



Board of Visitors

Academic Affairs & Student Affairs Committee

Thursday, September 10, 2026



Agenda

Academic Affairs Student Scholar Spotlight

Dr. Tia A. Minnis

Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Academic Spotlight - College of Agriculture

Dr. Jewel Bronaugh

Dean and Professor, College of Agriculture, Director of Land Grant Programs

Enrollment Updates

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter

Chief Operating Officer and Sr. Vice President for Student Success and Administration

Student Success Strategic Initiatives

Dr. Tia A. Minnis

Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter

Chief Operating Officer and Sr. Vice President for Student Success and Administration





Student Scholar Spotlight

Showcasing Student Excellence



Student Scholar Spotlight



Eleni

Mekonnen

*Master's Student
Computer Science*

Phillip Morris, USA



Student Scholar Spotlight



**Terry
Albright Jr.**

*Senior
Computer Science*

G2 Ops. Inc.



Student Scholar Spotlight



**Elijah
Coleman**

*Junior
Computer Science*

Altria Internship



Student Scholar Spotlight

**Charles
Randolph**

*Junior
Mechanical Engineering*

General Motors



Student Scholar Spotlight

**Samantha
Collins**

*Senior
Computer Science*

**internXL Scholar
Live Production &
Entertainment Intern**





Camille Hall

Class of 2026, Political Science

Kristina Piercy

Senior, Political Science

*Fall 2025, Semester Abroad
Hertford College, University of Oxford*





College of Agriculture

Presentation to the Virginia State University Board of Visitors

Jewel Bronaugh, PhD, Dean

Rooted in Purpose. Rising in Impact.



Teaching



Research



Extension



Randolph Farm (416 acres)



Small Farm Outreach

Students in the College of Agriculture

STUDENT SNAPSHOT

- 379 students enrolled

3 Degree Programs:

- B.S. – Agriculture
- B.S. – FACS
- B.S. – Hosp. Management

2 Certificate Programs:

- International Agriculture
- Nutrition & Dietetics

Scholarships:

- 59 (\$719,199)

Retention Rate:

- 73.6%

Academic Risk Decline:

- 21% - 12.8%

Enrollment Growth Strategy (450 students):

- **Create a High-Touch Recruitment Model**
 - VSU Student Ambassadors
 - *We Want YOU to GROW at VSU* campaign
 - COA AI-powered student recruitment & advising assistant

Retention Strategy:

- **Alumni Mentoring Program**
- **No Student Left Behind Philosophy** - An early alert system that identifies students experiencing academic or personal challenges and provides timely intervention through a COA Student Success Center

Additional Priorities:

- **100% Experiential Learning Opportunities for Students**
- Mental Health, Wellness & Resilience
- Student Innovation, Workforce & Entrepreneurship





Multiple Pathways. One College.

Academic programs positioned around agriculture, food, people and communities

Integrated Undergraduate Degree Structure:

- B.S. in Agriculture, Food & Public Health
 - Didactic Program in Dietetics (ACEND accredited)
- B.S. in Food Systems Innovation, Culinary Science & Entrepreneurship

Graduate Studies (proposed):

- M.S. Degree in Hospitality Management – Online
- Graduate Certificate - AI/Tech Innovation in Agriculture (partnership with College of Graduate Studies)
 - Advance to an M.S. in Precision Food, Agriculture & Innovation

One College. One Integrated Learning Ecosystem.

- A 12-15 hours common core for all COA students
- Stackable certificates and workforce credentials
 - BBQ/Meat Science Certification
 - AI/Precision Agriculture and AgTech

Experiential Learning for Every Student!

1st year: Exposure

Students introduced to the breadth of opportunities available within the College

2nd & 3rd years: Skill Development

- Community engagement through Cooperative Extension
- Undergraduate research through ARS

3rd & 4th years: Culminating Experience

Every student will complete at least one high-impact experiential learning opportunity

- Student CEO Program Capstone

NEW



ere

TEACHING | Student Success & Academic Momentum

Since **1882**

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

"VSU's HMGMT Program is among the very top programs we have reviewed in the country."

Full ACPHA Accreditation Reaffirmation

Hospitality Management achieved full accreditation reaffirmation, affirming program quality, rigor and continuous improvement.

FUTURE-READY LEARNING

AgTech + Cybersecurity in Agriculture

Expanding student exposure to emerging technologies and the digital skills increasingly shaping modern agriculture.

THE IMPACT

Career-ready graduates prepared at the intersection of agriculture, technology, food & hospitality.



Agri-culinary Academy





Our Student Promise

Experiential Learning for Every Student!



Teaching



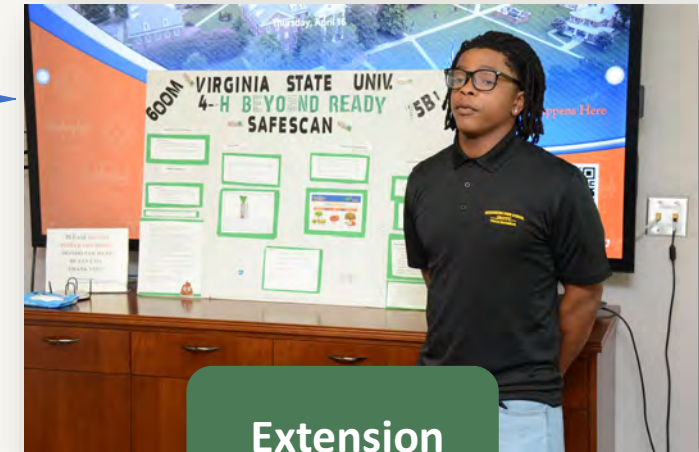
RESEARCH



Randolph Farm



Research



Extension

“Our goal is to graduate students who have already begun doing the work they are preparing to lead.”



