



Virginia Tech Graduate Student Newsletter Washington, DC Metro Region February 25, 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.

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

Feb	28	Music on Mondays (live stream)
Mar	1	PDW: National Capital Region Job Fair Prep
Mar	2	GPSS DC (GSA): Meet & Greet After Hours
Mar	7	NCR Job Fair at the NVC
Mar	17	I See You: Navigating Free Speech and Civil Discourse
Mar	22	PDW: Building Your Personal Brand
Mar	23	FREE Professional Photo Shoot at the NVC

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 Important Information

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:

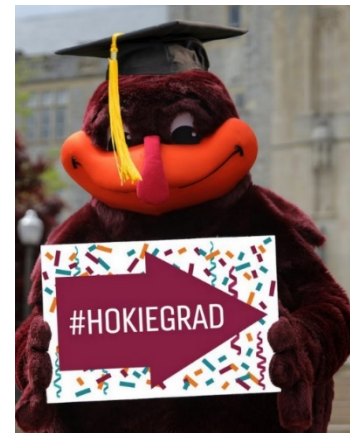
Sunday May 15th, 2022

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>

Virginia Tech Black History Month Events

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:

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 toward 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 Religion 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 HxO to provide Grants for HxO Communities events and other activities are made possible in full through the support of the John Templeton Foundation. The opinions expressed 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.

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

Other Events, etc.

Music On Mondays, February 28th, 8pm, Stream Live

The School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech offers this event on Mondays at the Squires Recital Salon. BUT it is usually live streamed! This Monday is Kyle Hutchins and Friends:

Free; no registration required

[Click here for live streaming.](#)

Music on Mondays presents Kyle Hutchins and Friends

Sonata in c# minor for alto saxophone and piano by Fernande Decruck

Hocket for two saxophones by Meredith Monk

Sonder for flute, alto saxophone, and computer by Charles Nichols

Three Women for tenor saxophone and actors by Kakia Gkoudina

Recurring Dreams for violin, cello, alto saxophone, and piano by Roshanne Etezady

GPSS (GSA) DC: Virtual Meet & Greet After Hours, March 2nd, 5:30pm

GPSS DC Leadership 2021-2022



Meet the GPSS DC Leadership and connect with other graduate students in the DC region!

VT GSA

VIRGINIA TECH.

Meet & Greet
After Hours
Wednesday, March 2
5:30 PM - 6 PM
@vtgsaDC

Student gatherings, Q&As and more...
Zoom link: <http://bit.ly/GSAHour21>

Goals of the monthly meetings:

- Bring students together from different departments and campuses.
- Discuss any current student-related issues. We are here for you.
- Casual meeting. Student can chat freely and join/leave anytime.

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

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](#).

March 22 - Building Your Personal Brand:

In this session, we will discuss the concept of personal brand both as a job seeker and a professional, break down the process of identifying and/or clarifying your own brand, review the basics of how to leverage social media platforms and other means of showcasing your brand, and taking a look at ways to maintain. This session is geared for those new to personal branding. This presentation will be recorded. Register [here](#).

2022 Free [NCR Job Fair](#) at the Northern Virginia Center, March 7th, 2-6pm

Organized by the DCHokies alumni, the annual NCR Job Fair returns after an unexpected year off due to the pandemic. All area job seekers are welcome to this event, including current students. Register soon to ensure your resume is sent to companies ahead of time!



Please note: All attendees and recruiters will be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or proof of vaccine medical exemption.

[To Register as an Attendee](#)

FREE Professional Photo Shoot, March 23rd, 3-6pm

A professional photographer will be at the Northern Virginia Center, Room 200 on March 23rd 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 [here](#)

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 DC!

“Wrap up Black History Month with a tour around town

Friday, February 25 – Sunday, February 27 *Multiple locations*

Since the inception of our city, the culture of Black Americans has been entirely intertwined with our nation’s capital, making it the ideal place to learn about Black history. So this weekend, check out [picks from a historian](#) at the National Museum of African American History and Culture for the best neighborhoods, monuments, and other locations around DC that you should visit to learn about the city’s Black history, during Black History Month and beyond.

Cost: Free” Thrillist.com



***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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And Director of the Northern Virginia Center (NVC)
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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](#)



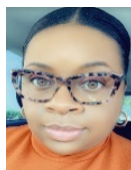
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