**Academic Affairs Reorganizations**

The Langdale College of Business has reorganized four departments to three as follows:

* The Department of Accounting (remains a stand-alone department)
* The Department of Management and International Business is now the Department of Management and Marketing
* The Department of Economics & Finance is now the Department of Economics, Finance, & Healthcare Administration

**Departmental Name Changes**

* The African American Studies Program is now the Africana Studies Program.

**New and Updated Academic Programs/Curriculum**

* New Degree Programs:
  + Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
  + BBA with a Major in General Business (eDegree)
* New Degree Names:
  + BBA in Economics is now BBA in Applied Economics
  + MS in Criminal Justice is now MS in Criminal Justice Administration
* Minor in African American Studies is now Minor in Africana Studies
* New Tracks in Existing Degree Programs:
  + Pre-Law in the BA in Political Science
  + Computational Mathematics in BS in Applied Mathematics
* New Minors/certificates:
* Certificate in Community and Technical College Leadership
* Deactivated Majors:
  + BA with a Major in Legal Assistant Studies
* Deactivated Tracks:
  + Adult-Gero Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Track in the MSN
* Core Curriculum Updates:
  + DATA 1501 (Introduction to Data Science) is now available in Area D
  + PHYS 1111K and 1112K added to Area D2
* Delivery Mode Change:
  + MAT in Music Teacher Education is now fully online

**NEW ONLINE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

VSU’s Online College for Career Advancement (OCCA) <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/career-advancement/> begins this fall offering the following academic programs taught totally online in 8-week terms:

* B.S. Criminal Justice
* B.S. Psychology
* B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies
* B.B.A Management
* B.S. Organizational Leadership
* B.S.Ed. Elementary Education
* B.B.A. General Business

One additional program will come online in Spring 2022:

* B.S. Computer Information Systems

**New Services Available**

* **Online Readiness Indicator by SmarterMeasure (**[**https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/online-programs/online-right.php**](https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/online-programs/online-right.php)**)** : As part of their orientation materials, all new VSU students are asked to complete a new online readiness assessment. We are using SmarterMeasure, a nationally recognized research-based assessment tool that evaluates non-cognitive attributes, technical skills, and readiness for online and self-regulated learning. The SmarterMeasure assessment identifies students who may lack the skills and qualities necessary for successful remote learning and may be at risk of completing their programs. The assessment takes about 25-30 minutes to complete, although students can log out and resume at a later date if they are unable to complete it the first time through. Students receive immediate results in the form of an individualized report that graphically presents areas of strengths and weaknesses. The report provides links to tutorials designed to help students develop skills in their weak areas and manage the demands of learning online. Summary reports will be available for advisors, faculty, success coaches, etc.

**Location Changes**

* The Department of Music has relocated to the renovated Powell Hall.

**Pilot Projects**

**First Year Seminars (FYSE)**: In Summer 2021 the FYSE 1101 predesigned course was piloted. This course is designed to assist first-year students in acquiring and/or enhancing applicable skills related to their academic and co-curricular goals. In addition, students are guided through the application of those skills using a variety of activities including reflection activities and the completion of a signature assignment. Additional sections of the predesigned course will be offered in the fall. Information sessions about how colleges and departments can teach sections of the predesigned course will be provided during the 2021-2022 academic year. <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/freshman-learning/first-year-seminars.php>

**Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)**: VSU’s new QEP is focused on providing meaningful experiential learning for students. The program will pilot this fall. Look for email announcements throughout the year and regular updates posted at <https://qep.valdosta.edu/> Dr. Colin Walker, Department of Communication Arts, is serving as Interim QEP Coordinator in 2021-22.

**Revised or Updated Policies and Procedures**

* Effective Summer 2021, all undergraduate students are limited to ten course withdrawal (“W”) grades for their entire enrollment at Valdosta State University. A student may not accumulate more than 3 course withdrawals in an academic year. Beginning on the sixth withdrawal during enrollment at VSU and each subsequent withdrawal, academic advisor approval must be received prior to the student withdrawal taking place. Once a student has accumulated three “W” grades in an academic year or more than ten “W” grades during their entire undergraduate enrollment, all subsequent withdrawals (whether initiated by the student in Banner or initiated by the instructor during attendance verification) will be recorded as “WF.” The grade of “WF” is calculated as an “F” for GPA purposes. Any appeal for additional “W” grades must be made to the Office of Student Success. (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/advising/withdrawal-policy.php>).

**Updated Webpages**

* Check the “Faculty Resources” page at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/faculty-resources.php> for any additional items for Fall 2021 Faculty Resources.
* The Academic Affairs “Syllabi” page (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/syllabi.php>) with guidelines for information to be included on syllabi has some major new additions, including updated guidelines for statements about guidelines for technology use in the course and a revised Title IX syllabus statement.
* A new resource page on Students Concerns and Complaints/Grievances is available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/concerns-complaints-grievances.php>. This page outlines the various types of students concerns/complaints and the appeal processes available.
* The Guidelines for New or Changed Courses or Curriculum at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/guidelines-for-new-or-changed-courses-or-curriculum.php> has been substantially revised with more information about processes and procedures for new or revised courses and curriculum.
* “Academic Honesty at VSU” (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsu.php>) has been updated to include more Academic Honesty Resources for both faculty and students as well as more information about the Academic Honesty Tools we have at VSU, including Turnitin and Respondus Lockdown Monitor and Browser.

