



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES FALL 2024

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REORGANIZATIONS

- The English Language Institute (ELI) is now a unit of the University College; the office is located in the Center for International Programs.
- The College of Nursing and Health Sciences has reorganized its administrative structure with an Interim Dean and two interim department heads.

UNIVERSITY RELOCATIONS AND REORGANIZATIONS

- University Advancement has moved from the Continuing Education Building on Patterson Street to the 2nd floor of Pound Hall on the Steele North Campus.
- Communications and Marketing has moved to the University Center, Entrance 5.
- PACE moved to University Center North.
- Vice President’s Office for Finance and Administration and Budget and Payroll Services moved to University Center, Entrance 7.
- Auxiliary Services main office has moved to University Center, Entrance 5.
- The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will temporarily relocate to University Center Entrance 7 and Bailey Science Building while the Admissions house undergoes renovations this Fall.
 - Campus Tours and Admissions visits will start at the University Center Entrance 7.

NEW AND UPDATED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS/CURRICULUM

Updated Core Curriculum: Core IMPACTS

Systemwide Learning Outcomes and Career-Ready Competencies have been established for each Core IMPACTS area. To be included in a Core IMPACTS area, courses must address the approved Learning Outcomes and Career-Ready Competencies for that area.

<http://catalog.valdosta.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs/>

AREA	NAME	Hours	Former Core Area
Institutional Priority	Institution	4 (STEM)- 5 (nonSTEM)	B
Mathematics and Quantitative Skills	Mathematics	3	A2
Political Science and US History	Citizenship	6	E (required)
Arts, Humanities, and Ethics	Humanities	6	C
Communicating in Writing	Writing	6	A1
Technology, Mathematics, and Sciences	STEM	10 (nonSTEM)- 11 (STEM and NURS)	D
Social Sciences	Social Sciences	6	E (electives)
+ Field of Study		18	F



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Area Shorthand	Orienting Question	Career-Ready Competencies
Institution	How does my institution help me to navigate the world?	Critical Thinking Teamwork Time Management
Mathematics	How do I measure the world?	Information Literacy Inquiry and Analysis Problem-Solving
Citizenship	How do I prepare for my responsibilities as an engaged citizen?	Critical Thinking Intercultural Competence Persuasion
Humanities	How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?	Ethical Reasoning Information Literacy Intercultural Competence
Writing	How do I write effectively in different contexts?	Critical Thinking Information Literacy Persuasion
STEM	How do I ask scientific questions or use data, mathematics, or technology to understand the universe?	Inquiry and Analysis Problem-Solving Teamwork
Social Sciences	How do I understand human experiences and connections?	Intercultural Competence Perspective-Taking Persuasion

All faculty offering courses in the Core IMPACTS areas must include a syllabus statement specific to the IMPACTS area; syllabi templates are available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/general-education/>.

CORE CURRICULUM UPDATES

- INQR courses have replaced PERS courses and the STEM area features a reduction in required lab courses for non-STEM and non-nursing majors
- New INQR courses replace FYSE courses: INQR 1001 (3 hours), 2001 (1 hour), 2002 (2 hours), and 2003 (3 hours)
- New Chemistry option for the STEM area for non-science/non-nursing majors: CHEM 1010/1010L: Chemistry to World Citizens; the course may be taken as either a 3 hour course without lab or can be a four hour course with a lab.

MAJOR REACTIVATIONS

- MED in Special Education

NEW TRACKS/OPTIONS IN EXISTING MAJORS

- Geospatial Technology and Urban Planning, Natural Hazards Management, and Environmental and Climate Sciences for the BS in Environmental Geosciences
- Healthcare Administration in Organizational Leadership



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NEW MINORS

- Online Data Science

NEW INTERNAL CERTIFICATES

- Geographic Information Systems and Planning
- Trauma (MSW)

NEW PREFIXES

- WGST (Women's and Gender Studies) to WGSS (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

NEW DUAL ENROLLMENT PATHWAYS

- Fundamentals of Computer Science
- Fundamentals of Data Science
- Pre-Allied Health
- Pre-Medicine
- Fundamentals of Pre-Pharmacy and Chemistry
- Fundamentals of Sustainability and Climate Science

DEACTIVATIONS

- BSED in Health and Physical Education
- BA in Mathematics
- BS in Astronomy
- MS in Exercise Physiology
- MED in Middle Grades Education
- MED in Secondary Education
- BA in French Language and Literature
- BFA in Art Teacher Education
- BS in Education in Special Education
- BS in Applied Mathematics
- BS in Physics
- Clinical Doctorate in Speech-Language Pathology
- MAT in ESOL
- MA in History
- MSED in Middle Grades Education

DEGREE NAME CHANGES

- MAT in Foreign Language Education (FLED) has been renamed to MAT World Languages and will include a track in English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

NEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- **Remote Proctoring Policy** (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/remote-proctoring-policy.php>) for all faculty using remote proctoring for examinations was approved by the Faculty Senate in February 2024 and the President in March 2024. The policy also contains



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appendices with suggested syllabus statements and other information to assist in implementing the policy.