2026 ARD Research Symposium

RESEARCH | Discovery, Innovation & Student Scholarship

Advancing research that strengthens food safety, crop productivity, student training and strategic partnerships.

RESEARCH VISIBILITY

28 Students | 26 Researchers

Presented scholarship at the 50th Biennial ARD Research Symposium, expanding VSU research visibility and student engagement.

FOOD SAFETY & PUBLIC HEALTH

Food Deserts | Tri-Cities

VSU Food Microbiology research found foodborne pathogens in foods from both small independent markets and large chains, reinforcing the need for retailer food-safety education.

PLANT GENETICS & BREEDING

Tomato QTL Research

Evans-Allen research is mapping traits for earlier flowering and maturity in cherry tomato to support productivity, sustainability and small-producer viability.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

6 FCS Students

Family & Consumer Sciences students participated in the Undergraduate Research Symposium, strengthening the undergraduate research pipeline.

GRANT MOMENTUM

16 New Proposals

6 Evans-Allen proposals plus 10 competitive proposals across AFRI, NSF, VDACS, S-SARE and USDA/NIFA.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Research Capacity Expanding

New collaborations support mobile meat processing innovative indoor-agriculture management tool



51 Students Reached

2023-2026

6+ Fields/ Program Areas



Cooperative Extension Experiential Learning Experience



- **Janiah Lee** graduated from Virginia State University in 2025 with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business & Economics. Following her undergraduate experience, she continued with Extension as a graduate intern and was subsequently **assigned an Extension position in 2025**. While working, she pursued and **completed a master's degree in Agricultural Education at North Carolina A&T State University in 2026**. Janiah directly describes the value of her Extension experience, noting that her internship helped prepare her for graduate school and that the experience was instrumental in building her skills "in every direction." She also recognized connections between the programs she worked with in Extension and the coursework she encountered in her master's program.



- **Tiquan Goode** participated in the program from 2023 through 2026 while pursuing a degree in Family and Consumer Science with a concentration in Family, Child, and Community Development. He graduated from Virginia State University in 2025 and has continued his education as a graduate student at the **University of North Carolina at Greensboro**, where he is pursuing a Human Development and Family Studies MS-to-PhD program with an expected graduation date of May 2030. His multi-year Extension experience provided sustained opportunities to engage in experiential learning and connect his academic interests with applied work.



- **Desmyn Owens**, who completed her Extension internship in 2023 while majoring in Agricultural Business & Economics, graduated from Virginia State University in December 2023. Her experience with Extension contributed to a pathway that has continued into her professional career. She recently served as the **Associate Extension Agent in 4-H Youth Development in the City of Virginia Beach**. Desmyn is also pursuing an **M.S. in Agricultural Leadership Studies at Virginia Tech**, demonstrating continued professional and academic development following her undergraduate experience.

Where We Intend to Lead

Emerging priorities will shape programs, faculty expertise, research, Extension and partnerships

FOOD AS HEALTH



SMART & PRECISION AGRICULTURE

Establish an Autonomous Agriculture Test Bed for Small Farmers

Goal:

- Complete infrastructure efforts for technology upgrades
- New virtual fencing and animal monitoring systems
- Implement drone technologies
- New tech equipment for small farmers
- Expand indoor production research



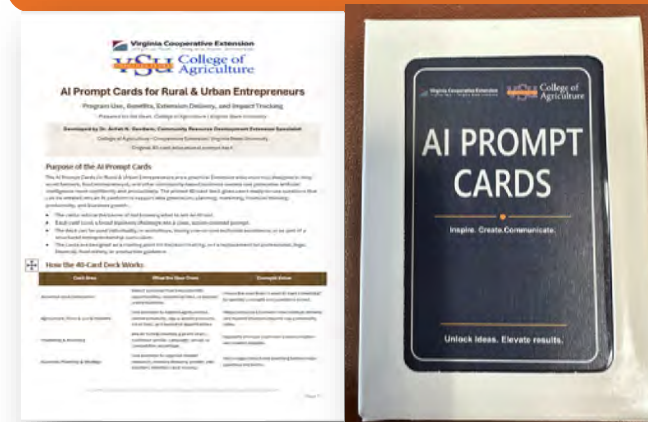
ANIMAL & PLANT RESEARCH + BIO-INNOVATION



FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION



COMMUNITY & WORKFORCE TRANSFORMATION



Serving the
local
community

VSU HARVEST HUB

Students in Action. Communities in Impact.

A research-driven systems model that connects farms, food, health, and work:force development into **ONE LIVING LABORATORY**.



VSU STUDENTS. Real Work. Real Impact. Real Communities.

I finally understand the assignment...



Dr. Cherise Cobb
4-H Extension Specialist



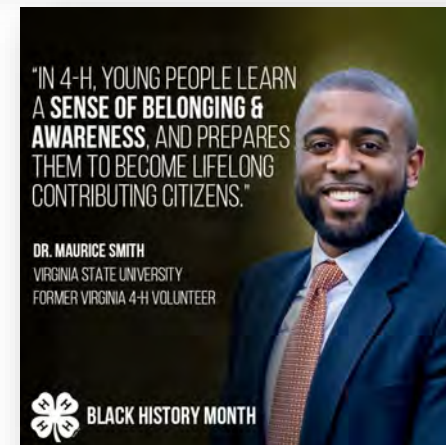
Mrs. Joy Atkins
Doctoral Candidate
University of Central Florida



Mr. Alston Hilliard
Director of Farm Operations
Randolph Farm



Mr. Herbert Brown
Asst. Director SFOP



Dr. Maurice Smith
4-H Extension Specialist



Dr. Ronald Howell
Associate Dean for Research
Agriculture Research Station



Thank you for your support!
Now let's hear from our students...



