What’s a Hokie? I am!

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech. We are excited to have you join the Hokie community! We know you are looking forward to registering for your first semester of classes and we are excited to help you through this process.

You should have completed all items on the Engineering Pre-Orientation Checklist as part of the orientation sign-up process. This checklist provides several items you need to complete, including enrolling in our 2-factor authentication system, completing the engineering pre-orientation form, sending your official test scores and transcripts, and preparing for class registration. If you have not already completed the checklist, please do so as soon as possible.

You will receive an email in mid-December with details on how to complete class registration, advising, and additional engineering specific orientation details. The email will contain details on how to schedule a virtual one-on-one advising appointment and attend a live optional question and answer session on January 15th from 1:00-2:00 p.m. EST or January 16th from 8:00-9:00 a.m. EST for engineering students and families via Zoom. Questions or concerns about engineering’s orientation and class registration process can be directed via email to Dr. Marlena Lester, Director of Advising, at marlenal@vt.edu.

Please review this resource thoroughly for important details about being a Hokie at Virginia Tech in the College of Engineering.

COVID-19 Virginia Tech’s Plan for the Spring 2021 Semester

This website, https://vt.edu/ready/home.html, provides information, resources, and updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The options for instructional modality are: face-to-face instruction, hybrid (face-to-face and online), online synchronous, and online asynchronous. Not all courses are taught in all modalities. The course modality will be listed on the Timetable of Classes (class search). To view the course modality options, log into Hokie Spa → Timetable of Classes and search for spring 2021.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most university offices are working remotely; this includes all academic advising in the College of Engineering. All academic advising appointments will be conducted online through Zoom.

Housing

For information about living on-campus at Virginia Tech, it is recommended that you contact Housing and Residence Life (housing@vt.edu or 540-231-6205). If you already have an on-campus housing contract for the spring semester, make sure to check your Virginia Tech email and be on the lookout for information about the move-in process and timeline. You can also find additional information on Housing and Residence Life’s website or the VT Ready website regarding options for the spring semester.

The Off-Campus Housing Office, managed by Student Engagement and Campus Life at Virginia Tech, is a great resource for you to utilize in your search for off campus housing. Blacksburg has many convenient off-campus housing options, and the Virginia Tech Off-Campus Housing Office is ready to assist you in your search process.
Virginia Tech Email

Your VT email is the official contact method for the university. Check and read your email on a daily basis for notifications from university officials, advisors, and professors regarding upcoming events, deadlines, etc. If you have questions regarding the content of an email, simply reply to the sender.

Engineering Computer and Supply List

Engineering students have specific computer requirements, and additional required and recommended supplies such as a flash drive, scientific calculator, and business attire. You can see the full list of supplies, as well as specifications for your computer system at: https://enge.vt.edu/content/dam/enge_vt_edu/undergraduate/orientation/engineering_supply_list.pdf.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA requires you authorize the university prior to release of any academic record information to a third party. Creation of a FERPA passcode in Hokie SPA allows you to approve disclosure of your academic record information to parent(s) and/or guardian(s). A passcode will remain valid until you remove the authorization. We highly encourage you to create a FERPA Passcode for Self to allow departments and college offices to discuss your record with you. Additional details regarding FERPA are located at: https://www.registrar.vt.edu/FERPA.html.

To create a FERPA Passcode for Self, go to Hokie Spa → FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Disclosure).

- Enter your first name and last name.
- Select Self in the Relationship drop down menu.
- Answer the question regarding tax dependency.
- Enter an 8-character alphanumeric passcode.
- Click the Add/Delete Record button.

Student Responsibilities on Official Student Records

Students are responsible for keeping and being familiar with their own records and for the accuracy of these records. Review the complete student responsibility statement located at: https://www.undergradcatalog.registrar.vt.edu/2021/academic-policies.html#21. Please verify each course and its equivalent on your transcript in Hokie Spa for accuracy.

General Engineering

General Engineering Program Overview

The Department of Engineering Education is home to all first-year and transfer engineering students. Once specific course requirements are complete, students become eligible to declare a degree-granting engineering major offered at Virginia Tech. Complete details, including the course requirements, are located at: https://enge.vt.edu/em.

