February 23rd, Noon



Job Opening – Remote/Wage Position

Scoping Review Research Assistant

This is a great opportunity for students who want to learn more about and gain hands-on experience with evidence synthesis (e.g., systematic review, meta-analysis) methodologies!

This is a remote, wage (\$13/hour) position.

Reviewing applications: Monday, Feb 28.

Tentative start date: March 7. Funding guaranteed through June 15.

Dr. John Aggrey of the Department of Science, Technology, and Society, and the Fralin Life Sciences Institute in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and I are hiring a student employee to support the development and piloting of a protocol for a scoping review. Scoping reviews aim to systematically collect, review, and map all available material that answers a broad research question - our methodology will be informed by [PRISMA-Scp](#) and [JBI Manual for Evidence Synthesis, Chapter 11](#). In this review, we aim to map the Influence of Contextual Factors on Risk Perception and Health Behaviors During Epidemics. As such, we are hoping to share this announcement particularly with students in life sciences, social sciences, and health disciplines. The employee will act as a second reviewer and will be required to work independently (with training) and contribute to weekly team meetings.

For more detail and to apply: <https://app.joinhandshake.com/emp/jobs/6014670>

Please reach out to me Cozette Comer (cozette@vt.edu) and Dr. Aggrey (johnka@vt.edu) if you have any questions.

VTGrate Spring 2022 Application Cycle

If you are interested in joining the Virginia Tech Graduate Academy for Teaching Excellence (GrATE), we will have another application cycle in the first few weeks of the Spring '22 semester from January 24-March 5, 2022.

Application requirements are in the "[Membership](#)" tab on the menu, where you can then navigate to "[Member](#)," "[Associate](#)," or "[Fellow](#)" depending on which level of membership you are interested in applying for. If you need teaching evaluations, please connect with us for [Peer Observation](#) and we can help.

Have questions about the application? Please either email program manager Jonilda Bahja jonildab@vt.edu or submit a question to the [Ask A Fellow](#) form and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you have questions about the academy, please email Ernesto Acosta at ela2ness@vt.edu

GPSS Annual Research Symposium and Exposition, March 23rd-24th

Start crafting your submissions for the Graduate and Professional Student Senate's 38th Annual Research Symposium and Exposition, which will be held March 23rd - 24th! (Please Note: The GPSS was formerly called the Graduate Student Assembly or GSA.) The theme for the 2022 GSARS is "Interdisciplinary research and communication!". ALL graduate and professional degree programs are welcome to [submit an abstract](#) before the deadline: February 15th, 2022 at 11:59 pm. Our [GPSS webpage](#) will have details regarding submission types, scheduling, the keynote panel, and more as we approach the event. Contact the GPSS Research Symposium co-chairs, Connor Brown (clb21565@vt.edu) or Benjamin Miller (benmiller@vt.edu) with any questions you have.



Apply to be the Graduate Student Representative on the Board of Visitors!

Each year the Board of Visitors selects one undergraduate student representative and one graduate student representative. Student representatives serve a one-year term from July 1 through June 30.

Both BOV student representatives also serve as members of [University Council](#), the Commission on Student Affairs, and Order of the Gavel, and may be asked by the president, provost, or other university leaders to serve on special task forces or committees. It is vitally important for the student representatives to maintain constant contact with administration, including the president and provost and other university leaders, as well as with the students on all campuses of the university. It is also expected that the student representatives will assist others in becoming educated about the positions and encourage others to become future applicants.

Interested? See here for more information and the application:

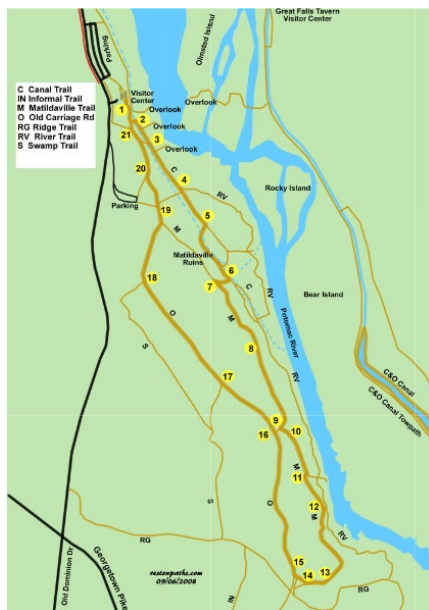
<https://bov.vt.edu/studentrepsapply.html>

Escape to a Park!

Presidents Day, February 21st, Suggested Walk - Maltidaville: George Washington's Ghost Town

"Although Mount Vernon is often hailed for its association with (George) Washington's everyday life, it's little known that [Great Falls](#) was also a huge part of life for him. In fact, he began a project there to create a series of canals that would open up a waterway from DC to Pittsburgh for commerce to flow - establishing the Patowmack Canal Company. Of course, there needed to be a town established with a market, gristmill, inn, workers' barracks, homes, and more to host the construction company's workers. In the age of the Revolutionary War, Harry Lee (father of Robert E. Lee) named the town for his first wife, Matilda Lee. The town of Matildaville served as the home

of the Patowmack Company while they operated on the project for 26 years, but unfortunately it was shut down due to high costs. Now recognized as an Atlas Obscura site, Matildaville stands as a ghost town of stone ruins off the beaten path of [Great Falls National Park](#)." fxva.com



Maltidaville Trail

There isn't much left of Maltidaville but the hike is beautiful!

Park Entrance per car: \$20





Escape to DC!

The National Gallery of Art, East Building, FREE

The East Building of the National Gallery of Art is as fun and modern on the outside as it is, with its modern art collections, on the inside. Designed by I.M. Pei with isosceles triangles, bright skylights and soaring staircases, the building is stunning. Stroll through the collections of Pablo Picasso, Mark Rothko, Barbara Kruger, etc. My favorite piece is the [giant “Untitled” mobile by Alexander Calder](#) hanging from the huge atrium, commissioned by the Smithsonian for the building when it opened in 1978. Something about it always makes me smile. Another great piece and recent addition is [Katharina Fritsch's Hahn/Cock](#), a giant blue rooster, which stands



proudly on the Roof Terrace. Once you have toured the East Building and are feeling peckish, take the walkway through [Leo Villareal's Multiverse](#), to the café and gift shops between the East and West Buildings.

Starting on February 28th, the East Building will be closed for renovations, so go there this month! FREE Admission to regular exhibits.

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, kh Wong@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](#)



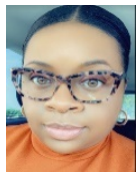
Corinne Julien

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



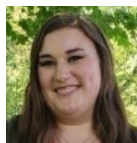
Jessica Mullins

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