- **Course Repeat Policy for Graduate Students:** Under the Graduate Course Repeat Policy, graduate students may repeat a course for grade replacement in a maximum of two courses with posted letter grades of “C,” “D,” or “F”. A course can be repeated for grade replacement only once.

When a graduate course is taken at VSU and repeated at VSU with a higher grade, the highest grade received will be counted in the institutional GPA calculations. If a student repeats a course at VSU but receives a lower grade, the higher grade from a previous attempt will be used in the calculation of the institutional GPA. The courses must be taken and repeated at VSU (<http://catalog.valdosta.edu/graduate/academic-standards-regulations/>).

REVISED OR UPDATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- **Extended Time for Students to Withdraw From Classes Without Academic Penalty:** At its May 2024 meeting, the Board of Regents approved allowing institutions to extend the withdrawal period to the 11th week during a 15 week term and, for shorter term classes, generally one to two weeks before the final class day (https://www.usg.edu/academic_affairs_handbook/section2/C749/#p253_withdrawal_without_academic_penalty). VSU has thus extended its withdrawal period beginning this fall semester in order to allow faculty more time to provide feedback to students on their course performance. This fall, for 15 week classes, midterm grades will still be posted by the traditional time (October 9) but the last date for withdrawal will not be until October 31st. Similar changes will occur for classes over shorter parts of term. Please consult the Registrar’s Office Fall 2024 Faculty Planning Guide at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/faculty-staff-resources.php> for all dates.
- **Revisions to the Faculty Evaluation Model** to bring the section on Post-Tenure into alignment with USG policy were approved by the Faculty Senate at its January 2024 meeting and approved by the President in February 2024. These updates are incorporated in the document at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/faculty-evaluation-model.php#posttenure>.
- **Additional Faculty Resources for Preparing Syllabi** are also now available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/syllabi.php>. Please ensure that your syllabus contains the most current required [Accommodations Statement and Non-Discrimination and Title IX Statement](#).

UPDATED RESOURCES

- **The 2024-25 Academic Catalog** is live and posted at <http://catalog.valdosta.edu/>. VSU’s new catalog editor is Dr. Emma Kostopolus (ekostopolus@valdosta.edu).
- **The VSU 2030 Strategic Plan** with its Goals, and Strategies is available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/strategicplan/>.
- **Updated Academic Honesty webpage:** “The Academic Honesty at VSU” webpage (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsuhp>) has



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been updated with additional Academic Honesty resources (including some options for ways to discuss AI use in the classroom) and with some sample Academic Integrity Statements that faculty could adapt for their own use.

NEW RESOURCES

- **Turnitin Draft Coach:** Turnitin Draft Coach (available to VSU students through Microsoft Word 365) gives users access to Turnitin Similarity Reports, Citations Reports, and Grammar Guide directly in Microsoft Word on the web. Draft Coach helps students build writing and research skills and provides real-time feedback and guidance on similarity, citations, and grammar. Information on how to access and use this tool is available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/documents/using-turnitin-draft-coach-with-instructor-notes.pdf>.
- **Lactation Room:** Available to all VSU students, faculty and staff: The Lactation Room provides access for mothers to express milk while on campus. Students, staff, and faculty must visit the Main Circulation Desk to access the room and should bring their own coolers or storage equipment to store their milk after it has been expressed
- **Knack Peer Tutoring:** Students looking for additional assistance outside of the classroom are advised to consider working with a peer tutor through Knack. VSU has partnered with Knack to provide students with access to verified peer tutors who have previously aced this course. To view available tutors, visit vsu.joinknack.com and sign in with your student account. If students have questions, they can contact the Academic Support Center.

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- **Comprehensive Program Review (CPR) for 2024-25:** These programs (Cohort 2) are scheduled for review this year: AAS Dental Hygiene, BA Spanish Language and Literature, BA Biology, BS Exercise Physiology, BS Environmental Geosciences, MAcc Accounting, MAT Foreign Language Education, MAT Music Education, MPA Public Administration, MS Psychology (Industrial/Organizational Track), MS Marriage and Family Therapy, MED Counselor Education, EDS School Counseling, MAT Special Education: General Curriculum, MAT Special Education: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Track, MAT Health and Physical Education, MSW Social Work. Information available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/program-review.php> Program Review orientation will be Friday, September 6, 2024 in West Hall 1002 from 9:00-10:00.
- **Update the Our Team/Faculty & Staff Listing webpage:** Please ensure that our new faculty are added and departed faculty are removed from your department's our team/faculty & staff webpage.

