GRADUATE SCHOOL
VIRGINIA TECH™

Welcome

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

A vibrant graduate community

@sgsdean @VTGradCommunity Virginia Tech Graduate School

Graduate education at Virginia Tech

Aimée M. Surprenant, Ph.D.
Dean of the Graduate School
Professor, Department of Psychology

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Virginia Tech Graduate School

Virginia Tech:
A global land grant university

discovery, learning and engagement in a global context

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Throughout the Commonwealth

Virtual space

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VT Graduate School: unique and innovative

transforming graduate education through initiatives and programs

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Conditions of graduate study

(Harper, 1980)

- Quality
- "Time to Fiddle" with ideas
- "Baggy Idea of Truth"
- Sense of community

Expectations for Graduate Education Overview

Expectations for Graduate Education, Graduate students

Expectations for Graduate Education, Faculty

Expectations for Graduate Education, Departments and Programs

Expectations for Graduate Education, Graduate School

Expectations for Graduate Education, Complaints and Appeals

Mentoring

high standards and expectations.....

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Support a climate of civility, sensitivity and mutual respect

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changing the rhetoric and reality

of graduate education

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from surviving…..

thriving

Tips for thriving in Graduate School

- Make a plan
- Be flexible and adventurous
- Communicate
- Take advantage of resources

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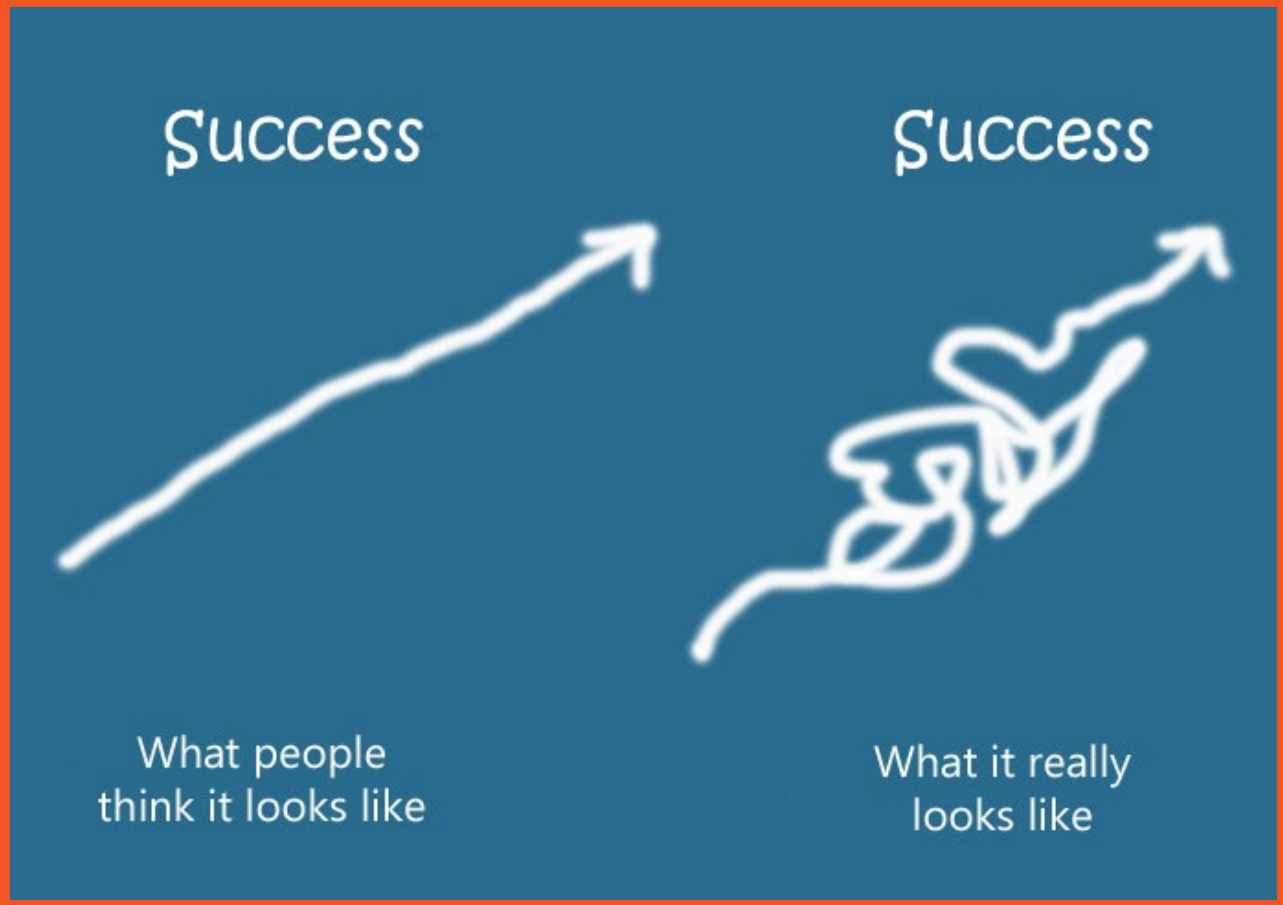
Source:
https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/idp/

Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Year 1
Getting Started
Literature Review
Proposal Deadline
Proposal
Annual Review
Ethics
Writing
Hols
Year 2
XXX
XXX
XXX
Hols
Annual Review
Writing
Year 3
XXX
Writing
Hols
XXX
Submit!
Final Revisions

Be Flexible



Source: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/motivational-series-how-turn-failure-success-dorian-tang

Be Adventurous

Source: http://www.333photo.com/new-prints-online/

Communicate

Office of Recruitment and Diversity Initiatives

Photo taken by John McCormick

Connect lunches: Black, Women, Native/ Indigenous people, over 30, LGBTQ, Latino/a, FirstGen, Disability caucus and more

Diversity scholars and spotlight

HBCU/MSI Research Summit

Office of Recruitment, Diversity and Inclusion (ORDI)
@VT_ORDI

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Little Hokie™ Hangout: Cooperative Play Group

Little Hokie™ Hangout is a parent-run cooperative playgroup for children between

Babysitter Clearinghouse

The Graduate School's Babysitter Clearinghouse is a frequently updated list of qualified babysitters

Parent Support Group

Graduate students who are juggling family and their academic work meet monthly to discuss issues, connect with other parents, and

VIRGINIA TECH | GRADUATE SCHOOL

QUICKLINKS | ABOUT | ACADEMICS | ADMISSIONS | CURRENT STUDENTS | FUNDING | GRADUAT

Graduate School / Graduate Life / Your Voice Matters

Disrupting Academic Bullying

To maintain a culture of civility throughout the graduate education experience, academic bullying is unacceptable and should not be tolerated.

