



**UNDERGRADUATE
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
VIRGINIA TECH.

PATHWAYS GENERAL EDUCATION

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**What have
you heard
from
students
about
Pathways?**



“Why do I have to take this stuff?”

1. Provides a **complement to the deep disciplinary dive** of your major(s).
2. Provides the opportunity to make sense of the world from **multiple perspectives, fields, and with various tools.**
3. Offers an opportunity to **consider world issues** alongside students from different backgrounds, majors, and perspectives.
4. Provides the **foundation for an informed citizenry** in a strong democracy.
5. Allows you to **discover academic passions and interests.**
6. Builds the skills and knowledge you’ll need to **be successful in your career.**



National Association of Colleges and Employers

Career Readiness Competencies

There are **eight career readiness competencies**, each of which can be demonstrated in a variety of ways.



Career &
Self-Development



Leadership



Communication



Professionalism



Critical Thinking



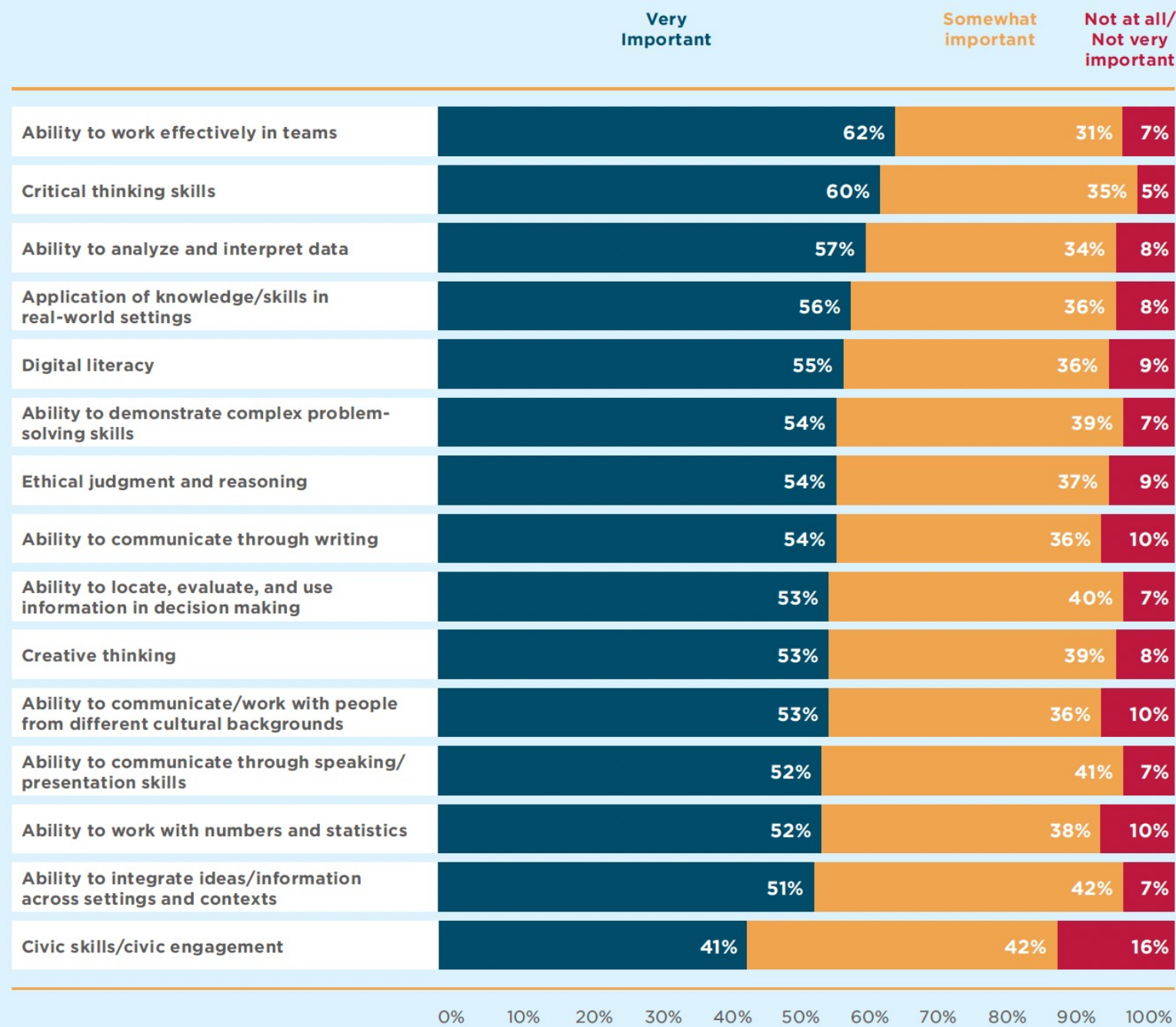
Teamwork



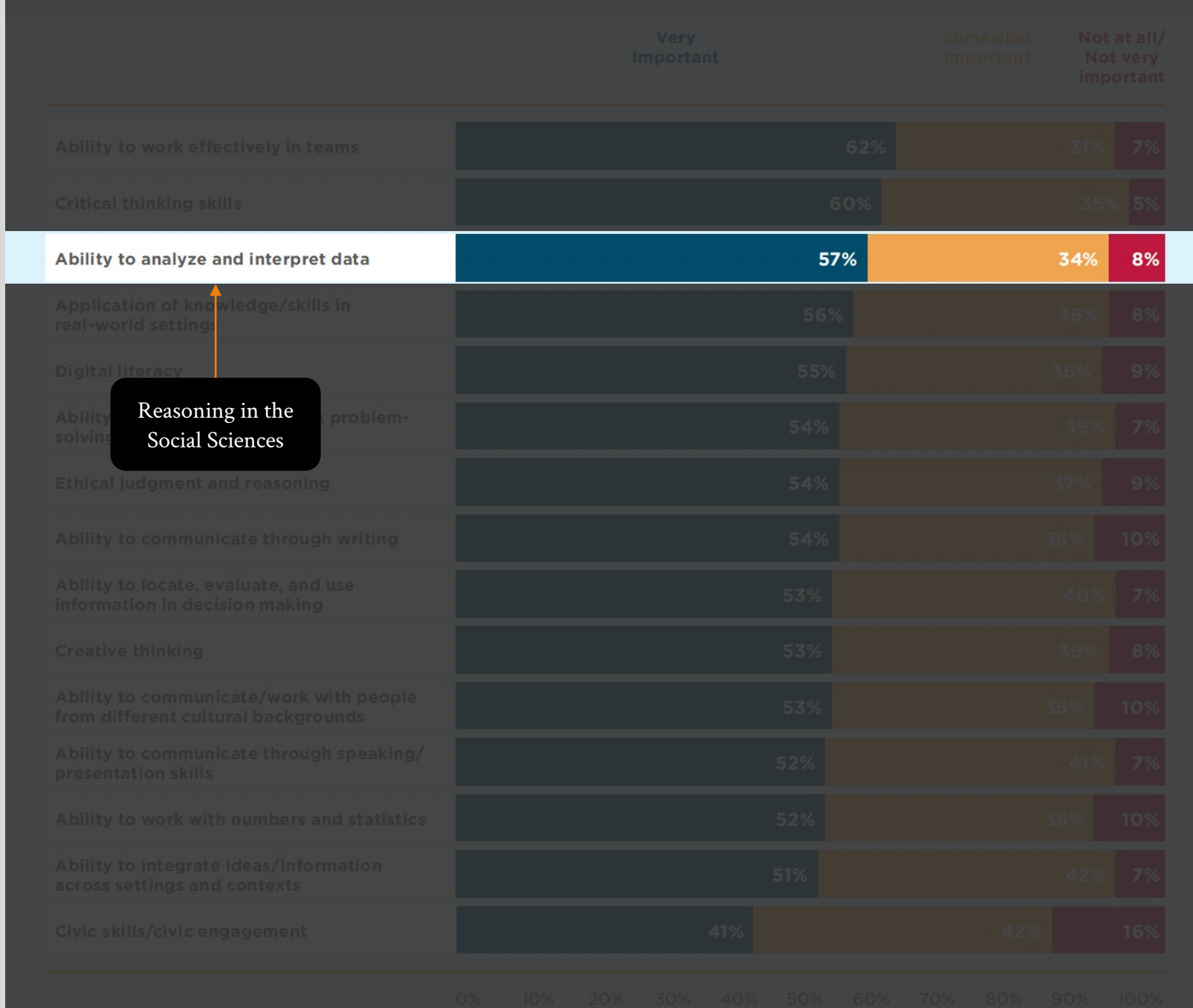
Equity & Inclusion



Technology

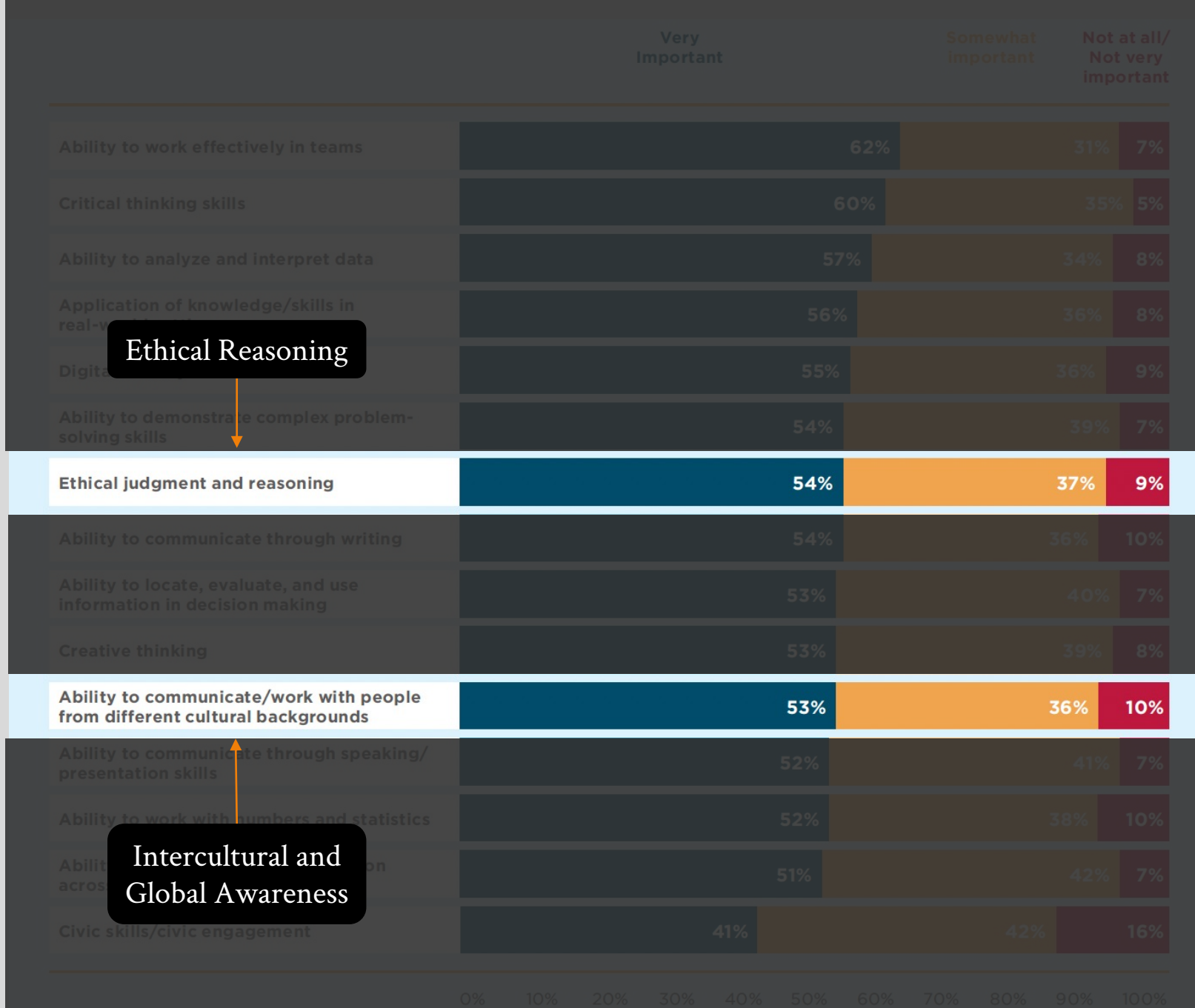


Source: Finley, A. (2021). *How College Contributes to Workforce Success: Employer Views on What Matters Most*. Association of American Colleges and Universities.