**Announcements and Information**

* **The General Education at VSU meeting will be held on Monday, August 9, 2021, 2p-3:30p in the HSBA Auditorium.** The meeting will include updates related to various interconnected VSU and USG initiatives and breakout sessions. The General Education meeting is open to all VSU faculty, staff, and students. Everyone at VSU has ownership of general education. We invite you to be actively engaged in shaping what general education looks like at VSU. We look forward to seeing you at the General Education at VSU meeting. During the 2021-2022 academic year the VSU community will have the opportunity to engage in several general education projects:
  + FYSE 1101 predesigned course pilots
  + FYSE learning communities
  + Defining general education at VSU sessions
  + General education assessment training
* During the fall, departments will develop rubrics to align to the newly revised **Faculty Evaluation Model** (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/faculty-evaluation-model.php>).
* **Post Awards support** is now a function of OSPRA <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/research/office-of-sponsored-programs-research-administration/grants-process.php>
* **Updated Final Exam Schedule:**  In Fall 2021, final exams will be held from Tuesday, December 7 through Friday, December 10. The final exam schedule is posted at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/documents/final-exam-schedule.pdf>.
* **Parking Permit Changes**: Beginning fall semester virtual parking permits using your license plate will be used on campus. The recently implemented **L**icense **P**late **R**ecognition (LPR) system must be able to recognize your vehicle tag number as your virtual permit from the drive lane.  So it is critical that all vehicles do not pull through or back into spaces.  This will avoid unnecessary tickets. Starting July 1, 2021, Students, Faculty and Staff members will go to [www.vsuparking.com](http://www.vsuparking.com) to purchase the virtual permit. The process is the same as in the past, except no physical permit will be issued.  Up to three vehicles can be registered per account (motorcycles are included), but only one vehicle can be parked on campus at a time through this new system.  A permit number will be assigned to your vehicle so please make sure your license plate number is entered correctly.  The annual prices for permits will remain the same as follows: Faculty/Administration - $95; Staff - $55
* **Payroll, Procurement and Budget information**, including Budget Manager access to FY22 Budget data, can be located on the websites listed below: <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/payroll/>

<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/financial-services/>

<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/budget-services/>

**Academic Affairs**

* **CELT and eLearning:** CELT and eLearning are welcoming new staff members Bryan FitzGerald (Training Specialist for CELT-eLearning) and Kaitlyn Hunt (Administrative Coordinator for CELT). Keep on the lookout this year to register for CELT-eLearning trainings and CELT faculty learning communities (FLCs) that will cover new pedagogical topics, innovative educational technologies, and other professional development for faculty, ranging from high-impact practices online to an academic growth mindset to writing reflections for formative faculty annual reviews. Over the summer, the instructional designers in eLearning have been busy working with faculty to develop courses for VSU’s new Online College for Career Advancement (OCCA), which they will continue to do this fall, but CELT and eLearning are also available for individual faculty consultation. You can visit CELT at <https://www.valdosta.edu/celt/> and eLearning at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/>
* **The Academic Affairs Strategic Plan** is still in progress. You can see the plan at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/documents/academic-affairs-sp.pdf>
* **Resource Reminder**: The Handbook for Department Heads and Directors is available online at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/department-heads-handbook.php>
* **SmartEvals:** Trainingcourses are scheduled virtually for Fall 2021; see offering dates at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/>.
* **APL nextED:** Trainingcourses are scheduled virtually for Fall 2021; see offering dates at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/sacs/faculty-credentials.php>.
* **Comprehensive Program Review (CPR) for 2021-22:** Theseprograms will participate in program review: BBA Healthcare Administration, DPA, BSN, MSN, MS Biology, and SLPD.
* **GA Handbook:** The new GA allocation model for GAs and GA supervisors is available at

<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/documents/grad-asst-handbook-2.pdf>

**Student Affairs**

* **MENTAL HEALTH**: Student mental health support and education are a top priority. 24/7 support is available to students in addition to other helpful resources. Please assist in ensuring students are aware of these mental health resources. Students can find more online at [Valdosta.edu/hopeconnect](https://www.valdosta.edu/hopeconnect/).
* **STUDENT BEHAVIOR**: You can report students of concern to the VPSA/Dean of Student’s Office online at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/our-services.php>.
* **COVID OPERATIONS & CLASSROOM NOTIFICATIONS**: The Student Health Center continues to offer COVID testing, COVID vaccination, and monitors the daily reports of COVID+ individuals. Contact tracing is also ongoing. Faculty will receive a notice from the Dean of Students for any student that has a verified reason to be absent from class. If you do not receive the notification, you should request that the student contact the Office of Student Affairs at 229-333-5941.
* **VSU CARES FOOD & FUNDING**: We offer a food pantry and in some cases emergency funding support for students in need. More is available online at <https://www.valdosta.edu/vsucares/>.
* **STUDENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS AND RESOURCES**: You can access additional information regarding the Division of Student Affairs online at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/>.

