



Policy 11: Use of Self-Service Videoconferencing Equipment for Course Delivery

The Northern Virginia Center currently provides three self-service videoconferencing units, in order to facilitate meetings and other interactions with colleagues located elsewhere. These activities can take the form of:

- Ad hoc meetings with academic colleagues
- Departmental meetings between Blacksburg and the National Capital Region
- Meetings between advisors and graduate students
- Information sessions from Human Resources, the Provost's Office, or other departments within Virginia Tech

The self-service videoconferencing units are not available for regularly-scheduled graduate course instruction for the following reasons:

- The units are located in NVC classrooms which are in demand for face-to-face course delivery between the hours of 4:00 and 10:00 p.m.
- While the units are designed to be self-service, they are capable of having connectivity problems. The NVC does not have the staff to provide the glitch-free tech support our students have a right to expect from their tuition dollars.
- Exceptions to the above policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis and based on regularly scheduled classroom needs.

CNS's Video Broadcast Services (VBS) provides five Interactive Videoconferencing (IVC) classrooms, designed to provide graduate courses via distance learning. They are scheduled through the VBS website at www.vbs.vt.edu.

A Note About Dissertation Defenses: While the units are intended to be self-service, they are capable of having connectivity problems, and the NVC does not have the staff to support videoconference meetings, in order to ensure a glitch-free experience. Dissertation defenses are high-stress and high stakes events for students, and the students are encouraged to reserve an Interactive Video Conference classroom (VBS), which will be staffed throughout their defense.