Reasoning in the Social Sciences

Source: Finley, A. (2021). *How College Contributes to Workforce Success: Employer Views on What Matters Most*. Association of American Colleges and Universities.



Ethical Reasoning

Intercultural and Global Awareness

Source: Finley, A. (2021). *How College Contributes to Workforce Success: Employer Views on What Matters Most*. Association of American Colleges and Universities.

The Pathways General Education Curriculum

Students complete 45 credit hours across 7 core concepts.

Core Concepts

Discourse
9 credits

Reasoning in the Social Sciences
6 credits

Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts
6 credits

Reasoning in the Natural Sciences
6 credits

Quantitative and Computational Thinking
9 credits

Critical Thinking in the Humanities
6 credits

Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States
3 credits (may be double-counted with another core concept)

Can be double-counted with one other core concept

Integrative Concepts

Each Pathways course also integrates one (or both) of these concepts

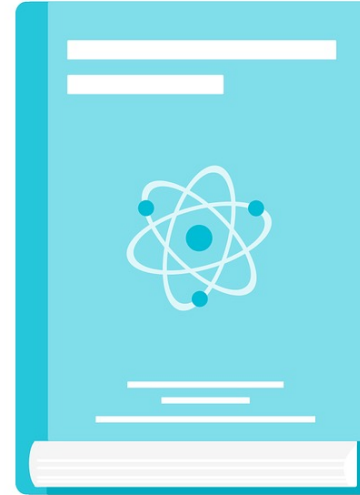
Ethical Reasoning
Throughout

Intercultural and Global Awareness
Throughout

Pathways Minors

Just like a normal minor, but also...

- Is a cross-disciplinary program that fulfills at least three core concepts and both integrative concepts
- Has three levels: introductory, mid-level, and a capstone experience
- Fulfills a minimum of nine Pathways credits