Enrollment Update

Fall 2026 Preliminary Enrollment Report



Fall 2026 New Students

	Fall 2024	Fall 2025	Fall 2026
Undergraduate (Freshmen, Transfer, Readmits)			
Applications	28,401	19,574	22,420
Admits	11,316	11,263	16,048
Deposits	2,141	1,987	2,834
Graduate			
Applications	1,854	1,366	1,188
Admits	486	456	630
Registered	274	269	349

Freshmen and Transfer Applications

	Admits	Deposit/ Orientation	Housing	Registered	% yield
Black Common App	1,689	87	65	67	83%
Common App	9,587	1,229	1,017	1,024	83%
VSU App	4,772	1,194	830	1,097	92%

Fall 2026 Enrollment Projections

	Fall 2024	Fall 2025	Fall 2026
Undergraduate and Graduate Students			
Registered	5,954	5,891	6,504
Paid	4,415	4,020	4,123
Headcount	5,605	5,754	6,100



VSU SHOOTING SUSPECT ARRESTED

 NBC NEWS



Student Success

Strategic Overview





“Understanding the numbers behind student success allows us to assess progress, target resources, and strengthen accountability for student achievement.”



The Enrollment Make-up



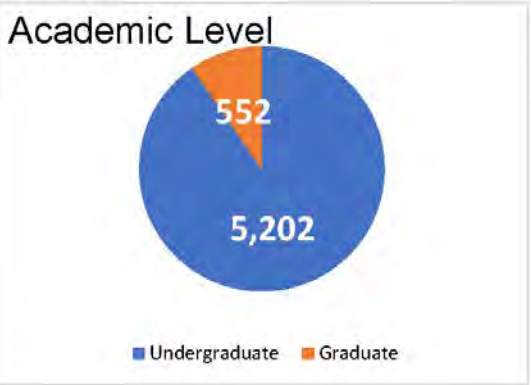
VSU Total Enrollment

AY 2025 - 2026

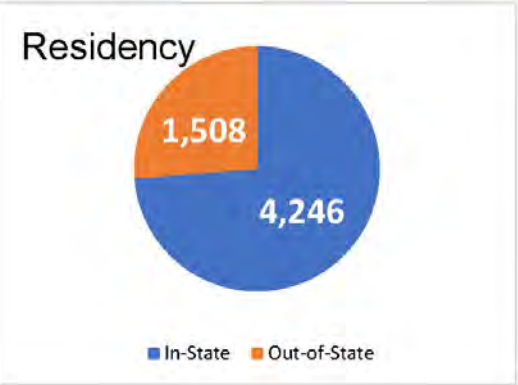
VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY | FALL 2025 ENROLLMENT PROFILE

TOTAL HEADCOUNT
5,754
Fall 2025 Students

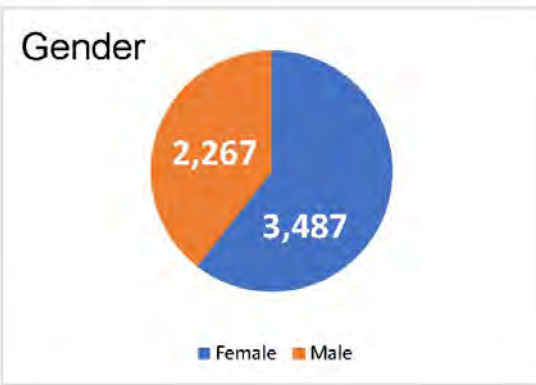
Academic Level	Students	Percentage
Undergraduate	5,202	90.4%
Graduate	552	9.6%



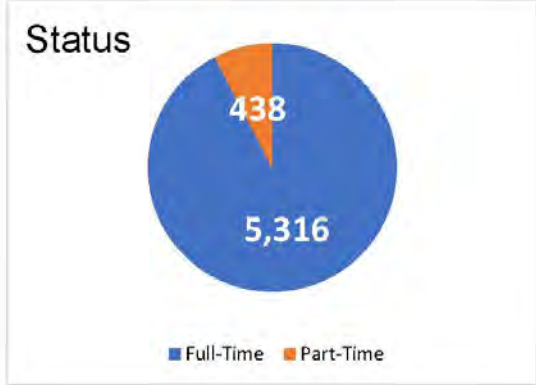
Residency	Students	Percentage
In-State	4,246	73.8%
Out-of-State	1,508	26.2%



Gender	Students	Percentage
Female	3,487	60.6%
Male	2,267	39.4%



Status	Students	Percentage
Full-Time	5,316	92.4%
Part-Time	438	7.6%



Key Takeaways for the Institutional Profile

Predominantly Undergraduate

90.4% of Fall 2025 enrollment is undergraduate.

Virginia Centered Enrollment

73.8% of students are in-state.

Female Majority Enrollment

60.6% of Fall 2025 enrollment is female.

Strong Full-Time Profile

92.4% of students are enrolled full-time.

