The mission of the Division of Student Affairs is to promote student learning, life skills, and personal growth through a strong focus on holistic student development and collaborative partnerships that deliver superior service to, and care for, students in the spirit of *Ut Prosim.*
Your Virginia Tech experience

A Virginia Tech education is not just about the classroom experience. It is about growing as a person, gaining a deeper learning and a richer understanding of yourself, your values, and your purpose. The depth and breadth of opportunity that awaits you is profound. The options are limitless.

Unlocking your potential is up to you. We’re here to support. Together, we can make your Virginia Tech journey one that prepares you for a rewarding life—a life of deep engagement and wellbeing.

Virginia Tech adopted the Aspirations for Student Learning to provide the very best learning for our students—from orientation through graduation, both in and out of the classroom. We want you to do more, be more, and aspire to become your best self by committing to unwavering **CURIOSITY**, pursuing **SELF-UNDERSTANDING** and **INTEGRITY**, practicing **CIVILITY**, preparing for a life of **COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP**, and embracing **UT PROSIM** (That I May Serve) as a way of life.

A critical component of your education is making sense of all you learn and all you do while at Virginia Tech. The Keystone Experience helps by providing a framework for you to record and reflect on your experiences, and discover synergies and connections as your understanding of the Aspirations for Student Learning comes to life. Through participation, engagement, creation, and reflection, you will create your own Keystone Experience—one that is self-directed, intentional, and well-documented. We provide the opportunities, tools, support, and encouragement that help you define your Keystone Experience.

If you are ready to explore new things and find out who you are and what you value, if you want to experience the exhilaration of working hard and reaching your goals, if you have a desire to positively change the world, then prepare yourself for the opportunity of a lifetime! The Virginia Tech Keystone Experience can be as rewarding as it is challenging. It will change your perspective forever. Let it help you unlock your potential.

In the spirit of *Ut Prosim*,

[Signature]

Patricia A. Perillo, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
The Division of Student Affairs is comprised of students, faculty, and staff committed to the growth, development, learning, and achievement of students at Virginia Tech:

- Assessment and Professional Development
- Career Services
- Communications and Innovative Technologies
- Cook Counseling Center
- Corps of Cadets
- Cranwell International Center
- Dean of Students/Student Advocacy
- Dining Services
- Division Advancement
- Family and Alumni Relations
- Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Hokie Wellness
- Housing and Residence Life
- Intercultural Engagement Center
- Leadership Education Collaborative
- New Student and Family Programs
- Recreational Sports
- Schiffert Health Center
- Services for Students with Disabilities
- Strengths-Based Learning
- Student Conduct
- Student Engagement and Campus Life
- VT Engage: The Community Learning Collaborative
Discovering Your Strengths

At Virginia Tech, students are encouraged to focus on their gifts and talents, honing them into true strengths; research shows that people are much more engaged when they work within their strengths instead of trying to elevate their weaknesses. The Division of Student Affairs offers an assessment tool that provides students with the knowledge and vocabulary to describe their talents and the areas in which they excel.

Students who know their strengths will be able to explore and engage the Aspirations for Student Learning at a more personal level and can be intentional in investing in their talents, expanding their curiosities, and putting those strengths to use. The Division of Student Affairs encourages you to take the assessment at [www.dsa.vt.edu/aspirations/strengths](http://www.dsa.vt.edu/aspirations/strengths) to discover your strengths. This is a great tool to use as you pursue self-understanding.

Your Keystone Experience provides a framework to record and reflect on your experiences during your time at Virginia Tech. Composed of internships, student organizations, intramural sports, Gobblerfest, and everything in between, the Keystone Experience gives students a clear way to make meaning of what they do in and outside the classroom. Our Aspirations for Student Learning outline what we expect of and aspire for our students, and the Keystone Experience is the avenue in which those Aspirations can come to life.

To start creating your Keystone Experience, explore Keystone Happenings and other events around campus on GobblerConnect, a web-based portal where you can track and record your Keystone Experience as you discover your strengths and interests. We’ll provide the tools and the opportunities for you to succeed and thrive at Virginia Tech—both in and out of the classroom. Your job now is to simply explore.
Our Aspirations for Student Learning

The Division of Student Affairs exists to sustain a culture of learning, reflecting the profound opportunities inherent for students at Virginia Tech. We believe students can develop habits of interpersonal awareness, intentional actions, and self-reflection, which complete and complement academic and professional education. The Division of Student Affairs is deliberate in discerning
and designing the learning opportunities available in student environments, creating new and innovative practices for student learning, and assessing the extent to which students are able to apply knowledge to solve problems. We challenge students to connect knowledge to the possibilities for improving humanity near and far, creating a legacy now and in the future.
Commit to unwavering Curiosity

Virginia Tech students will be inspired to lead lives of curiosity, 
embracing a lifelong commitment to intellectual development.

