**Associate and bachelor’s degrees will be conferred at the university ceremony.** The ceremony is expected to last approximately one hour. Degree candidates wishing to be excused from Commencement must indicate their intention by going to the Hokie Spa website under “Application for Degree” and clicking on “I will not be attending Commencement.” Be sure to update your mailing address.

**Diplomas**

Doctoral diplomas are presented during the Graduate Ceremony. Master’s degree diplomas and education specialist certificates are mailed to the address that candidates are asked to provide to the Graduate School through Hokie Spa.

**Participation**

*All graduate degree candidates* must confirm their plans to attend Commencement by May 1, 2017. Participants should report to Cassell Coliseum on the Beamer Way side of the building. Signage will be posted to direct candidates to their specific staging area. Check-in at Cassell Coliseum begins at 1:15 p.m. and all candidates should be on site by 2:15 p.m.

_Doctoral_ candidates who will have met all requirements for graduation by May 5, 2017, are eligible to participate in Commencement.

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**UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

Friday, May 12, 2017, at Lane Stadium - Procession begins at 8:30 a.m.

**Associate and bachelor’s degrees will be conferred at the university ceremony.** The ceremony is expected to last approximately one hour. Degree candidates wishing to be excused from Commencement must indicate their intention by going to the Hokie Spa website under “Application for Degree” and clicking on “I will not be attending Commencement.” Be sure to update your mailing address.

**Diplomas**

_Undergraduate diplomas_ are not presented at the university ceremony. They are presented at the separate college and department ceremonies, except in the case of department ceremonies that are held on Friday.

_Undergraduate diplomas for candidates attending Friday departmental ceremonies_ may be picked up on Saturday during the time and location set by the department. If you prefer, you may request that your diploma be mailed by logging into Hokie Spa, selecting “Degree Menu” then selecting “Undergraduate Degree Menu” and “Add/Update Diploma Mailing Address.”

*Note:* This process will not alter your participation in the university or college/department ceremony.

If you have questions about your diploma, please call the Registrar’s office at 540-231-6252, or visit their website at [http://registrar.vt.edu/graduation-multi-brief.html](http://registrar.vt.edu/graduation-multi-brief.html).

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**Virginia Tech Commencement - Spring 2017**
Diplomas
Doctrinal diplomas are presented during the Graduate Ceremony. Master's degree diplomas and education specialist certificates are mailed to the address that candidates are asked to provide to the Graduate School through Hokie Spa.

Participation
All candidates must confirm their plans to attend Commencement by May 1, 2017. Please confirm your attendance through Hokie Spa. Refer to the following website for information: www.vt.edu/current-students/graduation. You may also contact the Graduate Student Services Office at 703-538-8327 or email your inquiry to gssoncr@vt.edu.

Check-in for all participants begins at 11:30 a.m. Graduate candidates should report to their department tables where they will be directed to robing rooms. Personal belongings cannot be stored in the robing rooms so be prepared to make arrangements in advance to secure personal items. All graduate candidates will march by degree, college, and department. Lineup will begin at 12:30 p.m. Late arrivals will march at the end of the line.

Guest Seating
Guests are urged to arrive in time to be seated in advance of the procession, which will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. Doors open at 12:15 p.m.

GENERAL INFORMATION
Commencement Phone Line: 540-231-3208 | Commencement Website: www.vt.edu/commencement
To assist you in locating the section where your degree candidate is seated during the University Ceremony, the following plan for seating is provided:

Worsham Field West:
• 2017 Class Officers
• Honors Students
• Engineering
• Liberal Arts & Human Sciences
• Natural Resources & Environment

Worsham Field East:
• Faculty, Ph.D., Ed.D.
• D.V.M., Master's
• Agriculture & Life Sciences
• Architecture & Urban Studies
• Business
• Science

Programs
Undergraduate candidates will be provided one complete Commencement program with a full listing of student names. Each college or department that holds a separate ceremony will receive programs for distribution to their respective students. Full programs will be distributed at the Graduate School and National Capital Region Commencement ceremonies. The final program, complete with student names, will be available online for anyone wishing to print additional copies.

Graduate and University Ceremonies Broadcast Live
Virginia Tech will offer live streaming video of the Graduate and University Commencement ceremonies. Links to the streams for both events will be accessible from www.vt.edu approximately one hour before each ceremony begins. At the conclusion of each ceremony, the video will be archived and accessible from the Commencement website at www.vt.edu/commencement.

Graduation Degree Requirements
In order to receive a degree, a student must have satisfied all academic requirements, must have fulfilled all financial obligations to the university, and must not have any pending charges, active suspensions, or dismissals by the Honor or Student Conduct systems.

