VIRGINIA TECH™

Student Success Center

Myths and Facts:
Academic Support with the
Student Success Center

The Student Success Center

Mission

The Student Success Center is committed to providing holistic support services and programs that develop self-directed and lifelong learners within a diverse and inclusive environment.

Vision

The Student Success Center aspires to be an innovative leader in providing holistic student support. We strive to offer opportunities for students to become active, engaged and independent learners as they create their path for achieving their goals and future success.

Meet Our Staff

Jennifer Brown - Director

Sachiel Mondesir - Assistant Director

Michael Williams - Assistant Director

Amber Smith - Assistant Director

Toni Sperry - Administrative Assistant

Graduate Assistants: Noha Elsherbiny, Ginai Seabron, Jordan Westcott, Hannah Kuneyl, Rhiannon Takemoto-Jennings

Program Assistant: Jonathan Holloway

Programs and Services

Academic Excellence Programs

- Peer Academic Coaching
- Seminar Series on Academic Success
- Tutoring
- SSC Courses

Scholarship Programs

- Presidential Campus Enrichment Grant (PCEG)
- Presidential Scholarship Initiatives (PSI)

Embrace VT Programs

- Black Male Excellence Network (BMEN)
- Cultural Immersion Trip
- Ujima LLC

Academic Excellence Programs

Academic Coaching

Develop academic success skills on an individualized basis

Common topics:

- Study skills
- Test-taking skills
- Time management
- Overcoming procrastination

Peer and staff coaching options available

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Seminar Series on Academic Success

Drop-in seminars led by peer academic coaches about our most requested topics

- Active Reading and Note-Taking Skills
- Effective Study Skills
- Making it Through the Final Stretch
- Mastering Online and Tech-Based Courses
- Overcoming Procrastination
- Test-Taking Skills
- Time Management

Tutoring

Provides **individualized peer support** for some of the highest-demand 1000- and 2000-level courses in areas such as ACIS, ART, BIOL, BIT, BMSP, CHEM, CS, ECON, ESM, GEOS, MATH, PHYS, PSYC, STAT

Individual and group options available

Certified by the College Reading and Learning Association

No more appointments? Let us know!

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Shameless Plug: We're Hiring Tutors!

Our ideal applicants will have:

- Strong content knowledge
- Ability to clearly explain information in multiple ways
- Strong rapport-building skills
- Empathy, patience, and the desire to help others

Further eligibility criteria include:

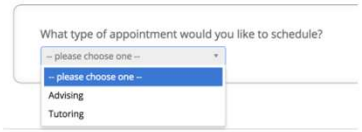
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Have a B+ or higher in the course(s) they wish to tutor
- Have taken the course(s) they wish to tutor at Virginia Tech

Applications due March 6

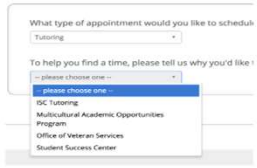
How to Schedule a Tutoring Appointment

1. Go to https://vt.campus.eab.com/
2. Sign in, if needed
3. Click on the blue "Schedule an Appointment

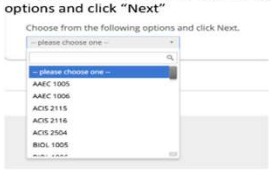
4. From the list *What type of appointment would you like to schedule* select "Tutoring"



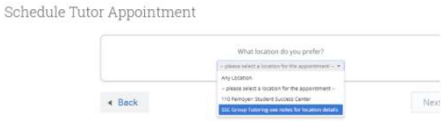
5. From the list *To help you find a time, please tell us why you'd like to see someone* select "Student Success Center".



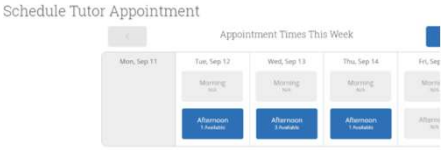
6. Select desired course under "Choose from the following options and click "Next"



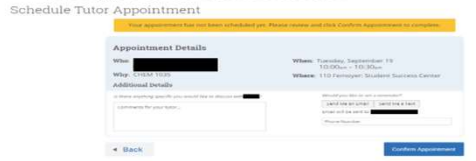
7. Select "110 Femoyer: Student Success Center" as the location and click "Next"



8. Click on a blue box to see individual appointment availabilities*
   * If you are interested in viewing **Group tutoring tin** please click the white box on the yellow bar ("Viev Walk-in Times") to view schedule