**Important Dates Fall 2021**

August 16, 2021: Fall 2021 **first class day** for regular term classes and Short Session I

August 19, 2021: **Fall Registration** ends and **Fee Payment Deadline** (11:59 pm)

**Graduate Executive Committee** meets (September 17, October 15, November 19)

August 18-September 3, 2021: **Upload course syllabi** into APL, formerly Digital Measures (<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/sacs/documents/course-syllabi-upload.pdf>)

August 23-27, 2021: **Attendance Verification** for VSU courses that began on August 16. All attendance verifications are due by 9 am on August 27

August 25, 2021: **Faculty submit P and T** dossiers to departmental promotion and tenure committees (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/documents/tenure-promotion-timeline.pdf>)

August 26, 2021: The Happening <https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-life/special-events/the-happening/>

September 6, 2021: **Labor Day Holiday**; university closed; no classes meet

September 7-9, 2021 **Short Session I Midterm Grades Due** (by 9 am Sept. 9)

September 13, 2021: **Academic Committee** meets (October 4, November 8, January 10, February 14, March 7, April 11). Materials due to Registrar’s Office one week before meeting. To appear in the 2022-2023 catalog, all curriculum changes should be through Academic Committee by the February 2022 meeting. <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php>

September 8, 2021: **Departmental P and T Committees** submit report to Department Heads

September 22-October 6, 2021: Banner open for **faculty to post Midterm grades** for full-term courses**.** Midterm grades are due by 5 pm on October 6.

September 30, 2021: **IERs and IEPs due** to University Assessment Committee. Note: Administrative IERs/IEPs are also due Sept. 30.(<http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/program-review.php>)

October 1, 2021: Textbook Ordering Deadline for Spring and Summer Classes

<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/textbooks-and-materials.php>

October 1-2, 2021: **Family Weekend** <https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-life/special-events/family-weekend.php>

October 6, 2021: **Department Heads provide P and T recommendations** to College P and T Committees

October 7, 2021: Midterm grades available and **midterm for full-term classes**

**Short Session I Last Class Day**

October 9, 2021 **Open House** (February 5, 2022, April 2, 2022)

October 7-17, 2021: **Short Session I Grade Entry** (grades not available to students)

October 11-12, 2021 **Fall Break** (no classes meet; the university is open)

October 14, 2021: **Last date for students to withdraw** from full-term classes

October 13, 2021: **Short Session II First Class Day**

October 18-22, 2021: **Short Session II Attendance Verification (Due Oct. 25 by 9 am)**

October 27, 2021: **College P and T Committees** provide recommendations to Dean

November 1, 2021: **Registration** opens (by classification) for Spring and Summer 2022 classes

November 2-4, 2021: **Short Session II Midterm Grades Due (Due Nov. 4 at 9 am)**

November 5, 2021: **Short Session II Midterm and Withdrawal Deadline**

November 5-6, 2021: **Homecoming** <https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-life/our-services/special-events/homecoming.php>

November 24-26, 2021: **Thanksgiving Holiday**; (no classes meet; university closed)

November 26, 2021: **Deans forward P and T recommendations** to Academic Affairs

December 6, 2021 **Last Class Day** for full-term classes and Short Session II

December 7-10, 2021: **Final Exams,** administered by this schedule:

[**https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/final-exam-schedules.php**](https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/final-exam-schedules.php)

December 8, 2021: **P and T dossiers uploaded** for university committee

December 10, 2021 **Graduate School Commencement Ceremony**

December 11, 2021: **Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony**

December 13, 2021: **Final grades** must be posted in BANNER by 9 am

December 20, 2021-

January 2, 2022: **University closed**

January 3, 2022: **University opens for Spring 2022**

January 10, 2021: Spring 2022 **first class day**

**New Faculty and Administrators**

* VSU welcomes new full-time faculty members and administrators to campus; see the complete list at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/welcome-new-faculty.php>
* Dr. Karin P. Roland, Dean, Langdale College of Business Administration
* Dr. Pierre-Richard J. Cornely, Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics
* Dr. Ray Elson, Interim Associate Dean, Langdale College of Business Administration
* Dr. Isrea L. Butler, Department Head of Music
* Dr. Adam Wood, Department Head of English
* Dr. Jay Rickman, Department Head of History
* Dr. Candace Witherspoon, Interim Department Head, Accounting
* Dr. Elvan Aktas, Interim Department Head, Economics, Finance, and Healthcare Administration
* Dr. Crystal Randolph, Interim Department Head, Communication Sciences & Disorders
* Dr. Steven Downey, Interim Department Head, Leadership, Technology, and Workforce Development
* Mr. Michael Schmidt, Interim Department Head, Art and Design