The program objective for General Engineering is to prepare first-year and transfer engineering students for academic success in a degree-granting engineering program. More specifically, students will:

- select an engineering major that aligns with their interests and aptitudes,
have the academic, technical, and professional knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the following years, and develop a sense of belonging and identification with engineering to support long-term persistence toward a degree.

These objectives are supported by a curriculum through which students will achieve the following student outcomes by the end of their first year:

1. demonstrate a basic understanding of the engineering profession;
2. demonstrate a basic understanding of professional skills in engineering;
3. demonstrate a basic understanding of and capacity for problem solving;
4. demonstrate a basic understanding of and ability in engineering software tools for mathematical analysis, data acquisition and manipulation, and graphical representation of engineering objects and processes;
5. demonstrate a basic understanding of the engineering design process;

General Engineering Website

General Engineering is housed in the Department of Engineering Education (ENGE) and our website is located at https://www.enge.vt.edu/undergraduate. This website provides you with additional information on academic advising, change of major requirements, exploring engineering majors, the general engineering experience, incoming student information, and available resources and support.

Academic Advising

Academic advisors are available to help you navigate the requirements for your intended major, academic policies, and campus resources while you are at Virginia Tech. Once your official advisor assignment is made, you can view your academic advisor assignment on Hokie Spa under View General Student Information.

You are encouraged to meet with your assigned academic advisor at least once a semester and/or prior to:

- registering for classes
- dropping a class
- withdrawing from a class
- resigning from a semester
- choosing a major and/or minor
- taking classes at another institution
- studying abroad
- accepting a co-op/internship

General Engineering first-year students will be assigned a professional academic advisor within the Department of Engineering Education until all requirements to change from general engineering into a degree-granting engineering major are completed. Most students will complete these requirements within two semesters. Instructions for scheduling an appointment with your advisor are located at: https://enge.vt.edu/content/dam/enge_vt_edu/undergraduate/scheduling_an_appointment.pdf

General Engineering transfer students may be officially assigned a degree-granting advisor in their intended engineering department. You are considered a transfer student if you have attempted 12 or more credit hours at any college or university after high school graduation or high school equivalency completion. Transfer students usually apply to change from general engineering into a degree-granting engineering major at the end of their first semester. If, however, that does not occur, the advisor assignment will be updated and you will be re-assigned to a GE advisor within Engineering Education until all change of major requirements are completed. Instructions for scheduling an appointment with your
Important: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most university offices are working remotely; this includes all academic advising in the College of Engineering. All academic advising appointments will be conducted online through Zoom.

Declaring an Engineering Major

Your Current Major

You may have selected a specific engineering discipline on your Virginia Tech admissions application; however, all students admitted to the College of Engineering are classified as “General Engineering.” You cannot graduate from General Engineering. This program guides you toward your transition into a specific engineering major (also known as a degree-granting engineering major) by providing an environment focused on building community through common coursework, engaging faculty, and professional academic advisors.

Change of Major Requirements

General Engineering students must apply to declare their intended degree-granting engineering major. To become eligible to apply, you must complete the course requirements, earn 12 minimum GPA hours at Virginia Tech, and earn a minimum of a 2.0 overall Virginia Tech GPA. Students with a minimum 3.0 overall Virginia Tech GPA will be guaranteed their first choice Engineering major (some exceptions apply). Complete details, including the course requirements, located at: https://enge.vt.edu/em.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>GPA Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1035</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1045</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGE 1215 (C- minimum)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGE 1216 (C- minimum)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1105</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1106</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1225</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 1226</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 2305</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ENGE 1215 and ENGE 1216 are the only courses that require a C- or higher for the change of major process. Students with a 3.0 or higher overall GPA are guaranteed their first choice major.

