
Mentoring

Many students, especially first-generation and low-income students, require month-by-month, individualized support if they are to successfully negotiate the college-application and financial aid processes. Virginia Tech alumni and currently enrolled students in communities across the Commonwealth will offer the individual attention and support to students who need to overcome their concerns associated with going to college.

- Mentors will provide students and their families with relevant information about college, such as why it's important to go and how to get there.
- Students will have access to community-based mentors of the same racial or ethnic background who can exert a positive influence

Middle & High Schools

Through existing VT School of Education partnerships with select schools, Virginia Tech will expand resources to enhance the high school retention, graduation, and college readiness for under-served students. Resources may include, but not be limited to:

- SAT preparation, tutoring and skills development workshops for students;
- Guest lectures;
- Opportunities for guidance counselors to learn more about Virginia Tech;
- Technology sharing; and
- The potential for financial support upon enrollment at Virginia Tech.



To get involved with the Virginia Tech Opportunity Pathways initiative, or for additional information contact:

Karen Eley Sanders, Assistant Provost & Director of Academic Support Services
Virginia Tech
110 Femoyer Hall (0276)
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
(540) 231-5499 / kesanders@vt.edu



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**Virginia Tech
Opportunity
Pathways**



Virginia Tech
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY



Enhancing access and success in higher education for all Virginia students requires deliberate actions to increase the number of first-generation, low-income, Talent Search and Upward Bound, minority, and other under-served students in the educational pipeline.

The State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) has set goals to increase college access (particularly for under-served populations) and retention of all students who enroll at our institutions. Adhering to SCHEV goals, Virginia Tech is cultivating pipelines of proactive education, outreach, and support services to prevent “leakage” (attrition, for example) in those pipelines.

The university offers information and support through outreach; partnerships; and collaborations with community-based organizations, select middle and high schools, Virginia Tech Office for Equal Opportunity and Virginia Cooperative Extension to ensure that students, their parents, and other influencers understand the benefits of and the steps necessary to prepare for higher education, both academically and financially.

The path to a successful college experience — and resulting career — must begin with application, acceptance, and matriculation. To help ensure that success, Virginia Tech has developed the following approaches—what we call the Virginia Tech Opportunities Pathways.



Community-Based Organizations

We help community-based organizations:

- Enhance college preparation programs by providing ready-made presentations for both parents and students.
- Disseminate information on career exploration and planning, financial aid, admissions, and other steps necessary to prepare an application to college.
- Invite students—and their parents—who participate in select community-based organizations for on-campus visits.

Parents & Guardians

Adults play a critical role in the educational advancement of young people at all stages of their lives. We will:

- Teach parents and guardians practical information about how to support their children at each stage of the children’s lives, making it more likely for them to stay on a college bound path.
- Help parents to understand that higher education maximizes life’s choices and is desirable, attainable, and affordable.
- Provide tools to assist their children as they make choices and take actions to keep them on the path toward attaining a higher education



Undergraduate Admissions & Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid

In grades 10-12 students are in the search phase, which involves gathering the information necessary for them to develop their short list of potential colleges. Assistance from Virginia Tech will include the following:

- Undergraduate Admissions and outreach staff will continue aggressive distribution of information regarding the college application process and admission requirements.
- The Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid will create a program that helps college-bound Virginians and their parents to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- The Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid offers a financial literacy program for students to encourage wise-use of current and future financial resources. This program includes information on budgeting, account and debt management, credit cards, other financial resources available, loan management and consumer issues. Students receive basic financial information and the skills to continue exploring on their own.