



DREAM. DISCOVER. ACCOMPLISH.



2019-2020  
**ACADEMIC CATALOG**  
1st Edition



# **ACADEMIC CATALOG 2019 – 2020**

**FIRST EDITION**

*1<sup>st</sup> Edition effective August 26, 2019*

© Virginia International University 2019- 2020

4401 Village Drive Fairfax, VA 22030 (703) 591-7042  
<http://www.viu.edu>

## **Administrative Notice**

The purpose of this Academic Catalog is to present academic programs and services, and those policies, procedures, and regulations of VIU that are likely to apply to our student body. The VIU Academic Catalog is reviewed monthly and published annually. The university may publish other manuals such as our Student Handbook, Faculty & Staff Handbooks, and the Library Handbook, and some departments may also have their own handbooks. In the event of any discrepancies between these various handbooks relating to issues of student and academic services, the policies and procedures stipulated in the most recent edition of the Academic Catalog shall supersede the statements mentioned in others.

VIU encourages its faculty, staff, and student body to read, understand, and familiarize themselves with the policies, and procedures contained in this catalog. If you find any error, mistake, or clear discrepancy with state and federal laws, please feel free to report it to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, which welcomes any suggestions regarding how to improve institutional policies and procedures to conform to recognized educational standards. Please email your comments and recommendations to [oiie@viu.edu](mailto:oiie@viu.edu).



## **Mission Statement**

Virginia International University's mission is to educate students from all over the world through a highly qualified, diverse faculty and staff while striving to provide programs at the graduate, undergraduate, and certificate level that engender the intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity urgently needed in the global community with a commitment to providing students with the knowledge to achieve excellence in research, scholarship, and creative endeavors.

# Table of Contents

<b>ABBREVIATION TABLE .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1. GENERAL INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>8</b>
1.1. INTRODUCTION & HISTORY .....	8
1.2 VIU MISSION STATEMENT AND PHILOSOPHY.....	8
1.3 ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIP .....	9
1.4 GOVERNANCE .....	13
1.5 SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS .....	13
1.6 FULL-TIME FACULTY.....	13
1.7 ACADEMIC CALENDAR FALL 2019 – SUMMER 2020 .....	14
1.8 HOLIDAYS .....	16
1.9 INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY .....	16
1.10 VIU'S LOCATION & TRANSPORTATION .....	16
<b>2. STUDENT SERVICES .....</b>	<b>19</b>
2.1 AIRPORT PICK-UP ASSISTANCE.....	19
2.2 HOUSING ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE.....	19
2.3 NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION.....	19
2.4 STUDENT ID CARDS .....	19
2.5 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.....	19
2.6 STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE .....	20
2.7 COUNSELING SERVICES.....	20
2.8 STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE .....	20
2.9 LEADERSHIP AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAM .....	20
2.10 STUDENT CLUBS.....	20
2.11 STUDENT UNION .....	20
2.12 LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES .....	21
2.13 CAMPUS E-MAIL ACCOUNT .....	22
2.14 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SERVICES .....	22
2.15 INTERNSHIP & PRACTICUM POLICY.....	24
2.16 CAREER SERVICES.....	27
2.17 WRITING, RESEARCH, AND MEDIA CENTER.....	27
<b>3. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>28</b>
3.1 VIU ADMISSION POLICIES & PROCEDURES .....	28
3.2 VIU'S ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS .....	28
3.3 EXPLANATION OF MATERIALS FOR U.S. DOMESTIC APPLICANTS.....	31
3.4 EXPLANATION OF MATERIALS FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS .....	31
3.5 FOREIGN DEGREE/TRANSCRIPT EVALUATION .....	32
3.6 MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION.....	33
3.7 ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS .....	33
3.8 CHANGING EXPECTED START DATE FOR ADMISSION.....	34
3.9 DENIAL OF ADMISSION.....	34
3.10 U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS OR VETERANS .....	34
3.11 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES POLICY.....	35
3.12 DISCLAIMER STATEMENT .....	35
<b>4. TUITION AND FEES .....</b>	<b>36</b>
4.1 GENERAL GUIDELINES.....	36
4.2 2019-20 TUITION RATES .....	36
4.3 FEES .....	36
4.4 LIVING AND OTHER EXPENSES .....	38
4.5 PAYMENT INFORMATION .....	38
4.6 PAYMENT PLANS.....	39
4.7 DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS .....	40
4.8 CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY .....	40
4.9 RETURN TO TITLE IV FUNDS (R2T4) .....	42
4.10 GI BILL DELAYED PAYMENT POLICY .....	43
<b>5. FINANCIAL AID .....</b>	<b>44</b>

5.1 ELIGIBILITY .....	44
5.2 ANNUAL RENEWAL OF FINANCIAL AID .....	44
5.3 FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS .....	44
5.4 CONTACT INFORMATION .....	45
5.5 TITLE IX COMPLIANCE .....	45
<b>6. ACADEMIC REGULATIONS .....</b>	<b>47</b>
6.1 ENROLLMENT .....	47
6.2 NON-DEGREE ENROLLMENT .....	47
6.3 LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION .....	48
6.4 ACADEMIC ADVISING .....	48
6.5 SEMESTER AND CREDIT SYSTEM .....	48
6.6 GRADING SYSTEM AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE .....	48
6.7 REPEAT COURSES ("R") .....	51
6.8 TRANSFER CREDITS ("TC") POLICY .....	51
7.9 THESIS COURSE GRADES ("PA", "SP", AND "UP") .....	52
7.10 DUAL ENROLLMENT .....	52
7.11 TRANSFERABILITY OF CREDITS .....	52
7.12 COURSE ADD/DROP .....	53
7.13 WITHDRAWALS AFTER THE ADD/DROP PERIOD: .....	53
7.14 WITHDRAWALS FROM THE UNIVERSITY .....	53
7.15 COURSE AUDITING ("AU") .....	53
7.16 NOT REPORTED ("NR") .....	53
7.17 PROGRAM PREREQUISITE COMPLETION POLICY .....	54
7.18 ATTENDANCE POLICIES .....	55
7.19 SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) POLICY .....	57
7.20 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (LOA) .....	64
7.21 LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM .....	65
7.22 LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM .....	65
7.23 CAMPUS EMAIL .....	65
7.24 STUDENT PORTAL .....	65
7.25 UNIVERSITY'S OFFICIAL GRADEBOOK .....	65
<b>7. STUDENT RIGHTS &amp; RESPONSIBILITIES .....</b>	<b>66</b>
7.1 GROUNDS FOR WARNING, SUSPENSION, OR DISMISSAL .....	66
7.2 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES .....	66
7.3 EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP & ACADEMIC WORK .....	70
7.4 NON-ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/MISCONDUCT .....	73
7.5 CIVIL RIGHTS AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT .....	74
7.6 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) POLICY .....	74
7.7 SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY AND NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION .....	74
7.8 DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY .....	75
7.9 NON-SMOKING POLICY .....	77
7.10 WEAPONS POLICY .....	77
7.11 COPYRIGHT & FAIR USE POLICIES .....	78
7.12 STUDENTS' RECORDS AND RELEASE OF INFORMATION .....	78
7.13 FORMAL COMPLAINT PROCEDURE .....	80
7.14 ACADEMIC CATALOG CHANGES POLICY .....	82
<b>8. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS .....</b>	<b>83</b>
8.1 ACADEMIC PROGRAM LISTING .....	83
8.2 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS .....	83
8.3 GENERAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT .....	84
8.4 GRADUATE PROGRAMS .....	86
<b>9. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>88</b>
9.1 SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MISSION STATEMENT .....	88
9.2 SCHOOL OF BUSINESS LEARNING OUTCOMES .....	88
9.3 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION .....	88
9.4 MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION .....	90
9.5 MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING DEGREE .....	94
9.6 MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT DEGREE .....	96
9.7 GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT .....	97

<b>10. SCHOOL OF COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS.....</b>	<b>99</b>
10.1 SCHOOL OF COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS MISSION STATEMENT .....	99
10.2 SCHOOL OF COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS LEARNING OUTCOMES .....	99
10.3 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE .....	99
10.4 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE.....	101
10.5 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS .....	105
10.6 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT .....	110
10.7 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY .....	112
10.8 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING .....	113
10.9 GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE.....	115
10.10 GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS.....	117
10.11 GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT.....	118
10.12 GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AUDIT & COMPLIANCE .....	119
<b>11. SCHOOL OF EDUCATION.....</b>	<b>121</b>
11.1 SCHOOL OF EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT .....	121
11.2 SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES .....	121
11.3 MASTER OF ARTS IN TESOL .....	121
11.4 GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN TESOL.....	123
11.5 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS.....	126
<b>12. SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE STUDIES.....</b>	<b>130</b>
13.1 SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE STUDIES MISSION.....	130
13.2 SCHOOL LEARNING OUTCOMES .....	130
13.3 INTENSIVE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM .....	130
13.4 EXPECTED PROFICIENCY LEVEL.....	130
13.5 INITIAL ESL PROGRAM PLACEMENT .....	131
1.4 NON-INTENSIVE ESL PROGRAM .....	133
1.4.1 NON-INTENSIVE ESL LEARNING OUTCOMES.....	133
1.4.2 NON-INTENSIVE ESL LEARNING REGISTRATION.....	133
1.4.3 NON-INTENSIVE ESL SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ATTENDANCE .....	133
1.4.4 NON-INTENSIVE ESL FEES .....	133
1.4.5 NON-INTENSIVE ESL COURSE LISTINGS.....	133
<b>13. SCHOOL OF PUBLIC &amp; INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.....</b>	<b>135</b>
13.1 SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MISSION STATEMENT.....	135
13.2 SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS LEARNING OUTCOMES .....	135
13.3 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.....	135
13.4 MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.....	137
<b>COURSE DESCRIPTIONS .....</b>	<b>140</b>

## Abbreviation Table

ACICS	Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools
ACT	American College Testing
BA	Bachelor of Arts
BS	Bachelor of Science
BSBA	Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
BCS	Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
CEA	Commission on English Language Program Accreditation
CHEA	Council for Higher Education Accreditation
CPT	Curricular Practical Training
CEU	Continuing Education Unit
ESL	English as a Second Language
ETS	Educational Testing Service
GC	Graduate Certificate
GEC	General Education Department
GMAT	Graduate Management Admission Test
GPA	Grade Point Average
GRE	Graduate Record Exam
iBT	Internet Based TOEFL
ID	Identity Document
IELTS	International English Language Testing System
ISS	International Student Service
ITEP	International Test of English Proficiency
LSAT	Law School Admission Test
MA	Master of Arts
MAC	Master of Science in Accounting
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MCS	Master of Science in Computer Science
MELAB	Michigan English Language Assessment Battery
MIR	Master of Science in International Relations
MIS	Master of Science in Information Systems
MISM	Master of Science in Information Systems Management
MIT	Master of Science in Information Technology
MPA	Master of Public Administration
MPM	Master of Science in Project Management
MS	Master of Science
MSAPLX	Master of Science in Applied Linguistics
MSE	Master of Science in Software Engineering
OPT	Optional Practical Training
pBT	Paper Based TOEFL
PTE	Pearson Test of English
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test
SB	School of Business
SCHEV	State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
SCIS	School of Computer Information Systems
SED	School of Education
SLS	School of Language Studies
SPIA	School of Public and International Affairs
TESOL	Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language
USCIS	United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
WRMC	Writing, Research, and Media Center



# 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

## 1.1. Introduction & History

Virginia International University (VIU) was founded in 1998 as a non-profit university in the Washington, DC area to provide quality, affordable education that prepares students for relevant and meaningful careers. Today students from all over the world choose to pursue their education at VIU in a variety of different degree and non-degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels in one of our academic schools: the School of Business, the School of Computer Information Systems, the School of Education, the School of Public and International Affairs, and the School of Language Studies. The location of the university, outside of Washington, DC makes it a prime location for students interested in studying in these fields, providing many opportunities for experiences outside of the classroom to enrich their learning experience.

### VIU Timeline

Below are some historical milestones achieved by Virginia International University

#### **Founding of Virginia International University 1998-2006**

VIU was founded in 1998 and was formally authorized to use the name “Virginia International University” and was first certified to operate by the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV). VIU was authorized to offer its first master’s degree, the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program, as well as its English as a Second Language program. In 1999, VIU was incorporated as a non-profit corporation and obtained tax exemption as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization by the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS). VIU received authorization to offer diploma and certificate programs in business and computer science by SCHEV. In 2000, VIU was granted permission to issue I-20s for F-1 and M Visa applicants from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. VIU opened two undergraduate degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BBA) and Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BCS). In 2003, VIU was authorized by SCHEV to offer its second master’s program: Master of Science in Information Systems (MIS). In 2006, VIU held its first commencement on May 4th with 20 graduates in attendance at the Fairfax County Country Club.

#### **Coming into Focus 2008-2014**

In 2008, VIU was granted accreditation from the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges & Schools (ACICS), which is recognized by the US Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education Administration (CHEA). VIU opened a third master’s degree program: Master of Science in Computer Science (MCS). On April 23rd, the Virginia General Assembly House Joint Resolution Committee presented the university with a letter “Commending Virginia International University on the occasion of its accreditation and 10th anniversary.” In 2009, VIU was approved to offer new programs including the Master of Arts in TESOL and Graduate Certificate in TESOL. In 2011, VIU successfully received ACICS re-certification in December. In 2013, VIU was approved to open new master’s degrees: MS in International Relations, Master’s in Public Administration. The Schools of School of Public & International Affairs, and Education were formed. VIU expanded on the School of Public & International Affairs by founding the Center for Democracy. In 2014, VIU opened three new master’s degree programs: MS in Accounting, MS in Project Management, & MS in Applied Linguistics; VIU was also approved to offer a graduate certificate in Project Management.