Academic Apparel: Caps, Gowns, Hoods, Tassels, and Sashes
Academic apparel is required for all graduation ceremonies. Caps, gowns, hoods, and tassels may be purchased from University Bookstore on-campus (540-231-5991), Volume Two Bookstore off-campus (540-231-9674) and at www.bookstore.vt.edu. Faculty wishing to rent regalia may do so at the University Bookstore by April 28, 2017. Students who have a 3.40 GPA or above may also purchase an honor sash and pin packet to wear on their gowns. At the end of March a list of undergraduate students with a 3.40 GPA or above is provided to each bookstore location. Periodic updates are made to this list.

Announcements, Diploma Frames, Gifts, Flowers, and Commencement T-shirts
Personalized announcements may be ordered in advance at www.bookstore.vt.edu. Diploma frames, graduation gifts, non-personalized announcements, and Commencement T-Shirts that list the names of the graduating class may be purchased at the on-campus University Bookstore, Volume Two Bookstore off-campus, and at www.bookstore.vt.edu. On graduation day Commencement T-Shirts are available from on-site vendors. Graduation bouquets may be ordered in advance at www.bookstore.vt.edu, and on graduation day are available from on-site vendors.

When To Arrive
Due to multiple ceremonies being held in the same venue, it is recommended that guests not arrive more than one hour in advance of a scheduled ceremony to avoid traffic and parking delays or long wait times for building entry. Every effort will be made to have doors open approximately one hour prior to all college or departmental ceremonies.

Tickets Are Not Required for Commencement Ceremonies
Tickets are not required for Commencement ceremonies, and there is no limit to the number of guests you may bring. However, if attending a college or departmental ceremony in a smaller venue, please consider limiting your guests to immediate family. Overcrowding is not a concern in the larger venues, such as Lane Stadium, Cassell Coliseum, and Burruss Hall Auditorium.

Class Rings
All graduates may order class rings through the Alumni Association by calling them at 540-231-6285 or by visiting their website at www.vt.edu/classring.
Becoming Alumni of Virginia Tech

Graduation from Virginia Tech means you are continuing your VirginiaTech4Life relationship with the University. Update your contact information and stay in touch through alumni chapters, reunions, events, and special programs of the Alumni Association. For more information, visit www.alumni.vt.edu. Refer to www.alumni.vt.edu/young-alumni/seniortransition.html for graduating senior programs.

Accessibility Information for Individuals with Disabilities

Accessible seating for persons with impaired mobility is available at Cassell Coliseum and Lane Stadium. Accessible parking is available in the Cassell Coliseum parking lot on Beamer Way located directly across the street from the Merryman Center, and in the Lane Stadium parking lot for the University ceremony guests. Individuals with mobility impairment who are attending a ceremony in Cassell Coliseum are advised to enter through the Merryman Center entrance.

For additional information concerning accessibility and disability accommodations, visit the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) online at www.ssd.vt.edu, or call 540-231-3788. Two weeks prior to the Commencement ceremony, “Accessible (impaired mobility) Parking Passes”—which are not required if you have a DMV handicap tag—will be available for pickup at 310 Lavery Hall above the Turner Place dining facility.

Lodging and Dining on the Blacksburg Campus

The Division of Student Affairs’ Conference and Guest Services offers an alternative to hotel lodging. In an effort to provide convenient, low-cost accommodations, Conference and Guest Services is pleased to provide residence hall space for families and guests of graduates. Many of our Commencement guests find that staying in our residence halls during this weekend minimizes parking and dining difficulties and provides what is often a nostalgic experience. On-campus dining will be available at D2, Squires Food Court, and Deet’s Place coffee shop, as noted on the Calendar of Events on the following page.

Advance reservations for lodging are required, and full payment is due at the time that reservations are made. Online reservations and payment may be made at www.housing.vt.edu/conference/lodging.

For details and reservation information, contact Conference and Guest Services at 540-231-5721. You may also send an email inquiry to conferences@vt.edu.

Inclement Weather Instructions

In the event of inclement weather, the University Ceremony at Lane Stadium may be delayed or possibly canceled. Once the decision has been made, details will be posted on the Virginia Tech homepage (www.vt.edu), the Virginia Tech News homepage (www.vtnews.vt.edu), and Virginia Tech Mobile. In addition, a broadcast email will be sent to all students, faculty, and staff; a recorded message will be placed on the University Weather Line (540-231-6668); and information will be shared with other local media outlets. The announcement will also be posted to the VT News page on Twitter (www.twitter.com/vtnews) and the Virginia Tech page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/virginiatech). The university may use VT Alerts, depending on conditions.

Official Photographer

GradImages® will be the official photographer for Spring 2017 Commencement ceremonies on the Virginia Tech campus. Photographers will be present for the Graduate School ceremony as well as the National Capitol Region Commencement Ceremony and all major college ceremonies. The photographers will be the only persons with clear access to the stages.

On Wednesday, May 10, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., GradImages® will offer free portrait sittings in the Holtzman Alumni Center, 2nd Floor Library. All graduating students, both undergraduate and graduate, should wear their own cap and gown. As many accoutrements as desired, such as stoles, honors cords, and sashes, may be worn for the portrait sitting. No appointment is necessary.