VSU Total Enrollment

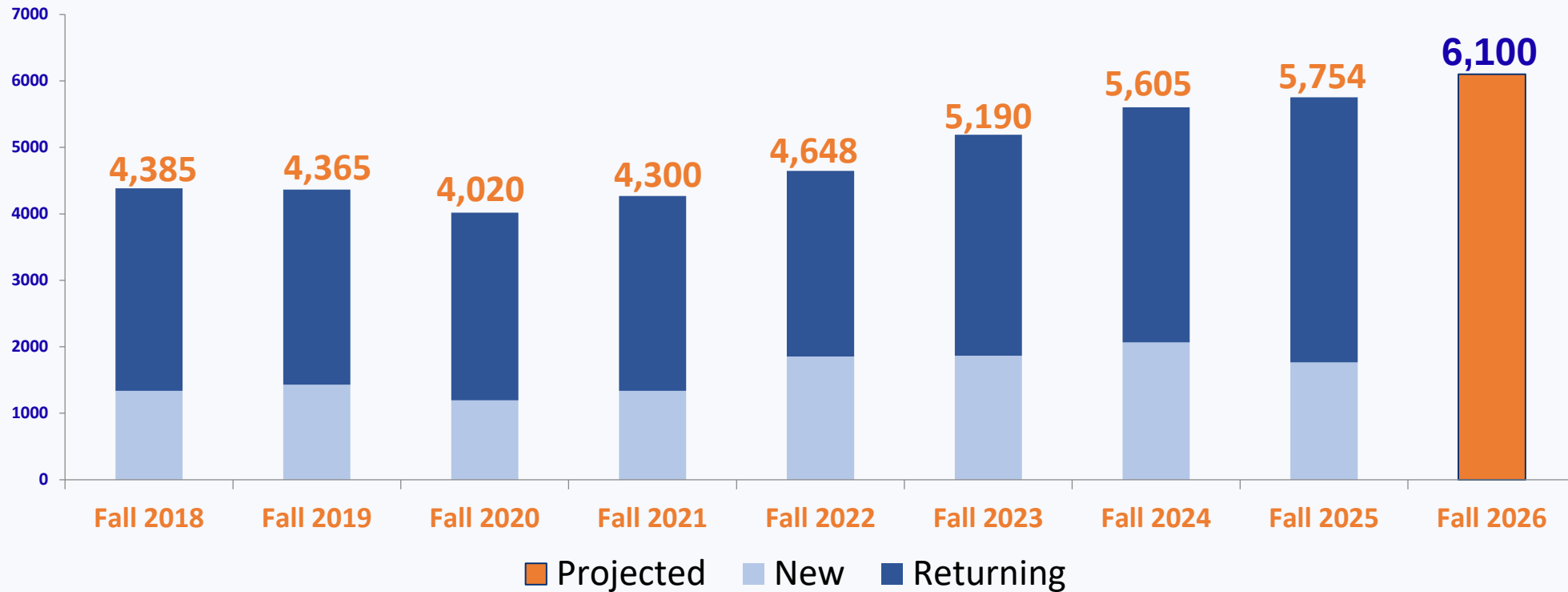
Enrollment Continues to Rise

ENROLLMENT
GROWTH



Fall 2021 to Fall 2026

ENROLLMENT OVER TIME





Student Retention Rate



VSU Undergraduate FTIC

First-Year Retention

RETENTION RATE DEFINITION

The percentage (%) of First-time, Full-time in College (FTIC) cohort of students who enroll during one fall term and return the next fall term.

COHORT MEASURE	Fall 2020		Fall 2021		Fall 2022		Fall 2023		Fall 2024		Fall 2025	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
# Full-time, First-time in College	882	100%	913	100%	1,374	100%	1,444	100%	1,482	100%	1,190	100%
# who returned for a 2nd year	668	75.7%	667	73.1%	978	71.2%	1,002	69.4%	1,090	73.5%	—	—



Student Graduation Rate



VSU Graduation Rate

Fall 2015 – Fall 2025

FTIC COHORT SIZE

1,190

First time, full time, degree seeking
students enrolled in Fall 2025.
(Cohort size, not graduates)

FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION
IS REBOUNDING

26%

Fall 2022 cohort graduated within four years.
Up 5.8 pts from the Fall 2019 low.

FIVE-YEAR GRADUATION
STRENGTHENS

39%

Fall 2021 cohort graduated within five years.
Up 6.2 pts from Fall 2019.

SIX-YEAR COMPLETION
APPROACHES 40%

40%

Fall 2020 cohort graduated within six
years.

COHORT MEASURE	Fall 2015		Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018		Fall 2019		Fall 2020		Fall 2021		Fall 2022		Fall 2023		Fall 2024		Fall 2025	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
# Full-time, First-time in College	766	100%	1,037	100%	1,083	100%	928	100%	1,065	100%	882	100%	913	100%	1,374	100%	1,444	100%	1,482	100%	1,190	100%
# who graduated in 4 years or less	242	31.6%	261	25.2%	267	24.7%	213	23.0%	213	20.0%	193	21.9%	234	25.6%	354	25.8%						
# who graduated in 5 years or less	337	44.0%	362	34.9%	408	37.7%	326	35.1%	353	33.1%	311	35.3%	359	39.3%								
# who graduated in 6 years or less	361	47.1%	387	37.3%	436	40.3%	363	39.1%	394	37.0%	348	39.5%										
# who graduated in 7 years or less	374	48.8%	407	39.2%	449	41.5%	380	40.9%	421	39.5%												
# who graduated in 8 years or less	379	49.5%	416	40.1%	456	42.1%	384	41.4%														



Degree Completion

All Degrees Conferred 2025- 2026



2025 - 2026 Degree Completion by College

Where VSU Students Reached the Finish Line

TOTAL AWARDS

1,059 ↑

Degrees and certificates awarded.

BACHELOR'S

825 ↑

Largest credential category.