Bryan Hanson, Gradute Student Ombuds,
gradstudentombud@vt.edu

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Transformative Graduate Education (TGE)

Knowledge

Leadership

Scholarly Inquiry

Responsibility

DePauw 2003 (rev 2017)

Technology, inclusion & diversity, interdisciplinary, ethics, & global

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Transformative Graduate Education (TGE)

Preparing Future Professoriate (PFP)

Career Professional (PFPro)

Teaching/Learning, Academy for GTA Excellence

Citizen Scholar Engagement (CSE) Citizen Scholars

Communication Science & Public Engagement

Knowledge

Leadership

Scholarly Inquiry

Responsibility

DePauw 2003 (rev 2017)

Technology, inclusion & diversity, interdisciplinary, ethics, & global

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Graduate Courses & Certificates

- Preparing the Future Professoriate (3)*
- PFP: Global Perspectives (3)
- GTA Workshop (1)
- Contemporary Pedagogy (3)*
- Library Research Skills (1)
- Interdisciplinary Research in Science & Engineering (1-3)
- Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research (2)
- Citizen Scholar Seminar (3)
- Preparing Future Career Professional (3)
- Industrial Professional in Science & Engineering (3)
- Diversity & inclusion for a global society (3)
- Communicating Science (2)
- International Research (3)
- Interdisciplinary Research & Graduate Education (3)

Certificates

- Future Professoriate graduate certificate (700+)
- Inclusion and diversity graduate certificate
- Career professional graduate certificate

Curricular content beyond discipline

- Ethics and scholarly integrity
- Inclusion and diversity

Workshops and seminars

- Writing skills
- Team building
- Time management
- Communication
- Work-life balance
- Inclusive pedagogy
- Privilege and bias
- Grant writing
- Job preparation
- Leadership
- Entrepreneurship
- and more

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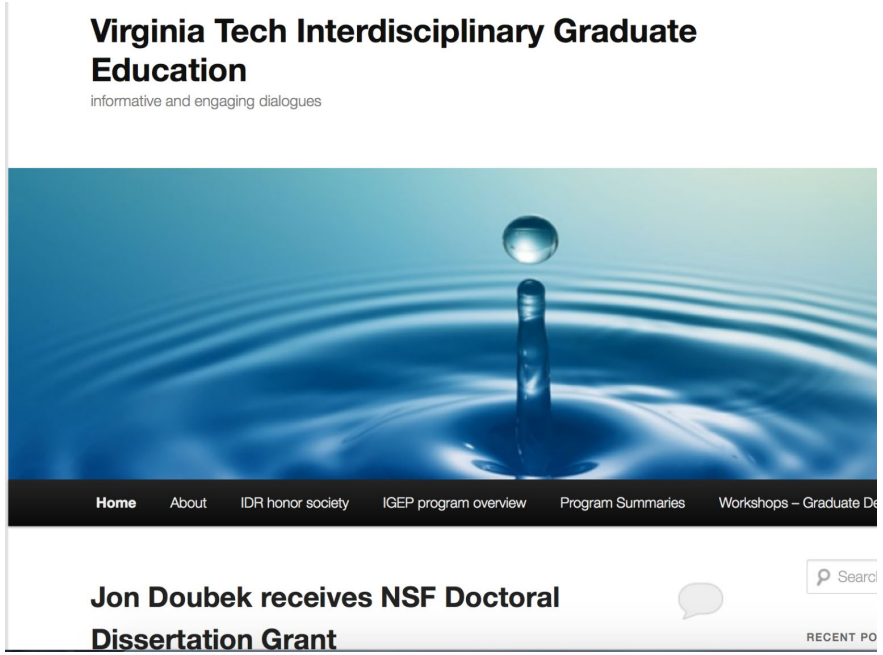
15+ IGEPs
~180 students
~270 faculty



iPhD = 12+
first graduate 2019

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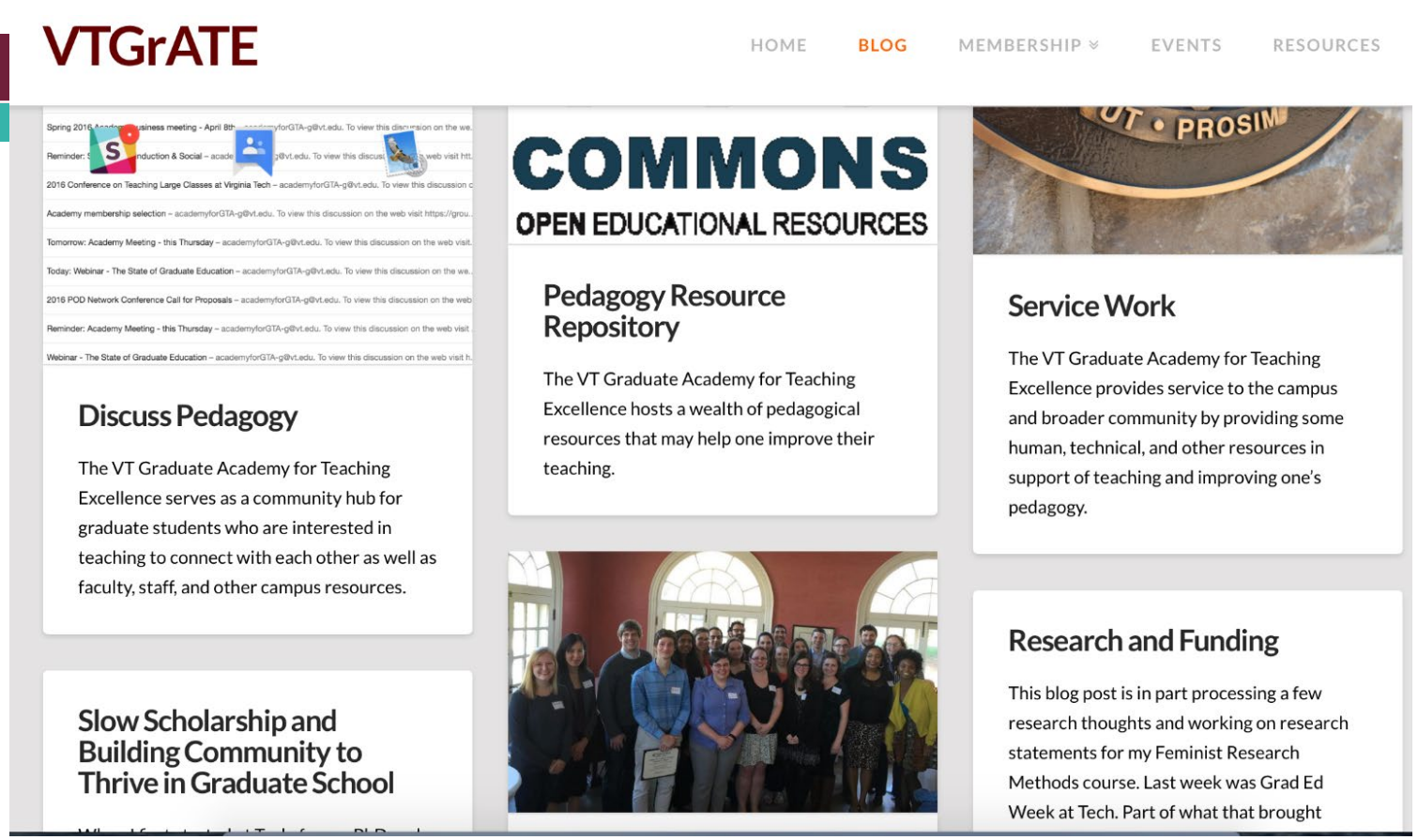

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Academy for GTA Excellence

@VT_GrATE

Communicating Science

Graduate students share their experiences with Communicating Science classes in the short video below.