GPA Hours

You must earn a minimum of 12 GPA hours to change from general engineering to a degree-granting engineering major. Complete details, including the course requirements, located at: https://enge.vt.edu/em. GPA hours include any A-F graded courses taken at Virginia Tech (excluding W’s and P/F if the class is passed), and do not include transfer credits.
### Typical First Year Curriculum for Engineering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGE 1215</td>
<td>Foundations of Engineering (C-)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1105</td>
<td>First-Year Writing: See Conditional Advanced Standing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1225</td>
<td>Calculus of a Single Variable (C-) Pre: Math Ready</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1035</td>
<td>General Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1045</td>
<td>General Chemistry Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pathways to General Education (Pathways Concept 2, 3, 6a, or 7)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGE 1216</td>
<td>Foundations of Engineering (C-) Pre: ENGE 1215 (C-)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1106</td>
<td>First-Year Writing Pre: ENGL 1105 or Conditional Advanced Standing: English Reading and Writing SAT score of 670 or higher, or a Reading ACT score of 31 or higher</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1226</td>
<td>Calculus of a Single Variable Pre: MATH 1225 (C-)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 2305</td>
<td>Foundations of Physics Pre: MATH 1225 or MATH 1226 Co: MATH 1226</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>15-16</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conditional Advanced Standing for ENGL 1105

Virginia Tech offers Conditional Advanced Standing for English 1105. To qualify for Conditional Advanced Standing, students must present SAT or ACT scores. Placement displays on the Orientation Information page on Hokie Spa. With an English Reading and Writing SAT score of 670 or higher, or a Reading ACT score of 31 or higher, students may earn credit for ENGL 1105 after completing qualifying requirements in ENGL 1106. Students must earn a C- or higher on the first attempt in ENGL 1106 at Virginia Tech, or a C or better in equivalent transfer credit, to receive advanced standing credit for ENGL 1105. Withdrawing from ENGL 1106, or earning lower than an acceptable grade on the first attempt removes eligibility for ENGL 1105 Conditional Advanced Standing.

### Qualifying for MATH 1225

Getting off to a good start in the first semester of college has a lasting, positive effect on your undergraduate career. At Virginia Tech, we place special emphasis on the readiness of incoming students to succeed in calculus. Some students are eligible to enroll in MATH 1225 by virtue of their transcript and exam scores, and have a status of MATH 1225 - Ready on their Orientation Information page on Hokie Spa. Please verify your status on Hokie Spa.

### Degree Requirements

**Graduation Requirements (Checksheets)**

All majors are composed of the following components: degree core, major requirements, pathways to general education, and electives. You can view each major’s requirements using our checksheets (College of Engineering Undergraduate Graduation Requirements).
General Education (Pathways)

Pathways to General Education is the general education curriculum at Virginia Tech. To graduate, you must complete Pathways to General Education course requirements, in addition to the courses required for your major. If you earned an Associate of Science or Associate of Arts and Sciences from a Virginia Community College (VCCS), see the next section. Requirements for Pathways 1F, 4, 5F, 5A, 6D are fulfilled through courses required for your engineering degree. Review your intended major checksheet for specific details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College of Engineering</th>
<th>PATHWAYS TO GENERAL EDUCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pathways Concept 1</strong></td>
<td>Discourse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foundational: Fulfilled with ENGL 1105-1106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced: Major Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pathways Concept 2</strong></td>
<td>Critical Thinking in the Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Majors: Student's Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pathways Concept 3</strong></td>
<td>Reasoning in the Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AE, CE, MSE, OE: require ECON 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CEM: requires ECON 2005-2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All other majors: Student’s Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pathways Concept 4</strong></td>
<td>Reasoning in the Natural Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fulfilled with CHEM 1035/1045 and PHYS 2305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pathways Concept 5</strong></td>
<td>Quantitative and Computational Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foundational: Fulfilled with MATH 1225-1226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced (CS): Fulfilled with CS 3114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced (All other majors): Fulfilled with MATH 2214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pathways Concept 6</strong></td>
<td>Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arts: Student’s Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Design: Fulfilled with ENGE 1215-1216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pathways Concept 7</strong></td>
<td>Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Majors: Student’s Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VCCS Associates Degree and General Education

If you earned an Associate of Science or Associate of Arts and Sciences from a Virginia Community College (VCCS), your general education requirements are satisfied unless your intended engineering major requires a specific course for the Pathways requirement (i.e. Aerospace Engineering, Civil Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Ocean Engineering require ECON 2005; Construction Engineering and Management requires ECON 2005 and ECON 2006).

This does not apply if you earned an Applied Associate degree. You can see if the Associate Degree has been awarded and recognized by VT by going to Hokie Spa → Grades Menu → Transfer and Other Additional Credits. The below screenshot shows what the coding looks like when VT has received and updated the Associate Degree, you will see “VCCS Associate Degree.”