#### **Moving Forward 2015-Present**

In 2015, VIU opened its new Campus at 4401 Village Drive Fairfax. VIU was recognized as an authorized provider by the Project Management Institute. In May 2016, VIU successfully received renewal of ACICS accreditation. In 2017, VIU’s intensive ESL program was accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA). In October of 2017 Global Bistro opened its doors to VIU students, staff and local community offering meals inspired by international flavors.

## 1.2 VIU Mission Statement and Philosophy

### Mission Statement

Virginia International University’s mission is to educate students from all over the world through a highly qualified, diverse faculty and staff while striving to provide programs at the graduate, undergraduate, and certificate level that engender the intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity urgently needed in the global community with a commitment to providing students with the knowledge to achieve excellence in research, scholarship, and creative endeavors.

### Philosophy

As a community of students, staff, and faculty drawn from diverse national, cultural, and social backgrounds, VIU aims to improve the environment in which freedom of thought and diverse interpretations of human experiences are cherished. It is our hope and expectation that each member of the university will develop a greater awareness of, and responsiveness to

fellow members as well as to those beyond our campus who are less privileged. In the fulfillment of this mission, the university shall seek an efficient use of all available resources to ensure the highest quality of service to its students, faculty, and staff. The ultimate goal of VIU is no less than to graduate scholars of moral, intellectual, and professional excellence who will not only make a better life for themselves and their families but who, more importantly, will lead the way to a better world for everyone.

## Vision Statement

Great challenges and opportunities mark the next five years at Virginia International University. Our world will continue to adjust the role that higher education plays in improving the lives of its citizens. The world's population is set to grow by more than one billion by 2030, with over twenty-six percent of the population seeking higher education. The number of students traveling abroad for a degree is on course to reach over 8 million by 2025 and VIU plans to be active and influential by creating academic programs customized to fit emerging trends, building foundations for intellectual, diverse and moral leadership, opening new campus locations suited to service students where there is a need for our unique offerings, and preparing our students for professional excellence to lead and serve here in the U.S. and abroad.

In order to further the mission and philosophy of the university, VIU is committed to the following strategic goals:

- To improve student learning experiences and academic success both inside and beyond the classroom
- To establish a greater presence in areas of the United States and abroad
- To ensure continued compliance with all regulatory agencies across the institution
- To develop new funding strategies and diversify resources for long-term sustainability
- To attract and retain a diverse student population, as well as exceedingly qualified faculty and staff

## VIU Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation from Virginia International University, students will be able to:

- Think critically and creatively
- Communicate effectively in speech & in writing
- Demonstrate leadership and expertise in a scholarly discipline, and understand that discipline in relation to the larger world
- Work productively as individuals and in groups
- Use reason to make decisions based on an understanding of ethics and a respect for diversity to make a positive contribution to society.

### 1.3 Accreditation and Membership

1. VIU is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) to award certificates, bachelor's degrees, and master's degrees.



1350 Eye Street, NW  
Suite 560  
Washington, DC 20005  
[www.acics.org](http://www.acics.org)

2. VIU's accreditation through ACICS has automatically entitled VIU to be recognized by the US Department of Education.



400 Maryland Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20202  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

3. VIU's accreditation through ACICS has automatically entitled VIU to be recognized the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).



One Dupont Cir., NW  
Suite 510  
Washington, DC 20036  
[www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)

4. VIU's Intensive English as a Second Language Program is accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA).



1001 North Fairfax St.  
Suite 630  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
[www.cea-accredit.org](http://www.cea-accredit.org)

5. VIU is certified to operate in Virginia by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).



101 North 14<sup>th</sup> St.  
James Monroe Building  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.schev.edu](http://www.schev.edu)

6. VIU is authorized by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enroll non-immigrant students.



500 12th St., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536  
[www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)

7. VIU has been authorized to offer Federal Student Aid to those who qualify by the US Department of Education.



PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND®

830 First St., NE  
Washington, DC 20202  
[www.fsa.ed.gov](http://www.fsa.ed.gov)

8. VIU has been approved for the training and education of veterans by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.



Office of the Commissioner  
900 East Main St.  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)

9. VIU is a member of the American Council on Education (ACE).



One Dupont Cir. NW,  
Washington, DC 20036  
[www.acenet.edu](http://www.acenet.edu)

10. VIU is a member of the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTc).



2214 Rock Hill Rd., Suite 300  
Herndon, VA 20170  
[www.nvtc.org](http://www.nvtc.org)

11. VIU is a member of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.



7900 Westpark Dr.  
Suite A550  
Tysons Corner, VA. 22102  
<http://www.novachamber.org>

12. VIU is a member of the EMC Academic Alliance.



176 South St.  
Hopkinton, MA 01748  
<http://education.emc.com/academicalliance>

13. VIU is a member of the IBM Academic Initiative.



1 New Orchard Rd.  
Armonk, NY 10504  
[www.ibm.com/developerworks/university/academicinitiative/](http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/university/academicinitiative/)

14. VIU's School of Education is a liaison chapter for Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education.



3707 Woodview Trace  
Indianapolis, IN 46268  
<http://www.kdp.org/>

15. VIU's School of Business is an Educational Member of the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE).



11374 Strang Line Rd  
Lenexa, KS 66215  
[www.iacbe.org](http://www.iacbe.org)

16. VIU is a member of the International Association of Universities (IAU).



UNESCO House  
1 rue Miollis  
75732 Paris Cedex 15  
[www.iau-aiu.net](http://www.iau-aiu.net)

17. VIU is approved as a Registered Education Provider (REP) by the Project Management Institute (PMI)®.



14 Campus Blvd.  
Newtown Square, PA 19073  
[www.PMI.org](http://www.PMI.org)

18. VIU is a member of the Online Learning Consortium (OLC).



P.O. Box 1238  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
[www.ssl.onlinelearningconsortium.org/](http://www.ssl.onlinelearningconsortium.org/)

19. VIU is a member of the Global Universities In Distance Education (Guide) Association.



Via Gregorio VII, 414  
00165, Rome, Italy  
[www.guideassociation.org](http://www.guideassociation.org)

20. VIU is a member of University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA).



One Dupont Cir.  
Suite 615  
Washington, DC 20036  
[www.upcea.edu/](http://www.upcea.edu/)

21. VIU is a member of the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET).



3035 Center Green Dr.  
Suite 200  
Boulder, CO 80301-2204  
<https://wcet.wiche.edu/>

22. VIU is a member of American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).



One Dupont Circle, NW  
Suite 520  
Washington, DC 20036  
<http://aacrao.org/>

23. VIU is a member of the National Center Women in Information Technology (NCWIT) Academic Alliance.



University of Colorado  
Campus Box 417 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309  
[www.ncwit.org](http://www.ncwit.org)

24. VIU is a member of the Homeland Security Stop. Think. Connect. Academic Alliance.



245 Murray Ln, SW  
Washington, DC 20528  
<https://www.stopthinkconnect.org>

25. VIU is a member of the Prince William Chamber of Commerce.



9720 Capital Court, Suite 203  
Manassas, VA 20110  
[pwchamber.org](http://pwchamber.org)

### **1.3.1 VIU Schools and Programs Offered**

All of the programs listed within this catalog are included within VIU's certificate to operate from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and approved by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

#### **School of Business (SB)**

##### **Master of Business Administration (MBA) with concentrations in:**

- Accounting
- Global Logistics
- Health Care Management
- Human Resource Management
- International Business Management
- International Finance
- Marketing Management
- Project Management

##### **MS in Accounting**

##### **MS in Project Management**

##### **Graduate Certificate in Project Management**

##### **BS in Business Administration (BSBA); with concentrations in:**

- Finance
- International Business
- Marketing

#### **School of Computer Information Systems (SCIS)**

##### **MS in Computer Science (MCS) with concentrations in:**

##### **Master of Science in Information Systems (MIS) with concentrations in:**

- Business Intelligence and Data Analytics
- Cybersecurity
- Data Management
- Enterprise Project Management
- Health Informatics
- Information Assurance
- Knowledge Management

##### **MS in Information Systems Management (MISM)**

##### **MS in Information Technology (MIT)**

##### **MS in Software Engineering (MSE)**

##### **Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence**

##### **Graduate Certificate in Information Systems**

##### **Graduate Certificate in Information Systems Management**

##### **Graduate Certificate in Information Technology Audit & Compliance**

##### **BS in Computer Science (BCS)**

#### **School of Education (SED)**

##### **Master of Arts in TESOL (MATESOL)**

##### **MS in Applied Linguistics (MSAPLX.) with concentrations in:**

- Multilingual Education
- Program Management
- Educational Technology

##### **Graduate Certificate in TESOL**

## School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)

### Masters of Public Administration (MPA) with concentrations in:

- Public Management
- Information Systems
- Health Care Administration and Public Health

### MS in International Relations (MIR) with concentrations in:

- International Economic Development
- International Business

## School of Language Studies (SLS)

- Intensive 7-week ESL Program
- Non-Intensive Program

## 1.4 Governance

VIU is a private non-profit university governed by its Board of Trustees. The main function of the Board of Trustees, as mandated in the by-laws, is two-fold: to develop policies for the advancement of VIU and to support the president of the university in the implementation of those policies. In addition, the VIU's Board of Trustees provides guidance, monitoring, and assistance to the President of the university in fundraising, public affairs, and building key alliances to assist in and support the growth of the university.

VIU's current Board of Trustees includes:

Hisham Yahya Altalib, Ph.D. .... Chair  
Marietta Bradinova, Ph.D. .... Vice Chair  
Anas S. Al-Shaikh-Ali, Ph.D. .... Trustee  
Ahmed Alwani, Ph.D. .... Trustee  
Dr. Gary Carlson, Ph.D. .... Trustee  
Eileen Xu, M.S. .... Trustee

Article II, Section 1, of the university bylaws provides general powers to the Board of Trustees. It states, "*All Corporate Powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of, and the business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed under the direction of, its Board of Trustees, in accordance with the purposes and subject to any limitations set forth in the articles of incorporation.*"

## 1.5 Senior Administrators

Staff Name	Title
Ahmed Alwani, Ph.D.	Vice President & Chief Academic Officer
Mary Banish-Cepeda, M.S.	Chief Student Engagement Officer
Mariam Khaziuri, M.S.	Chief Financial Officer
Prashish Shrestha, M.I.S., MBS	Chief Administrative Officer
	Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance &
Kevin J. Martin, Ph.D.	Dean, School of Language Studies
Ilham Nasser, Ph.D.	Dean, School of Education

## 1.6 Full-Time Faculty

Name	Degrees Earned	Specialty
Al Hammoshi, Mayyada	Ph.D. in Computer Science, Mosul University, Mosul, Iraq M.S in Computer Science, Mosul University, Mosul, Iraq M.B.A, American College of Commerce & Technology, Falls Church, VA B.S in Computer Science, Mosul University	Computer Science

Atabay, Halil	Ph.D. in Microbiology, University of Bristol, UK	Microbiology
Asaya, Ademola	D.M. Colorado Technical University, Colorado Springs MBA in Technology Management, University of Phoenix, B.A in Applied Computer Science, University of the District of Columbia	Information Technology, Project Management
Chala, Zelalem	Ph.D. in Economics, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Blacksburg, VA M.S. in Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK	Economics
Ganjalizadeh, Saiid	Ph.D. in Information Technology, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA M.S. in Management Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN	Information Technology, Computer Science
Habbershaw, Glen	M.A. in TESOL, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, OK B.A. in French, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, OK	ESL
Martin, Kevin J.	Ph.D. in Education, Walden University M.S. in Linguistics, Georgetown University B.A. in French University of Dayton B.S. in Biology University of Dayton	Educational Development; Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Linguistics
Nasser, Ilham	Ph.D. in Human Development and Child Study, University of Maryland-College Park	Teacher Development; Teacher Preparation; Professional Development; Classroom Practices and Pedagogies
Sachs, Rebecca	Ph.D. in Linguistics, Georgetown University, Washington, DC M.A. in TESOL, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI B.A. in Foreign Languages & Communication Disorders, Boston University, Boston, MA	Applied Linguistics, Language Acquisition and Pedagogy, Research Methods

## 1.7 Academic Calendar Fall 2019 – Summer 2020

VIU operates on a traditional semester calendar in which the academic year is divided into two main semesters, fall and spring. The fall and spring semesters span over 15 weeks each. Additionally, courses are also offered during the summer in two optional concentrated 8-week terms. The ESL program is offered in 7-week terms year-round.

The tables below outline the major time periods and events in the 2019–2020 academic year.