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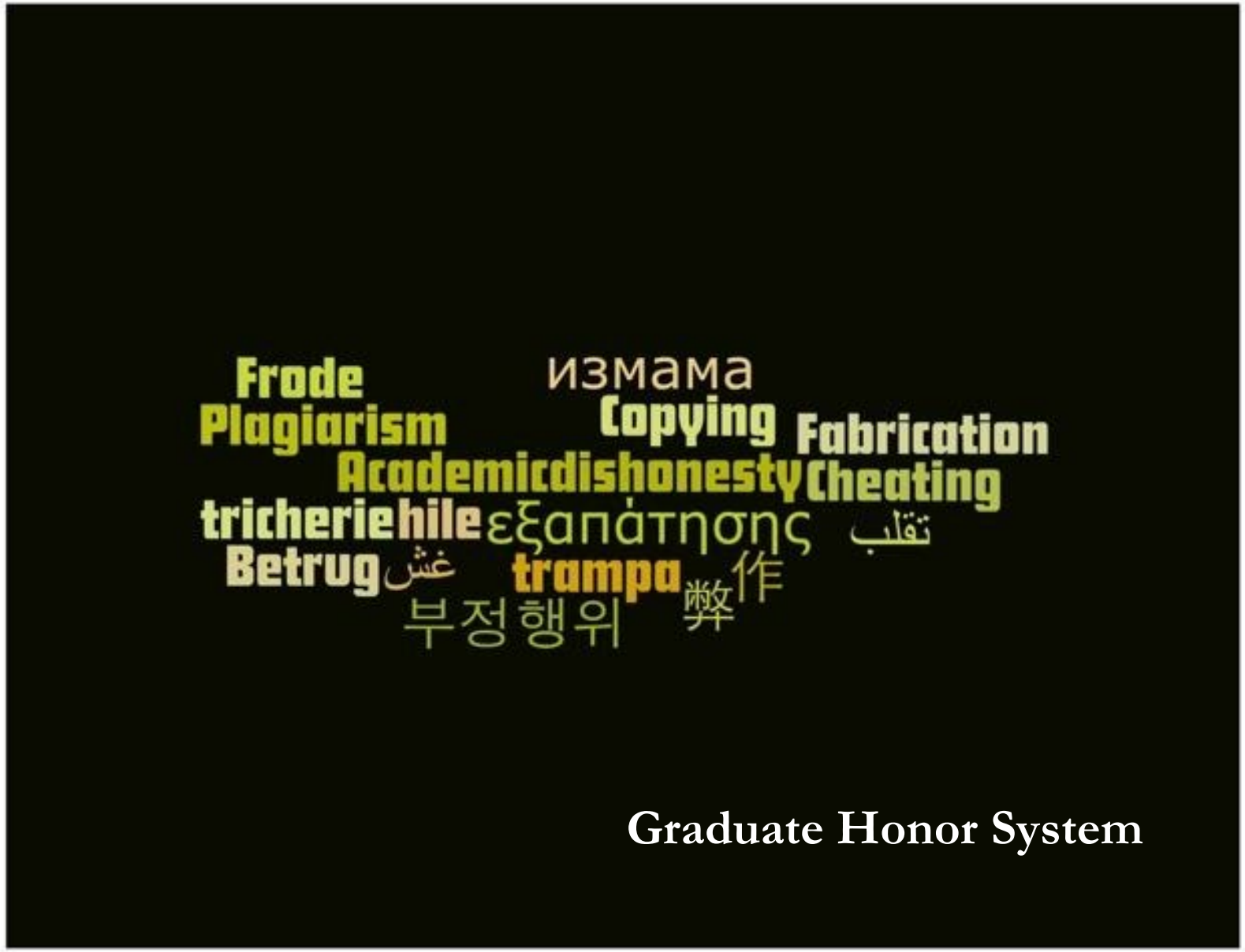
Nutshell games, courses, workshops and more



Graduate Honor System

21st century University

confluence of the generations

diverse backgrounds, experiences & social identities

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Post 2020, higher education and current tensions…

- pandemic - COVID-19 - physical and mental health
- racial and social (in)justice
- immigration/international
- economic

Even so, the fundamental purposes of the university continue today ….

- education
- public good
- social justice
- accessibility and
- inclusion

Graduate School commitment to you

- Health and safety are primary concerns
- Academic quality and rigor
- Academic progress and degree completion
- Research and scholarly activities
- Career preparation & success critical skills

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a space and place for graduate education

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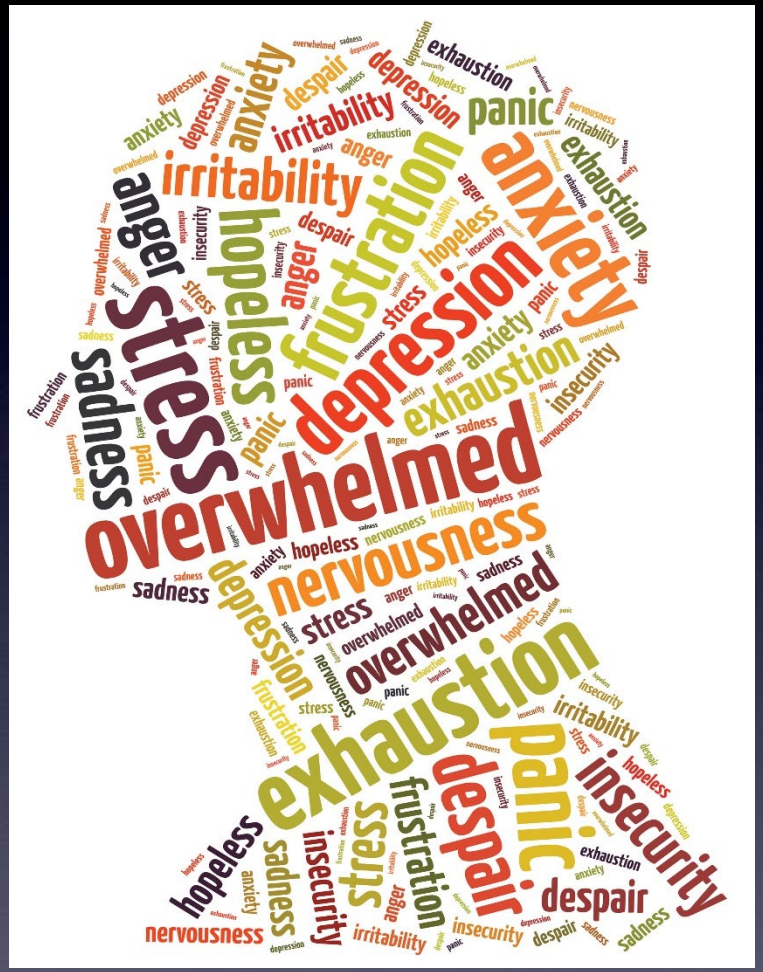
Remember that you are not expected to face the challenges of graduate school alone.



Source: http://berkeleysciencereview.com/article/mind-grad-school/

Source: https://andydunnblog.com/2014/07/01/awesomeness-experiement-takes-off/

@sgsdean @vtgradcommunity

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@vtgsa

Virginia Tech Graduate School

Welcome to the graduate community - pleased to have you at VT!

@sgsdean @vtgradcommunity

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Virginia Tech Graduate School

@VTGradCommunity

Virginia Tech Graduate School

WELCOME TO VIRGINIA TECH

STUDENT AFFAIRS
VIRGINIA TECH

Support: Dean of Students

The Dean of Students Office exists to offer care and support to students so they flourish

- Meet one-on-one for advocacy consultation
- Create action plans to resolve crisis
- Provide absence verifications for emergencies
- Coordinate access for the Market @ VT food security initiative
- Student Conduct and Title IX advising

Great place to start if you don't know where to go!

dos.vt.edu

STUDENT AFFAIRS
VIRGINIA TECH

Support: Services for Students with Disabilities

SSD exists to create a campus climate in which all students with disabilities experience full access and inclusion in curricular and co-curricular opportunities

- Support Services:
  - *Classroom Accommodations*
  - *Housing Accommodations (for on-campus students)*
  - *Academic Relief/Suspension Appeal*
  - *Standardized Testing*
  - *Career Development*

Support: Schiffert Health Center

Wellness and health services designed to promote the current and future well-being of our student-patients through the provision of nationally accredited health care to promote healthy lifestyles.

- Services:
  - Staff of doctors, nurse practitioners and physicians assistants
  - Women's clinic, travel clinic, allergy and immunization clinic, radiology, laboratory and pharmacy services
  - Majority of services covered by the student health fee

Support: Cook Counseling Center

Cook Counseling Center seeks to provide a safe, welcoming, and affirming environment for all persons who seek our services.