30

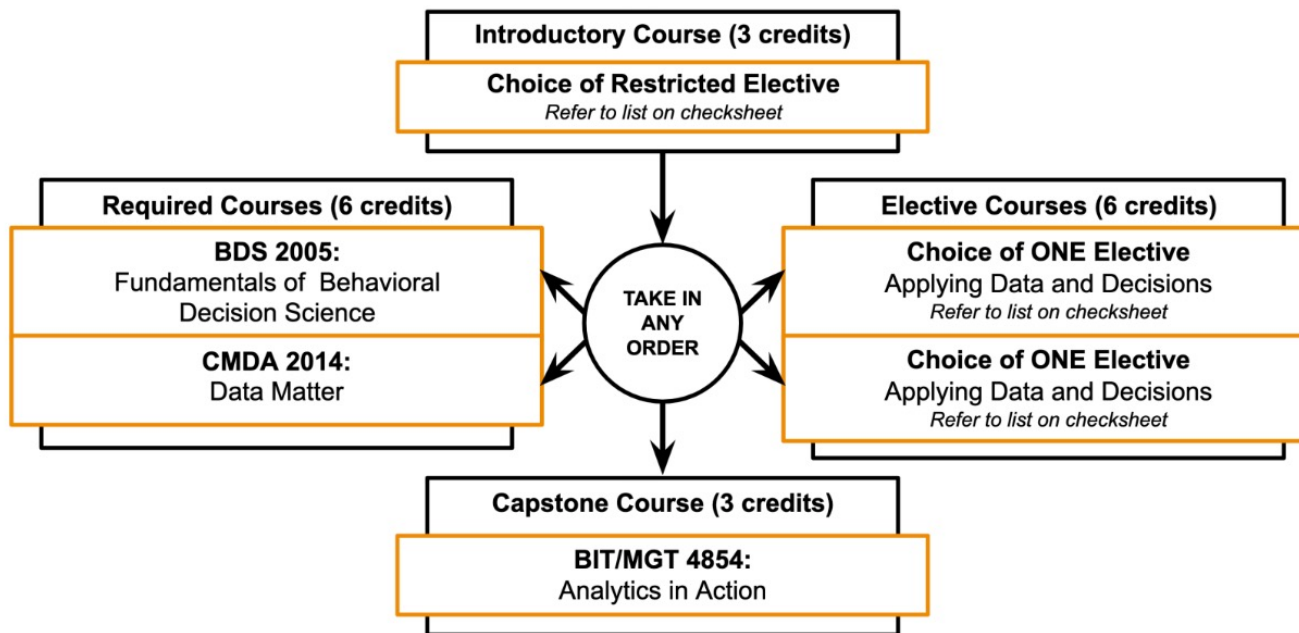
Minors

1100+

Students Enrolled

Data and Decisions (DTDC) Minor

As tomorrow's doctors, lawyers, politicians, industrial leaders, patients, parents, and citizens, you will make important decisions that will impact both yourself and society. Data serve as an important resource for gathering "objective" information and evaluating risk (or lack thereof) from multiple perspectives. The DTDC minor helps students develop skills to think critically and use data responsibly to formulate sound and ethical judgements.



84 students currently enrolled
from 8 colleges and 29 majors

Adaptive Brain and Behavior (ABB) Minor

In addition to meeting Pathways requirements, students completing the ABB minor benefit from 1) having a multidisciplinary perspective on factors that impact health, well-being and resilience, and 2) gaining a deeper understanding of the neurological underpinnings of thoughts, beliefs, behaviors, and social influences.

195 students currently enrolled
from **7** colleges and **29** majors



Why should students take a Pathways minor?

- It shows up on their transcript.
- It allows them to go deeper into a topic that complements (or goes beyond) their major
- It allows them to take classes alongside students from dozens of different majors.
- It can open the door to courses they may not be able to access otherwise (e.g., Studio Arts for Non-Majors)
- It can set them apart from the pool in a job search or grad school application

Minor Showcase Pages

Pathways Minors Showcase

Pathways Minors are thematic, cross-disciplinary programs that allow students to examine important topics from a variety of perspectives while completing general education requirements along the way.

[Overview of all Pathways Minors \(PDF\)](#)

Read a summary of each Pathways minor in the flyer linked above, or explore individual Pathways minors in detail through the links below.



[Adaptive Brain and Behavior](#)



[Appalachian Cultures and Environments](#)



[Biodiversity Conservation](#)



[Blue Planet](#)



[Civic Agriculture and Food Systems](#)



[Climate and Society](#)

<https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors/showcase.html>

Major/Minor Maps



PATHWAYS GENERAL EDUCATION

Pathways is the general education curriculum at Virginia Tech. As a central component of the undergraduate experience, the Pathways curriculum will allow you to examine the world from multiple perspectives and integrate your knowledge across various disciplines. Along with the coursework required for your major, you will complete credits from nine Pathways concepts (seven core concepts and two integrative concepts).

Core Concepts

You will complete a total of 45 credits across seven Pathways core concepts. The number of credits required per concept is listed below.