Northern Va Cmty Coll-Annanddal
College Code: 005515
VCCS Associate Degree
Important: If the general education requirement is satisfied, this does not always mean you have the appropriate number of credit hours (there is not a one-to-one mapping of courses to each Pathway requirement). For most engineering majors, students need 18 hours of Pathway Electives (6 credits of Pathway 2 + 6 credits of Pathway 3 + 3 credits of Pathway 6a + 3 credits of Pathway 7). You will need to find courses which will satisfy the credits required for each Pathway. These can be any course not being used to satisfy degree requirements (lower-level math, general education types of classes, etc.). If you do not have enough credits to cover the credits needed for each Pathway, free electives will be needed to satisfy the total number of credits required for your degree.

Foreign Language Requirement

All engineering students must complete a foreign language requirement prior to graduation. To meet this requirement, you must have either completed two years of a single foreign language in high school or complete one year of a single foreign language at the college level (6 credit hours). College-level credits used to meet this requirement do not count towards the degree. This requirement is complete for students whose native language is not English.

Your foreign language completion status on Hokie Spa may show “foreign language requirement not met.” If you completed two years of a single foreign language in high school, you need to send your high school transcript to the Office of the University Registrar, Mail Code 0134, Student Services Building Suite 250, 800 Washington St., SW, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061 to have this requirement updated.

Plan of Study

An academic plan of study allows you to outline all of the courses needed to fulfill the graduation requirements of the degree you wish to earn. However, due to the nature of spring orientation and the increased demand on your advisor’s time, advisors are unable to develop an entire academic plan during this time. In the meantime, you can work on this independently with our How to Develop An Academic Plan of Study document.

Transfer Credit

AP, IB, Cambridge, and CLEP Transfer Credit

Virginia Tech accepts Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, University of Cambridge International Examinations, and College Level Examination Program based on certain scores. Scores should be sent directly from the testing agency to the Office of the University Registrar, Student Services Building Suite 250, 800 Washington St., SW, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061. We cannot accept transcripts from other institutions to award credit for these exams. Scores must come from the testing agency or through original score reports. [https://www.registrar.vt.edu/Advanced-Standing-Transferable-Credit.html](https://www.registrar.vt.edu/Advanced-Standing-Transferable-Credit.html)

It is likely that transfer credits will impact your course schedule. However, through orientation we will walk you through how to change your schedule based on individual transfer credits you are expecting. These schedule modifications are common in engineering and we will provide you with all of the details necessary to make an informed decision. If you would like to understand your possible transfer credit equivalencies ahead of orientation, please review the transfer credit equivalency charts located at: [https://www.registrar.vt.edu/Advanced-Standing-Transferable-Credit.html](https://www.registrar.vt.edu/Advanced-Standing-Transferable-Credit.html).

Transcripts

Official transcripts should be sent to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Virginia Tech, 925 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061. You can verify when Virginia Tech has processed transcripts/score reports on Hokie Spa. Go to Hokie Spa → Grades Menu → Transfer and Other Additional Credits.
Students may need to send multiple transcripts for all information to be evaluated and updated on Hokie Spa: you sent a transcript when you applied to VT, another during the fall semester, after grades post, another after an Associate’s Degree is awarded.

You can lookup how courses may transfer to Virginia Tech with the below resources:

- **Virginia Community College Transfer Guide** (use the guide for the year the course was taken)
  - 2017
  - 2018
  - 2019
  - 2020
- **Transfer Equivalency Database** (Transfer or Dual Enrollment from other colleges)

 While many course equivalencies are located in our Transfer Equivalency Database (TED), we also realize that students take classes that are not listed and need to be evaluated. The College of Engineering Academic Affairs Office (Ryan Wagoner, rdw@vt.edu) will review the unofficial transcripts you provided on the General Engineering Pre-Orientation Form and work with the administrator in each of our departments on your behalf to get the courses evaluated. This process allows us to ensure that everything is done systematically. You may receive an email from Ryan asking for course syllabi or additional details about your prior credit, it is critical that you reply to his messages as quickly as possible.

