



Virginia Tech Graduate Student Newsletter Washington, DC Metro Region May 6, 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!

May	6	VTGrATE Info Sessions
May	12	Walking Group with Julie
May	15	2022 Spring VT Commencement in the DC Region

VT Graduate Student Commencement in the DC Metro Area, 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

All participating students should be checked in by 12:30 pm.

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 Academic 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

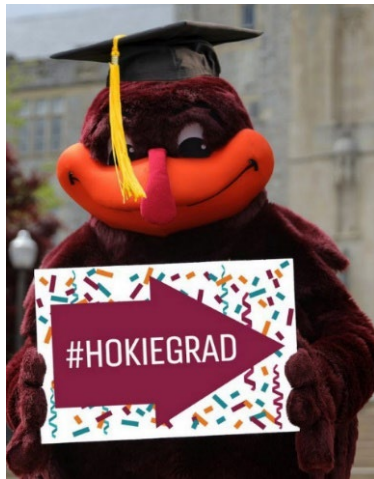
In order to participate in Commencement, please make sure you have completed the necessary work by the [Degree Conferring Dates](#). If you have any questions, please contact the Graduate Student Services Office (GSSO) at 703-538-8327 or see [here](#) for more information or to make an appointment.

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

Live Streaming Information

We plan to live stream our ceremony this year on the vt.edu homepage and here is the direct link:

URL: <https://youtu.be/QbTADCFMuic>

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

Library Hours May 12 - 24

5/12 - 5/15: Thursday: 11am – 6pm
Friday - Sunday: Closed

5/16 - 5/22: Monday - Thursday: By Appointment
Friday - Sunday: Closed

5/23 - 5/24: Monday - Tuesday: By Appointment

Summer Library Hours May 25 - July 3

Monday - Thursday: 11am – 8pm

Friday: 11am – 6pm

Saturday - Sunday: Closed

*Closed: Friday, May 27 - Monday, May 30 -- Memorial Weekend
Monday, June 20 - Juneteenth observed*

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](#). 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. 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.

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. [See presentation](#)

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, 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



See Julie in this video posted this week on the VTNews!

[Spring Walk supports mental health | VTx | Virginia Tech](#)

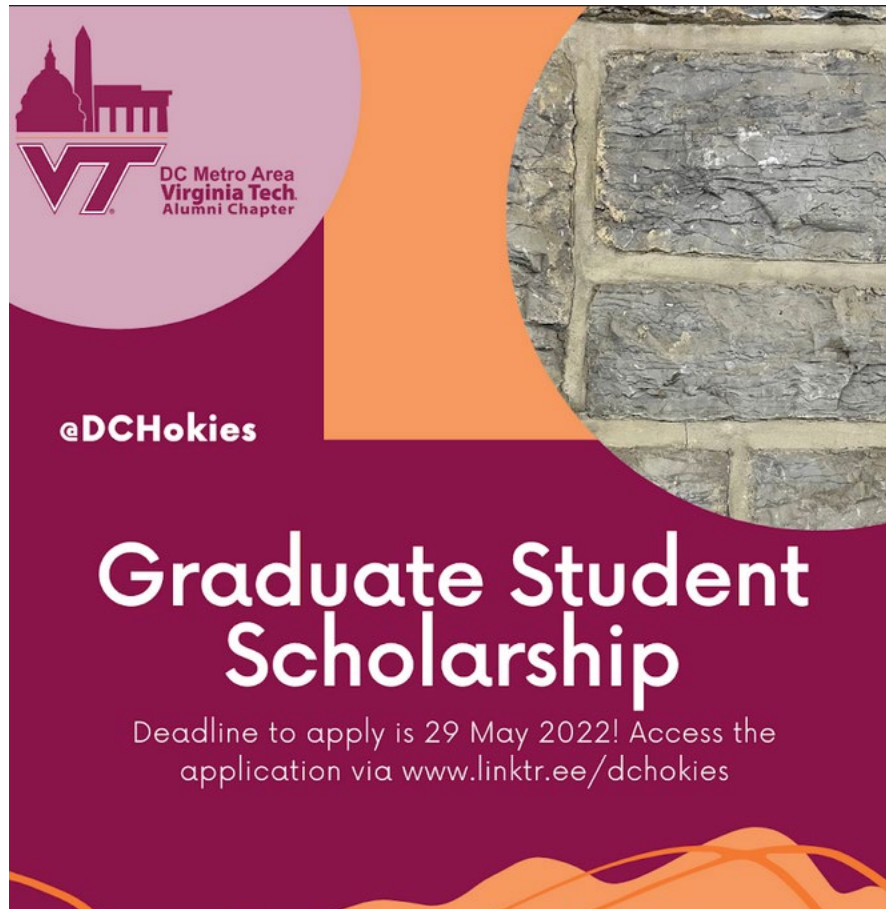
Drop-in Study Break and De-stressing Time, May 10th, 3:30-4:30pm, NVC T3

