



SPRING 2016

MAY 12-15

145th Year of the University

COMMITMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Thursday, May 12, 2016, at Cassell Coliseum – Procession begins at 2:30 p.m.

Master's degrees, certificates, education specialist, and doctoral degrees will be conferred at the Graduate School ceremony. The ceremony is expected to last approximately two hours.

Diplomas

Doctoral diplomas are presented during the Graduate Ceremony. Master's degree diplomas and education specialist certificates are mailed to the address that candidates are asked to provide to the Graduate School through Hokie Spa.

Participation

All graduate degree candidates must confirm their plans to attend Commencement by May 1, 2016. Participants should report to Cassell Coliseum on the Spring Road side of the building. Signage will be posted to direct candidates to their specific staging area. Check-in at Cassell Coliseum begins at 1:15 p.m. and all candidates should be on site by 2:15 p.m.

Doctoral candidates who will have met all requirements for graduation by May 6, 2016, are eligible to participate in Commencement.

Major professors who will be participating in the hooding ceremony should report to the Spring Road side of Cassell Coliseum and follow the signage to the staging area. Please check in by 2:15 p.m. so that your name may be read.

Faculty participation is encouraged. Please report to Cassell Coliseum by 2:15 p.m. and follow the signage to the staging area. The deadline for renting regalia from the University Bookstore is April 29, 2016.

Questions pertaining to eligibility to participate should be directed to the Graduate School at 540-231-8636. For complete details, visit the Graduate School website at www.graduateschool.vt.edu/Academics-Commencement.

Guest Seating and Parking

All university parking lots will be open to the public. However, parking in the immediate vicinity of Cassell Coliseum is limited. Families and guests are urged to arrive in time to be seated by 2:15 p.m. The procession will begin promptly at 2:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Friday, May 13, 2016, at Lane Stadium – Procession begins at 8:30 a.m.

Associate and bachelor's degrees will be conferred at the university ceremony. The ceremony is expected to last approximately one hour. Degree candidates wishing to be excused from Commencement must indicate their intention by going to the Hokie Spa website under "Application for Degree" and clicking on "I will not be attending Commencement." Be sure to update your mailing address.

Diplomas

Undergraduate diplomas are not presented at the university ceremony. They are presented at the separate college and department ceremonies, except in the case of department ceremonies that are held on Friday.

Undergraduate diplomas for candidates attending Friday departmental ceremonies may be picked up on Saturday during the time and location set by the department. If you prefer, you may request that your diploma be mailed by *logging into Hokie Spa, selecting "Degree Menu" then selecting "Undergraduate Degree Menu" and "Add/Update Diploma Mailing Address."*
Note: This process will not alter your participation in the university or college/department ceremony.

If you have questions about your diploma, please call the Registrar's office at 540-231-6252, or visit their website at www.registrar.vt.edu/graduation.

Participation

If you plan to complete degree requirements in the summer and wish to participate in the spring ceremony, you should inform your department so they know you will be participating.

Associate and bachelor's degree candidates planning to participate in the procession must arrive at the staging area outside the stadium gates behind the south end zone no later than 8:00 a.m. Signage designating the location for lineup of each college's candidates will be posted.

Faculty and recipients of graduate degrees are encouraged to participate in the processional and should report to the south end zone of Lane Stadium no later than 8:15 a.m. Signage outside the stadium gates will direct you to the staging area.

Guest Seating and Parking

All university parking lots will be open to the public. However, parking in the immediate vicinity of Lane Stadium is limited. Families and guests are urged to arrive in time to be seated by 8:20 a.m. The procession will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Sunday, May 15, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., Center for the Arts, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

(There are no guest limits or ticket requirements for this ceremony.)

Diplomas

Doctoral diplomas are presented during the Graduate Ceremony. Master's degree diplomas and education specialist certificates are mailed to the address that candidates are asked to provide to the Graduate School through Hokie Spa.

Participation

All candidates must confirm their plans to attend Commencement by May 1, 2016. Please confirm your attendance through Hokie Spa. Refer to the following website for information: www.nvc.vt.edu/current-students/graduation. You may also contact the Graduate Student Services Office at 703-538-8327 or email your inquiry to gssoncr@vt.edu.

Check-in for all participants begins at 11:30 a.m. Graduate candidates should report to their department tables where they will be directed to robing rooms. Personal belongings cannot be stored in the robing rooms so be prepared to make arrangements in advance to secure personal items. All graduate candidates will march by degree, college, and department. Lineup will begin at 12:30 p.m. Late arrivals will march at the end of the line.

Guest Seating

Guests are urged to arrive in time to be seated in advance of the procession, which will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Commencement Phone Line: 540-231-3208

Commencement Website: www.vt.edu/commencement

To assist you in locating the section where your degree candidate is seated during the University Ceremony, the following plan for seating is provided:

Worsham Field West

- 2016 Class Officers
- Honors Students
- Engineering
- Liberal Arts & Human Sciences
- Natural Resources & Environment

Worsham Field East

- Faculty, Ph.D., Ed.D.
- D.V.M., Master's
- Agriculture & Life Sciences
- Architecture & Urban Studies
- Business
- Science

Programs

Undergraduate candidates will be provided one complete Commencement program with a full listing of student names. Each college or department that holds a separate ceremony will receive programs for distribution to their respective students. Full programs will be distributed at the Graduate School and National Capital Region Commencement ceremonies. The final program, complete with student names, will be available online for anyone wishing to print additional copies.