- Support Services:
  - Individual counseling
  - Couples counseling
  - Emergency/after-hours support
  - Group counseling, workshops, and support groups
  - Psychiatry and medication management

Current Mental Health Initiatives

In addition to individual and group counseling, and crisis response:

- Counselors embedded in each college
- Counseling partnership with Athletics and Cultural and Community Centers
- Peer Assistants for Learning
- Animal Assisted Therapy Program
- #VT Better Together

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Current Mental Health Initiatives, contd.

Hokie Wellness provides:

- Resiliency workshops
- FEELS Peer Support Circle
- Koru and Campus Mindfulness practice
- Mental Health First Aid
- QPR (question, persuade, respond) suicide prevention training
- wellbeing.vt.edu site

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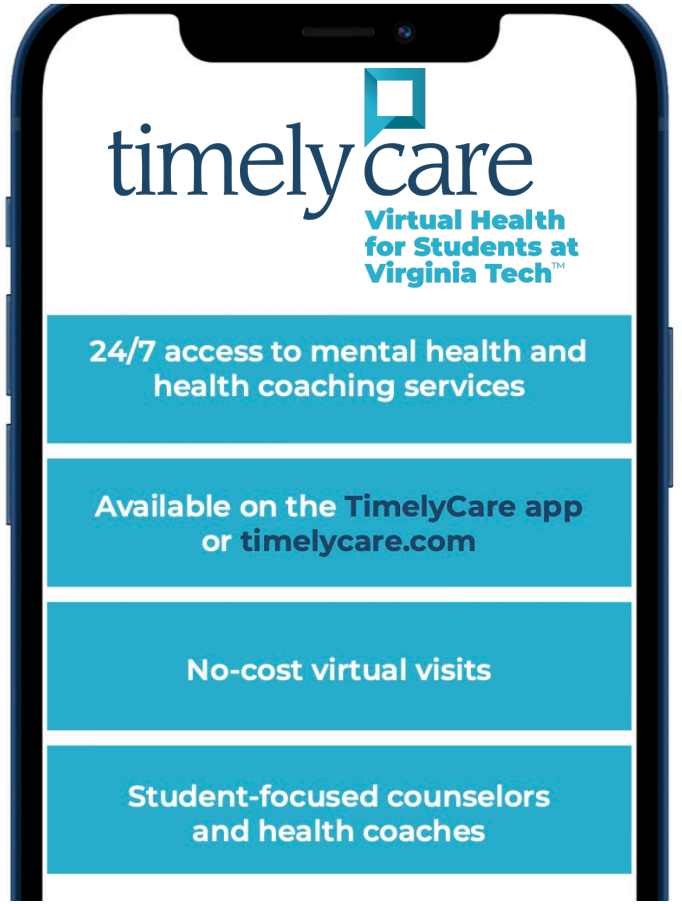
New Mental Health Initiative for Fall 2022

- TimelyCare – new virtual program live for all students
- App-based and web-based virtual health



STUDENT AFFAIRS VIRGINIA TECH

Support: Cultural and Community Centers

CCC exists to create conditions for underrepresented student success and to develop the cultural competency of every Virginia Tech student through…

- Advocacy
  - *Identity Welcome Receptions and Cultural Achievement Ceremonies*
  - *Bias Incident and Community Driven Response*
  - *Policy Review*
- Advising
  - *5 “umbrella” cultural organizations plus informal advising*
- Awareness
  - *History and Heritage Months, MLK Celebrations, Cultural Centers, Safe Zone*

Student Responsibilty: Student Conduct

Student Conduct educates students about appropriate behavior and fosters a community for academic success

- HokieHandbook
  - *Student Code of Conduct*
  - *University Policies on Student Life*

studentconduct.vt.edu

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GO HOKIES!

HAVE A GREAT ORIENTATION

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Office of Recruitment, Diversity, and Inclusion

DR. SHERNITA LEE

ASSISTANT DEAN AND DIRECTOR

GRADUATE SCHOOL
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What do we hope you will gain from your student experience?

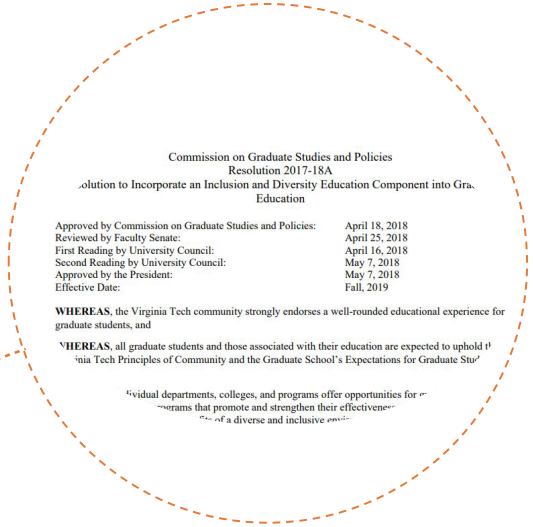
- Awareness of diversity and inclusion efforts at Virginia Tech
- Consider ways to enhance existing efforts
- Reflection and Action

DIVERSITY SCHOLARS

A program to support students in projects related to diversity, inclusion, and/or equity.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

We coordinate events to create and affirm community for multiple graduate student identities.



Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
Resolution 2017-18A
olution to Incorporate an Inclusion and Diversity Education Component into Gra
Education

Approved by Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies:	April 18, 2018
Reviewed by Faculty Senate:	April 25, 2018
First Reading by University Council:	April 16, 2018
Second Reading by University Council:	May 7, 2018
Approved by the President:	May 7, 2018
Effective Date:	Fall, 2019

WHEREAS, the Virginia Tech community strongly endorses a well-rounded educational experience for graduate students, and

HEREAS, all graduate students and those associated with their education are expected to uphold t
inia Tech Principles of Community and the Graduate School's Expectations for Graduate Stu

vidual departments, colleges, and programs offer opportunities for
grams that promote and strengthen their effectiveness
of a diverse and inclusive envi

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT

New requirement for all graduate students recently passed through university governance.

THRIVE

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Diversity and Inclusion Resources

- ❑ Office of Recruitment, Diversity and Inclusion
- ❑ Diversity Directors (college level)
- ❑ Office of Inclusion and Diversity
- ❑ Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS)
- ❑ Services for Students with Disabilities
- ❑ Dean of Students
- ❑ Office for Equity and Accessibility
- ❑ Ombudsman (Graduate/University level)
- ❑ NAACP (campus/regional)
- ❑ VT Engage: The Center for Leadership and Service Learning
- ❑ Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
- ❑ National Center for Faculty Diversity and Development

Graduate Certificate in Inclusion and Diversity

Diverse Education, Leadership, Community Engagement, Interpersonal Relations

Admission Criteria
(open to all graduate students)

- **Maintaining "good standing"**
- **Graduate certificate application form**

Lead Instructional Faculty

- **Dr. Aimee Surprenant**
- **Dr. Shernita Lee**

Certificate Requirements
(9 total credit hours)

- **Required core course (3 credit hours)**

GRAD 5214 Diversity and Inclusion in a Global Society

- **Elective courses (6 credit hours)**

Two courses from approved list of courses from three themes: Education, Identity Development, and Social

For more information, please visit:
http://bit.ly/Inclusion_Diversity_Certificate

For questions, please contact us at: ORDI@VT.edu

VT | GRADUATE SCHOOL VIRGINIA TECH.