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>1 Discourse
9 credits
6 Foundational (1f)
3 Advanced (1a)</p> | <p>2 Critical Thinking in the Humanities
6 credits</p> | <p>3 Reasoning in the Social Sciences
6 credits</p> | <p>4 Reasoning in the Natural Sciences
6 credits</p> |
| <p>5 Quantitative and Computational Thinking
9 credits
3 Foundational (5f)
3 Advanced (5a)
3 Foundational OR Advanced</p> | <p>6 Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts
6 credits
3 Design (6d)
3 Arts (6a)</p> | <p>7 Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States
3 credits
may be double-counted with another core concept</p> | |

Integrative Concepts

Each Pathways course also meets at least one integrative concept, ensuring that you complete your general education with competency in both ethical reasoning and intercultural and global awareness.

Ethical Reasoning
Throughout

Intercultural and Global Awareness
Throughout

Pathways Requirements for the Landscape Architecture Major

Some Pathways requirements are met through your in-major classes, and those not satisfied within your major can be fulfilled by a Pathways minor!

Which general education requirements are satisfied by your major?

- Discourse (1f & 1a)
- 3 credits of Reasoning in the Social Sciences (3)
- 3 credits of Reasoning in the Natural Sciences (4)
- Quantitative and Computational Thinking (5f & 5a)
- 3 credits of Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts (6d & 6a)

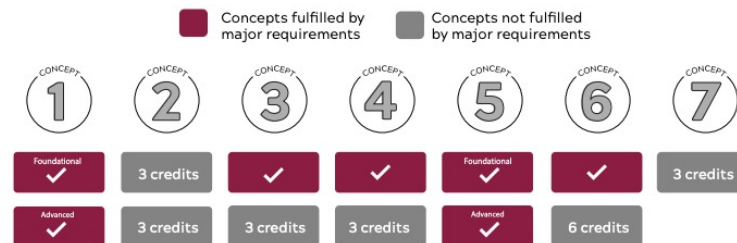
But what about your other requirements?

- Critical Thinking in the Humanities (2)
- 3 credits of Reasoning in the Social Sciences (3)
- 3 credits of Reasoning in the Natural Sciences (4)
- 3 credits of Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts (6d & 6a)
- Critical Analysis of Identity & Equity in the US (7)

How to Choose a Pathways Minor for a Landscape Architecture Major

Wondering how a Pathways minor can complement your major? The chart below maps out which credits are met within your major.* See the section below for Pathways minors that can help you fill in the gaps.

*Requirements may vary by degree option. Consult the checklist or speak with your advisor



Minors That Are a Good Fit for Your Landscape Architecture Major

The Pathways minors listed below offer the most opportunity to fulfill the concepts not met within your major. Click on the name to learn more about each minor, or explore all Pathways minors at pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors/showcase.

- [Biodiversity Conservation](#)
- [Ecological Cities](#)
- [Housing and Society](#)
- [Organizational Leadership](#)
- [Pathways to Sustainability](#)
- [Peace Studies and Social Justice](#)
- [Technology, Humans, and Environment](#)



Pathways and Study Abroad

Imagine fulfilling your Critical Thinking in the Humanities credits by studying Old Norse literature while traveling the Icelandic countryside in which it was written. Or completing Reasoning in the Social Sciences credits in Switzerland and Rwanda by studying citizen leadership in the context of creating sustainable social change.

Study abroad programs provide an excellent opportunity to complete Pathways general education credits while also exploring another culture. With the variety of options available, nearly all students can fit a study abroad experience into their plans of study with a little advanced planning. Check out the questions below to learn more!

- Want to learn more about study abroad opportunities? +
- Which study abroad courses are already approved for Pathways? +
- Are there any Pathways minors that include study abroad experiences? +
- Can I apply for Pathways credit for a VT study abroad course that is not approved for Pathways? +
- Can I apply for Pathways credit for a non-VT study abroad course? +
- You've convinced me. I want to study abroad! How do I get started? +



Resources

[Global Education Office](#) outbound students

[Global Education Office](#) advisors

[Pathways Credit Review Request Form](#), study abroad pre- and post-approval

Selected Current Programs

[Global One Health and Social Justice in Southern Africa \(PDF\)](#)

[Pathways to the Steger Center \(PDF\)](#)

[Rising Sophomore Abroad Program \(RSAP\) \(PDF\)](#)

[The Making of England \(PDF\)](#)



Global One Health and Social Justice in Southern Africa (Botswana & Mozambique)

Spend six weeks located across from the world-famous Chobe National Park, studying the country's diverse wildlife and approaches to wildlife management and conservation!