Graduate and University Ceremonies Broadcast Live

Virginia Tech will offer live streaming video of the Graduate and University Commencement ceremonies. Links to the streams for both events will be accessible from www.vt.edu approximately one hour before each ceremony begins. At the conclusion of each ceremony, the video will be archived and accessible from the Commencement website at www.vt.edu/commencement.

Graduation Degree Requirements

In order to receive a degree, a student must have satisfied all academic requirements, must have fulfilled all financial obligations to the university, and must not have any pending charges, active suspensions, or dismissals by the Honor or Student Conduct systems.

Academic Apparel

Academic apparel is required for all graduation ceremonies. Caps, gowns, hoods, and tassels may be purchased from the on-campus University Bookstore (540-231-5991), the off-campus Volume Two Bookstore (540-231-9674) or at www.bookstore.vt.edu. If you have a 3.40 GPA or above, you may also purchase an honor sash and pin packet to wear on your gown, but it is not required. At the end of March, a list of undergraduate students with a 3.40 GPA or above is provided to each Bookstore location. Periodic updates are made to this list so that grade changes for current and new degree applicants are taken into account. Honor students will be recognized at the University Commencement Ceremony. The deadline for faculty planning to rent regalia from the University Bookstore is April 29, 2016.

When To Arrive

Due to multiple ceremonies being held in the same venue, it is recommended that guests not arrive more than one hour in advance of a scheduled ceremony to avoid traffic and parking delays or long wait times for building entry. Every effort will be made to have doors open approximately one hour prior to all college or departmental ceremonies.

Tickets Are Not Required for Commencement Ceremonies

Tickets are not required for Commencement ceremonies, and there is no limit to the number of guests you may bring. However, if attending a college or departmental ceremony in a smaller venue, please consider limiting your guests to immediate family. Overcrowding is not a concern in the larger venues, such as Lane Stadium, Cassell Coliseum, and Burruss Hall Auditorium.

Class Rings

All graduates may order class rings through the Alumni Association by calling them at 540-231-6285 or by visiting their website at www.vt.edu/classring.



Becoming Alumni of Virginia Tech

Graduation from Virginia Tech means you are continuing your VirginiaTechforlife relationship with the University. Update your contact information and stay in touch through alumni chapters, reunions, events, and special programs of the Alumni Association. For more information: www.alumni.vt.edu.

Graduation Announcements, Caps, Gowns, Diploma Frames, and Gifts

All graduates may order personalized announcements, in advance, online at www.bookstore.vt.edu. Non-personalized announcements, caps, gowns, diploma frames, and gifts may be purchased online and may also be purchased at University Bookstore on-campus and at Volume Two Bookstore off-campus.

Accessibility Information for Individuals with Disabilities

Accessible seating for persons with impaired mobility is available at Cassell Coliseum and Lane Stadium. Accessible parking is available in the Cassell Coliseum parking lot on Beamer Way located directly across the street from the Merryman Center, and in the Lane Stadium parking lot for the University ceremony guests. Individuals with mobility impairment who are attending a ceremony in Cassell Coliseum are advised to enter through the Merryman Center entrance.

For additional information concerning accessibility and disability accommodations, visit the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) online at www.ssd.vt.edu, or call 540-231-3788. Two weeks prior to the Commencement ceremony, "Accessible (impaired mobility) Parking Passes"—which are not required if you have a DMV handicap tag—will be available for pickup at 310 Lavery Hall above the Turner Place dining facility.

Lodging and Dining on the Blacksburg Campus

The Division of Student Affairs' Conference and Guest Services offers an alternative to hotel lodging. In an effort to provide convenient, low-cost accommodations, Conference and Guest Services is pleased to provide residence hall space for families and guests of graduates. Many of our Commencement guests find that staying in our residence halls during this weekend minimizes parking and dining difficulties and provides what is often a nostalgic experience. On-campus dining will be available at D2, Squires Food Court, Au Bon Pain Cafe, and Deet's Place coffee shop, as noted on the Calendar of Events on the following page.

Advance reservations for lodging are required, and full payment is due at the time that reservations are made. Online reservations and payment may be made at www.housing.vt.edu/commencement.

For details and reservation information, contact Conference and Guest Services at 540-231-5721. You may also send an email inquiry to conferences@vt.edu.

Inclement Weather Instructions

In the event of inclement weather, the University Ceremony at Lane Stadium may be delayed or canceled. Once a decision has been made, details will be posted on the Virginia Tech homepage (www.vt.edu), the Virginia Tech News homepage (www.vtnews.vt.edu), and university social media channels including the VT News page on Twitter (www.twitter.com/vtnews) and the Virginia Tech page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/virginiatech). In addition, an email will be sent to all students, faculty, and staff; a recorded message will be placed on the University Weather Line (540-231-6668); and information will be shared with area news media outlets. The university may use VT Alerts depending on conditions.

