



EXPERIENCEVT

ASPIRATIONS FOR STUDENT LEARNING





THE MISSION 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*.



A great education is more than just completion of a degree. At Virginia Tech, we know that learning takes place everywhere on campus—in residence halls, dining centers, classrooms, living-learning communities, student centers, on the playing field, and in clubs and organizations. It's personal and unique. It's growth and transformation.

Every student will have a Virginia Tech experience. Student Affairs wishes to awaken students to their learning so they truly, fully, and intentionally **ExperienceVT**.

The days of a student services model based on a transactional relationship are long gone at Virginia Tech, and this is something that sets us apart from our peers. We facilitate discovery. We foster development. We ask hard questions. We help create global change agents equipped to navigate the complexities of today's world. We do so by encouraging students to explore, practice, and live our **Aspirations for Student Learning**:

- commit to unwavering CURIOSITY
- pursue SELF-UNDERSTANDING AND INTEGRITY
- practice CIVILITY
- prepare for a life of COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP
- embrace *UT PROSIM* (That I May Serve) as a way of life

These are our hopes for our students. They are also our expectations of ourselves and others. We consider everyone an educator—regardless of role or position—from our housekeepers and medical staff, to our students and our most senior administrators. At Virginia Tech, we learn and grow with and from each other. A student's time at Virginia Tech is shaped by their interests, fueled by their passions, and driven by their goals. Our objective is simple: to help students thrive on the paths they define for themselves.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AT VIRGINIA TECH

Student Affairs is committed to the growth, development, learning, and achievement of students at Virginia Tech.

“This is home.” That’s a phrase you’ll often hear from Hokies and when Student Affairs says it, we really mean it! We are where students eat, sleep, exercise, find friends, relax, get involved, receive care, seek assistance, lead, live, and learn outside the academic classroom. From orientation to graduation, Student Affairs’ programs, services, events, resources, activities, and assistance have an immediate and positive impact on the student experience, enhancing learning and adding value to a Virginia Tech education.

We focus on student support, access, and success, seeking to provide every Virginia Tech student the opportunity to, and an environment in which they can, learn and grow. Our curricular and co-curricular programs complement academic and professional education, while giving students practical experience in collaboration, teamwork, communication, and leadership.



VIRGINIA TECH PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY

We adopt and practice the following principles as fundamental to our on-going 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. 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, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).



OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR STUDENT LEARNING

- CURIOSITY
- SELF-UNDERSTANDING AND INTEGRITY
- CIVILITY
- COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP
- UT PROSIM



WE CHALLENGE STUDENTS TO CONNECT KNOWLEDGE TO THE POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVING HUMANITY NEAR AND FAR, CREATING A LEGACY NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

VIRGINIA TECH STUDENTS WILL...

be inspired to lead lives of curiosity, embracing a life-long commitment to intellectual development.

CURIOSITY

COMMIT TO UNWAVERING CURIOSITY

The Virginia Tech student experience seeks to instill the value that learning is the common essential element for intellectual development, discovery, and engagement. 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.



What challenges me to discover and learn new things?
What would I do if I had no fear?



“LIFE MUST BE LIVED AND CURIOSITY KEPT ALIVE. ONE MUST NEVER, FOR WHATEVER REASON, TURN HIS BACK ON LIFE.”
– ELEANOR ROOSEVELT



“IT IS WISDOM TO KNOW OTHERS; IT IS ENLIGHTENMENT TO KNOW ONE’S SELF.” – LAO-TZU



SELF-UNDERSTANDING AND INTEGRITY

PURSUE SELF-UNDERSTANDING AND 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 when no one is looking?
How do my values shape who I become?



CIVILITY

PRACTICE CIVILITY

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 Virginia Tech’s 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 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 show 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 is my respect and consideration for others most tested?
Do I receive and extend civility equally?



“INVITING DISSENT INTO THE CONVERSATION IS HOW WE SHOW RESPECT FOR A WIDE RANGE OF BELIEFS” – PARKER PALMER



“EACH PERSON MUST LIVE THEIR LIFE AS A MODEL FOR OTHERS.”
– ROSA PARKS



COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP

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.



When is courage an act of leadership?
Am I willing to make decisions that benefit others, even if there is a cost to me?



UT PROSIM

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 Virginia Tech’s 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.



Do I serve without expecting recognition?
What is the purpose of education? Where do education and service intersect?



“THE END OF ALL KNOWLEDGE SHOULD BE SERVICE TO OTHERS.”
– CÉSAR CHÁVEZ



“We do not learn from experience... we learn from reflecting on experience.” – John Dewey

 **EXPERIENCEVT**



The Aspirations for Student Learning are the “why” we do what we do. ExperienceVT is our “how.” Research shows that learning *when paired with reflection* improves performance, aids progress, and increases success. We’ve woven opportunities for reflection into the fabric of the student experience. ExperienceVT offers students a path and the tools to grow, learn, think, and make the most of their time at Virginia Tech... intentionally! Together, we’ll create the kind of community where students can discover and live their strengths so they can ExperienceVT. The opportunities are plentiful.

Students may find themselves at Virginia Tech. They’ll define themselves as they ExperienceVT.

Whether leading or supporting, interning or volunteering, researching or developing—students are finding and defining themselves, claiming their role, investing in themselves, and making an impact on others as a result.

THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO EXPERIENCEVT.



Strengths-Based Learning
An important part of ExperienceVT is encouraging students to focus on their gifts and talents, honing them into true strengths. 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 their strengths to use.



Aspire! Awards
The Aspire! Awards recognize students, faculty, and staff who exemplify the Aspirations for Student Learning. Five times a year, we honor students and faculty/staff members who embody the Aspirations. Annually, a graduate of Virginia Tech is recognized with the Alumni *Ut Prosim* Aspire! Award.



Aspirations Fellows
Each year, we recognize remarkable students who serve in unique and inspiring ways. Our Aspirations Fellows are students who embody the Aspirations for Student Learning through their service and compassion to Virginia Tech and the extended university community.

Learn more at students.vt.edu/experiencevt

SUPPORT THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our goal is simple:
We want students to thrive.



At Virginia Tech, private philanthropy fuels our forward progress. Each day, programs and initiatives made possible by donors are improving the Virginia Tech student experience.

Tuition covers only part of the cost of the Virginia Tech experience. Despite the twin pressures of rising demand and diminishing state support that challenge every public university, Virginia Tech is excelling. Philanthropic gifts help us provide students the programs, services, support, and co-curricular experiences that will make the most of every aspect of their Virginia Tech education. Every gift—small or large—makes a difference in the lives of our students.



TO SUPPORT THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE:

- You can **immediately** *Impact the Track* of current students with a gift to the Hokie Family Annual Fund.
- You can support **future** generations of Hokie students with a gift to Student Affairs.

You can make gifts online at give.vt.edu. Enter amount and select “Give Today” and designate the Hokie Family Annual Fund or Student Affairs Annual Fund as recipient of your gift.

If you would like to discuss a named scholarship, an endowment, or a legacy gift, please call 540-231-5111 or email SAadvancement@vt.edu. We would love to hear from you!





students.vt.edu

Burruss Hall, Suite 112, 800 Drillfield Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061 | 540-231-6272

Virginia Tech is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

0120/2M