Contact the Global Education Office
Rachel Fitzgerald rfitz@vt.edu

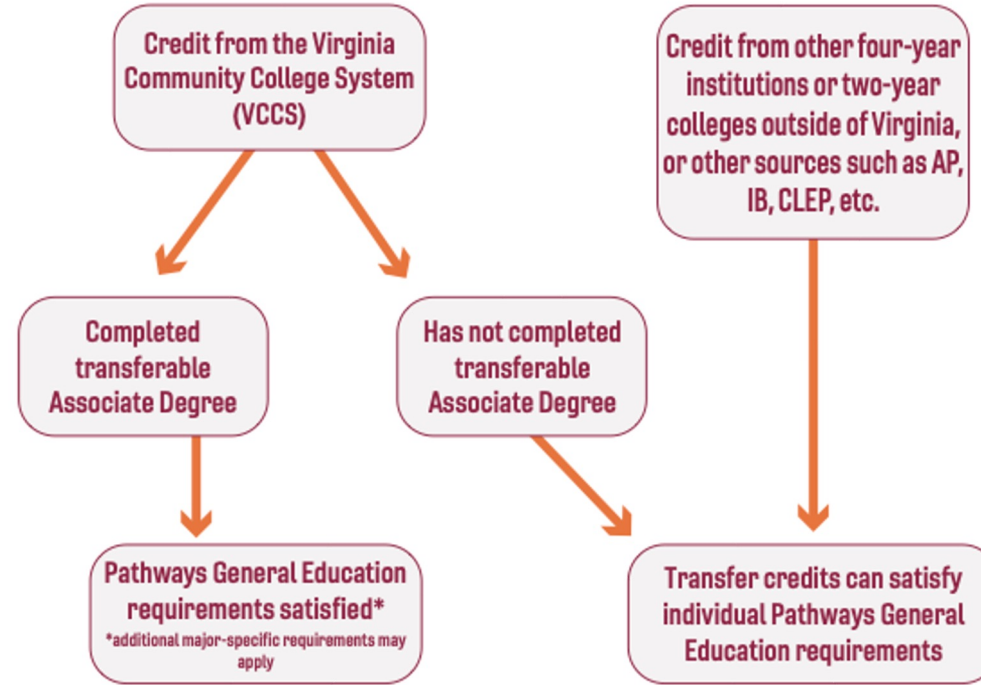


Pathways for Transfer Students



PATHWAYS TO GENERAL EDUCATION

How do credits from other institutions transfer to Pathways?



PATHWAYS RESOURCES FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

Pathways Course Catalogs:

<https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/about/pathways-guides.html>

Transfer Guide (equivalency databases; AP, IB & CLEP charts):

<https://www.tranguide.registrar.vt.edu/>

Degree Checksheets:

<https://www.registrar.vt.edu/graduation-multi-brief/checksheets.html>

Students & Advisors Forms

Pathways/CLE Course Review Request For Substitutions

If you are a student, advisor, or college rep looking to have a course reviewed for Pathways or CLE credit substitution, follow the process outlined below. Students must have advisor support and acknowledgment before proceeding with this process AND students must have completed the course at the time of the request.

NOTE: You will need the course syllabus and a written justification for how the course meets the desired concept to complete the request. **AP/IB courses CANNOT be reviewed using this process, talk to your advisor.**

Please email [Jenni Gallagher](#) with any questions.

What Can Be Reviewed Using this Process



What CANNOT Be Reviewed Using this Process



What Does Not Need to Be Reviewed Using this Process



Process Details and Timeline



Pathways Course Review Request Form



Table of Pathways Course Transfer Recommendations



<https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/>



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