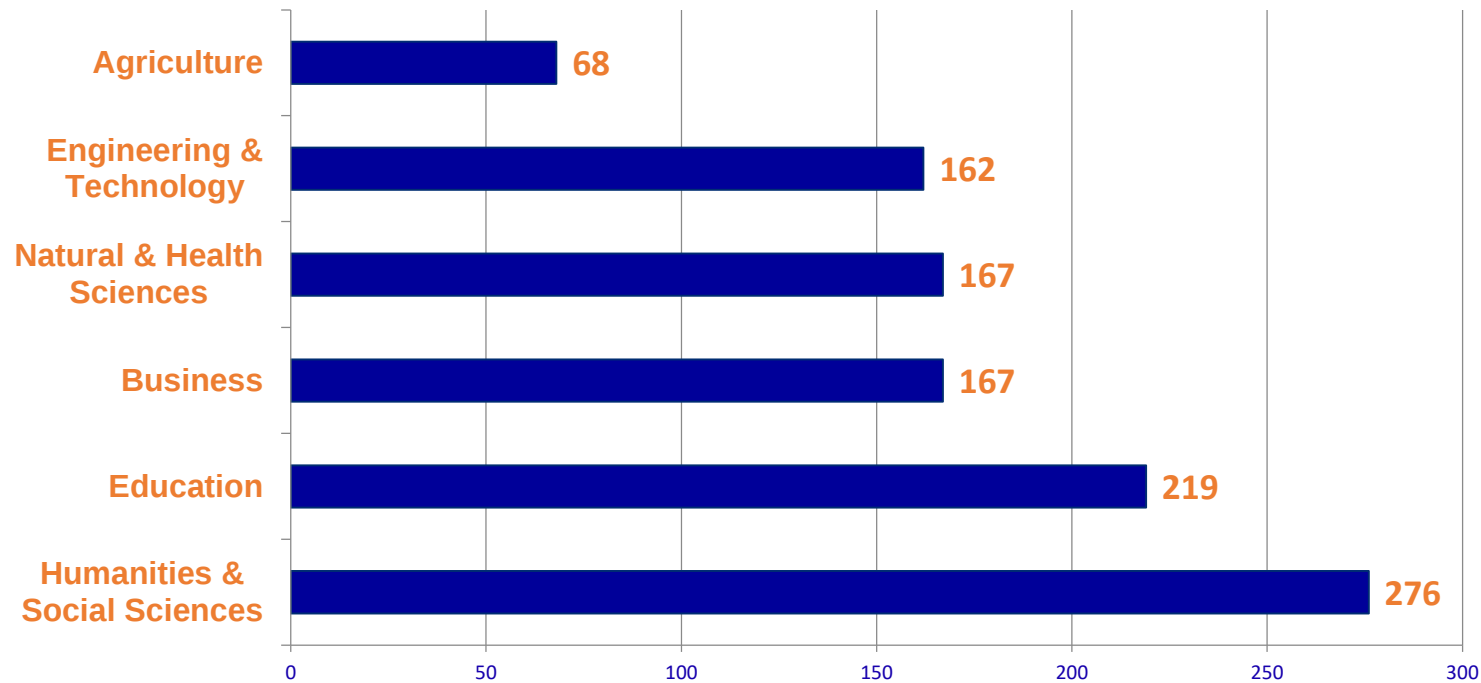
GRADUATE AWARDS

224 ↑

Master's, graduate certificates, and doctorates.

TOP COLLEGE FOR COMPLETIONS

CHSS 276



Completion Profile

10

Undergraduate
Certificates

9

Graduate
Certificates

196

Master's

19

Doctorates

Greater Happens Here





Student Success Model

Strategic Initiatives





EMPLOYMENT

FIRST YEAR TO DEGREE COMPLETION

ONE CONNECTED STRATEGY





VSU First-Year Experience

Strategic Initiatives



Showcase Academic Excellence –

Connect students directly with faculty and academic programs, experiential learning, and career pathways.

Highlight Affordability and Student Resources –

Provide students with direct access to Financial Aid, academic support, and other services designed to support enrollment, persistence, and graduation.

Experience VSU – Immerse prospective students in the VSU experience by showcasing campus life, culture, traditions, and the unique experience of attending an HBCU.

Engage and Inform Families – Provide families with opportunities to connect directly with University representatives.





NEW TROJAN EXPERIENCE



GRTR 101

TROJAN BOOT CAMP

GRTR 101 - Trojan Boot Camp introduces key resources and information for VSU students that will be reinforced through TIP sessions, New Trojan Experience, and Freshman Studies.

<u>RESOURCE FAMILIARITY</u>	<u>EARLY SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION</u>
<u>COMMUNITY BUILDING</u>	<u>CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT</u>

START SMART

Helps students start strong by building confidence in VSU's technology and academic resources.

MONEY MATTERS

Provides key financial guidance to help students manage responsibilities, make informed decisions, and access support.

CAMPUS LIFE, SAFETY, AND WELL-BEING

Helps students navigate housing, wellness services, and campus safety for a successful VSU experience.

ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Introduces students to community building, leadership, and campus engagement to shape their VSU experience.

WELCOME TO YOUR FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Empowers students to transition to college by supporting success, introducing VSU's culture, and outlining the first year.

NEW TROJAN

EXPERIENCE

2026 New Trojan Experience

*** UNLESS LISTED OTHERWISE, ALL ACTIVITIES ARE IN DANIEL GYMNASIUM ***



09
AUG
SUNDAY

10:30 a.m. **Brunch** (Jones Dining Hall)
2:00 p.m. **Residence Hall Meetings**
(in-person or virtual...determined by Residence Director)
4:30 p.m. **Welcome Cookout** (Foster Hall Back Lawn)
7:00 p.m. **Kickoff Celebration**
7:45 p.m. **The Choice Is Yours Game Show**