CELT/eLEARNNG

- A total of 27 VSU faculty have now completed the [CELT-eLearning Online Teaching Certificate](#). Since the certificate launched two years ago, a total of 1,140 training hours have also been taken by faculty.
- A cohort of 17 VSU faculty have begun to complete the new [CELT-QEP Experiential Learning Certificate](#) that launched late this past spring followed by a retreat in May. Throughout this



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coming academic year, they will take additional core and elective courses on topics such as Service-learning, Work-Based Learning, and Experiential Learning for Online classes, and they will be matched with peer mentors who are the QEP's Experiential Learning Faculty Ambassadors to assist with implementing and assessing experiential learning activities in their courses.

- CELT-eLearning will ramp up faculty development on artificial intelligence (AI). CELT Tuesday Teaching Tips and eLearning's Tips and Tolls will focus on AI. A new CELT-eLearning webinar is titled, "Leverage Draft Coach by Turnitin to Improve Student Writing with AI." Or sign up for one or both of the [CELT faculty learning communities \(FLCs\)](#) about AI that will run this fall semester to explore how to integrate AI effectively and ethically into courses. A multidisciplinary team of faculty, led by CELT-eLearning Director Jamie Landau, was also selected to attend the AAC&U's inaugural [Institute on AI, Pedagogy, and the Curriculum](#). They will bring back to VSU what they learn at the institute to educate colleagues about best practices for teaching with AI and academic honesty, address disciplinary differences in approaches to AI, and develop a plan for faculty/staff to leverage AI for "career readiness" of students.
- CELT-eLearning finalized the transition from Collaborate Ultra to Teams.
- eLearning has introduced a series of eLearning Tips and Tools to communicate and promote Quality Matters best practices in online course design. Three episodes have been launched, and a total of eight episodes are planned.
 - Quality Matters Standards in Action
 - Quality Matters Scaffolding Learning
 - Quality Matters Intentional Engagement
- eLearning partnered with faculty subject matter experts to develop 14 additional online core courses to offer as part of the SmartPath Core program in 2024.
- eLearning collaborated with Student Advising and the Registrar to develop a comprehensive Reference Guide for Advising Online Students.

IT

- VSU Wireless
 - The entire campus' wireless access points have been upgraded in order to provide more consistent service and to better accommodate students' diverse use (e.g. gaming)
 - Main campus Pedestrian Mall, Palms Dining quad and North Campus outdoor gathering spaces are scheduled to have outdoor wireless availability starting the Fall semester
 - Working with Athletics leadership to schedule time to install wireless in the Complex to accommodate about 4,500. This should be later in the 24-25 academic year.
 - Working with external vendors to bring wireless access to the VSU front lawn (later in the academic year into next summer)
- Continued conversion of VSU lab spaces to utilizing Virtual Desktop (VDI) technology allowing students to access core lab platforms in a VDI-ready campus lab or remotely from their personal device.
- Continued upgrade of Windows 10 faculty, staff, and lab machines to Windows 11 machines (end of support for Windows is 10/14/2025)
- Initiated an Artificial Intelligence committee that is engaging with multiple technologies under the AI umbrella (chatbot, generative AI, reporting and dashboard presentation of data)
- Will start the process of building a student experiential learning IT lab in Pine Hall for students to engage with different aspects of IT support and configuration - more to come.



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OCCA (Online College for Career Advancement)

- Fall 24 semester is the first semester in which target OCCA courses are going through Quality Matters review and certification
- OCCA Program specific marketing will be active in the Fall semester with a geographic focus in Georgia and surrounding regional states.
- OCCA will fund its Academic Affairs initiatives at just under \$2.1M for the academic year. This is up about 40% from the prior academic year.
- Target enrollment of about 1,320 students in the Fall 24 semester (about a 45% YoY increase)

ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

- CIVITAS platform will be replaced with the SLATE Student Success platform. A soft launch with Advising will roll out at the start of Fall semester. Additional guidance on reporting and documenting student concerns and performance alerts will also be included. Look for training opportunities to come in August – September.
- Hardship and Medical Withdrawal deadline for students is the last day of class. After the last day of class, any withdrawal submitted will require a letter of support from a professor or department head.
- Absentee Notifications submitted to the Vice President’s office are reviewed and all attempts are made to verify the legitimacy of the absence. When notices are sent to faculty it is for information purposes of a verified absence. Approval of absences within the guidelines of the course syllabus still remain responsibility of the professor. It is encouraged to work with students as much as possible to make up missed work or exams when absent.
 - <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/absentee-notification-form.php>

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Travel Changes

- All travelers must attest to their travel expense reports – delegates will no longer be able to do this on their behalf
- The paper Request for Payment form will be phased out and replaced by an electronic version in PeopleSoft

IMPORTANT DATES FALL 2024

August 15, 2024:	New Graduate Student Fall 2024 Kickoff 6-7:30pm
August 19, 2024:	Fall 2024 first class day for regular term classes and Short Session I
August 22, 2024	Fall Registration ends and Fee Payment Deadline (11:59 pm) Graduate Executive Committee meets (August, 22, September 19, October 17, November 21)
August 19-30, 2024:	Upload course syllabi into Success Portal (directions at https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/sacs/documents/cou-rse-syllabi-upload.pdf).