Official Photographer

GradImages® will be the official photographer for Spring 2016 Commencement ceremonies on the Virginia Tech campus. Photographers will be present for the Graduate School ceremony, as well as for all major college ceremonies. The photographers will be the only persons with clear access to the stages.

On Wednesday, May 11, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., GradImages® will offer free portrait sittings in the Holtzman Alumni Center Library. All graduating students, both undergraduate and graduate, should wear their cap and gown. As many accoutrements as desired, such as stoles, honors cords, and sashes, may be worn for the portrait sitting. No appointment is necessary.

Although students are not obligated to make a purchase, by registering an email address online prior to graduation, graduating students are eligible for a \$5 discount on any photo order of more than \$25. GradImages® will send proofs by mail—and by email if an address is provided—approximately one week after the ceremony.

If you have any questions about your order, please contact GradImages® by phone at 800-261-2576 or online at www.gradimages.com/virginiatech.

Due to security procedures, wrapped packages will not be allowed in Cassell Coliseum or Lane Stadium.

Safety precautions may necessitate random searches.

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. For inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies, contact the executive director for Equity and Access at 540-231-8771 or Virginia Tech, North End Center, Suite 2300 (0318), 300 Turner St. NW, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 12, 2016

GRADUATE SCHOOL

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Deet's Place (gourmet coffee, ice cream, and pastry)
Au Bon Pain Café (soups, salads and sandwiches)

Cassell Coliseum
Dietrick Dining Center, Lower Level
Squires Food Court, Squires Student Center

2:30 p.m.
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday, May 13, 2016

*Commencement Breakfast

*Commencement Brunch/Lunch

Deet's Place (gourmet coffee, ice cream, and pastry)
Au Bon Pain Café (soups, salads and sandwiches)

*Commencement Dinner

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENTAL

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Agriculture and Life Sciences

Apparel, Housing and Resource Management
Communication

Nanoscience

Neuroscience

Pamplin College of Business

Political Science and International Studies

Religion and Culture

Sociology

Theatre and Cinema

VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine

CORPS OF CADETS COMMENCEMENT & ROTC

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

D2 at Dietrick Hall, Upper Level
D2 at Dietrick Hall, Upper Level
Dietrick Dining Center, Lower Level
Squires Food Court, Squires Student Center
D2 at Dietrick Hall, Upper Level
Lane Stadium/Worsham Field

6:30 - 8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
6:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m.

Cassell Coliseum
Squires Student Center, Commonwealth Ballroom
Burruss Hall, Auditorium
Fralin Hall, Auditorium
Fralin Hall, Auditorium
Cassell Coliseum
Burruss Hall, Auditorium
Ambler Johnston Hall, Great Room, 2nd Floor
Moss Arts Center, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre
Squires Student Center, Studio Theatre
Moss Arts Center, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m.
12:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
3:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.

Burruss Hall, Auditorium

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 14, 2016

*Commencement Breakfast

Deet's Place (gourmet coffee, ice cream, and pastry)
Au Bon Pain Café (soups, salads and sandwiches)

COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENTAL

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Architecture and Urban Studies

Engineering

Biological Systems

Chemical

Computer

Computer Science

Electrical

Industrial and Systems

Mining and Minerals

Engineering

Aerospace

Civil

Construction Engineering and Management

Engineering Science and Mechanics

Materials Science

Mechanical

Ocean

Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

English

Foreign Languages and Literatures

History

Human Development

Music

Philosophy

Science & Technology in Society

Natural Resources and Environment

Science

Biological Sciences

Chemistry

Economics

Geosciences

Mathematics

Physics

Psychology

Statistics

D2 at Dietrick Hall, Upper Level
Dietrick Dining Center, Lower Level
Squires Food Court, Squires Student Center

6:30 - 11:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Burruss Hall, Auditorium
Cassell Coliseum

8:30 a.m.
8:00 a.m.

Cassell Coliseum

11:00 a.m.

Squires Student Center, Commonwealth Ballroom
Squires Student Center, Colonial Hall
Squires Student Center, Commonwealth Ballroom
Cassell Coliseum
Squires Student Center, Recital Salon
Torgersen Hall, Room 2150
Hahn Horticulture Garden, Washington Street
Moss Arts Center, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre

8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
2:00 p.m.
9:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m.

Burruss Hall, Auditorium
Lyric Theatre, 135 College Avenue
McBryde Hall, Room 100
Hancock Hall, Room 100
McBryde Hall, Room 100
Davidson Hall, Room 281, Auditorium
Burruss Hall, Auditorium
Hillicrest Hall

11:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
12 Noon
10:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
1:20 p.m.
2:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 15, 2016

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Center for the Arts, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

1:00 p.m.

* Meal Tickets may be purchased at www.housing.vt.edu/commencement or you may pay by cash, check, or credit card at the door.

For details, call 540-231-5721. For the most up-to-date hours, please visit the Dining Center Operation Hour page at www.dining.vt.edu/hours.