The Virginia Tech student experience seeks to instill the value that learning is the 
common essential element for intellectual development, discovery, and engagement, 
instead of a necessary means to a specified end. Virginia Tech believes that all 
environments of the college experience provide countless opportunities for learning. 
Student organizations, service projects, classrooms, residence and dining halls, student 
centers, leader development programs, cultural and recreational events, and many 
other planned and spontaneous encounters at Virginia Tech cumulatively represent a 
vibrant learning laboratory for students.
Do I have a sense of wonder about the world?

What opportunities at Virginia Tech will challenge me to discover and learn new things?

“The important thing is not to stop questioning.”
– Albert Einstein
Pursue

Self-Understanding & Integrity

*Virginia Tech students will form a set of affirmative values and develop the self-understanding to integrate these values into their decision making.*

Virginia Tech students will experience, explore, and understand the values and principles of their families, communities, and the many cultures they encounter. As students better understand themselves, their strengths and interests, and align their values with purposeful decision making, they will adopt an integrated set of principles to guide their personal and professional lives.
Who am I and what do I value?

How will what I value shape who I become?

“People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built.”

—Eleanor Roosevelt
Virginia Tech students will understand and commit to civility as a way of life in their interactions with others.

Living and learning as individuals who believe in the Principles of Community, students will pursue and embrace the value of civility, which will be carried throughout life. At the heart of this pursuit is a basic commitment to consideration, respect, and courtesy. Civility is a shared gift that we give and receive in turn. Accordingly, civility expects that we strive to listen, as well as to speak to each other; we try to understand each other in our commonalities and differences; we give respect to all members of the university community; we favor courtesy over rudeness and encourage considerate treatment over dismissive behavior; and we combine free speech with reasoned expression so that liberty and peace are both served.
When I am deeply honest with myself, when do I think my civility is most tested?
How can I reach out with kindness to people I most struggle to understand?

“Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive.”
– Dalai Lama
Prepare for a life of **Courageous Leadership**

*Virginia Tech students will be courageous leaders who serve as change agents and make the world more humane and just.*

Virginia Tech students will be courageous leaders who are willing to challenge the status quo in pursuit of a more humane and just world. They will have the fortitude to speak up when they witness an injustice and reach out to those who are vulnerable, marginalized, or in need. Courageous leadership is possible whether or not the individual is in a position of responsibility. Virginia Tech students will inspire others with their actions, changing the world one decision at a time.
What does courage look like to me? Can I be courageous? Am I willing to make decisions that benefit others, even if there is a cost to me?

“Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.”

— Harriet Beecher Stowe
Embrace

Ut Prosim

as a way of life

Virginia Tech students will enrich their lives through service to others.

The university motto, Ut Prosim (That I May Serve), and the Principles of Community will stand as a foundation for the development of personal relationships, physical spaces, and intercultural experiences, which create communities. These communities compel students to understand and develop a value system within that will guide their decisions and enable them to offer themselves as responsible citizens of the world.
When do I serve without recognition?

Is the principal purpose of my education to make a better life for myself or a better world for others?

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

–Anne Frank
The Aspire! Awards recognize students and Division of Student Affairs faculty and staff who exemplify the Aspirations for Student Learning. In the months of October, November, February, March, and April, five students and one faculty/staff member are honored for embodying one of the Aspirations for Student Learning. Annually, a Virginia Tech alum is recognized with the Alumni Ut Prosim Aspire! Award.
First endorsed by the university community in 2005 and reaffirmed in 2014, the Principles of Community embody the inherent dignity and value of every person, and support a climate for work and learning that is based on mutual respect and understanding. In conjunction with the Aspirations for Student Learning, the Principles of Community represent our steadfast dedication to an environment that nurtures learning and growth for all of its members.

**Principles of Community**

Virginia Tech is a public land-grant university, committed to teaching and learning, research, and outreach to the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world community. Learning from the experiences that shape Virginia Tech as an institution, we acknowledge those aspects of our legacy that reflected bias and exclusion. Therefore, we adopt and practice the following principles as fundamental to our ongoing efforts to increase access and inclusion and to create a community that nurtures learning and growth for all of its members:

- We affirm the inherent dignity and value of every person and strive to maintain a climate for work and learning based on mutual respect and understanding.

- We affirm the right of each person to express thoughts and opinions freely. We encourage open expression within a climate of civility, sensitivity, and mutual respect.

- We affirm the value of human diversity because it enriches our lives and the University. We acknowledge and respect our differences while affirming our common humanity.

- We reject all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including those based on age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, and veteran status. We take individual and collective responsibility for helping to eliminate bias and discrimination and for increasing our own understanding of these issues through education, training, and interaction with others.

- We pledge our collective commitment to these principles in the spirit of the Virginia Tech motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).
Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. Anyone having questions concerning discrimination should contact the Office for Equity and Access.