- **AP, IB, CLEP, Cambridge**
- **International Colleges**

**Physics Modules**

The physics department offers three one-credit modules for students whose approved transfer physics courses are missing specific components of the course. The modules are listed below:

- PHYS 2324: Thermal Physics Modules → Applies to PHYS 2305
- PHYS 2334: Waves and Sound Module → Applies to PHYS 2306
- PHYS 2344: Optics Module → Applies to PHYS 2306

Unfortunately, these modules are only offered in the fall semester. If you intended to declare a degree-granting engineering major prior to the start of the fall 2021 semester, you will need to earn credit for PHYS 2305 prior to the fall semester. This is because PHYS 2305 is a change of major course, and you will need to earn the credit to declare a degree-granting engineering major, which is your top priority for this spring semester. This means if you need a module for PHYS 2305, rather than take the module, you’ll take PHYS 2305 this spring. If you wish to take major-restricted classes in the fall, then you need to be in your major by then.

**PHY 241 or PHY 242 Equivalencies from VCCS**

For students who completed PHY 241 or PHY 242 at a VCCS school, but not both, refer to this document to determine how your equivalency will work. In many schools PHY 241 alone is enough to award PHYS 2305 credit, however it will be articulated as PHYS 2XXX on your transcript. This means a force-add will be needed for any course in which PHYS 2305 is a prerequisite.

**ECE Course Equivalencies from VCCS**

The Electrical and Computer Engineering department has reviewed EGR courses from VCCS sites which previously equated to ECE courses, and has determined groupings for equivalencies to the new curriculum. The most current approved groupings are located at: https://enge.vt.edu/content/dam/enge_vt_edu/undergraduate/ece_vccs.pdf.
Transfer Credit Policies Summary for Orientation

1. **COVID-19**: “Virginia Community College (VCCS) and Richard Bland College (RBC) grades of P+ (the equivalent of a C or better) are considered for transfer credit. Institutions other than the VCCS will require confirmation the student earned a C or better.”
2. Courses in which a C or higher grade is earned are considered for transfer (Pass/Fail courses are not considered).
3. Credits transfer, grades do not.
4. Courses will be transferred as equivalent Virginia Tech courses as determined by the appropriate department. If there is no equivalent Virginia Tech course, transfer credit may be awarded as a Free Elective.
5. Courses which are not considered by the College of Engineering to be appropriate at the university level may not transfer.
6. AP, IB, Cambridge, and CLEP scores must be sent directly from the testing agency.
7. Courses taken as credit-by-exam or as advanced standing at another school do not transfer.
8. Students may transfer up to ½ of the credits required for their degree program from any combination of 2-year schools.
9. There is no limit to the number of credits transferred from a 4-year school, however a minimum of ¼ of the credit for the respective degree must be earned at Virginia Tech.
10. Of the last 45 semester hours before graduation, a maximum of 18 semester hours may be transfer hours.

Spring 2021 Course Registration

Your Spring Class Schedule

Your first semester at Virginia Tech will focus on the course requirements necessary to declare an engineering major, Pathways to General Education courses, and major specific classes.

When developing your course schedule, please do so with the following priorities in this order:

1. Complete the change of major course requirements.
2. Complete a minimum of 12 GPA hours. You should enroll in 15 - 17 credit hours to allow the option of dropping/withdrawing from a course and still meeting the 12 GPA hour policy.
3. Earn a minimum of a 2.0 overall VT GPA with a goal of 3.0 overall VT GPA.
4. Make progress towards your intended major curriculum.

Orientation Course Registration Worksheet

Prior to meeting with your advisor for course registration for spring 2021, please complete the orientation course registration worksheet. You can access the worksheet at: https://enge.vt.edu/content/dam/enge_vt_edu/undergraduate/orientation/orientation_worksheet.pdf

Major and Course Restrictions

All majors in the College of Engineering and their courses are often restricted, and traditionally only students officially in those majors can take major-specific courses. However, GE transfer students are permitted to take major-specific courses (i.e., MINE 2504, CEM 2104, etc.) during their first semester of enrollment only, if seats are available and course prerequisites are completed. You are considered a transfer student if you have attempted 12 or more credit hours at any college or university after high school graduation or high school equivalency completion. Transfer students who do not officially declare a degree-granting major at the end of their first semester will not be eligible to take major-restricted courses in the following semester.
Credit Hours

A credit hour is a unit of measurement for college courses. Courses will vary in credit hours based on the amount of “contact” hours, or hours you spend in the classroom each week. Courses typically range from one credit hour to four credit hours. As an example, a three-credit hour class will typically meet for three hours per week.