<b>Fall 2019 Aug 26 - Dec 14</b>	<b>Degree (15-week)</b>	<b>ESL Fall (7-week)</b>	<b>ESL Fall II (7-week)</b>
Registration for Fall opens	Jun 10	Jul 29	Sep 23
New Student Orientation	Aug 22	TBA	TBA
Registration closes without late registration fee	Aug 19	Aug 23	Oct 18
<b>First Day of Classes</b>	<b>Aug 26</b>	<b>Aug 26</b>	<b>Oct 21</b>
Labor Day, VIU is closed	Sep 2	Sep 2	-
Last day to add/drop course(s) - Closed at 5 p.m.	Sep 3	Sep 3	Oct 28
Last day to apply for Fall graduation	Oct 1	-	-
Mid-term progress reporting due by faculty	Oct 21	-	-
Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W"	Nov 1	Sep 20	Nov 15
Make-up classes for Labor Day	Nov 25	TBA	-
No classes (Reserved for make up sessions)	Nov 26-27	-	Nov 26-27
Thanksgiving break, VIU is closed	Nov 28-30	-	Nov 28-30
<b>Last Day of Class (including the final exams)</b>	<b>Dec 14</b>	<b>Oct 12</b>	<b>Dec 14</b>
Grades due by faculty	Dec 16	Oct 14	Dec 16
Grades available on Student Portal	Dec 17	Oct 15	Dec 17

Winter break	Dec 23-Jan 1	-	Dec 23-Jan 1
Changes to incomplete grades are due to Registrar	Mar 6	Dec 13	Mar 6

<b>Spring 2020 Jan 13 - Apr 27</b>	<b>Degree (15-week)</b>	<b>ESL Spring (7-week)</b>	<b>ESL Spring II (7-week)</b>
Registration for Spring opens	Nov 11	Dec 16	Feb 10
New Student Orientation	TBA	-	-
Registration closes without late registration fee	Jan 6	Jan 6	Mar 6
<b>First Day of Classes</b>	<b>Jan 13</b>	<b>Jan 13</b>	<b>Mar 9</b>
Martin Luther King Day, VIU is closed	Jan 20	Jan 20	-
Last day to add/drop course(s) - Closed at 5 p.m.	Jan 21	Jan 21	Mar 16
Last day to apply for Spring graduation	Feb 3	-	-
Mid-term progress reporting due by faculty	Mar 9	-	-
Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W"	Mar 20	Feb 7	Apr 3
<b>Last Day of Class (including the final exams)</b>	<b>Apr 27</b>	<b>Feb 29</b>	<b>Apr 25</b>
Grades due by faculty	Apr 28	Mar 2	Apr 27
Grades available on Student Portal	Apr 29	Mar 3	Apr 28
Commencement Ceremony	TBA	-	-
Changes to incomplete grades are due to Registrar	Jun 26	Apr 24	Jun 24

<b>Summer I 2020 May 4 - Jun 27</b>	<b>Degree (8-week)</b>	<b>ESL (7-week)</b>
Registration for Summer I opens	Apr 2	TBA
New Student Orientation	TBA	-
Registration closes without late registration fee	Apr 27	May 1
<b>First Day of Classes</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b>May 4</b>
Last day to add/drop course(s) - Closed at 5 p.m.	May 11	May 11
Memorial Day, VIU is closed	May 25	May 25
Last day to apply for Summer I graduation	Jun 1	-
Mid-term progress reporting due by faculty	Jun 1	-
Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W"	Jun 5	May 29
<b>Last Day of Class (including the final exams)</b>	<b>Jun 27</b>	<b>Jun 20</b>
Grades due by faculty	Jun 29	Jun 22
Grades available on Student Portal	Jun 30	Jun 23
Changes to incomplete grades are due to Registrar	Aug 21	Aug 21

<b>Summer II 2020 Jun 29 - Aug 22</b>	<b>Degree (8-week)</b>	<b>ESL (7-week)</b>
Registration for Summer II opens	Apr 2	TBA
New Student Orientation	TBA	-
Registration closes without late registration fee	Jun 22	Jun 28
<b>First Day of Classes</b>	<b>Jun 29</b>	<b>Jun 29</b>
Independence Day (Observed), VIU is closed	Jul 3	Jul 3
Independence Day, VIU is closed	Jul 4	Jul 4
Last day to add/drop course(s) - Closed at 5 p.m.	Jul 6	Jul 6
Mid-term progress reporting due by faculty	Jul 27	-
Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W"	Jul 31	Jul 24
Last day to apply for Summer II graduation	Aug 3	-
<b>Last Day of Class (including the final exams)</b>	<b>Aug 22</b>	<b>Aug 15</b>
Grades due by faculty	Aug 24	Aug 17
Grades available on Student Portal	Aug 25	Aug 18
Changes to incomplete grades are due to Registrar	Oct 19	Oct 19

**NOTE:** The Academic Calendar is subject to change without prior notice. The latest version of the calendar is available on the VIU website.



## 1.8 Holidays

For the 2019 – 2020 Academic Year, Virginia International University will observe the following holidays, on which there will be no classes and our administrative offices will be closed:

- Labor Day: September 2, 2019
- Thanksgiving: November 28-29, 2019
- Winter Break: December 23, 2019 – January 1, 2020  
    *Christmas: December 24-25, 2019*  
    *New Year's Day: January 1, 2020*
- Memorial Day: May 25, 2020
- Independence Day: July 3, 2020

## Religious Holiday Policy

VIU seeks to extend hospitality to all persons regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and economic or social background. Diversity is valued at VIU, and the university is committed to assuring that all persons who enter this community are welcomed and respected. VIU, a secular institution of higher education, stands at the same distance to all world religions and does not observe religious holidays of any type other than what the state and federal governments observe officially in the United States. Therefore, all scheduled educational activities and university-sponsored events will take place as scheduled and publicized by our Academic Calendar.

## 1.9 Inclement Weather Policy

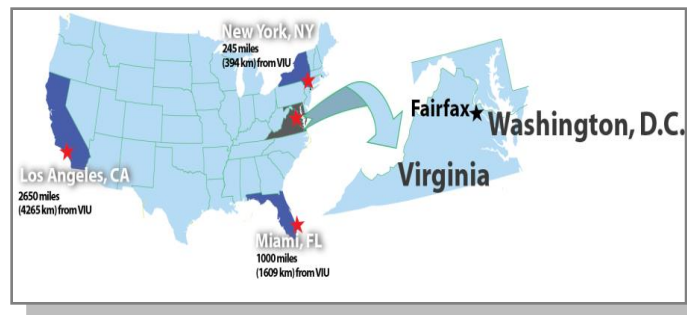
**Day and Evening Classes:** If inclement weather forces the cancellation of daytime classes or requires a delay in the opening of the university, announcements will be made on all major local television networks and on the university's website. An email will also be sent to all students, staff, and faculty via campus email. VIU will also issue an SMS Alert in the event of a cancellation. The instructor will schedule a make-up class.

**Midday Closing:** A decision to close the university during the day will be made when conditions include a forecast, which could make travel to and from campus unreasonably dangerous. Classes underway at the time a closing announcement is made will be dismissed. If students are engaged in important test-taking or other time-sensitive activities, a class may continue until its scheduled end, per the judgment of the instructor. The instructor will schedule a make-up class.

**SMS Alert System:** VIU makes use of an SMS Alert System, which will enable students to receive school alerts and weather-related closings or delays via an SMS Text Message to mobile devices. To enroll in the SMS Alert System text JOIN VIU to 30890.

## 1.10 VIU's Location & Transportation

Virginia International University is located in Fairfax, Virginia, in the heart of Fairfax County in Northern Virginia, only 18 miles away from the United States capital, Washington, D.C.



### 1.10.1 VIU's Campus

VIU's campus **Village Drive Building (4401 Village Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030)** houses all administrative, academic, student support departments within the university as well as classrooms, conference centers, university library, cafeteria and student recreational center.



## 1.10.2 Classroom Facilities

All of VIU's classrooms are equipped with computers, projection and sound systems. The computers have high-speed internet connections and can accommodate CDs and DVDs. The university also provides a large, theater style room, and four computer labs for student use. These labs are equipped with up-to-date hardware and software. Combined, the university has 18 classrooms that will seat 447 students at any given time. The student to faculty ratio is 9:1, and the average class size at VIU is seven students. The classrooms and corresponding seat number capacities are listed below.

Classroom	Capacity
VD-102	54
VD-103*	19
VD 201	18
VD-202	18
VD-203	24
VD-204	24
VD-205	24
VD-206	18
VD 207	18

Classroom	Capacity
VD 208**	12
VD-209*	18
VD-210	18
VD 211	18
VD-212	18
VD-213*	36
VD-214*	36
VD-215	24
VD-216	50

\* Computer Lab

\*\* SCIS Research Lab

## 1.10.3 Transportation

VIU is conveniently located near two international airports: Dulles International Airport (IAD) in Virginia and Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI) in Maryland. Domestic air travel, which includes connecting flights from other international airports in the United States, is also available through the Reagan National Airport (DCA). All three airports have major road and rail links with Fairfax, Virginia.

**From IAD (Dulles International) Airport:** By car, Take exit 9A toward VA-28 south/Sully Rd. Next, merge onto US-29 north toward Fairfax. Drive for about 4.6 miles, and then turn right onto Village Drive.

By metro/bus: Refer to the Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Metro Station instructions and visit [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com).

**From BWI (Baltimore-Washington International) Airport:** By car, Take ramp onto I-195 west. Next, take exit 4B for I-95 south toward Washington. Take exit 27 to merge onto I-495 west toward Silver Spring. After 22.1 miles, take exit 49 for I-66 west toward Manassas/Front Royal. Take exit 57A to merge onto US-50 east toward Fairfax. Turn right onto VA-665. In 0.5mi, turn right onto US-29 south. Finally, turn left onto Village Drive.

By metro/bus: Refer to the Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Metro Station instructions and visit [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com).

**From DCA (Ronald Reagan National) Airport:** By car, Get on George Washington Memorial Pkwy. Exit left onto N Spout Run Pkwy toward I-66 west/US-29 west/Arlington/Washington. Turn right onto US-29 south, and then turn left to merge onto I-66 west. Take exit 57A to merge onto US-50 east toward Fairfax. Turn right onto VA-665. In 0.5mi, turn right onto US-29 south. Finally, turn left onto Village Drive.

By metro/bus: Refer to the Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Metro Station instructions and visit [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com).

VIU is located less than 10 miles away from the Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Metro Rail Station at the end of the Orange line. Walk to Vienna Station & Bus Bay T; Take 1A metro bus towards Ballston; Get off at the intersection of ARLINGTON BV & COVINGTON ST. Take 1C towards West Ox Road & Alliance Drive; Get off at the intersection of GOVERNMENT PKWY & LOWER PARK. Walk to Monument Drive & Cross VA29-Lee Hwy. Monument Drive becomes Village Drive. VIU's building is on the corner.

VIU currently has ample parking for students, faculty and staff at all university locations. Presently, there is no fee to park on campus, though this is subject to change.

**Total of 258 parking lots**

## 2. STUDENT SERVICES

### 2.1 Airport Pick-up Assistance

VIU offers transportation from Dulles International Airport (IAD) but the requesting individual must fill out the form a minimum of 2 weeks in advance. Pick up times are between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday from IAD (Dulles International) Airport. If you need transportation, please fill out this form: <https://www.viu.edu/airport-pick-up-new-students/>.

VIU also recommends that students arriving in the United States use the Super Shuttle services that are available at local airports in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The Student Affairs Department provides students with a detailed explanation of how to arrange pick-up from the following airports: Dulles International Airport (IAD), Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI), and Reagan National Airport (DCA). Students may contact [studentaffairs@viu.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@viu.edu) or call (703) 591-7042 ext. 367 at least two (2) weeks prior to arrival for information and assistance. Students may also refer to following document for detail: [http://www.viu.edu/docs/orientation/Getting\\_to\\_VIU\\_from\\_the\\_Airport.pdf](http://www.viu.edu/docs/orientation/Getting_to_VIU_from_the_Airport.pdf).

Students are responsible for all fees charged by the service providers.

### 2.2 Housing Accommodation Assistance

The Student Affairs Department provides students with resources and useful information to make the process of finding accommodations easier. We do not offer housing, we assist students with locating reasonable and affordable home stays, apartments, shared housing, and hotels in the surrounding communities. Students requiring assistance in finding housing should e-mail [studentaffairs@viu.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@viu.edu).

### 2.3 New Student Orientation

VIU seeks to integrate students into the university community and to support and complement student learning inside and outside of the classroom. To support the needs of our new students, a **mandatory** New Student Orientation program is held prior to the beginning of classes each semester at VIU. During this program, students are introduced to university policies and procedures, including academic advising, course loads, and standards of satisfactory academic progress (SAP). The program and staff encourage students' self-growth, learning, and understanding of their own relationship to the intellectual, social, and cultural climate of VIU. During this orientation, new students have an opportunity to meet fellow VIU students, tour the campus, and meet with admissions officers and their academic departments. For more information, students may contact [studentaffairs@viu.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@viu.edu) or call (703) 591-2760 ext. 367.

### 2.4 Student ID Cards

New students are eligible to receive their student ID card once the add/drop period has ended for the semester, free of charge. In order to obtain a student ID, international students need to come to the Student Affairs office with the following documents:

- Current I-20
- Passport
- Tuition Payment Receipt

Green Card Holders and US Citizens need to bring with them the following documents:

- Tuition Payment Receipt
- One Form of Government-issued Identification

Students are required to have a VIU ID card in order to make photocopies, and to receive any available student discount for which they may qualify. Temporary ID cards can be provided to the student at the Student Affairs office until new student ID cards are provided. If a student's ID card is lost or stolen, students must pay a \$10.00 replacement fee to the accounting office before a new VIU Student ID can be provided to the student.

### 2.5 Student Activities

Student activities at VIU are designed to give students a chance to broaden their interests, share new experiences, and meet new people. Students are encouraged to participate in these social, recreational, educational, and cultural activities as a means to gain a well-rounded education at VIU. Activities for students include those offered both on and off campus. On campus, activities include seminars that feature local and national business leaders, embassy officials and local community businesses. Seminars also include discussions about safety (personal and internet), communication, finances and many additional relevant topics. In addition, student-centered events such as culture shows, the Diversity Luncheon Series, and the Annual President's BBQ may be offered throughout each semester. Off-campus student activities may include day trips to popular site-seeing or educational destinations in Washington, DC and other surrounding areas. In addition to all of these events, VIU students are encouraged to join and participate in a variety of student clubs hosted at

the university. Student Affairs seeks to supplement the classroom learning experience and encourage a well-rounded educational experience at the university. The list of current activities and events available for students are posted on VIU's website. For information regarding our student activities, students are encouraged to contact [studentaffairs@viu.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@viu.edu) or call (703) 591-7042 x367.