10
AUG
MONDAY

7:00 a.m. **Breakfast** (Jones Dining Hall)
9:30 a.m. **Respect the Line (Title IX)**
10:40 a.m. **Campus Resources Session #1**
(Information Technology Services)
11:45 a.m. **Lunch** (Jones Dining Hall)
11:45 a.m. **College Chat & Chew**
* Jones Dining Hall - College of Engineering and Technology majors
2:00 p.m. **Campus Resources Session #2**
(ACE, Student Conduct, Police and Public Safety)
3:00 p.m. **Campus Resource Sessions #3**
(Student Life and Engagement, Career Services, Fitness and Wellness, Royal Court, SGA, TAB)
4:30 p.m. **Dinner** (Jones Dining Hall)
5:30 p.m. **College Chat & Chew**
* Gateway Dining Hall - College of Humanities and Social Sciences majors
7:00 p.m. **Freshman Talent Show**

11
AUG
TUESDAY

7:00 a.m. **Breakfast** (Jones Dining Hall)
9:30 a.m. **Campus Resources Session #4**
(Student Support Services, Counseling Services, Health Services, CCAMPIS, Library Services)
10:30 a.m. **Domestic/Dating Violence Workshop**
11:30 a.m. **Lunch** (Jones Dining Hall)
11:30 a.m. **College Chat & Chew**
* Jones Dining Hall - College of Education majors
1:45 p.m. **Chat: Greater Pride Trojans**
3:15 p.m. **VCAN Meet & Greet**
4:00 p.m. **Freshman Focus Mentoring Meet-Up**
4:30 p.m. **Dinner** (Jones Dining Hall)
5:30 p.m. **College Chat & Chew**
* Gateway Dining Hall - R.F. Lewis College of Business majors
8:00 p.m. **Club Foster** (Foster Hall)

12
AUG
WEDNESDAY

7:30 a.m. **Breakfast** (Jones Dining Hall)
9:30 a.m. **Young Alumni Panel**
11:00 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions #1** (campus-wide)
12:00 p.m. **Lunch (Cafe Mixer)**
2:00 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions #2** (campus-wide)
3:00 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions #3** (campus-wide)
4:00 p.m. **Honors College Meet & Greet**
4:45 p.m. **Dinner** (Jones Dining Hall)
5:30 p.m. **College Chat & Chew**
* Gateway Dining Hall - College of Natural and Health Sciences majors
7:00 p.m. **Trojan Games**

13
AUG
THURSDAY

7:00 a.m. **Breakfast** (Jones Dining Hall)
9:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions #4** (campus-wide)
10:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions #5** (campus-wide)
11:30 a.m. **Lunch** (Jones Dining Hall)
11:30 a.m. **College Chat & Chew**
* Jones Dining Hall - College of Agriculture majors
2:00 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions #6** (campus-wide)
3:00 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions #7** (campus-wide)
4:00 p.m. **First Generation Meet & Greet**
4:30 p.m. **Dinner** (Jones Dining Hall)
5:30 p.m. **College Chat & Chew**
* Jones Dining Hall - Undecided majors
9:00 p.m. **Library Social** (Johnston Memorial Library)

14
AUG
FRIDAY

7:00 a.m. **Breakfast** (Jones Dining Hall)
8:15 a.m. **Meet/Prepare for Pinning Ceremony**
(various locations across campus)
9:30 a.m. **New Trojan Pinning Ceremony**
(VSU Multipurpose Center)
11:00 a.m. **Lunch** (Jones Dining Hall)
1:30 p.m. **Class Photo** (Rogers Stadium)
2:00 p.m. **Yard Fest**
4:30 p.m. **Dinner** (Jones Dining Hall)

15
AUG
SATURDAY

8:30 a.m. **Community Service (optional)**
(VSU Multipurpose Center parking lot)
10:30 a.m. **Brunch** (Jones Dining Hall)
12:00 p.m. **Pool Party**
4:30 p.m. **Dinner** (Jones Dining Hall)

16
AUG
SUNDAY

10:30 a.m. **Brunch** (Jones Dining Hall)
11:00 a.m. **Sunday Inspirational Service & Brunch**
(Appomattox Overlook)
4:30 p.m. **Dinner** (Jones Dining Hall)

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Orientation and Familiarization
2. Building Community and Belonging
3. Promoting Engagement and Involvement
4. Supporting the Transition
5. Setting the Tone for College Life



NEW TROJAN EXPERIENCE

Top Program Components

Campus Resources

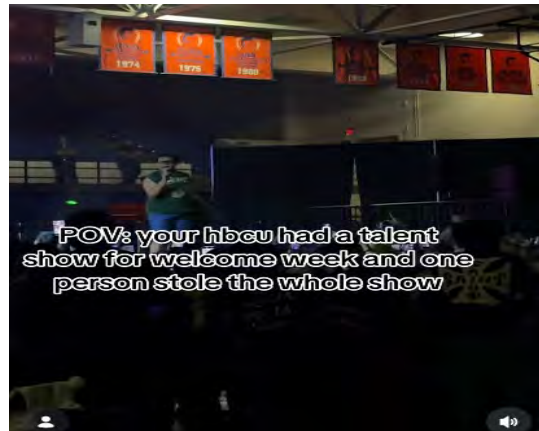
College Chat & Chews

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Young Alumni Panel

Evening Engagement Activities

New Trojan Pinning Ceremony



FAMILY WEEKEND

Come experience the spirit of VSU while spending quality time with your student, connecting with the Trojan community, and enjoying a weekend filled with activities, fellowship, and VSU pride.