Full-time status at Virginia Tech is 12 credit hours. Full-time status is required for students who live on-campus, receive financial aid, are NCAA athletes, or are international students in the USA on a visa.

Engineering students typically take 15-17 credit hours each semester. This is necessary to complete our degrees in four years, as they range from 123-133 credit hours required for graduation.

Course Registration Tips

- Watch the How to Register for Classes (Orientation) video. This video will provide a demonstration on how to make schedule adjustments in the drop/add class registration system.

- Don’t stress about having your schedule perfect right away. Once you have access to your class schedule, you will be able to make any changes as needed until January 25th at 11:59 p.m. EST.

- All transcripts, score reports, and official SAT/ACT scores need to be sent to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Virginia Tech, 925 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

- If you sent transcripts and/or scores to Virginia Tech and credits are not showing in Hokie Spa, please be patient. Processing time can take several weeks and it is common for there to be a delay. If you are still completing coursework at a college or university, please send an official transcript from this school as soon as possible and a second official transcript once your in-progress work has been completed with final grades. If you expect to earn an Associate Degree from a VCCS institution, you will need to send a third official transcript once your degree is officially awarded. This will help speed up the official evaluation of your transfer credits.

- You can verify receipt of AP, IB, CLEP, Cambridge, and transfer credits on Hokie Spa (please continuously review). Go to Hokie Spa → Grades Menu → Transfer and Other Additional Credits.

- Full-time student status = 12 credit hours. Recommended course load = 15-17 credit hours.

- Please allow at least 15 minutes between your scheduled classes. This is a sufficient amount of time to get to different campus locations and to transition between course sections. If you will be living off campus and have an in-person face-to-face course you may need to allocate more time before class to travel to campus.

- If you are selecting Pathways to General Education Course(s), we recommend you select courses at the 1000 or 2000 level as these are most appropriate for new students.

- You will see “Additional Times” associated with some classes (e.g., MATH 1225, MATH 1226, PHYS 2305). These are additional required meeting times for the specified course, most often at a different time/location than other meeting times/locations for that particular course.

- The options for instructional modality are: face-to-face instruction, hybrid (face-to-face and online), online synchronous, and online asynchronous. Not all courses are taught in all modalities. The course modality will be listed on the Timetable of Classes (class search). To view the course modality options, log into Hokie Spa → Timetable of Classes and search for spring 2021.
Tuition

In the fall and spring terms, tuition at Virginia Tech for full-time students (12 or more credits) is a flat-rate. Taking 12 credits has the same tuition cost of taking 18 credits. This is different from many colleges, where tuition is per credit. Please do not let your decision to not enroll in more than 12 GPA hours be due to this preconceived notion: https://www.bursar.vt.edu/tuition-fee-rates/tuition-fees.html.

International Students

Cranwell International Center will be able to address any questions you have regarding immigration status and visa details. Additional information are located at: https://international.vt.edu/ including COVID-19 details at: https://international.vt.edu/index/faq.html#general. New incoming international students on a visa who are in the United States are required to be enrolled in at least one hybrid or in-person course.

Navigating your Semester

Academic and Personal Support

We are committed to providing academic and personal support to help aid in your success at Virginia Tech. A summary of resources is located at: https://enge.vt.edu/undergraduate/resources_and_help.html

Time Management

Engineering recommends you spend at least three hours for every hour spent in class on studying. Review the Tips for Time Management to help get you started on the right track. For example: If you are taking 15 credit hours in the semester, plan for at least 60 hours a week on academics.

- 15 hours for lectures + 45 hours for outside of class work/homework (15 X 3 = 45) = 60 total hours a week on academics for a typical engineering student

Grading Scale

Virginia Tech operates on a plus/minus grading scale which is located at: https://www.undergradcatalog.registrar.vt.edu/2021/grades.html#8. Instructors will indicate the specific breakdown for each assignment; please be sure to take this into account when calculating your course grades.