



Virginia Tech Graduate Student Newsletter Washington, DC Metro Region January 21, 2022

Virginia Tech COVID Policy for Spring 2022 Semester

Virginia Tech Public Health Conversation, January 20th

This week the university had a conversation with university leaders and experts on various public health strategies for this semester in light of the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

[Vaccines and boosters, as well as reporting them, will continue to be required for students who do not receive an exemption.](#)

For more information and to watch the recorded discussion, see

[“Omicron variant, mental health, masks discussed during public health panel.”](#) VTNews

For more information on vaccinations and how/where to upload your booster certifications, go to <https://ready.vt.edu/vaccinations.html>.



VACCINATION

VT COVID Testing Program in the DC Region

The COVID testing program will be resuming on Tuesday January 18 through a mail-in testing program. The test kits will be distributed through the library. An overview of instructions is shown below, although some details are still being worked out. 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 results will be communicated by either EH&S (for employees) or Schiffert Health (for students) using a combination of email and phone.

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

Jan	25	PDW: Networking: What, Why and How (Online)
Jan	27	Thursday Walking Group
Feb	1	PDW: Plugging into DC Professional Development Resources
Feb	5	Virtual Vision Board Workshop

Spring 2022 New Student Orientation (Recording)

VT-DC Spring 2022 Online New Student Orientation

The Graduate School hosted an online general orientation session for new students on January 12th. You can access the recording with all the important information [HERE](#).

International Students: Important Reminders for Spring 2022

Enrollment Requirements

Continuing (*not* new) international students who were issued a “Continued Attendance” I-20 may enroll in a full-time course of study that is 100% online. You may enroll in any combination of in-person, online, and/or hybrid courses that best suits your academic, health, and other needs as long as you are enrolled in a full-time course of study. Full-time requirements are a minimum of:

- 9 credits for graduate students *without* an assistantship
- 12 credits for graduate student *with* an assistantship
- Please note that the last day of add/drop is **Monday, January 24th**. Be sure to meet enrollment requirements by this date.

Spring 2022 graduates

Students who will be in their final semester and do not require full-time enrollment to complete their degree program may enroll less than full-time as long as they have submitted a **Reduced Course Load (RCL) request** through the [IntlHokies Portal](#) and have received an approval email for their request. Academic RCL requests are **due by 01/24/2022**.



On-Campus Employment

Students working on-campus for VT during an official university break are permitted to work full-time (ex: more than 20 hours per week). The final day to work full-time during Winter Break will be **Friday, January 14th, before 11:59 PM**. Students who engage in full-time on-campus employment after this date will be in violation of their status and risk termination of their SEVIS record.

IntlHokies portal

All immigration requests are submitted online using the [IntlHokies portal](#).

Advising appointments

All academic and immigration advising appointments with advisors will be held virtually this semester. Advising appointments can be booked online by students using the [Hokie One Stop](#) system.

NVC Library News

7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church 22043

lib.vt.edu nvclibrary@vt.edu, 703-538-8340

LIBRARY HOURS

January 15	9am - 5pm
January 16	Closed
January 17	Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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.

Cook Counseling at the Northern Virginia Center

WHERE WE ARE:

Cook Counseling Center's NVC Office:
7054 Haycock Rd., Falls Church, VA;
Room 495 (Waiting room), Room 402 (Cook Counseling Center)



STUDENT AFFAIRS
COOK COUNSELING CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH.

WHAT WE OFFER: Cook Connect evaluation session, Individual Counseling (in person or by Zoom), Group Counseling, Campus Outreach, Crisis Consultation, and Psychiatry

WHO WE ARE: Cook Counseling Center is a safe place for graduate students to discuss their personal concerns, when they feel stuck and are experiencing a high degree of distress.

We are here for you to talk whenever life or school gets to be overwhelming.

HOW TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT?

Scheduling an appointment is easy! Just reach out.

Email Julie Kaplan, Ph.D., at jkaplan@vt.edu, or call 703-538-3797 or 540-231-6557 (main campus, after hours line).

**Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

The Writing Center Online Services

The Writing Center offers services online. Appointments can be scheduled at <https://lib.vt.edu/study-learn/writing-center.html>. Graduate students, be sure to limit your view of each schedule to "specialized graduate support" to work with a graduate student. There will be two types of schedules available:

Live Online Tutoring (Synchronous Online Tutoring)

Like our face-to-face tutoring, live online tutoring takes place in real-time with both the student and tutor "present." Both parties are able to view the student's work on screen and can communicate through audio/video or chat. Especially helpful for line-by-line editing help!

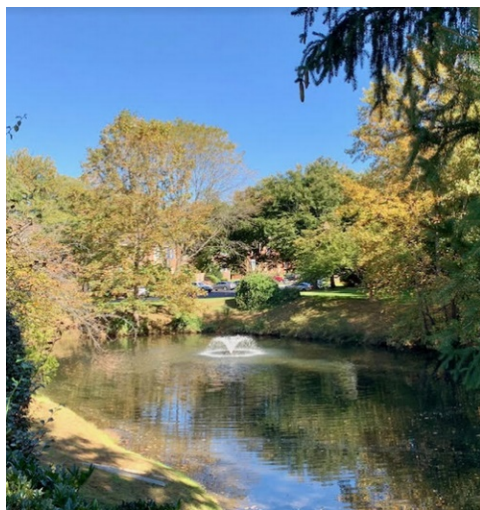
24 hrs. Later Feedback (Asynchronous Online Tutoring)

Unlike live online tutoring, 24 hrs. Later Feedback, or asynchronous tutoring, does not take place in real-time. Students will reserve slots on the 24 hrs. Later Feedback schedule and attach the most recent draft of their paper, along with the instructor's assignment sheet or prompt, and receive written feedback from the tutor within 24 hours of the appointment start time. The tutor will review the writing assignment for 45 minutes and make observations, pose questions, and suggest strategies for the improvement of your writing. Tutors will not be editing papers, but providing some editing suggestions.