## 2.6 Student Health Insurance

Health insurance is not mandatory for VIU students. However, it is **strongly** encouraged for students to obtain health insurance. Visiting a doctor and/or emergency room in the United States can be very expensive. It is even more expensive when you do not have insurance. VIU encourages all students to ensure they obtain coverage for themselves and their family members.

VIU has created a list of insurance companies that are offering affordable health care to students. Please visit: <https://www.viu.edu/student-life/resources/health-insurance/> to learn more about the different insurance options, benefits and prices. We encourage students to call several of the insurance companies to find out what insurance policy is best for his/her situation. Students are not limited to the insurance companies that are listed on this page. Students are able to find their own insurance. Students with questions may contact [studentaffairs@viu.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@viu.edu) or call (703) 591-2760 x367.

## 2.7 Counseling Services

Counseling services are open to all students. If you are struggling with feeling homesick, depressed, anxious, stressed, need advice, or just someone to listen, please come by during the open counseling hours or make an appointment. All information shared during the session is kept confidential.

For more information regarding counseling hours or for links to resources, please visit: <https://www.viu.edu/student-life/services/counseling-services/>.

If you would like to make an appointment e-mail [counseling@viu.edu](mailto:counseling@viu.edu).

## 2.8 Student Success Initiative

The Student Success Initiative is designed to provide extra assistance to students who either (a) request assistance for themselves or (b) who have been referred by staff or instructors. Our goal is to enhance learning and development for improving academic performance.

Available programs include but are not limited to: goal setting (academic and professional), organizational skills, learning theories and learning styles, time management and scheduling, note-taking strategies, reading strategies, memory strategies, exam preparation, test-taking strategies, dealing with test anxiety, motivation and concentration, dealing with and overcoming procrastination, stress management skills, managing finances, multicultural awareness, etc. To learn more about the Student Success Initiative please visit: <https://www.viu.edu/student-life/services/student-success-initiative/>.

## 2.9 Leadership and Mentorship Program

The Leadership and Mentorship Program is designed to get students more involved in activities offered by VIU. The program includes volunteering, going on field trips, participating in VIU events, performing in VIU events, initiating a new club, participating in club events, participating in sports, mentoring new students, etc.

To learn more about the Leadership and Mentorship Program, please visit: <https://www.viu.edu/student-life/services/viu-leadership-and-mentorship-program/>.

## 2.10 Student Clubs

VIU offers a variety of student clubs. The student clubs are open to all students irrespective of their program of study, nationality, or beliefs. Getting involved in student clubs helps students build their leadership, personal, and professional skills. Being involved in student clubs also gives students an opportunity to meet new people, share ideas, and to learn from a group of individuals. To learn more about the student clubs, please visit: <https://www.viu.edu/student-life/student-affairs/student-clubs/>.

## 2.11 Student Union

The Student Union (SU) at VIU is comprised of responsible and motivated members of the VIU student body who are dedicated to ensuring student rights and student involvement in university activities. The SU serves to uphold the voice and opinions of VIU's students and to initiate and implement policies governing their activities. In addition, the SU seeks to foster and support the ideas and wishes of the student body; provide a communication network within the student body; engender cooperation among all student groups, clubs, and organizations; act as a liaison between the student body and

administration, faculty, and staff; and nurture an atmosphere of community within the university. To learn more about the Student Union, Please visit <https://www.viu.edu/student-life/student-affairs/student-union/>.

## **2.12 Library and Information Services**

The purpose of the VIU Library is to provide students with access to the wide range of information, reference, and research materials they will need to supplement classroom instruction and assigned textbooks, complete homework, and to undertake research projects. The Library maintains a sizable in-house collection of books, periodicals, and audio-visual materials. Additionally, VIU Library staff can assist students in accessing a variety of electronic, full-text journals and books, including eight databases, five online journals, and eBooks.

### **2.12.1 Hours of Operation**

The VIU Library is open and staffed by the Librarian and/or trained library assistants, Monday through Thursday; 9am-9pm; Friday 9:00am 3:30pm. Extended hours maybe available during exam periods. Check the library website for updates by visiting <https://www.viu.edu/library/>.

### **2.12.2 Library Website and Catalog**

The library maintains a website, which includes a catalog of library materials, as well as to a variety of other online resources that can be used by students for study, reference, and research. Students can access the library both on and off campus. Using the library's electronic Catalog, students can search for books and other materials as well as place a hold and renew online. Visit The VIU Library website to learn more: <https://www.viu.edu/library/>.

### **2.12.3 Collection**

The VIU Library currently has approximately 5,982 volumes, the majority of which are relevant to the University's areas of study: business, computer and information science, TESOL, linguistics, public administration, international relations, education, and English as a second language. The Library maintains a reference collection with a variety of standard and specialized reference works and a reserve collection consisting of textbooks and supplementary material for current courses. The Library subscribes to approximately 4 periodicals. Students at VIU can request resources through Interlibrary Loan of a number of nearby academic and public libraries to support their studies.

### **2.12.4 Online Resources**

VIU subscribes to 8 online research databases, journals, and eBooks: Academic Search Elite, ACM Digital Library, Business Source Elite, Credo, Comparative Politics, EBSCOhost eBooks, IBISWorld, JSTOR, The Economist, MIT Sloan Management Review, Regional Business News, and TESOL. All of these can be accessed from the Library's website. The online libraries give students and faculty access to a wide range of information, reference, and research resources. Please see the library webpage for descriptions. EBSCOhost focuses on providing access to the full-text of current academic books. EBSCOhost currently provides access to over 177,000 books. The VIU Library webpage has links to over 200 other websites in the areas of business, computer and information science, ESL, general reference, biology, comparative religion, English language and literature, history, mathematics, philosophy, psychology, and sociology. The links provide valuable resources for student study and research.

### **2.12.5 Circulation Policy**

Reference materials and periodicals must be used inside the library. Books in the course reserve collection must also remain in the library so that they are available to all students during the reserve period. All other materials in the collection may be checked out for four (4) weeks at a time. The VIU Student ID card that is issued during the New Student Orientation serves as your VIU Library card. When checking out materials, requesting reference assistance, or other library services, students will be asked to show their VIU Student ID card. Borrowed material may be renewed in-person, online, or by phone, if there is no request for the material from other students or faculty. Library materials should be returned to the VIU Library circulation desk.

### **2.12.6 Reference Services**

Members of the VIU Library staff are available to assist students with research needs. Additionally, they are available to help students on how to use VIU's online resources. Library staff can be contacted for assistance at the Library reference desk, by e-mail or by live chat at any time during library hours.

- Library email: [library@viu.edu](mailto:library@viu.edu)
- Chat link: <https://www.viu.edu/library/contact-us/>

### **2.12.7 Computer and Internet Access**

The library has wireless Internet access, so students and faculty can access the Internet from the Library using their own wireless-enabled laptop. Desktop computers with Internet connection and a printer are also available for use in the Library.



## 2.13 Campus E-mail Account

Admitted students will receive a VIU campus e-mail account. Students are expected to use this account for all communications within the university, including correspondence with their instructors. Students who would prefer only to have to check their primary email account may set their VIU campus e-mail account to forward to their other address. For more information and assistance, refer to the IT webpage at <https://it.viu.edu/>.

## 2.14 International Students Services

The International Students Services Office (ISSO) is responsible for assisting students with all immigration matters that affect international degree-seeking students, as well as English language study students on non-immigrant visas (F-1). The ISS Office is a centralized immigration advising office for all international students, and is responsible for maintaining the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) compliance for Virginia International University.

In addition, the ISSO also assists other university departments with efforts in providing welfare to all international students, and acts as a resource and support to these individuals in transition to the new culture and environmental surroundings. International student advisement includes, but is not limited to; assistance with procedures, expectations, and requirements of U.S. academic standards. It is a priority of the ISSO to assist with cultivating opportunities to promote and encourage cross-cultural understanding. The International Student Service office is located in the third floor of the campus at 4401 Village Drive and can be reached at (703) 591-7042 or by email at [dso@viu.edu](mailto:dso@viu.edu).

### 2.14.1 Regulations for International Students (F-1 visa/status)

It is the student's responsibility to comply with all immigration regulations that apply to F-1 visa students. If a student fails to follow these procedures, then he or she will be considered "Out of Status" and until the student is able to obtain a new F-1 status, according to immigration guidelines, he/she may not:

1. Continue to stay and study in the USA;
2. Extend their period of study (if needed);
3. Be approved to travel outside of the USA, by a Designated School Official
4. Pursue practical training; or
5. Participate in other F-1 visa related activities (if applicable).

### 2.14.2 International Students (F-1 visa) Responsibilities

1. Possess un-expired passport that is valid for at least six (6) months at all times during their stay in the U.S.
2. Attend the school that they are authorized to attend.
3. Make normal progress toward completing their program of study.
4. Report any change of local address, phone number, or email address to the ISS Office within 10 days of the change. Students should also update the aforementioned information via their Student Portals. If applicable, comply with Special Registration Procedures for certain foreign nationals. (For more details, please contact VIU's International Student Services Office).
5. Maintain full-time enrollment at all times:
  - a. **If in an Academic Program:** The full-time course load for graduate degree and certificate programs is 9 credits per semester, and the full-time course load for undergraduate and certificate programs is 12 credits per semester. However, during the summer sessions the full time course load is lower for graduate and undergraduate studies. The summer session full course load for graduate degree programs is 3 credits and for undergraduate programs, it is 6 credits. Any student starting during a summer session is required to maintain a full course load in that specific summer session. Keep in mind that if a student is required to take pre-requisites the course load may vary.
  - b. **If in the ESL Program:** The full-time course load for the ESL program is 20 hours per week.
6. Obtain a new I-20 for a change of program/concentration or a program level of study. Abide by VIU's attendance policy, which requires that all full-time students attend at least 75% of all classes.
7. Accept no employment of any kind, either on-campus or off-campus, without written permission from VIU's ISS Office and, if necessary, by USCIS.
8. Request and be approved of a Reduced Course Load (if applicable)
9. Request a Program Extension of stay as needed. This must be done at least 1 month before the original program end date, according to the most current I-20. If a student requires more time to complete their program than that of which is authorized on the VIU I-20, he or she must request a program extension through the ISS Webpage at <https://www.viu.edu/student-life/iss-office/iss-forms/>
10. Complete a timely reinstatement application if the student has lost their status. The ISS office will make a decision on recommending the student for reinstatement based on the student's demonstration of intention to continue studying.

### 2.14.3 Vacation and Annual Break:

Students who wish to take their annual break must complete an Annual Break Form and submit it to the International Student Services Office at least one week prior to the beginning of the first session of the requested annual break. When the form is turned in, the ISS Office will determine if the student is eligible for the annual break and will inform the student of the decision as well as the student's return to class date. The student will be informed via campus email within two business days of submission of the Annual Break Form

1. *If in an **Academic Program**:* All degree-seeking F-1 visa students are permitted to take a break after studying at least one full semester, **and** only during the official school recesses, semester breaks, and summer sessions. However, if one of the summer sessions is their first semester at VIU, or in the United States, they must study during that specific summer session in accordance to the USCIS regulations.
2. *If in the **Intensive ESL Program**:* Students are permitted to take their Annual Break only after completing four (4) consecutive 7-week terms. The annual break is for a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms. Students must take at least four (4) consecutive terms of courses between annual breaks. Students are not eligible to take an annual break after their final session of courses. Students will be eligible for a 60-day grace period (under USCIS regulations) after completing their program. The grace period begins on the Program End Date listed on the I-20 and ends 60 calendar days later.

Students who wish to take their annual break must submit the request online through TD on the ISS Office webpage at <https://www.viu.edu/student-life/iss-office/iss-forms/> at least one week prior to the beginning of the first session of the requested annual break. When the application request is received by the ISS Office, a DSO will determine if the student is eligible for the annual break and will inform the student of the decision as well as the student's return to class date. The student will be informed via campus email within 3-5 business days of submission of the Annual Break Request.

### 2.14.4 Program Extension

F1 students are given a specific period of time to complete their academic program requirements at VIU. However, if students are unable to complete their program by the program end date printed on their current I-20 Form, it is the responsibility of the F1 student to submit a Program Extension Request to the ISS Office prior to their program end date. As per Federal Regulations concerning F-1 students, the ISSO can extend the expected program completion date if the delay is **"caused by compelling academic reasons, such as change of major, or research topics, unexpected research problems, or medical reasons. Delays such as academic probation or suspension are not acceptable reasons for program extensions"** [8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(iv)]. To request a Program Extension of their I-20 Form students must:

- a. Submit an electronic request for program extension by visiting the ISSO webpage at <https://www.viu.edu/student-life/iss-office/iss-forms/>
- b. Students requesting a program extension due to compelling academic reason must obtain a recommendation from their Academic Advisor or School Dean.
- c. Students requesting a program extension due to medical reasons must provide the necessary documentation issued by a licensed doctor.
- d. When the ISS Office receives the electronic request, a DSO will review the request and will notify the student via email of the final decision. When the request is approved, the student will receive a new updated I-20 form (with a new program end date).

**NOTE:** Program extension requests may be submitted as early as 120 days prior to the student's current I-20 program end date as indicated on the I-20 Form and no less than 2 weeks prior to the program end date. Program Extension Requests cannot be made after the program end date/expiration date, doing so constitutes a violation of the F1 status.