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August 26-30, 2024:	Attendance Verification for VSU courses that began on August 19. All attendance verifications are due by 9 am on August 30
August 28, 2024:	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 29, 2024:	The Happening https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-life/special-events/the-happening/
September 2, 2024:	Labor Day Holiday ; university closed; no classes meet
September 11, 2024:	Departmental P and T Committees submit recommendations to Department Heads and candidates.
September 12, 2024:	Short Session I Midterm Grades Due by 11 am
September 13-14, 2024:	Family Weekend
September 19, 2024:	Academic Committee meets (October 7, November 11, January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14). Materials due to Registrar's Office one week before meeting. To assure new curriculum appears in the 2025-2026 catalog, all curriculum changes should be through Academic Committee by the February 2025 meeting. https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php
September 26, 2024	Withdrawal Deadline for Short Session I
September 30-October 9, 2024:	Banner open for faculty to post Midterm grades for full-term courses. Midterm grades are due by 5 pm on October 9.
September 30, 2024:	IERs and IEPs due to University Assessment Committee. Note: Administrative IERs/IEPs are also due at this time. (https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/program-review.php)
October 2, 2024:	Department Heads provide P and T recommendations to College P and T Committees and candidates
October 10, 2024	Midterm (students able to view grades) Short Session I Last Class Day
October 10-16, 2024:	Short Session I Grade Entry (grades not officially available to students)
October 14-15, 2024	Fall Break (no classes meet; the university is open)
October 16, 2024:	Short Session II First Class Day (Registration ends October 18, at 11:59 pm)
October 16, 2024:	Textbook Ordering Deadline for Spring and Summer Classes https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/textbooks-and-materials.php
October 21-24, 2024:	Short Session II Attendance Verification (Due Oct. 24 by 11 am)
October 18-19, 2024:	Homecoming
October 23, 2024:	College P and T Committees provide recommendations to Deans and candidates
October 28, 2024:	Registration opens (by classification) for Spring and Summer 2025 classes
October 31, 2024:	Last date for students to withdraw from full-term classes



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November 7-8, 2024:	Short Session II Midterm Grades Due (Due Nov. 8 at 11 am)
November 22, 2024:	Deans forward P and T recommendations to Academic Affairs
	Short Session II Withdrawal Deadline
November 27-29, 2024:	Thanksgiving Holiday; (no classes meet; university closed)
December 9, 2024	Last Class Day for full-term classes and Short Session II
December 10-13, 2024:	Final Exams , administered by this schedule: https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/final-exam-schedules.php
December 11, 2024:	P and T dossiers uploaded for university committee
December 13, 2024	Graduate School Commencement Ceremony
December 14, 2024:	Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony
December 16, 2024:	Final grades must be posted in BANNER by 11 am
December 19, 2024-Jan.1, 2025	University closed
January 2, 2025:	University opens for Spring 2025
January 13, 2025:	Spring 2025 first class day

New Faculty and Administrators

- VSU welcomes new full-time faculty members to campus; see the complete list at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/welcome-new-faculty.php>
- VSU welcomes the following new academic administrators:
 - Dr. Nicole Cox, Interim Dean, College of the Arts
 - Dr. Michelle Ritter, Interim Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences
 - Professor Monika Meler, Interim Associate Dean, College of the Arts
 - Dr. Shani Wilfred, Interim Department Head of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice
 - Dr. Lenese Colson, Interim Department Head, Library and Information Studies
 - Dr. Mark Kasper, Interim Department Head, Health Sciences
 - Professor Abigail Heuss, Interim Head, Department of Art & Design
 - Dr. Peter Geldrich, Interim Department Head, Department of Music
 - Professor Paige Krispin, Interim Department Head, Nursing
 - Dr. David Starling, Director of Global Initiatives
 - Dr. Antoinette Gazda, Program Coordinator, Africana Studies
 - Dr. Julie Lester, Program Coordinator, Master of Public Administration
 - Dr. Fred Knowles, Program Coordinator, Doctor of Public Administration
 - Dr. Donna Sewell, General Education Coordinator