

Message to all graduate students (all campus locations, new and returning), August 13, 2020

On behalf of the Graduate School, I'm delighted to welcome you to the Fall 2020 semester! Some of you will join us in Blacksburg; some in Roanoke; many in the Greater Washington DC area; and others in Richmond, Hampton Roads and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Some of you will be "on campus" and many in hybrid or virtual modes. Regardless of your location and learning modality, welcome and welcome back!

As we begin this semester, I wanted to share with you the principles that guide our decision-making and the resources that we have made available to you to help you succeed in graduate school during this highly unusual time. Our goal is to keep in balance public health, academic program quality, and resource capacity for the fall semester while ensuring that you have a positive and meaningful experience during your graduate program.

Given the evolving nature of the pandemic, the university regularly posts updates on the website (Ready). To assist you in finding information pertinent to graduate students, please go to the [Ready site for Graduate Education and Fall 2020](#). We regularly update this information as we adjust operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please pay special attention to the [Student Checklist](#).

We will continue to adhere to the academic standards and professional behaviors articulated in the [Expectations for Graduate Education document](#). You can find additional guidelines specific for Fall 2020 [here](#). If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of these expectations or your roles and responsibilities as graduate assistants, please contact us.

Although our modes of teaching and learning have changed, the standards of academic integrity described in the Graduate Honor System constitution have not; you can learn about these on the [GHS website](#).

To align tuition and fee assessment with student program type, the Office of the University Bursar will charge on-campus rates to graduate students in Blacksburg campus programs who are enrolled virtually for fall 2020. Comprehensive fees may be reduced for students enrolled in an all virtual schedule or who have only research hours/ independent study hours not located on campus. More information can be found on the Bursar [website](#).

As part of our support for graduate students this fall, we are launching a new initiative of WELLthy, that consists of resources, conversations, and other support shared through CANVAS. We will share more information about this program through our listserves and social media after the semester begins. In the meantime, please review our [current resources](#).

To ensure the health and safety of our students as well as staff, in the fall semester we will continue to offer phone, email and Zoom advising to our graduate students; we will not offer walk-in advising. We will assist you with admission, assistantships, academic progress, and other graduate student life questions by email (grads@vt.edu), phone (540-231-8636) or Zoom ([request a session online](#)). You can submit request forms by emailing a soft copy to grads@vt.edu, or by dropping off a hard copy in the drop box in front of 120 Graduate Life Center.

Our official Week of Welcome begins on Monday August 17th and features the GTA Workshop and Graduate Student Orientations (department and Graduate School) across our various locations. I look forward to "seeing" you next week! Please don't hesitate to contact us for assistance.

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