### 2.14.5 School Transfers

If a current student studying on an F1 visa needs to make a school transfer, they are advised to do so in a timely fashion. It is required that students inform the ISSO of their intention to transfer via email, at [dso@viu.edu](mailto:dso@viu.edu), or in person by the start date of the new semester at VIU. Failure to do so will result in the student's record being transferred in Terminated status. However, Initial students are required to inform VIU's International Student Services Office of their intention to transfer, via email, phone or in person before the program start date listed on their I-20. Failure to do so will result in the student's record being transferred in Terminated status. Initial students will also need to begin courses at the new Institution no later than 30 days of their entry date into the U.S. We ask that any student, who informs the department via phone, also follow up with an email to [DSO@viu.edu](mailto:DSO@viu.edu).

Transfer-out students must submit the following information:

- Acceptance Letter from New Academic Institution
- F-1 Transfer Verification Form (if applicable)
- VIU Institutional Withdrawal Form (with the required signatures, if applicable for non-completers)
- Copy of their F-1 Visa



- Copy of their I-94 record

The aforementioned documents must be upload on ISS Office webpage when submitting the electronic request for transfer out by logging in to <https://www.viu.edu/student-life/iss-office/iss-forms/>

### 2.14.6 F-1 Visa Grace Periods

Upon completion of the program requirements, and/or completion of optional practical training, F-1 visa students must leave the US within the 60-day grace period, change to another immigration status within the time allowed, or return to school, usually within the first 45 days of the grace period. A student who obtains permission from an International Student Advisor for early withdrawal, prior to withdrawing from VIU will have 15 days to depart from the U.S. However, a student who withdraws without prior approval or terminates their course of study must depart from the U.S. immediately.

### 2.14.7 Financial Support

If there are any changes in a student's financial status and sponsorship information such as a change in sponsor or receipt of scholarship and/or other financial aid, the student must report this change to the International Student Services Office within 10 days.

### 2.14.8 Travel Authorization for F-1 Visa Students

It is the policy of Virginia International University's International Student Service Office (ISSO) that all F-1 students wishing to travel outside of the United States at any time during their program of study or while on OPT will need to request permission to do so at least 2 weeks in advance of their travel plans. All F-1 students must be aware of the university's travel policy and adhere to it accordingly.

1. F-1 students should only travel outside of the U.S. during official school breaks (such as Annual Break (ESL students only), or Summer Break) with the exception of extreme emergency cases. The ISS Office will review documents on a case-by-case basis, and a Leave of Absence request will be required.
2. To submit a Travel Authorization Request, students must do so by doing so on the ISSO webpage by visiting <https://www.viu.edu/student-life/iss-office/iss-forms/> and creating a new application request by clicking on the link for Travel Authorization Request
3. All F-1 students should obtain a DSO signature on their I-20 before they depart from the U.S.
4. All F-1 students must fulfill his/her financial obligation to VIU before travel authorization
5. All F-1 students must enroll for their next mandatory semester, if applicable
6. The ISS Office encourages F-1 students to travel with all of their I-20s, valid passport and F-1 visa, financial documents, and academic records (current transcript or status letter)

Anytime a student wishes to travel outside of the U.S., they should be able to submit the following for proof of travel:

1. A completed Travel Authorization Form
2. Travel Itinerary (flight ticket information). **NOTE:** submission of an itemized travel itinerary is highly encouraged by the ISS Office. Students who are unable to submit travel itineraries will have their dates of travel recorded directly on their I-20 when issued.
3. Your most current I-20
4. Other documentation (if applicable)

*\*F-2 dependents also require valid Travel Authorization signatures for re-entry to the U.S.*

**Disclaimer:** All F-1 students and their dependents should understand that they assume any and all risks associated with traveling outside of the U.S. The ISS Office will guide and advise students to the best of their ability, with the understanding that CBP has the right to question and detain any student they choose for any reason.

## 2.15 Internship & Practicum Policy

VIU offers opportunities for students to conduct practical, hands-on training where it is relevant and related to the program of study through internship or practicum opportunities. Such opportunities are offered as part of a course of study within applicable programs/majors.

Depending upon field-specific criteria, programs generally refer to these hands-on opportunities as an internship or a practicum. Because some professions refer to an in-field experience as a "practicum" (generally in education programs primarily focused on teaching), while others use "internship" (generally for programs in which the internship would be considered direct work experience), the determination of what to call an in-field experience is dependent upon the curriculum as determined by the faculty. While there may be curricular differences between these two terms as defined by the Schools, VIU views these as the same for administrative purposes.

At VIU, there are two types of internship (or practicum) experiences where curricularly relevant:

- **Traditional Internship Courses:** These courses are specifically designed as internship courses. Students enrolled in a traditional internship course complete all or most of their required time on-site in an internship facility. Some, but

not all, internship courses require additional time at VIU in a lecture or seminar as defined by the course and School in which the internship is taken. Traditional internship courses are generally three (3) or more credits.

- **Internship Qualified Courses:** These courses offer students an opportunity to apply course content that they learn in traditional lecture courses, while also partaking in additional outside work related to the course content. Such opportunities are marked as “internship qualified” in the course description. No special marker indicates that the course included an internship on the transcript for these internship-qualified experiences.

Since academic credit is awarded for internships, students must be enrolled in a traditional internship course, or an internship qualified course in order to qualify for course credit. Students not enrolled in an internship course while participating in a practical experience are unable to receive credit for an internship. Approval to conduct an internship must be received prior to the start of the semester in which the student wishes to conduct an internship opportunity.

The period of the internship must correspond with the dates of a semester; time conducted before or after the semester start/end dates do not qualify to count toward the internship credit. Internship opportunities must be completed within the normal length of a single semester/term. While students are not permitted to conduct a single internship over multiple semester, where applicable, student may be able to conduct multiple internships over their program.

No experiential credit is awarded retroactively for an internship; prior work experience or work conducted during a course, but not preapproved, would not be eligible for credit for an internship.

Unless required in a program’s curriculum, there are no guarantees that all interested students will be able to participate in internships, as these opportunities are based on a student’s academic credentials, their eligibility, any potential internship interview, and/or site availability.

**NOTE:** Not all programs offer internship opportunities. Refer to individual programs for details on whether internship opportunities are available

### 2.15.1 Breakdown of Internship Hours

For the purposes of calculating time required on internships (both traditional and internship qualified courses), the Federal regulations for calculating credit hours and time (§600.2 of the Department of Education Federal Code) are used. Following these regulations, hours for each traditional internship course or internship-qualified courses are defined as follows: lecture courses comprise one credit for each 15 hours of face-to-face, one credit of for each 30 hours of laboratory, and one credit for each 45 hours of practicum/internship. Using these regulations, some examples are provided below.

All traditional internship courses and internship-qualified courses provide a breakdown of the hours required for completion of the internship on the course syllabus.

### 2.15.2 Traditional Internship Workload

Most traditional internship courses use a breakdown of workload equivalent to completion of three (3) credits on-site at the internship location. An example of the in-class breakdown of the workload requirement is provided below:

#### **WORKLOAD**

*3.0 credits: 135 hours of practical experience*

Occasionally, dependent upon the course/program content, some internship/practicum courses may also apply in-class time categorized as “seminar/lab time” in which students are required to attend seminar sessions as a component of the course content on-campus in addition to the off-site internship time. Such in-class seminars are related to the internship experience as a means of allowing students to discuss their experiences with other students/the professor in a semi-structured manner with a faculty member. An example of the breakdown of the in-class workload requirement for an internship combining on-campus and internship hours is below:

#### **WORKLOAD**

*0.5 credit: 15 hours of seminar/lab instruction*

*2.5 credits: 115 hours of practical experience*

Other workloads may be defined, dependent upon curricular content, on the syllabus and in the course description of the academic catalog. The workloads specified above are provided as a sample only.

Although rare, some programs, for curricular reasons, may require more credits for an internship/practicum experience. In order to determine the total number of hours required for internships, multiple each credit by 45 hours. For example, a six (6) credit internship would require 270 hours. These hours are reflected in the syllabus and in the academic catalog in the course descriptions.

### 2.15.3 Internship-Qualified Courses

Students taking internship-qualified courses complete the normal coursework and hours required for a traditional lecture course. These special courses allow students to apply what they learn from class in academically appropriate internship opportunities. Because internship qualified courses are taken in additional to traditional lecture time, students must be

engaged in work directly related to the content of the lecture course. Students may be required to participate in all course required lectures, in addition to the internship work associated with the course. Although students may be engaged in hours related to internship time outside of the traditional hours of the class, students are still expected to complete all required work for the course. Internship time does not substitute for coursework.

Students approved for an internship in qualified courses must work with their instructors to define learning outcomes appropriate to both the course and the internship opportunity. The instructor will also determine a capstone or term project that would demonstrate achievement these learning outcomes prior to the start of the course.

### **2.15.4 Eligibility for Internship and Practicum Opportunities**

In order to be eligible to complete an internship, a student must:

1. Be enrolled in a program that includes a traditional internship course or an internship qualified course;
2. Meet all required course pre-requisites prior to the start of the term in which the student intends to conduct the internship;
3. Register for a course (either a traditional internship or an internship qualified course) prior to the first day of the semester;
4. Be in good standing at the time of registration;
5. Demonstrate the ability to secure an internship site before the first day of the semester; and
6. Complete all required paperwork and commitments prior to the first day of the semester in which they wish to do an internship.

**NOTE:** Additional requirements may apply to students studying on an F-1 visa. Such students must refer to the “curricular practical training (CPT)” portion of the catalog for details on eligibility for F-1 students. International students must complete the Curricular Practical Training (CPT) authorization process in order to participate in the internship program. For more information on CPT, see the Regulations for International Students section or contact VIU’s Career Center.

### **2.15.5 Awarding of Course Credit**

In order for students to be awarded credit for an internship opportunity, they must meet all of the following:

1. Completion of all required internship coursework;
2. Attending all required meetings with the course instructor; and
3. Completion of the minimum number of hours as documented on the timesheet.

While the field experience courses require significant time on-site at an institution related to the appropriate program, the on-site supervisors do not contribute to the grade for the course. The grade for the course is assigned by the VIU-course-instructor. Achievement of the learning outcomes is observed through the submission of work to the course instructor, based upon work conducted during the internship course.

### **2.15.6 Establishing Internship Sites**

The School Dean must approve and establish an internship agreement with any and all sites not already approved by the School. This approval must be secured prior to the conducting hours/work at the internship site. The internship agreement establishes the scope of the internship and the relationship between the student, VIU, and the site.

### **2.15.7 Finding Internship or Practicum Sites**

The Career Center assists students with the academic internship search and application processes. Students have access to past internship employers and other job search resources through the Career Center.

### **2.15.8 Practical Training Regulations for F-1 Students**

The U.S. government allows F-1 visa students **two** possible opportunities to gain practical experience related to their field of study, as follows.

**Academic Internship:** An F–1 student may be authorized by the DSO to participate in an internship program that is an integral part of an established curriculum. Students need to have studied full time consecutively for at least one (1) academic year here in the United States (based on their academic program), to become eligible for an academic internship. The academic internship is defined as alternative work/study, cooperative education, or any other type of internship or practicum that is offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the school. The student has to be enrolled into an academic course while on an internship and the internship component of any course is equal to only one (1) or three (3) credit hours. An academic internship is an optional component of specific degree programs at VIU. Students who wish to pursue the academic internship should consult with the school dean/director, and the Career Center for the required paperwork and permission. Any student applying for a 3-credit internship will need to make sure that their internship application has been approved by the first day of classes for that current semester. At the discretion of the Dean, as well as the International Student Advisor, students applying for a 1-credit internship may be approved at any time during the current semester.

**Optional Practical Training (OPT):** The U.S. government permits graduated students in F-1 status to work for a limited amount of time in the United States so that they may reinforce what they have learned in university and/or college degree

programs. This benefit is called Optional Practical Training (OPT). OPT allows F-1 students to obtain employment in areas related to their academic program of study. OPT is available for periods up to twelve (12) months at each higher academic level, and may be extended under some circumstances in STEM program-related fields. A job offer is not necessary to apply for OPT, and if approved a student may work for one or more employers, change jobs, or look for work during the training period. Students who wish to pursue the OPT program should consult with the ISS Office for information on obtaining the required paperwork and permissions. It is the student's responsibility to apply for OPT in a timely manner.

*\* PLEASE NOTE: These are only some of the rules and regulations associated with your F-1 visa, and/or status. Please contact the International Student Services Office for any questions or concerns regarding your visa, and/or status.*

## 2.16 Career Services

The VIU Career Services Department provides individual counseling and professional development resources to help students and alumni learn the skills needed to obtain volunteer, internship and employment opportunities. All VIU students are encouraged to visit the Career Services in their very first semester, before they apply for an academic internship and before graduation when they are looking for employment (OPT). Below is an overview of the services offered by the Career Services Department:

**Cover Letter and Résumé Reviews** All students will need a North American-style cover letter and résumé to apply for on- and off-campus jobs and internships. Students should schedule an appointment in their first semester with the Career Services Department.

**On-campus Employment Counseling** The Career Services assists students with on-campus employment searches and applications through the Career Services Management (CSM), VIU's on- and off-campus job search tool. To access CSM: <https://viu-csm.symplicity.com/students/index.php>.

**Off-campus Employment Counseling (Academic Internship and OPT)** The Career Services offers a number of resources to help students in their job or academic internship search process. Several resources include employer database, the CSM, employer binders that contain information about companies hiring, and job boards. Positions are also posted in weekly e-mails that are sent out from the Career Services and posted on Facebook. To access Facebook: [www.facebook.com/viucareers](http://www.facebook.com/viucareers).

