Welcome to Spring 2022 Orientation
Welcome and Overview

- Please ask questions using the Q&A function of the webinar.
- The presentation will be recorded and shared on our website.
  - [https://nvc.vt.edu](https://nvc.vt.edu)
- We don’t expect you to remember everything from today.
- We’re glad to have you with us this evening.
Be committed. Be well.
COMMUNITY WELLNESS COMMITMENT

vt.edu/ready/
Dr. Aimée Surprenant
Dean for Graduate Education
Welcome to the Spring 2022 Semester!

The Graduate Student Services Office (GSSO) assist students in the Washington, DC area with admission and academic matters. The Graduate Admissions and Academic Progress (GAAP) department along with DC International Student Services, an affiliate of Cranwell International Center both operate in the DC Metro area.
The Team!

1. **Corinne Julien**  
   Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions and Academic Progress

2. **Jessica Mullins**  
   Assistant Director and International Student Advisor of DC ISS

3. **Torri Brown**  
   Graduate & International Student Advisor

4. **Erin Mahoney**  
   Graduate Admissions and Academic Progress Advisor
Graduate Admissions and Academic Progress Services

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<th>Admissions</th>
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Corinne Julien

- Plan of Study: Final Approval
- Program and Degree Change
- Committee Change
- Prelim/ Final Exam Approval
- Student Record Changes
- In State Application Processing
- Student Advising
- Degree Clearance /Awarding
- Letter of Degree Completion
- Commencement
Torri Brown

GAAP
- Plan of Study approvals
- Processing of transcripts
- Academic Advising
- Review of ETD formatting & approvals
- Update of Graduate Student Checklist
- Degree Clearance & Awarding
- Events that assist with a sense of college belonging in the DC Metro Area

DC ISS
- I-20 reprint & Travel Signature requests
- Social Security Number letter request
- Immigration Information Verification form
- Passport Expirations
Erin Mahoney

Focus is the Innovation Campus/MENG
- Plan of Study approvals
- Processing of transcripts
- Review of ETD formatting & approvals
- Update of Graduate Student Checklist
- Degree Clearance & Awarding
- Student Advising
• Immigration advising & maintenance assistance for F-1 and J-1 student visa holders
• Employment authorization: on-campus VT jobs, Co-Op/CPT, OPT, and STEM OPT
• IntlHokies portal (online) for all immigration requests
• Social and cultural activities to help students adapt to life in the U.S. & the Washington, D.C. area
Contact Us

GSSONCR@vt.edu
703-538-8327

INTLNCR@vt.edu
703-538-8326
Executive Assistant
Susan Merten

• Weekly Student Newsletter and other important communications
• Major and cultural events: Orientation, Commencement, Autumn Festival, Thanksgiving Potluck, Lunar New Year, etc.
• Career Champion, Mental Health First Aider
• Connects students to resources and events!
• smerten@vt.edu
• 703-538-8310
Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Academic Affairs and Student Success

Dr. Chontrese Hayes

• Advice, mentoring, and systems to help students of all backgrounds thrive in their graduate studies.

• Student Affinity Groups, including Veterans, 1st Gen, and Latinx

• Contact Information
  • chontresehayes@vt.edu
  • 703-538-3783
Ombudsperson for the Graduate School

Dr. Bryan Hanson

• The Ombudsperson for the Graduate School helps members of the Graduate School community engage in and manage conflict in a constructive way.

• This resource provides comfort to discuss difficult situations you may encounter due to the confidential, informal, impartial, and independent nature of the role.

• Contact Information
  • Bryanh76@vt.edu
  • 540-231-9573
  • https://www.graduate.ombudsman.vt.edu/
Innovation Campus (opening Fall 2024)
Assistant VP for Student Services, Dr. Robin Jones

• Support and referrals to help connect any students to services across the university
• Direct support of Masters of Engineering students for enrollment, scholarships, advising, and onboarding
• Contact Information
  • robin.jones@vt.edu
  • 571-329-9374
Dean of Students
Assistant Dean, Dr. Tara Frank

What the Dean of Students Office does:
• Engage, educate, equip, and empower students.
• Support and care for students in the midst of crisis.
• Encourage students to utilize university and community resources.
• Work and advise students on steps to be successful.

How can we help?
We can offer financial support through the emergency grant program.
We can offer absence verifications for students who miss class for a documented reason.
We can offer letters of support to students who are dealing with ongoing issues that could impact their semester.

When you don't know where to go, come to us.

Contact Information:
Email: tara@vt.edu
Phone: (540)231-3787
Website: dos.vt.edu
Cook Counseling
Dr. Julie Kaplan

• We offer a Cook Connect evaluation session, Individual Counseling, Group Counseling, Campus Outreach, Crisis Consultation, Workshops for students and staff, and Psychiatry.

• Cook Counseling Center is a safe place for graduate students to discuss their personal concerns, when they feel stuck and are experiencing a high degree of distress, and to develop new coping skills.

• Contact Information - Julie Kaplan, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist
  - jskaplan@vt.edu
  - 703-538-3797/540-231-6557(main campus, on call 24/7)
  - ucc.vt.edu
Equity and Accessibility
Gennelle Chatman

• An extension of the Office for Equity & Accessibility, I ensure civil rights of our campus community members are protected. I serve as a point of for all equity related issues regardless of the affected community member’s status. I also assist in programming and training efforts related to federal regs and conflict resolution

• This position is special in its newness. We have a chance to build up a collaborative vision for the way equity and student services interact. In building this bridge between the NCR and Blacksburg, we’re creating a safer environment in which to learn, work, and grow—together.

• Contact Information
  • Gennelle Chatman
  • NVC 454
  • 703-538-3753
  • gennelle@vt.edu
DC Metro Area Career Services

- **Customized Career Coaching & Advising**
  - Career exploration and/or transition
  - Resume/CV & cover letter reviews
  - Networking strategies
  - LinkedIn profile and professional branding
  - Job search planning
  - Interview strategy & practice interviews
  - Salary negotiation techniques

- **Professional Development Workshops**
  - Visit Handshake to view/register

- **Hokie Mentorship Connect**

- **Employer & alumni engagement**

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Visit Handshake to schedule an appointment!

Kerry Spitze, DC Career Advisor
kspitze@vt.edu
Additional Graduate Career Resources

Upcoming Presentations*:

Jan 25, 12:00-1:00 PM  
Networking: What, Why, & How

Jan 27, 3:00-4:00 PM  
Career Fair Success

Feb 1, 12:00-1:00 PM  
Plugging into DC: Professional Development Resources

Feb 8, 12:00-1:00 PM  
Images to Action: Envisioning Your Career

Feb 8, 4:00-5:00 PM  
Resume/CV/Cover Letter

*visit Handshake for more events!

Information:

• Career & professional development website

• Graduate student career development & job search

• Spring career fairs

• Career planning guide
Thank You
for sharing your time with us today