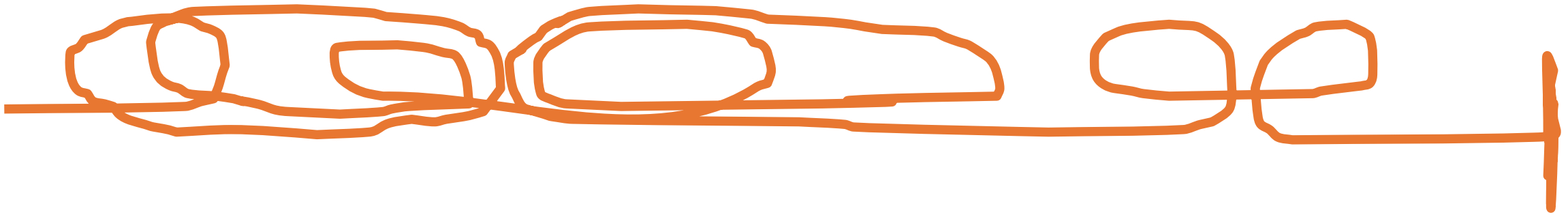
ORDI@vt.edu
120 Graduate Life Center

Twitter: @VT_ORDI

The Role of the Ombudsperson

Presented by
Bryan Hanson, Ed.D.
Ombudsperson for the Graduate School

Pathway through conflict

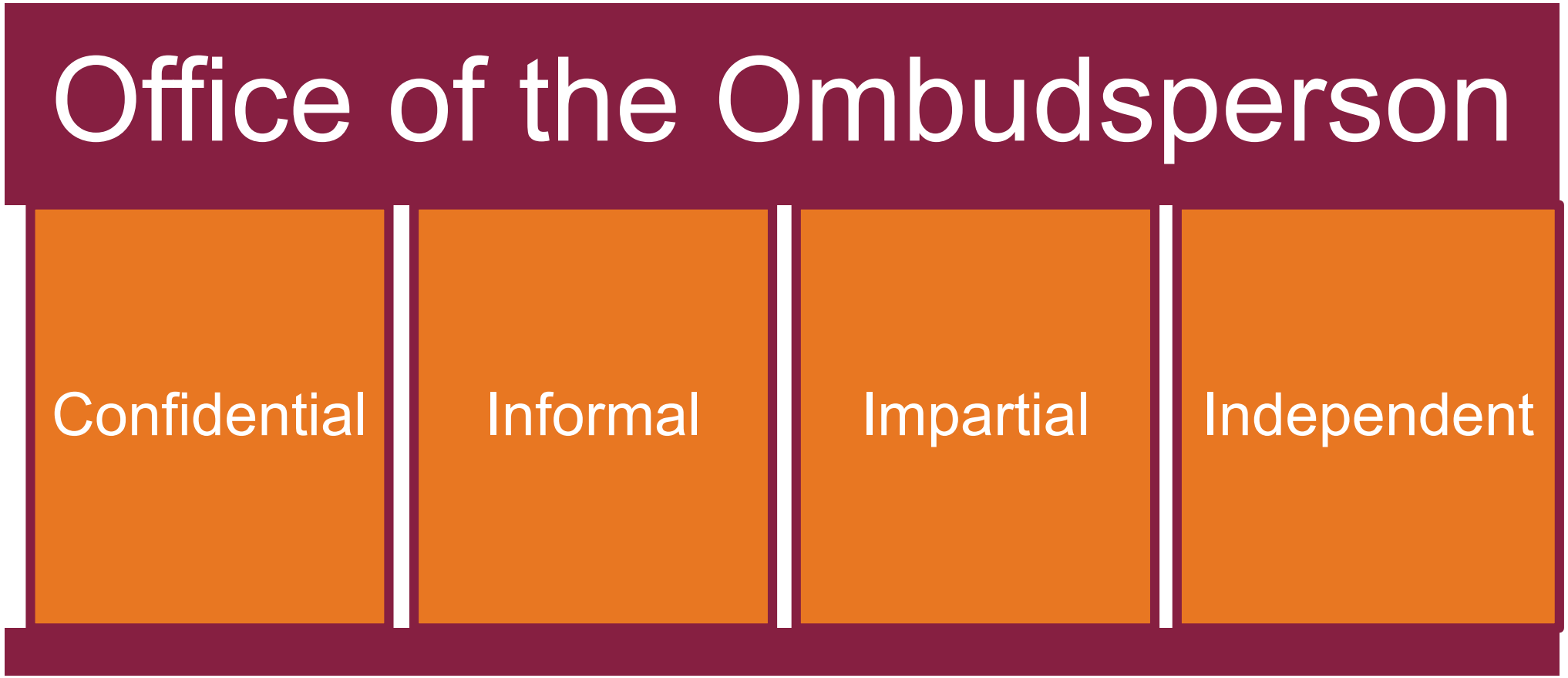


The value of the Ombudsperson

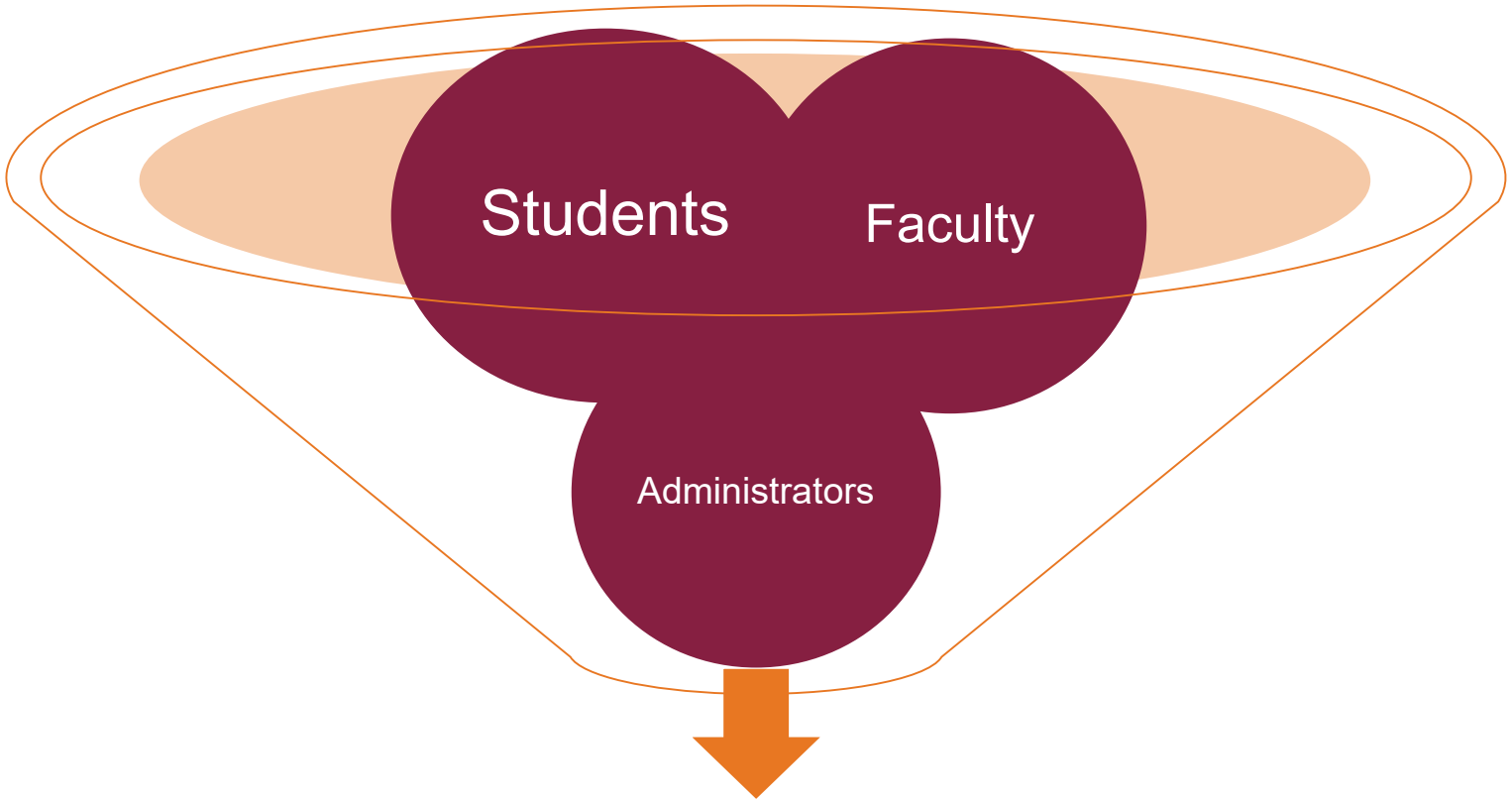
How does the Ombudsperson promote effective conflict management?