**Internship Counseling** After one year in a full-time degree program, most students are eligible to complete an academic internship. The Career Services assists students with the academic internship search and application processes. Students have access to past internship employers and other job search resources through the Career Services.

**Professional Development Opportunities** Throughout the year, VIU provides a number of workshops and information sessions on those skills required to find employment. Past sessions have included cover letter and résumé writing, introductions, networking, job fair preparation, interviewing, LinkedIn, American business culture, business communication, employment benefits, and work visas. VIU's Linked-In alumni community is also available for students looking to network or to obtain a mentor.

### 2.16.1 Career Services Contact Information

Website: <http://career.viu.edu>  
Email: [career@viu.edu](mailto:career@viu.edu)  
Phone: (703) 591-7042 ext. 366  
Facebook: VIU Career Services  
LinkedIn: Career Services VIU  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

## 2.17 Writing, Research, and Media Center

The Writing, Research, and Media Center (WRMC) at VIU serves to support our learning community in a way that allows for enhanced growth and ability to communicate in writing for VIU's various fields of study. By providing resources to our learning community related to writing, researching, and use of media, the WRMC aims to support and develop knowledge and awareness of resources and tools for self-development and long-term personal coaching. Students are provided one-on-one or group sessions to target specific needs in order to allow for the development of skills for long-term success. Faculty also benefit from the WRMC through consultations about instructional questions or issues related to students and their work.

The WRMC hosts a website (<https://www.viu.edu/wrmc/>) with resources and tools for success for students and faculty.

### 3. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

#### 3.1 VIU Admission Policies & Procedures

For the 2019 – 2020 academic year, all applicants to a VIU program of study must provide the necessary documentation, as described in detail below. An application will not be considered complete, and thus, will not be reviewed, until all application documents and fees have been received. Once the completed application and fees are received, the application is carefully reviewed for admission. Applicants meeting the admission criteria are evaluated with respect to other qualified applicants, and are selected accordingly.

The following sections outline the admissions requirements for applicants applying to a program of study at VIU. Some documents or requirements differ based upon whether an applicant is considered domestic or international. While the minimum requirements are the same for both, international students have to provide additional materials related to student visa requirements. Refer to the relevant requirements below.

#### 3.2 VIU's Admission Requirements

The following materials are required for admission to programs at VIU. Consult the relevant column for the degree level for which you are applying:

#	Admission Materials	Program				
		Graduate	Undergraduate	Graduate Certificate	Undergraduate Certificate	Intensive English as a Second Language (ESL)
1	Application Form	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Application Fee <sup>4</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Demonstration of Required Education Level	Bachelor's	High School	Bachelor's	High School	--
4	Official Transcript & Min. GPA	✓ GPA: 2.5 <sup>3</sup>	✓	✓ GPA: 2.5 <sup>3</sup>	--	--
5	English Proficiency <sup>1</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	--
6	Identification	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Financial Documents <sup>2</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Statement of Purpose	✓	--	✓	--	--
9	Resume/CV	✓	--	✓	--	--
10	Official Recommendation	✓	--	✓	--	--

<sup>1</sup> For applicants whose native language is not English, proof of proficiency in English must be provided. See Explanation of "English Proficiency Requirements" for more details.

<sup>2</sup> For F-1 Visa applicants only. An official bank statement of the sponsor and a Statement of Financial Support must be submitted.

<sup>3</sup> To ensure that eventual students will have the ability to benefit from education in our institution, Virginia International University (VIU) requires that applicants meet a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) standards. When applying for a graduate level program at VIU, students must have a minimum of a 2.50 CGPA on a 4.00 scale from their undergraduate studies. Alternatively, students who might have an undergraduate CGPA between 2.30-2.49 on a 4.00 scale, but have previous graduate work at a college or university equivalent to at least 9 credits and a CGPA greater than 3.00 would also demonstrate sufficient CGPA.

<sup>4</sup> Application Fees differ for international versus domestic students based processing times and requirements. See the relevant sections under "Explanation of Materials for U.S. Domestic Applicants" or "Explanation of Materials for International Applicants."

<sup>5</sup> VIU's has a minimum age requirement. Applicants below the age of 18 should refer to the "Minimum Age Requirements for Admission."

The Admissions policy shall conform to the institution's mission, shall be publicly stated, and shall be administered as written. The following minimums apply:

- The requirements for students admitted to programs leading to an undergraduate degree, certificate, or diploma shall include graduation from high school, General Education (GED) score, or the equivalent.
- The requirements for students admitted to programs leading to a graduate degree or certificate shall include graduation from an accredited bachelor's degree program. An official bachelor's degree transcript(s) demonstrating a CGPA of 2.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale or equivalent is required. A High School Transcript may be requested if the degree diploma does not indicate the CGPA information. Alternatively, students who might have an undergraduate CGPA between 2.30 and 2.49, but who have previous graduate work at a college or university equivalent to at least 9 credits and a CGPA greater than 3.0 would also demonstrate sufficient CGPA.

- (c) Foreign transcripts of international students seeking transfer credits must be evaluated by an endorsed member of Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE), American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), or National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES)
- (d) It is the responsibility of the institution to maintain student records, which reflect the requirements for admission of all students.
- (e) Institutions are not precluded from admitting, under different requirements, students who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance or who may be otherwise specially circumstanced, such as: (i) having financial sponsorship through contractual arrangements with public or private organizations; (ii) having identifiable needs requiring remedial instruction as a supplement to the regular curricula; (iii) participating in innovative postsecondary programs specially described to ACICS; or (iv) being enrolled in individual courses not leading to an academic credential.

### 3.2.1 Explanation of Undergraduate Admission Requirements

A student may be admitted into an undergraduate program (degree or certificate) of study offered by the university upon satisfying all of the requirements applicable to that program of study, as follows:

1. **Minimum Age Requirement:** See the “Minimum Age Requirements for Admission” for more detail/requirements for applicants who are below the age of 18; and
2. **Application Form:** All applicants must submit a fully completed online application form. Incomplete applications will not be considered for admission until all necessary information has been received by the Admissions Office; and
3. **Application Fee:** Applicants must pay a non-refundable application fee. See “Application Fee for Domestic Students” or “Application Fee for International Students” for specific information on the fee based upon your status as a domestic or international applicant; and
4. **Demonstration of Required Education Level:** The student has: (1) a high school diploma (excluding special diplomas, special education diplomas, modified diplomas, applied studies diplomas, adjusted diplomas, alternative diplomas, certificates of completion/attendance/participation, etc.); or (2) a recognized equivalent of a high school diploma (e.g., a certification that the student has demonstrated high-school level academic skills or an official document from a state authority [to the satisfaction of the school]) recognizing that the student has successfully completed secondary school through home schooling (as defined by state law). VIU follows the Commonwealth of Virginia specifications for certifying using an Attestation Form that students have achieved a High School Diploma, a copy of the certification evidencing the student’s receipt of a recognized equivalent of a high school diploma (GED), and/or an official document from a state authority (to the satisfaction of the university) recognizing that the student successfully completed secondary school through home schooling (as defined by state law); and
5. **Official Transcripts and Minimum GPA Requirements:** Applicants are expected to request official proof of completion of a high school diploma (excluding special diplomas, special education diplomas, modified diplomas, applied study diplomas, adjusted diplomas, alternative diplomas, certificates of completion/attendance/participation, etc.); or a copy of the certification evidencing the student’s receipt of an equivalent of a high school diploma (GED) approved by a State Department of Education; or Home School documentation to be sent directly to the Office of the Registrar at VIU for evaluation for admittance.

Students must submit document of graduation from high school or its equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, or deemed to be equivalent in the case of a foreign transcript. Note that GED Tests cannot be taken online and can only be taken at an official testing center.

Students submitting international education credentials must provide an official general evaluation from a member of Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE), American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)’s International Education Services, or National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) to validate equivalency with graduation from the high school and eligibility to enter university in the United States. Applicants must provide documentation of evidence of high school graduation, passing GED scores, or equivalent prior to starting a program.

6. **English Proficiency (IF APPLICABLE):** For students whose native language is not English, please refer to the “English Proficiency Requirements”; and
7. **Identification:** A copy of an official government-issued photo identification (for example, a passport). For domestic students, a copy must be obtained by the university upon time of semester check in. for international students, a legible copy of the passport must be received with the application.
8. **Financial Documents (FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY):** Please refer to the Explanation of Materials for International Applicants if you are an international applicant. Domestic Students do not need to provide any financial documents for their application.

### 3.2.2 Explanation of Graduate Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission into a graduate-level program (including degrees and certificates at the graduate level), the following conditions must be met:

1. **Minimum Age Requirement:** See the “Minimum Age Requirements for Admission” for more detail/requirements for applicants who are below the age of 18; and
2. **Application Form:** All applicants must submit a fully completed online application form. Incomplete applications will not be considered for admission until all necessary information has been received by the Admissions Office; and
3. **Application Fee:** Applicants must pay a non-refundable application fee. See “Application Fee for Domestic Students” or “Application Fee for International Students” for specific information on the fee based upon your status as a domestic or international applicant; and
4. **Demonstration of Required Education Level:** The student has a baccalaureate degree awarded by an educational institution located in the U.S. that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, or an educational institution located outside the U.S. that is accredited or similarly acknowledged by an agency deemed acceptable at the discretion of the university; and
5. **Official Transcripts and Minimum GPA Requirements:** The student must provide an official transcript from the educational institution awarding the degree. All applicants must submit original official transcripts, or notarized or attested copies of transcripts, from all colleges or universities previously attended (whether or not a degree was earned from the institution). If transcripts from the institution are issued in a foreign language as well as in English, applicants will only be required to submit the English version. Applicants submitting international education credentials must provide an official course-by-course evaluation from a member of Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE), American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)'s International Education Services, or National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) to validate equivalency with graduation from the undergraduate program and eligibility to admit in graduate program in university in the United States.

A minimum of a 2.5 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) is required for graduate admission. To ensure that eventual students will have the ability to benefit from education in our institution, Virginia International University (VIU) requires that applicants meet a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) standards. When applying for a graduate level program at VIU, students must have a minimum of a 2.5 CGPA on a 4.0 scale from their undergraduate studies. Alternatively, students who might have an undergraduate CGPA between 2.30-2.49 on a 4.00 scale, but have previous graduate work at a college or university equivalent to at least 9 credits and a CGPA greater than 3.0 would also demonstrate sufficient CGPA; and

6. **English Proficiency (IF APPLICABLE):** For students whose native language is not English, please refer to the “English Proficiency Requirements”; and
7. **Identification:** A copy of an official government-issued photo identification (for example, a passport). For domestic students, a copy must be obtained by the university upon time of semester check in. for international students, a legible copy of the passport must be received with the application.
8. **Financial Documents (FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY):** Please refer to the Explanation of Materials for International Applicants if you are an international applicant. Domestic Students do not need to provide any financial documents for their application.
9. Each graduate degree program requires submission of the following:
  - **Statement of Purpose:** 500 words defining the applicant’s academic interests, professional objectives, areas of interest to be explored in the program, and reasoning behind joining the program. The statement of purpose should demonstrate an understanding of the specific program to which the candidate is applying and make connections to the applicant’s eventual career aspirations. Statements must be written in English in the candidate’s own words.
  - **Resume/CV:** Summary document detailing current and/or previous work history and education. Previous work history is not a requirement for admission.
  - **Official Recommendation:** One official letter of recommendation from either a personal or professional contact who can speak to the candidate’s academic abilities (preferably from a current/former instructor, work colleague, or a current/former supervisor, and dated within the last three years). All recommendations should be written in English or provide an official translation. The recommendation letter must include contact information with a minimum of an email address (preferably an institutional email address) and physical mailing address. By submitting the official recommendation, applicants are permitting VIU to contact their recommender on their behalf regarding their application.

### 3.2.3 Explanation of Intensive English Program Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission into the Intensive English as a Second Language Program, the following conditions must be met:

1. **Minimum Age Requirement:** See the "Minimum Age Requirements for Admission" for more detail/requirements for applicants who are below the age of 18; and
2. **Application Form:** All applicants must submit a fully completed online application form. Incomplete applications will not be considered for admission until all necessary information has been received by the Admissions Office; and
3. **Application Fee:** Applicants must pay a non-refundable application fee. See "Application Fee for Domestic Students" or "Application Fee for International Students" for specific information on the fee based upon your status as a domestic or international applicant; and
4. **Identification:** A copy of an official government-issued photo identification (for example, a passport). For domestic students, a copy must be obtained by the university upon time of semester check in. for international students, a legible copy of the passport must be received with the application.
5. **Financial Documents** (*FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY*): Please refer to the Explanation of Materials for International Applicants if you are an international applicant. Domestic Students do not need to provide any financial documents for their application.

*NOTE: While students can submit proof of English proficiency with their application, all students must complete the Placement Test in order to be placed into an appropriate level.*

### 3.2.1 Submission of Documents for Admission

All application materials must be submitted in English or be accompanied by a certified English translation of the original document for applicants. Copies of original documents must be notarized or attested by an embassy, consulate, or notary. Please note that not all consulates provide this service. If you are submitting an original document, please let us know.

Original documents or attested copies may be sent in the following ways:

- Scanned as a PDF file and uploaded into the Application Portal: <https://portal.viu.edu/application/login.asp>
- Sent by mail to:  
Virginia International University  
Attn: Admissions Office  
4401 Village Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030 USA

VIU has the right to request original documentation. The submission of fabricated or falsified documents will result in a) the denial of the student's application and banning of the student from future admission to the university, b) the immediate expulsion of the student if the falsification is found after admission, or c) the nullification of a degree if the falsification is found after program completion.