Although students are not obligated to make a purchase, by registering an email address online prior to graduation, graduating students are eligible for a $5 discount on any photo order of more than $25. GradImages® will send proofs by mail—and by email if an address is provided—approximately one week after the ceremony.

If you have any questions about your order, please contact GradImages® by phone at 800-261-2576 or online at www.gradimages.com/virginiatech.

Security Measures

Please follow the Lane Stadium clear bag policy as closely as possible: Frequently Asked Questions. Wrapped packages will not be allowed in ceremony venues. You may carry in one unopened bottle of water. Strollers and umbrellas will be allowed in Lane Stadium and Cassell Coliseum. However, all items are subject to search.

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. For inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies, contact the assistant vice president, Office for Equity and Accessibility at 540-231-8771 or Virginia Tech, North End Center, Suite 2300 (0318), 300 Turner St. NW, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

Virginia Tech Commencement - Spring 2017
Thursday, May 11, 2017

GRADUATE SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Deet’s Place (gourmet coffee, ice cream, and pastry) 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Au Bon Pain Cafe (soup, salads and sandwiches) 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday, May 12, 2017

*Commencement Breakfast
Dietrick Dining Center, Lower Level 6:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
*Commencement Brunch/Lunch
Dietrick Dining Center, Lower Level 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Deet’s Place (gourmet coffee, ice cream, and pastry) 6:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Au Bon Pain Cafe (soup, salads and sandwiches) 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
*Commencement Dinner
Dietrick Dining Center, Lower Level 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENTAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Agriculture and Life Sciences  Cassell Coliseum 12 noon
Pamplin College of Business  Cassell Coliseum 3:30 p.m.
Liberal Arts and Human Sciences  Squires Student Center, Commonwealth Ballroom 3:00 p.m.
Apparel, Housing and Resource Management  Burruss Hall, Auditorium 12:30 p.m.
Communication  Burruss Hall, Auditorium 3:30 p.m.
Political Science and International Studies  Squires Student Center, Old Dominion Ballroom 3:00 p.m.
Religion and Culture  Moss Arts Center, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre 2:30 p.m.
Sociology  Squires Student Center, Studio Theatre 3:00 p.m.
Theatre and Cinema  Cassell Coliseum 11:00 a.m.
Science  Davidson Hall, Room 281, Auditorium 4:00 p.m.
Computational Modeling and Data Analytics  Hahn Hall North, Room 130 2:00 p.m.
Nanoscience  German Club Manor 1:00 p.m.
Neuroscience  Moss Arts Center, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre 6:00 p.m.

VA-MD REGIONAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

CORPS OF CADETS COMMENCEMENT & ROTC COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Burruss Hall, Auditorium 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 13, 2017

*Commencement Breakfast
Deet’s Place (gourmet coffee, ice cream, and pastry) 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Au Bon Pain Cafe (soup, salads and sandwiches) 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENTAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Architecture and Urban Studies  Burruss Hall, Auditorium 8:30 a.m.
Engineering  Cassell Coliseum 8:00 a.m.

Civil Engineering Science and Mechanics
Materials Science
Mechanical Engineering
Ocean Engineering

Biology Systems
Chemical
Computer
Computer Science
Construction Engineering and Management
Electrical
Industrial and Systems
Mining and Minerals

Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

English  Squires Student Center, Commonwealth Ballroom 8:30 a.m.
Foreign Languages and Literatures  Squires Student Center, Colonial Hall 10:00 a.m.
History  Squires Student Center, Commonwealth Ballroom 11:30 a.m.
Human Development  Cassell Coliseum 2:00 p.m.
Music  Squires Student Center, Recital Salon 9:30 a.m.
Philosophy  Torgersen Hall, Room 2150 11:00 a.m.
Science & Technology in Society  Hahn Horticulture Garden, Washington Street 12:30 p.m.

Natural Resources and Environment  Moss Arts Center, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre 8:30 a.m.

Science

Biological Sciences  Burruss Hall, Auditorium 11:30 a.m.
Chemistry  Lyric Theatre, 135 College Avenue 9:00 a.m.
Economics  McBryde Hall, Room 100 12:00 noon
Geosciences  Hancock Hall, Room 100 10:00 a.m.
Mathematics  McBryde Hall, Room 100 9:00 a.m.
Physics  Davidson Hall, Room 281, Auditorium 1:00 p.m.
Psychology  Burruss Hall, Auditorium 2:30 p.m.
Statistics  Hillcrest Hall 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 14, 2017

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY  Center for the Arts, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 1:00 p.m.

*Meal tickets may be purchased at www.housing.vt.edu/conference/lodging or you may pay by cash, check, or credit card at the door. For the most up-to-date hours, please visit the Dining Center Operation Hours page at www.dining.vt.edu/hours.