- Asks questions to determine parameters of conflict and confidentially explore self-help options (coaching)
- Explores potential for informal assisted options (facilitation and mediation)
- Identifying options for looping forward to higher level of authority for resolution process (if party chooses to do so)
- Provide workshops to help our community members approach conflict situations in constructive ways (education)
- Tracks trends and communicates them to relevant stakeholders

Standards of Practice



Who visits the Office of the Ombudsperson?



Why visit the Ombudsperson?

What to expect when visiting an Ombudsperson

1) The Ombudsperson will listen.
2) The Ombudsperson will work with the visitor to explore options to address concerns. The visitor has control over which options to pursue, if any.
3) The Ombudsperson may:
   - Share communication strategies.
   - Engage in conflict-resolution coaching.
   - Bridge communication gaps.
   - Mediate conversations to develop mutual solutions.
   - Provide referrals to other campus resources.

Contacting the Ombudsperson

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Call 540-231-9573 or email
Bryanh76@vt.edu

You will also find me in Room 114 in the Graduate Life Center in Blacksburg.

For more information visit:
http://graduate.ombudsman.vt.edu

VT Graduate School
Ombudsperson

Janice E. Austin, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean
Director of Admissions and Academic Progress

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Advising and Approvals

Admissions and Academic Progress Staff

Here for you from application through graduation!

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Policies and Academic Progress

Policies and procedures:

- *Graduate Catalog* online
- Departmental/program requirements
- Forms and deadlines

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Examples

- Residency (in-state status)
- Course withdrawal
- Plan of study
- Change of program/academic level
- Exam requests
- Annual review
- And at the very end:

"Request to Admit Candidate to Final Exam"

Exceptions and Approvals

Dr. Kevin Edgar & Dr. William Huckle
Associate Deans of the Graduate School

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iThenticate

- Tool for verifying the originality of documents
- Available from first term of enrollment
- Required to thesis/dissertation submission to the Graduate School

www.graduateschool.vt.edu

Menu dropdown → Academics → Using iThenticate

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Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS)

Orientation Slides

Sign-in Link:
Voting Link:

Shared Governance

The structure in which that the multitude of constituencies and groups at VT interact with each other and admin to make change at the University.

- Central Body is University Council (UC), which has many Commissions and Committees
- Also under UC are the Senates
  - Staff Senate
  - Faculty Senate
  - A/P Faculty Senate
  - Undergraduate Student Senate
  - Graduate and Professional Student Senate

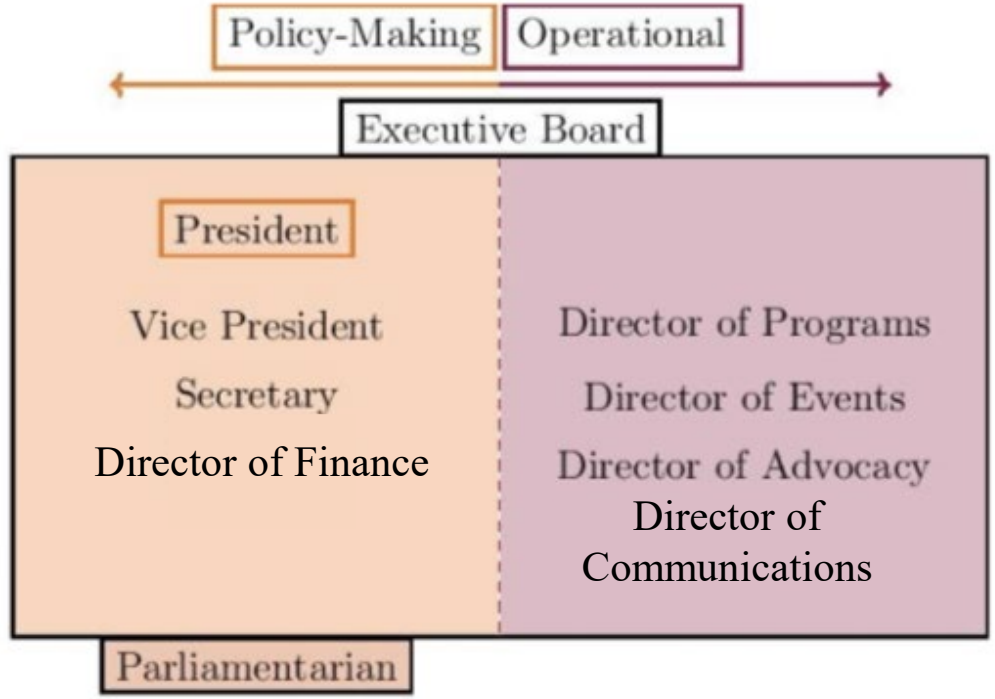
GPSS

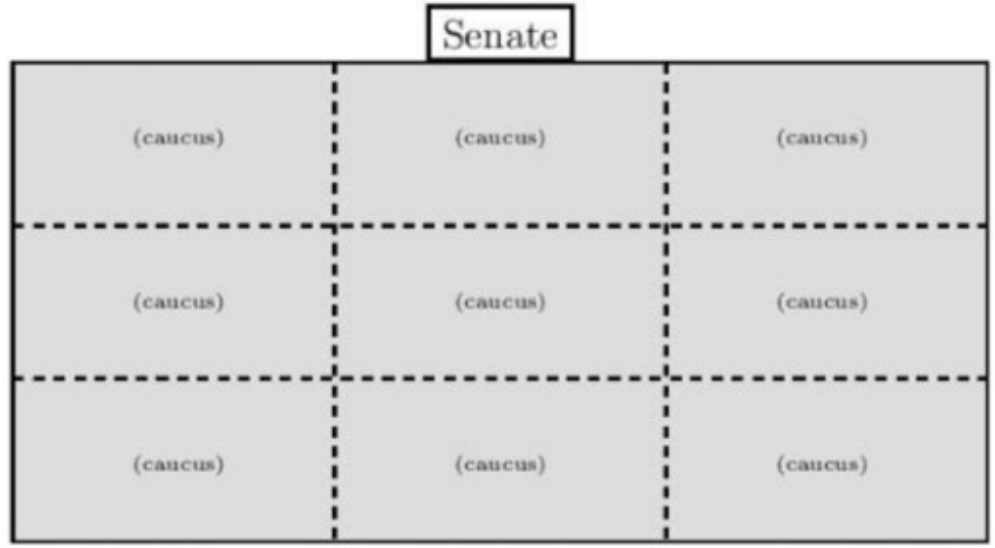
GPSS serves as a voice for all graduate students through both advocacy to the University as a whole and community-building for all our constituents.