Save the Date

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Family Weekend

FAMILY TIES & TROJAN PRIDE

[Register here](#) or [scan me.](#)





Greater Happens Here
First Year Experience



Degree Completion Navigation

Strategic Initiatives



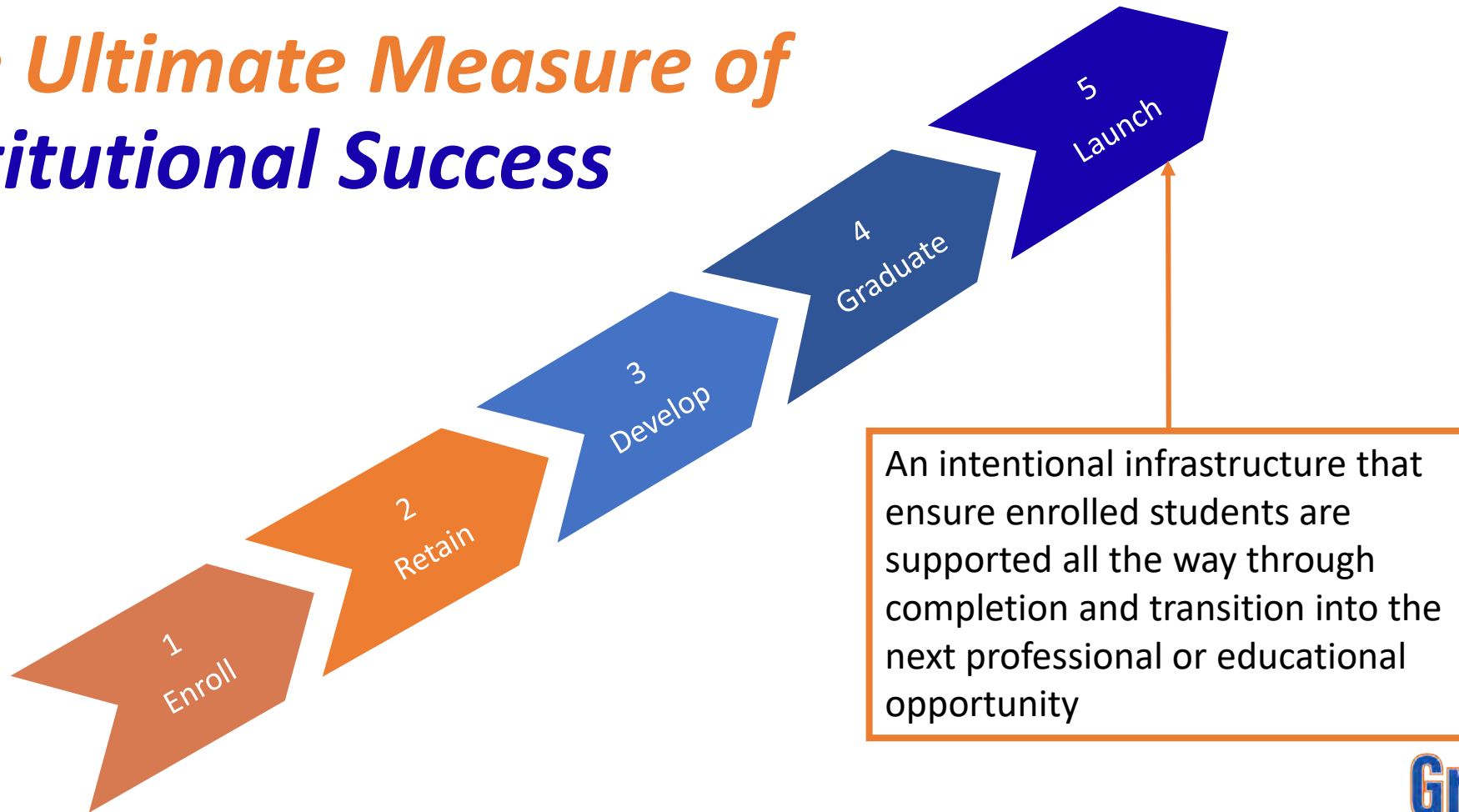
Degree Completion Specialist (DCS)

*The Engine for
Student Success*



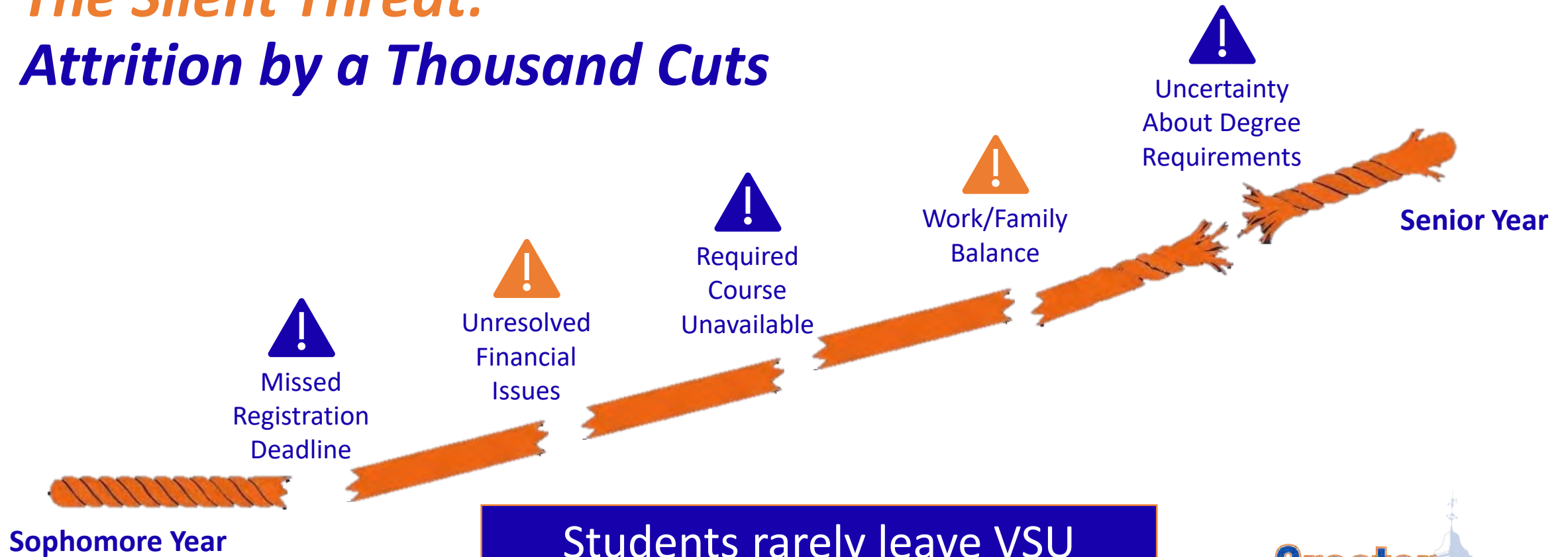
Degree Completion Specialists (DCS)

