



VirginiaTech

College of Natural Resources
and Environment

Sustainable Biomaterials

230 Cheatham Hall - 0323
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
540/231-8820 Fax: 540/231-8176
Audrey Zink-Sharp, Associate Department Head
and Graduate Program Director

November 26, 2021

Dr. Shernita L. Lee

Assistant Dean & Director of the Office of Recruitment, Diversity, and Inclusion
Graduate School

Re: Plan to meet Inclusion and Diversity component

Dear Dr. Lee:

The department of Sustainable Biomaterials plans to meet the requirement for inclusion and diversity training in the Forest Products graduate program by requiring students take the following courses that will be part of the core requirements and included on the Plan of Study for all graduate students in our program:

NR 5984 SS: Inclusion and Diversity in Natural Resources - draft title (offered Spring Semester; 1H, 1C).

This course is being developed by the College of Natural Resources and Environment Director of Inclusion and Diversity. It will introduce students to concepts within DEI and focus on issues pertaining to natural resources. The course provides students with a rigorous understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion especially within natural resources. Topics will include the University's Principles of Community, valuing human diversity and inclusion and creating a climate of civility, sensitivity, and mutual respect, the impact of personal actions and words, understanding difference, bias, and micro-aggressions, avenues of redress and shared responsibility as active bystanders, recognizing and disrupting academic bullying, and a process for individual introspection to create inclusive environments.

SBIO 5114 Professional Skills for SBIO Graduate Students (offered Fall Semester, 2H, 2C).

The purpose of this course is to provide graduate students with an understanding and skills for success in graduate programs and professional employment. Topics include the university's Principles of Community and the impact of personal actions and words, professional ethics, diversity and inclusion, professional presentations, laboratory safety, technical writing, reviewing scholarly works, publishing research results, and research misconduct.

Respectfully

Audrey Zink-Sharp
Graduate Program Director, Forest Products Graduate Program

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