- Bring together representatives from all departments for common issues and action
- Members sit on university commissions and committees to represent graduate student interests at all levels of the university
- Hosts events and programs for all graduate and professional students to provide academic and social support as well as build a shared community among graduate students

GPSS Structure

- Two Senators From Every Department
- Elected Executive Board
- Cabinet of All Graduate Leaders





GPSS Executive Board 22-23

- President: Ben Beiter
- Vice President: Chloe Robertson
- Director of Advocacy: Alice Fox
- Director of Finance *pro tempore*: Jonathan Gendron
- Director of Programs: Cissy Ming
- Director of Communications: Noor Tasnim
- Director of Events: Could be you!
- Board of Visitors Student Rep: Anna Buhle

Senators

Senators are representatives from each department or program. These are students who

- Communicate with all the other members of their department and bring their issues and interests to Senate meetings for discussion and action.
- Attend all Senate Meetings (or send a proxy if unavailable)
- Participate in at least one Commission, Committee, or Taskforce

Events

Events:

- Welcome Back BBQ
- Biweekly Senate Brewery Gatherings
- Meet The Dean Events
- Little Hokie Hand Me Down
- Graduate and Professional School Fair
- Other Fall Socials

Programs

Programs:

- GSBB → Funding for Graduate student groups
- Travel Fund Program → Funding for conference presentations (most popular)
- Cap & Gown Loan Program → PhD and master's robes
- Graduate Research Development Program (GRDP) → Student-run, merit-based research grants
- Graduate Research Symposium → Present your research to interdisciplinary audience. Prize money available

Internal Committees

Committees to conduct the daily workings of GPSS. Each is run by an exec board member

- Graduate Student Budget Board (GSBB)
- Committee on Judicial and Internal Affairs (assists the President and VP)
- Committee on Finance (assists exec board + Director of Finance)
- Programs Committee (Assists the Director of Programs)
- Events Committee (Assists the Director of Events)
- Communication Committee (Assists the Director of Communications)

Any student can be involved in committees, not just Senators!!

Ongoing Initiatives

- Living Wage Task Force → what should the future of grad student compensation look like?
- Reducing Fees.
- Affordable housing for low-income graduate students and families.
- Graduate student workload study.
- Refining graduate assistantship contract guidelines.
- Supporting formation of Graduate Student Organizations.

How to be involved

- Senate Meetings every other Thursday from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM starting August 25th
  - Everyone is welcome to attend Senate Sessions, but only delegates may vote.
  - All meetings after the first will be on zoom
- Strong focus on advocacy and inclusion of all grad students this year: Any grad student can submit comments on resolutions
- Communicate with your Senator to know about events and initiatives and to have your voices heard!
- Joint our unofficial discord: https://discord.com/invite/KUWPh83uQg
- Check Website for more events: http://gpss.vt.edu/http://gpss.vt.edu/

Board of Visitors Rep – Anna Buhle

- 4th year VTC medical student in Roanoke
- Reports needs and successes of VT grad students to the BOV
- Help the board to keep graduate student concerns on their radar
- banna95@vt.edu

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Shara Penermon

Equity and Title IX Investigator

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Lauren Surface

Graduate Student Services Manager

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Graduate Student Services

In the Graduate School/GLC:

- Seminars and workshops
- Social events
- Advising and advocacy
- Little Hokie Hangout
- SHIP (Support Hub of Inclusive Practices)
- Services in the GLC:
  - Cook Counseling
  - Writing Center
  - Career and Professional Development
  - Meeting room reservations
  - 24/7 access

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Graduate Student Services

Student Affairs:

- Clubs and organizations – gobblerconnect.vt.edu
- Rec Sports, BreakZone, VentureOut
- VTU entertainment
- Schiffert Health Center
- Cultural and Community Centers, and much more!

How to Stay Informed

- Weekly listserv posting on Mondays: glc-programs-g@vt.edu
- “GLC Weekly” blog posting on GLC website
- VT and Grad School online calendars of events
- GPSS social media
- Facebook: Virginia Tech GLC, Virginia Tech Graduate School
- Twitter: @VTGradCommunity
- Instagram: @vtgradcommunity

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Graduate Honor System

Upholding Academic Integrity

Ensuring Fairness and Equality

Graduate Honor Code

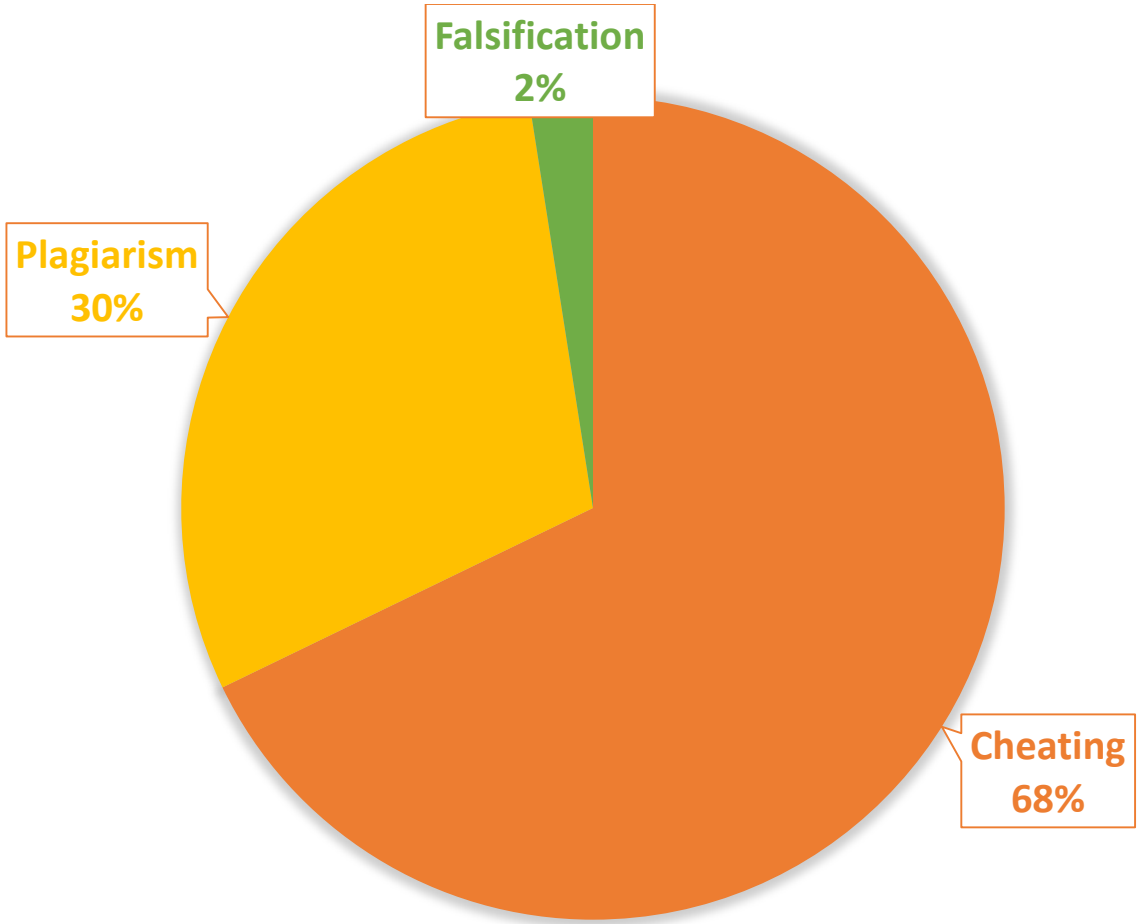
- The Graduate Honor Code establishes a standard of academic integrity
  - adherence to a set of values based on honesty with respect to the intellectual efforts of oneself and others.