Feel free to discuss any concerns or stress, and we will have some stretching and relaxation breaks, and adult coloring sheets, some giveaways, and snacks/water.

This event is will be conducted by Julie Kaplan, Ph.D., Embedded Counselor at the NVC

Graduate Student Scholarship

The DC Metro Area Alumni Chapter is offering scholarships to graduate students in the DC Metro Area. If you have questions, please contact scholarships@ncrhokies.org. The link to the application is here: <https://forms.gle/QMTLVSBgpE7faetN8>.



Farmers Markets

Farmers' Markets are plentiful in this area and a great way to obtain fresh produce and other foods items from our local farmers as well as small bakeries, cheese makers, caterers, artists, etc. They are often found in central green areas or squares and in neighborhood parks. Local musicians play at some of the markets for the love of their music and tips. Most farmers markets are open one morning a week, from April/May to November. However, the large and popular Eastern Market DC, and the Old Town Farmers' Market in Alexandria, are open year-round and especially festive during the holiday seasons. Before you go to any market, check which day/times they are open and which months!

Farmers markets are a wonderful way to spend your morning outside in the beautiful spring weather, buying fresh produce and supporting your local farmers and small businesses!



[Arlington Farmers Markets](#)

[Eastern Market DC](#): Historic Market since 1873, on Capitol Hill.

[Fairfax County Farmers Markets](#)

[Falls Church Farmers Market](#)

[Old Town Farmers Market, Alexandria](#)

[Vienna Farmers Market](#)



If you want to visit different farmers markets in the region, here is a [great list](#)!

Escape to a Park! [Mason Neck State Park](#)

“Just a short drive from Washington, D.C., this Northern Virginia park offers many outdoor activities and programs. It has hiking trails, 3 miles of paved multi-use trails, a large picnic area, a playground, a car-top canoe launch and a visitor center. Canoe, kayak and bicycle rentals are also available. Bird watching, especially for American bald eagles, and guided canoe trips of Kane's Creek and Belmont Bay are favorites with park visitors. The park's wetlands, forest, open water, ponds and open fields make it ideal for environmental study and wildlife observation. Nearby attractions include the Elizabeth Hartwell National Wildlife Refuge, Gunston Hall and Pohick Bay Regional Park.”

This park is about a 40 minute drive from Falls Church. It has several, well indicated hiking and biking trails, an area to launch your kayak and beachside views of the Occoquan River and Belmont Bay. The landscape is mostly flat so most trails are listed as easy and for all skill levels. The park is just over 1800 acres and surrounded by other nature preserves. This is an area that is home to over 200 different bird species, but is especially favored by the American Bald Eagle.



As with most parks in this area, if you can, go early! We try to arrive by opening hours and leave before the crowds start coming in, between 10-11am. You will also find that the amenities are cleaner at that time, plus parking is no problem. And you will feel like you have the park to yourselves! Most parks require a nominal fee to enter.

Hiking Trails:

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/document/data/trail-guide-masonneck1.pdf>

<https://www.hikingupward.com/OVH/MasonNeck/>

***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, khwong@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](#)



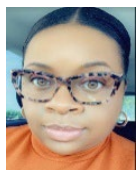
Corinne Julien

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