### 3.3 Explanation of Materials for U.S. Domestic Applicants

According to the Department of Education, "to be considered a U.S. Residential and/or *Domestic Student*, you must: Be a citizen of the *United States* of America, be a Permanent Resident of the *United States* of America at the time you apply for admission, or hold Refugee, Asylum, or Jay Treaty status. Individuals on H Visas, A Visas, O1 Visas, and K Visas will be considered under the domestic admissions category."

#### 3.3.1 Application Fee for Domestic Applicants

All domestic applicants are required to submit a completed application package, with a non-refundable \$20.00 application fee. No application will be considered without payment of this fee. For information regarding methods of payment, please visit our website at <http://www.viu.edu/future-students/finance/payment-information.html>.

### 3.4 Explanation of Materials for International Applicants

According to the US Department of Education, an **international student** is defined as an "individual who is enrolled for credit at an accredited higher education institution in the U.S. on a temporary visa, and who is not an immigrant (permanent resident with an I-51 or Green Card), or an undocumented immigrant, or a refugee."

#### 3.4.1 Application Fee for International Applicants

All international applicants are required to submit a completed application package, with a non-refundable \$100.00 application fee. No application will be considered without payment of this fee. For information regarding methods of payment, please visit our website at <http://www.viu.edu/future-students/finance/payment-information.html>.



### 3.4.2 Proof of Official Identification Requirements for International Applicants

Each international applicant is required to submit a legible copy of an official, government-issued passport from their country of origin.

### 3.4.3 Required Financial Support Documents for International Applicants

For F-1 visa applicants, an official bank statement of the sponsor and a Statement of Financial Support must be submitted.

### 3.5 Foreign Degree/Transcript Evaluation

All applicants seeking admission to a program of study at Virginia International University with a degree from a non-U.S. institution must comply with the following requirements:

- 1.) Students being admitted to a program leading to a graduate degree, certificate, or diploma shall include graduation from bachelor's degree program or its equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants submitting international education credentials must provide a course-by-course evaluation from a member of Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE), American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)'s International Education Services, or National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) to validate equivalency with graduation from the undergraduate program and eligibility to admit in graduate program in university in the United States.
  - a) When submitting an evaluation based upon an official transcript from one of the aforementioned organizations, the university will recognize the evaluation as proof of the official transcript.
  - b) When submitting an evaluation based upon a copy of transcript from one of the aforementioned organizations or if an evaluation report does not state whether the evaluation was done using an official transcript, the student will be required to submit an official transcript to the university registrar's office before the end of add/drop period. Students who are unable to provide an official transcript will be dismissed from the university on the last day of add/drop.
    - i. The university will recognize transcripts as official if they are provided physically to the Office of the Registrar in a sealed envelope from the sending institutions; or if they are provided electronically to the Office of the Registrar from a secure site formally linked to the sending institution or trusted sender.
    - ii. In the event that a student is unable to provide an official transcript (following i above), the student may provide an unofficial transcript for review to the Office of the Registrar.
      1. The unofficial transcript will be reviewed against the evaluated version. If the two documents match, the Office of Registrar will use the opened/original version of transcript as verified documents.
      2. The student will also be required to submit a notarized attestation of the originality of the documents. The registrar will keep an electronic copy of the academic credentials in the university student system (for example, transcript, diploma, etc.). For those that are provided unsealed to the registrar's office, a copy of the attestation will accompany the documents.
- 2.) Students being admitted to program leading to an undergraduate degree, certificate, or diploma shall include graduation from high school or its equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Students submitting international education credentials must provide an official general evaluation from a member of Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE), American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)'s International Education Services, or National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) to validate equivalency with graduation from the high school and eligibility to enter university in the United States.
  - a) When submitting a general evaluation based upon official academic credentials (transcript, diploma, or other evidences of completion of a secondary education that would be recognized by their home country's Ministry of Education or its recognition body) from one of the aforementioned organizations, the university will recognize the evaluation as the documents are validated.
  - b) When submitting a general evaluation based upon a copy of academic credentials (transcript, diploma, or other evidences of completion of a secondary education that would be recognized by their home country's Ministry of Education or its recognition body) from one of the aforementioned organizations or if an evaluation report does not state whether the evaluation was done using an official document, the university will require the student to submit an official academic credentials to the university registrar's office before the end of add/drop period. Students who are unable to provide an official academic credential will be dismissed from the university on the last day of add/drop.
    - i. The university will recognize academic credentials as official if they are provided physically to the Office of the Registrar in a sealed envelope from the sending institutions; or if they are provided electronically to the Office of the Registrar from a secure site formally linked to the sending institution or trusted sender.
    - ii. In the event that a student is unable to provide an official academic credentials (following i above), the student may provide an unofficial academic credentials for review to the Office of the Registrar.

1. The unofficial transcript will be reviewed against the evaluated version. If the two documents match, the Office of Registrar will use opened/original version of academic credentials as verified documents.
2. The student will also be required to submit a notarized attestation of the originality of the documents. The registrar will keep an electronic copy of the academic credentials in the university student system (for example, transcript, diploma, etc.). For those that are provided unsealed to the registrar's office, a copy of the attestation will accompany the documents.

### 3.5.1 Recognition of Foreign Degrees

In recognition that education systems around the world differ, VIU wishes to ensure that students having received degrees or diplomas from non-US universities are treated in a way that is considerate of how these systems vary, while also ensuring the quality of students entering programs offered by the university. In doing so, VIU recognizes degrees or coursework from non-US universities as outlined below.

Bachelor's degrees from foreign universities must come from institutions that are accredited by the host country's government or proper higher education authority, and must be equivalent to the completion of a four-year program of study at a US college or university with a minimum of 120 semester credits. Those who have obtained a bachelor's degree from abroad with less than 120 semester credits will be considered for conditional acceptance into a graduate program and will be required to make up the credit difference.

### 3.6 Minimum Age Requirements for Admission

Any student who is not at least 18 years of age and has not yet received a high school diploma (or its equivalent) from a recognized institution on or before the first day of the semester will not be permitted to enroll in a degree program with Virginia International University.

Any student who is not at least 18 years of age, but who is a minimum of 16 and has received a high school diploma or its equivalent from a recognized institution must meet the following requirements before enrolling in a program with VIU. As well as the student meeting all of the requirements for the program in which they are applying for, a parent or the legal guardian of the student must meet all of the following criteria:

- Must complete, and submit the Parent/Guardian Minor Consent Form (available in a student's application portal)
- Lives within commuting distance of VIU (not to exceed 50 miles)
- Agrees to financially sponsor the student
- Will provide housing for the student while they are under the age of 18

### 3.7 English Proficiency Requirements

#### 3.7.1 Evidence of Sufficient English Language Proficiency

English is the language of instruction at Virginia International University, and therefore international applicants must provide evidence of English language proficiency to ensure that their communication skills are sufficient for effective class participation and completion of course assignments. Virginia International University English language proficiency requirements may can be demonstrated through any of the following options:

**Option 1: Submit a valid test score from an acceptable standardized test.** Official language proficiency scores more than two years old will not be accepted as proof of language proficiency.

*Graduate Level English Proficiency Requirements:*

Test	Minimum Score
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	Internet-based (iBT): 88 (or equivalent)
International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	Academic overall band score: 6.5
Pearson Test of English (PTE)	Academic : 59
VIU Degree Track Placement Test	Degree Track : 90%

*Undergraduate Level English Proficiency Requirements:*

Test	Minimum Score
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	Internet-based (iBT): 79 (or equivalent)
International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	Academic overall band score: 6.5
Pearson Test of English (PTE)	Academic : 59
VIU Degree Track Placement Test	Degree Track : 90%

**Option 2: Proof of prior study in English.** Provide an official transcript indicating completion of a minimum of 9 credit hours (graduate level) or 12 credit hours (undergraduate level) from an accredited United States post-secondary institution at which the language of instruction was English, including at least one course in English composition, academic writing, or a similar subject. The GPA for those credits, as well as the writing course, must not be lower than C-level.

**Option 3: Providing evidence of having completed high school in the United States** (excluding special diplomas, special education diplomas, modified diplomas, applied study diplomas, adjusted diplomas, alternative diplomas\*, certificates of completion/attendance/participation, etc.). A CGPA of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 grading scale or equivalent is required. High school transcript may be requested if the diploma does not indicate the CGPA information.

**Option 4: Provide evidence that the applicant attended high school or college in a region where English is the official language.** If you earned your bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree in its entirety in one of the following countries, and can provide an official transcript, you are exempt from the English Proficiency Test requirements. VIU reserves the right to require a student to take the English Placement Test when there are reasonable doubts as to the authenticity of either submitted standardized test scores or the degree of the English proficiency evidenced by other documentation. Specific countries include: the United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Anglophone Canada, Cameroon-Anglophone, South Africa, Singapore, The Philippines, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent and Antigua and Bermuda.

In addition to the general admission requirements, students who apply for federal financial aid must submit a high school diploma and/or transcript, GED or equivalent. For foreign high school documents, an official evaluation from an accredited evaluation agency is also required.

**Please note:**

- International students may gain full admission to a degree program at VIU if the official language proficiency score meets the minimum requirement mentioned above.
- International students may gain admission to the Intensive English as a Second Language program (ESL) if their test scores fall below the scores mentioned above. International students admitted into this category must take a VIU English Placement Test prior to enrollment and complete the ESL program through level 800 before they will be allowed to begin academic coursework.
- Conditional admission may be granted to international students if they do not have, or are unable to provide official language proficiency score listed above. The placement test is available online through a remote-proctoring service, as well as on-site at the university campus in Fairfax, Virginia. To learn more about VIU's English Placement Test, please see our English Placement Test FAQs.

### **3.8 Changing Expected Start Date for Admission**

An application for admission is valid for one calendar year from the date of the original submission. The expected start date for an application may be changed to another semester within the calendar year without submitting a new Application Fee. To request a change to the anticipated start date, applicants must contact the Admissions Office.

In the event that admissions criteria change from one semester to another, and if the expected start date for an application is changed, applicants would be required to meet the minimum standards for the new semester in which they attend to start. In the event that these admission standards or the format of the application has changed, a new application may be required. The applicant would be contacted if a new application or additional materials are required for admission.

### **3.9 Denial of Admission**

Admission decisions are made using a variety of factors including the merits of an applicant's dossier, completeness of the application, space and availability in the program, etc. Automatic denials of admission may occur if an applicant knowingly falsifies, alters, plagiarizes elements of their application dossier.

In the event that an applicant is denied admission to a program of study at VIU, the Admissions Office will communicate the denial to the student promptly. In most cases (except for those related to an applicant falsifying, altering, or plagiarizing elements of their previous application), applicants are welcome to reapply if they have been denied previously. If a previously denied applicant reapplies to the university, they are encouraged to take care in addressing any potential deficiencies in their original application.

### **3.10 U.S. Service Members or Veterans**

U.S. Service Members or Veterans who apply to become students at VIU must meet the same Admissions criteria that applies to all applicants. If a U.S. Service Member or Veteran desires his or her prior educational credits to be considered for transfer credit, the student must provide the University with an official transcript from each educational institution

awarding the degree or any course credits that the student desires to transfer to satisfy the requirements. Upon the student's ability to satisfy all of the above requirements with respect to his or her selected program of study, VIU will promptly notify the student that he or she is admitted into that program of study at the school and correspond with the Department of Veterans Affairs for education benefits to be used.

### **3.11 Special Circumstances Policy**

For students who may not be able to present required official transcript(s) and/or diploma(s) for credential evaluation due to political refugee or asylum status, fear of persecution in requesting documentation, or political (or otherwise) situations that result in closure of previous institution(s). As such, it may be necessary to employ an alternative method of educational verification. Please contact the Office of Admissions for additional information.

### **3.12 Disclaimer Statement**

Virginia International University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed or religion, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or other familial status, age, genetic information, physical or mental disability, status as a protected veteran, or any other non-merit factor in the admission to, participation in, or employment in the programs and activities which the University operates.

## 4. TUITION AND FEES

### 4.1 General Guidelines

By registering for classes, VIU students accept responsibility for all semester charges that should be paid in full by the payment deadline each term to avoid financial penalties. Students are responsible for checking their billing information through their Student Portal and keeping their contact information up to date. Students can withdraw from the classes they do not intend to complete by contacting the Registrar's office. Please refer to the University's add/drop and refund dates in the Academic Calendar.

### 4.2 2019-20 Tuition Rates

Virginia International University offers a quality education at an affordable rate and provides students with access to discounts, scholarship opportunities, and Federal Student Aid. The following tuition and fee structure are effective for the 2019-2020 academic year. Tuition and fees are subject to change without notice.

#### Degree and Certificate Programs

Level/Program	Per Credit	Per Course
Graduate	\$726.00	\$2,178.00
Undergraduate	\$422.00	\$1,266.00

Tuition is based on 3 semester credits for one course:

- Undergraduate Degrees are 120 semester credit hours
- Undergraduate Certificates are 24 semester credit hours
- Graduate Degrees are 36 semester credits
- Graduate Certificates are 18 semester credit hours

A full-time course load varies by program.

#### Intensive ESL Programs

Level/Program	Per Hour	Per 7-week Term
Intensive ESL	\$9/hour	\$1,260.00

#### Non-Intensive ESL Courses

Students can choose a class, pay tuition and fees, and access certificates of completion through the Student Portal (<https://www5.viu.edu/Student/Login>) after creating their account. The class payment and registration must be completed at least two business day before the first day of any course. For example, the class registration and payment must be completed by 11:59 pm on Thursday before the Saturday class is set to take place. Late registrations or payments are not accepted.