The Ultimate Measure of Institutional Success



Degree Completion Specialists (DCS)

The Silent Threat: *Attrition by a Thousand Cuts*



Students rarely leave VSU
because of one major event.

Degree Completion Specialist (DCS)

Bridging the Gap: Why a New Model is Required

Traditional Advising	Degree Completion Specialist
Course Selection & Academic Requirements	The “Whole Student” & Whole Pathway
Reactive (Waiting for student to ask)	Proactive (Case-Management & Early Alert)
Semester-by-Semester Scheduling	Sophomore year through Career Launch
Exclusively Academic	Financial, Academic, Personal & Institutional Barrier Removal

Focus

Approach

Timeline

Scope



DCS 360 Degree Intervention Framework



Activating Data to Turn Stop-Outs into Retained Students

The Mechanism



Real-time Detection of At-Risk Behaviors

The Process

Trigger

Action

Results



“The institution must have an intentional infrastructure for ensuring that students who enter VSU are supported all the way through completion.”

Helping students stay on track and finish strong

Degree Completion Support

"Ms. Leverett is one person, I wish she could be the advisor for the entire VSU! 😊."

"Ms. Leverett has truly been a lighthouse for me as I reentered college. She has been amazingly available, patient, and knowledgeable throughout this process."

"Jamila Hunt is an incredible and dedicated advisor. She personally put her full effort into getting me across the stage."

"Ms. Jones is the reason I am successfully graduating from Virginia State University."

"She was kind, knowledgeable, and professional while assisting me with my class audits."

Ms. Leverett was also helpful in reviewing my work-life credit submission."

"10/10 best help yet!!"

"I highly recommend Ashley to anyone seeking clear guidance and strong support in their academic journey."

"My experience was really good and helpful."

"Outstanding!"

LaMya Riley

Expected Fall 2026 | BIS in Applied Business Administration



WHY I CHOSE BIS

LaMya selected the BIS pathway as a route that allowed her to remain focused on degree completion while pursuing an applied business concentration aligned with her academic goals.

MY BIS EXPERIENCE

LaMya describes her advising experience as critical to her persistence. During a difficult period in her final academic stretch, she credits Jamila Hunt with advocating for her, helping her navigate academic challenges, and supporting her continued progress toward graduation.

WHERE I AM NOW

LaMya is on track to graduate in Fall 2026 with a Bachelor of Individualized Studies in Applied Business Administration.

Brittney Knight

Expected Fall 2026 | BIS in Applied Education Studies

WHY I CHOSE BIS

Brittney returned to Virginia State University after an earlier attempt at higher education with a renewed sense of purpose and determination to finish what she started. The BIS pathway gave her a practical route to reengage with the University and continue toward degree completion.

MY BIS EXPERIENCE

Brittney credits her advisors with helping her navigate challenges, remain on track toward graduation, and feel personally supported throughout her return to VSU. She has emphasized that she never felt like simply another student or number and that consistent encouragement helped her keep moving forward.

WHERE I AM NOW

Brittney is currently employed with Capital One as a Learning Associate in Retail Learning and Development. After graduation, she plans to continue growing in Learning and Development while pursuing opportunities that combine marketing, employee development, and engagement. Her long-term goal is to move into a leadership or strategy focused role.



Brittany Walston

Class of 2026 | BIS in Applied Social Services

WHY I CHOSE BIS

Brittany chose the Bachelor of Individualized Studies because its flexibility allowed her to continue progressing toward graduation while focusing her studies on Applied Social Services. She valued a pathway that connected academic work to real life and career experiences.

MY BIS EXPERIENCE

Brittany describes her BIS experience as life changing. She credits Jamila Hunt, Forrest Black, Breyon Glenn, and the BIS team with providing the guidance, encouragement, and support she needed to remain on track. She especially valued the program flexibility, accessible resources, and connection between coursework and her career goals.

WHERE I AM NOW

Brittany graduated in May 2026 and has since received a promotion and a new office with the City of Petersburg, where she serves as a Collection Specialist. She plans to expand her experience in social services and eventually own a group home that provides a safe and supportive environment for individuals in her community.





Student Success

Our Highest Priority

WHAT STUDENTS ARE TELLING US *Recurring themes from advising survey comments*

SUPPORT

*"I felt heard, seen, understood,
and cared for."*

Sheria Johnson Wynn

GUIDANCE

*"Her guidance and patience are what
every student should experience."*

Louise Perkins

ADVOCACY

*"I feel that she genuinely advocated
for me."*

Nasia Martin Chapel

COMPLETION

*"They are the reason I am
successfully graduating."*

Nydia Dunkley

CONFIDENCE

*"My advisor and director kept me
on the right track."*

Brittany Walston

RESPONSIVENESS

*"She was quick to respond when I had
questions or concerns."*

Joelle Chalmers

QUESTIONS