10. Add specific information about what you'd like to discuss/go over in the comment section



11. Select if you want to receive a reminder via email or text (add phone number if you'd like a text reminder)
12. Click "Confirm Appointment"

https://studentsuccess.vt.edu/content/dam/studentsuccess_vt_edu/attachements/How%20to%20Schedule%20a%20Tutoring%20Appointment.pdf

SSC Courses

UNIV 1004: College Success Strategies (Fall & Spring)

- 2.5 or below
- 3 credits
- Letter grade (A-F)
- 4 sections, max 24 students per section

SSC Courses

LAHS 1014 - A.S.P.I.R.E (Fall & Spring)

- 2.0 or below
- 1 credit
- Letter grade (A-F)
- 2 sections, max 25 students per section

Scholarship Programs

Presidential Campus Enrichment Grants

Eligibility: Incoming first-year students

Award: $2,500 per semester for 8 semesters (Architecture, 10 semesters)

GPA Requirement: 3.0 / Credits: 30 per academic year

Number of students: Over 150

Other requirements: Participate in activities that relate to diversity, inclusion, or social justice (e.g., activism on a college campus, difficult conversations, religion and diversity)

Presidential Scholarship Initiatives

Eligibility: Competitive scholarship program that targets and rewards academically talented students who have shown a persistence and commitment to academic excellence.

Award: PSI is a renewable 4-year (or 8 semesters) scholarship that will cover regular charges related to: tuition, fees, and room and board costs. *Architecture and Landscape Architecture majors - 5 years (or 10 semesters)

GPA Requirement: 3.0 / Credits: 30 per academic year

Number of students: Over 320

Other requirements: Participate in 6 enrichments and 2 reflection papers per year

Embrace VT Programs

Black Male Excellence Network

Uplifting Black Men Conference

- BMEN Success Coaching
- Student African American Brotherhood at Virginia Tech
  - Thursday, 7pm PY Classroom

Embrace VT Programs

- Culture Immersion Trip

Ujima Living Learning Program

Ujima is an essential concept in African philosophy and is also the third principle of Kwanzaa. It means collective work and responsibility.

- Take Introduction to African American Studies (AFST 1714) with other students in Ujima.

Ujima has five core pillars guiding your experience

- Academic Support and Mentoring
- Cultural Identity Development
- Leadership Development
- Service
- Healthy Social Engagement

Myths vs. Facts

- **Myth**: Tutoring or coaching are only for students in serious academic trouble.
  - **Fact**: While we do help those students, we also provide holistic resources to help anyone better meet their goals, even high-achieving students.

- **Myth**: Students can easily find a tutoring or coaching appointment.
  - **Fact**: These services are in high demand, so we encourage booking appointments well in advance, especially during exam times. Students can make up to three appointments in a two-week window.

- **Myth**: The SSC is so great! They provide tutoring for all courses.
  - **Fact**: We maximize our support by prioritizing the highest-demand undergraduate courses with the largest enrollment.

Myths vs. Facts

- **Myth**: I would like the SSC to proctor my test.
  - **Fact**: Unfortunately, we no longer provide this service.

- **Myth**: All SSC coaching is done by students.
  - **Fact**: Our staff also does coaching for students with more significant academic need.

- **Myth**: My advisor isn't available, so I'll just get help from a coach instead.
  - **Fact**: Our coaches cannot replace the specialized work of academic advisors; they are trained on completely different skills, and we would never recommend this!

Myths vs. Facts

- **Myth**: UNIV 1004 is so easy--I'm going to get an A no matter what!
  - **Fact**: While designed to support student success, this is a course like any other that requires regular attendance and assignments to succeed.

- **Myth**: My student would love to join Ujima, but they're not black.
  - **Fact**: Actually, Ujima supports all students who wish to learn more about the African Diaspora, regardless of their background.

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Questions?

Thanks!

110 Femoyer Hall | 540-231-5499

studentsuccess@vt.edu

@vtstudentsuccess (Instagram)

Myths vs. Facts

- **Myth**: Going to tutoring once the day before my test will be enough.
  - **Fact**: The individualized nature of our support can take time and reinforcement for students to see the most benefit; it is very challenging to cover a semester's worth of material in an hour or two. (Also, appointments should be booked in advance!)

- **Myth**: I'm going in for general tutoring--not for any particular course.
  - **Fact**: We would suggest coaching for support in generalized skills related to studying, test-taking, note-taking, time management, and more; our tutors only support specific courses.

- **Myth**: My tutor can just explain what I don't know, so I won't have to study.
  - **Fact**: We can provide strategies, build skills, and suggest additional