- Requires that all graduate students exercise honesty and ethical behavior in all their academic pursuits here at Virginia Tech

Mission

- To promote honesty and ethical behavior in all academic pursuits
- To disseminate information concerning the Graduate Honor System
- To investigate all suspected violations of the Graduate Honor Code in an impartial, thorough, and unbiased manner
- To hear all cases involving academic infractions of the Graduate Honor Code brought before the System
- To assure the rights of all parties involved are protected and assure due process in all proceedings.

Referred Charges since Fall 2016



202 Total Cases

- 137 Cheating
- 60 Plagiarism
- 5 Falsification
- 0 Academic Sabotage

Plagiarism

- What is it?
  - - the use of someone else's words, ideas, opinions, graphs, or drawings, presented as your own without citation.
- What types exist?
  - Deliberate/Word-for-Word
  - Unintentional/Insufficient Paraphrasing
  - Self-Plagiarism

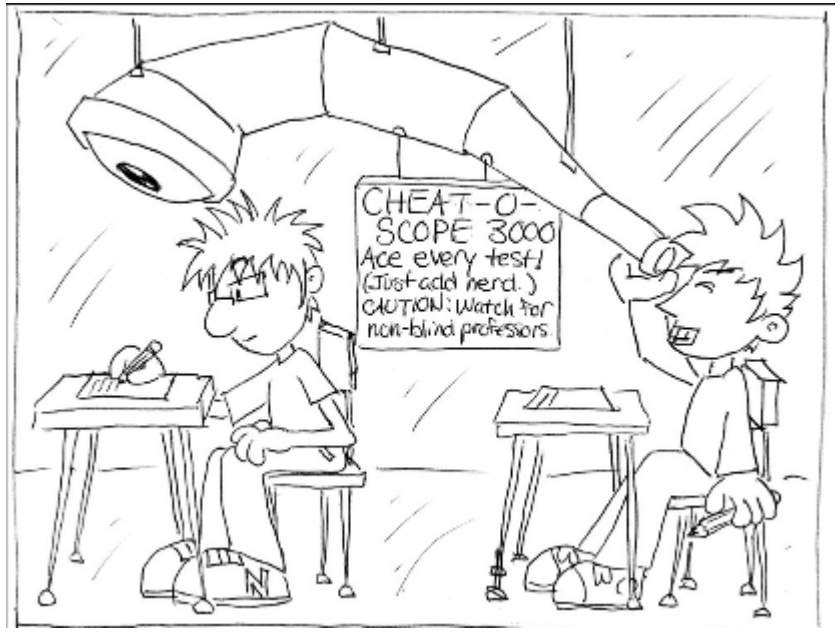
What should you do?

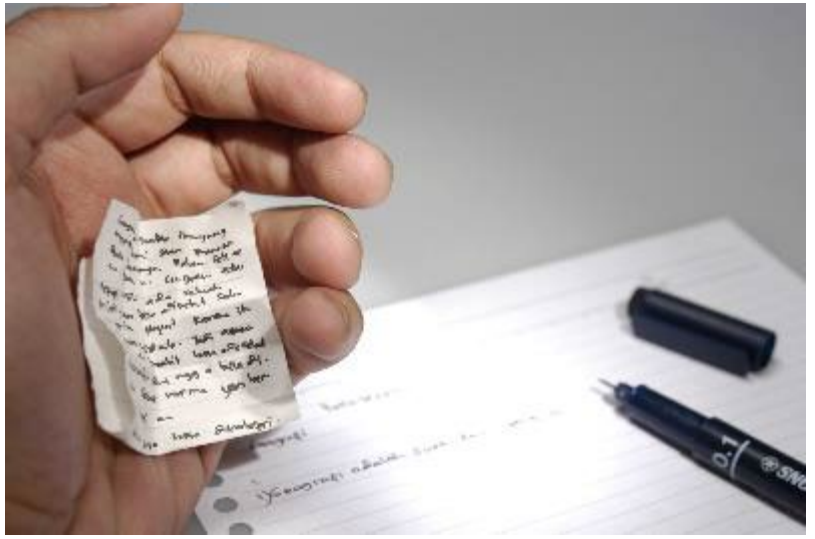
- Always use quotation marks around words taken directly from others and provide citation– *only use direct quotes when absolutely necessary*
- When paraphrasing a unique idea that is not common knowledge, cite the source (quotation marks not needed).
- Do not fill your paper with repeated direct quotes from other sources. **Do your own thinking. Use your own words whenever possible.**

Cheating

What is it?

- actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized aid or assistance or the actual giving or receiving of any unfair advantage on any form of academic work, or attempts thereof.





Falsification

What is it?

- the statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, with respect to any circumstances relevant to one's academic work, or attempts thereof.

Academic Sabotage

What is it?

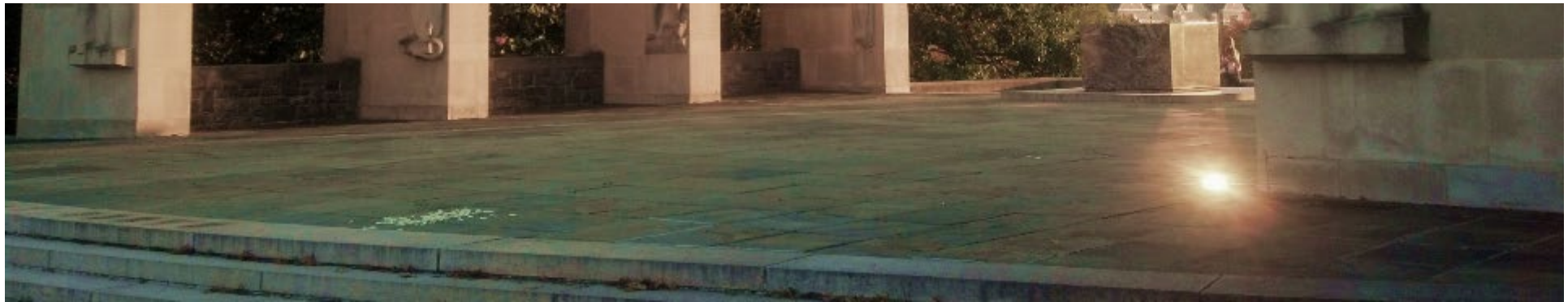
- Purposeful vandalism or impeding of another's academic progress or work

Additional Resources

- Writing labs and tutorial services
  - **University Libraries Writing Center:** https://lib.vt.edu/spaces/writing-center.html
  - Indiana University – Bloomington Writing Tutorial Services
  - Purdue University Online Writing Lab
  - Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Writing and Humanistic Studies
  - University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill Writing Center
- **iThenticate** as a learning opportunity
- **Ombudsperson**: http://www.graduate.ombudsman.vt.edu/
- **GRAD 5014: Academic Integrity & Plagiarism** (2 credit pass/fail)
- Consult **professors and advisors** in your area of graduate study

- For further information:
  - http://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/expectations/graduate-honor-system.html

- Any questions or to get involved as a panelist, please contact:
  - GHS Chair: Kayla Alward (ghs@vt.edu)
  - GHS Advisor: Monika Gibson (gibsonm@vt.edu)



Will Brown

- Ph.D. student in Aerospace Engineering
- Likes hiking, playing the guitar, video games, going to concerts, photography
- Involved in the Laser Tag Club and GLC Cafe

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Whitley Johnson

- Ph.D. student in Higher Education
- Involved in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Black Graduate Student Org (BGSO)
- Has been a majorette since age 7
- Was once a new artist semi-finalist for the record label Def Jam

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Ashawini Thakur

- MEng student in Computer Science
- Likes to paint, make new friends, dance and having great conversations
- Member of the Indian Students Association
- Follower of the Society of Women Engineers and the GLC

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Questions for the Panel?

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