Events, Workshops, etc....

Thursday Walking Group, 12:30pm to 1pm, Meet in the NVC Lobby

Join our new Counselor, Dr. Julie Kaplan, for walks in the NVC neighborhoods and techniques of mindfulness! Please Note: the walking group will now meet on Thursdays.



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

Join Kerry Spitze, our new Career Advisor for the DC region, and learn how to curate your job search and land a rewarding new position! Access all workshops through the Handshake registration links below. If you have any questions or would like an individual career advising session with Kerry, please contact her through [Handshake](#). Additional PD Workshops will be posted closer to the session dates.

January 25 - Networking: What, Why, & How

In this interactive session, we will discuss what networking means, how it can be important in your career and professional development, and review easy-to-use strategies. This presentation will be recorded. Register [here](#).

February 1 - Plugging into DC Professional Development Resources

In this session, we will review DC-area resources that you can access to enhance your career and professional development. We will look at various organizations, business incubators, and associations as well as review DC-area networking and business events. Learn how to get more professionally involved and informed through the plethora of resources in DC! This presentation will be recorded. Register [here](#).

Parenting Young Children Classes, 8-week Free Program, via Zoom



Children get overwhelmed by big emotions. Our job is to share our calm, not join their chaos.

Parenting Young Children Classes
Providing parents and caregivers with positive parenting tools.

Tuesdays, January 25-March 15, 5:30-7:00 PM
OR
Thursdays, March 3-April 28, 10:00-11:30 AM

Free classes meet once a week for 8 weeks on Zoom.

For more information or to register, contact Keli Lichty or Julie Fox by email or text/call:
keli@nrvcare.org or 540-494-0835
julie@nrvcare.org or 540-494-0806

NRV CARES **PARENT EDUCATION**

Virtual Vision Board Workshop, February 5th, Noon to 1:30pm*Dream it. Believe it. Do it.***VISION BOARD WORKSHOP**

Saturday, February 5, 2022 | 12:00PM-1:30PM ET | Via Zoom

The event will be live-streamed and recorded on the VT NVC GSSO Youtube channel

**FREE Boxed Meal Catered by La Prima**
SANDWICH, COOKIE, CHIPS & DRINK**Free Event**

Join GSSO and Cook Counseling virtually as we learn about visualization and create physical or virtual vision boards, your choice. Let's dream it, believe it and do it up for 2022!

Confirmed attendees receive:

- Vision Board Party Checklist
- Supplies (poster board, glue stick, scissors and stickers) in VT Gift Bag
- La Prima Catered Boxed Meal



Registration Required for FREE catered boxed meal & event supplies via QR Code or at:
<https://forms.gle/mJuZXnsPbEEGBskNA>
 Registration closes on February 1st or once 20 participants have registered whichever comes first

In Case You Missed it!

President Sands State of the University Address was given on January 19th. You can see a recording of his address [here](#)



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Escape to DC!

Its Restaurant Week!

Restaurant Week in DC and the entire metro region is offered until Sunday; go to their website and see the participating restaurants. It's a great way to try different places, not spend too much money and take note of those you enjoyed and want to visit again. The prices and menus are fixed: breakfast/brunch \$25, lunch \$40 and dinner \$55. They offer dine in or take out options.



Futures, Smithsonian's Arts and Industries Museum, Free Admission



"Smithsonian's historic [Arts and Industries Building](#) has opened its groundbreaking new experience. On view through July 6, 2022, FUTURES is the Smithsonian's first major building-wide exploration of the future and will temporarily reopen the Smithsonian's oldest museum for the first time in nearly two decades. The part-exhibition, part-festival will celebrate the Smithsonian's 175th anniversary with more than 150 awe-inspiring objects, ideas, prototypes and installations that fuse art, technology, design and history to help visitors imagine many possible futures on the horizon. Make sure to read our [guide to the exhibit](#) before you go." washingtong.org

New PhD Fellowship in Cybersecurity

The Virginia Tech National Security Institute's announces its newest PhD program called [The Julian Chin Ph.D. Fellowship in Cybersecurity](#). The deadline for application is January 15, 2022. All information about the program may be found on the [website](#).

All current and aspiring graduate students (regardless of where they completed undergraduate school, VT or not) are invited to apply. Current Virginia Tech graduate students may apply for the fellowship using [this](#) form. Here is an overview of the benefits:

- A yearly stipend of \$38,000
- Payment of full tuition and required fees during the appointment period.
- \$5,000 professional development allowance which can be used for conference travel, and other approved expenditures
- Up to four years of total support, depending on renewal
- Opportunities to pursue practicum experience at government and industry partner facilities
- Opportunities to conduct research with faculty from the National Security Institute
- Flexibility to study cybersecurity in any relevant discipline at Virginia Tech

Hokie One Stop

Greater Washington D.C. Area Hokie One Stop

Supports and services for graduate and undergraduate students in the greater Washington, D.C. metro area

Check out the new [Hokie One Stop](#), a website to provide a single-entry point for any student-related questions or needs.

- How and where to get the Hokie Passport?
- Have a question about tuition and fees?
- Need to talk to the Graduate Student Assembly in the DC area?
- How to contact your Program Coordinator?
- Connect with Counseling and Veterans Services
- Rentals: [DC Off-campus Housing](#)
- Online Events Calendar: [VT-DC Student Events](#)



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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