Each class is offered upon reaching a required number of enrolled students.

Program Name	Cost Per Session
Evening and Weekend Classes	\$240.00 per session (30 hours, 3 CEUs)
Special Weekend Course for Au Pairs – Grammar Tune Up!	\$120.00 per session (15 hours, 1.5 CEUs)
Saturday Museum Classes	\$40.00 per visit (5 hour classes, 0.5 CEUs)

### 4.2.1 Discount Policy

If a student qualifies for more than one discount, only one discount will be applied (whichever is greater). Discounts will be applied to the student's tuition only. If a student is awarded a scholarship for the same term, the discount will be applied to the tuition first, and then the awarded scholarship amount will be deducted (up to the total tuition charge only). Discounts are subject to approval.

### 4.3 Fees

#### 4.3.1 Standard Fees

Standard fees are charged to all students as applicable by the program. All fees are non-refundable.

FEE	DESCRIPTION	APPLIES TO:	AMOUNT
-----	-------------	-------------	--------

Application Fee	This fee is required to submit an application for admission. The application fee is valid for one year. Students who withdraw from and return to the university must pay the application fee upon re-application.	All Applicants	\$50.00
Student Service Fee	This fee allows the university to enhance the student experience by funding vital services and support mechanisms, which benefit the university community.	Degree Program (Spring/Fall)	\$75.00
		Degree Program (Summer)	\$50.00
		ESL (all terms)	\$50.00

### 4.3.2 Other Fees

All fees are non-refundable.

FEE	DESCRIPTION	APPLIES TO:	AMOUNT
Deferral Fee	This fee is required when the student wishes to defer their semester of admission to a later semester, after their application is submitted and accepted.	International Student Applicants	\$50.00
English Placement Test Fee	This fee is charged if a student takes the placement exam. There is a charge for each time that a student takes the exam.	On-Campus Placement Test	\$30.00
		Online Placement Test	\$55.00
Tuition Payment Plan Fee	Applies to students who wish to finance their tuition in installments. This fee is charged per installment.	All Students	\$30.00
Transcript Request Fee	This fee is charged to students who request an official VIU transcript. This fee is charged per transcript.	Standard processing (5 business days)	\$10.00
		Express processing (2 business days)	\$25.00
Document Mailing Fee	This fee is charged when students request official documents to be sent via mail (for example, transcripts, I-20s, etc.).	Regular   USPS (domestic only)	No charge
		Domestic   FedEx	\$25.00
		International   FedEx	\$65.00
Graduation Application Fee	This fee is charged when the student applies for graduation upon completion of his or her program of study. This fee is charged regardless of the student's intention to walk in the annual Commencement Ceremony.	All Graduates	\$150.00
Late Graduation Application Fee	This fee is charged to students who submit the graduation application past the deadline. This fee is charged in addition to the graduation application fee.	All Graduates	\$50.00
Diploma Mailing Fee	This fee is charged when a diploma is mailed.	Domestic Mailing	\$30.00
		International Mailing	\$100.00
Diploma Replacement Fee	This fee is charged if the student requests an additional or replacement diploma.	All Students	\$50.00
Withdrawal Fee	This fee is charged if the student withdraws from the university.	All Students	\$100.00
Change of Program Fee	Required for change of program of study.	All Students	\$20.00
ID Replacement Fee	This fee is charged per replacement card.	All Students	\$10.00
Late Registration Fee		All Academic Programs	\$50.00

	This fee is charged to students who register for courses after the registration deadline. This fee is charged per semester.	Non-Intensive ESL or Continuing Education	\$25.00
Late Payment Fee	This fee is charged for tuition payments paid after the payment deadline. This fee may not exceed \$500.00.	All Applicants	3% of outstanding balance due at the time of payment
Check Return Fee	Applies only if check received is unpaid by the bank.	All Applicants	\$45.00
Credit Card Charge-Back Fee	Applies if payment made by credit card is charged-back.	All Applicants	3% of the charged-back amount
Wire Transfer Refund Fee	Charged if a refund is requested to be paid via a wire transfer.	International Wire	\$45.00
		Domestic Wire	\$25.00

## 4.4 Living and Other Expenses

Tuition and fees vary depending on a number of factors including, but not limited to, the program and level of study, course enrollment, and other specific circumstances. Funds for living and other expenses (supplies, room, and board, etc.) are not included. Students should plan to cover these expenses based upon their individual projected needs. Below is rough estimation, intended only as a guidance. Actual expenses will vary depending on individual needs. Use the Net Price Calculator to estimate your cost of attendance.

Expenses	Explanation	Estimated Amount
Living	The approximate cost for an individual student living in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.	\$12,550 per academic year (9 months)
Textbook	Textbook expenses are not included in the cost of tuition. Students must obtain their textbooks before the course add/drop period.	Students can check rates and rent or buy their textbooks via VIU's Virtual Bookstore at <a href="https://viu.ecampus.com/">https://viu.ecampus.com/</a>

## 4.5 Payment Information

### 4.5.1 Payment Procedures

Student tuition and fees are due in full one week before the first day of classes each semester. Students must pay the billed amount in full as scheduled to avoid financial penalties. It is the student's responsibility to review the Student Portal to verify class registration, balance due, and payment deadlines. A student may not proceed from one semester or session to the next without having fully paid all outstanding tuition, fees and other charges or payments owed to the university. Any exceptions must have prior approval of the administration.

Students are responsible for activating and checking their campus e-mail accounts to receive official university communications. Failure to receive a reminder bill confirming charges does not waive the requirement for making payment by the payment deadline each semester.

Payments received are applied to the oldest outstanding balance first. Ample time should be allowed for payments to be processed.

#### 4.5.1.1 Making a Payment

The Student Accounts Office strives to make bill payment as easy as possible for students. For convenience, students are able to make payments in the following ways:

##### ***Payment via the Student Portal***

The most convenient way to make payments is through the Student Portal. Credit or debit card payments made through the Student Portal must be completed by 11:59 p.m. EST for the transaction to be considered processed on that day's transactions.

##### ***Payment in the Student Accounts Office***

The Student Accounts Office takes payments in person Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Payments can be made by credit or debit card, check, cash, or money order. Payments received by the Student Accounts Office by 6:00 p.m. EST will be considered received on that business day.

### **Payment via Mail**

Students who submit their payments by sending checks or money orders via mail should send their payments at least 10 business days in advance of the due date to account for weekends, holidays, or delivery delays. The postmarks will not be considered a receipt of payment. **Please DO NOT send cash payments via mail.**

Payments should be mailed to the following address:

*Virginia International University  
ATTN: Student Accounts Office  
4401 Village Drive,  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
United States*

### **4.5.1.2 Payment Methods**

Payments can be made using the following methods:

**Credit and/or Debit Card:** Credit and/or debit card payments are accepted at the Student Accounts Office and online through the Student Portal. VIU accepts Master Card, Visa, Discover, and American Express.

**NOTE:** Online payments can be made by using multiple cards. Please note that the same card cannot be used more than once in the same 24-hour period.

**Check:** All checks should be made payable to **Virginia International University**, with the student's VIU ID number and name written on the memo line. Checks that are already endorsed are not accepted. Checks must be payable in U.S. dollars with an intermediary bank in the U.S.

**Cash:** Cash is only received in person at the Student Accounts Office located at the Village Drive campus. Cash payments should not be sent through the mail. VIU is not responsible for cash payments that are lost or stolen prior to arriving in the VIU Student Accounts Office.

**GlobalPay Wire Transfer:** VIU offers a simple electronic payment mechanism through Western Union Business Solutions called GlobalPay that allows students to pay tuition and fees using their local currency. Our hope is that this option will save students money on exchange rates and bank fees. Payments made via GlobalPay are credited directly to your student account. Depending on your country and region, you may have different options for GlobalPay payment via local bank transfer, credit card, Western Union Agents, or ChinaPay. Your payment options and availability will vary by country and region.

Submit your payment via GlobalPay online: <https://student.globalpay.wu.com/geo-buyer/viu#!/>

For instructions on how to submit a payment via GlobalPay, please visit our web page: <https://www.viu.edu/admissions-aid/student-accounts/payment-methods/#wire-transfer>

**Traditional Wire Transfer:** To make a traditional wire transfer to VIU, please contact the Student Accounts Office at [accounting@viu.edu](mailto:accounting@viu.edu) for further instructions. When sending a wire transfer, be sure to include the student's full name and student ID number.

**Money Order:** Money orders should be made payable to **Virginia International University**. Money orders must be payable in U.S. dollars. Please be sure to include the student's full name and student ID number with the money order.

**Demand Drafts:** VIU will accept demand drafts (DDs) only if the funds are drawn on a US bank and in US currency. Drafts should only total the amount of tuition and fees for the semester for which the student is paying. All demand drafts received which exceed the amount of total tuition and fees for that semester will be refunded only after the Demand Draft is processed and settled.

**NOTE:** VIU's Student Accounts Office does not accept payments over the phone.

### **4.6 Payment Plans**

VIU offers tuition payment plans to eligible students who wish to finance their tuition in multiple installment payments. There is a non-refundable fee of \$30.00 **per installment**. Failure to pay any outstanding installment payment or balance



by the payment deadline(s) will result in a financial hold placed on the student's account, accrual of late fees, and the potential ineligibility to apply for a payment plan in future semesters.

### ***Applying for a Tuition Payment Plan***

You are eligible to apply for a payment plan if:

1. There is no financial hold on your account;
2. You are enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate degree or certificate program at VIU;
3. You have registered for courses in the current term and your total bill is more than \$1,000;
4. You are not on the waiting list for any courses; and
5. The installment application deadline has not passed.

Applications for installment payment plans can be made through the Student Portal and must be received by the installment application deadline for the applicable semester. After you have received confirmation of approval of your Tuition Payment Plan Application, you can make your first installment payment online through your Student Portal or at the Student Accounts Office.

## **4.7 Delinquent Accounts**

### **4.7.1 Financial Holds**

If a student fails to pay the full amount as scheduled, VIU is authorized to take the following actions until the outstanding balance is paid in full:

- a) Apply financial penalties including late fees.
- b) Place a financial hold on the student's account and limit the access to Student Portal and Canvas.
- c) Withhold the release of the student's academic records or any information based upon or included in the records.
- d) Withhold the issue of the student's transcripts.
- e) If the student's account remains delinquent, VIU reserves the right to terminate enrollment.

The university may require payments toward a delinquent account to be in the form of certified funds such as cash, certified check, or money order, or wire transfer to the university's bank account.

### **4.7.2 Collection Process**

The university pursues outstanding debt in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Commonwealth of Virginia in the Virginia Debt Collection Act. Virginia State law requires that the university make every attempt to collect past due amounts. If, after 60 days, full payment of a debt has not been received, the student account will be placed with a collection agency. Students are responsible for any collection costs incurred in addition to the outstanding balance due the university.

Students should be advised that debts placed with a collection agency will affect the student's credit rating. Collection efforts are also costly to the student, and thus students should avoid these additional costs by paying on time. Collection fees cannot be appealed. If a student finds that their account has been referred to a collection company, they must contact the collection agency immediately to make payment arrangements.

In addition to being sent to a collection agency, the account can be listed by the Credit Bureau as a bad debt, a delinquent account can be collected in full from income tax refunds, lottery winnings, or other refunds due from the state, and the account may be turned over to the Virginia Attorney General's Office for litigation.

Again, timely payment is strongly encouraged so that the above collection efforts can be avoided. The Student Accounts Office is committed to helping students resolve delinquent balances. If a student's account becomes delinquent, please contact the Student Accounts Office immediately so other options may be discussed.

## **4.8 Cancellation and Refund Policy**

### **4.8.1 Undergraduate, Graduate and Intensive ESL Programs**

A student may elect to cancel the Enrollment Agreement with no financial penalty at any point prior to the start of the semester or the end of the add/drop period. Any cancellation that takes place after the add/drop period will follow the university's stated Cancellation and Refund Policy.

Applicants, who have not visited the school prior to enrollment, will have the opportunity to cancel their enrollment without penalty within three business days following the regular orientation procedures and/or a tour of the facility to include inspection of the equipment used to provide training and services. Such individuals shall be entitled to a full tuition refund.

If a student elects to drop one or more courses or withdraw from the university, the following refund schedule will be used to determine any outstanding financial obligation for which the student may be responsible:

<b>Last Day of Attendance Notice</b>	<b>Tuition Refund Amount*</b>
Up to the last day of add/drop period	100% of the tuition
After the add/drop & through 25% of the session	75% of the tuition
Through 50% of the session	50% of the tuition
Through 75% of the session	25% of the tuition
After 75% of the session	No refund will be issued

\*Excludes all fees

The Student Accounts Office shall review student accounts periodically and contact students with an overpayment. Students may decide to keep the overpayment balance to their account or request a refund by a credit/debit card or a wire transfer by submitting a Refund Request Form. Any bank transaction fees will be deducted from the total. Students may download the form on the university website or obtain a hard copy from the Student Accounts Office. Students, who do not submit the Refund Request Form to the Student Accounts Office upon the overpayment notification, will receive the tuition deposit credit in the same manner as it was paid to VIU (credit card payment, bank wire transaction, or check). If the Student Accounts Office is unable to process the payment, VIU will mail a refund check to the student's attention at the most recent address listed in the Student Portal. Please note that VIU will only issue tuition refunds to the organization or person who made the original payment.

All tuition refunds will be made within a period of 45 calendar days following the official withdrawal date. Student fees (application fee, postage fee, student service fee, etc.) and service charges rendered during the refund process are not refundable.

It is the University's policy to hold tuition deposits refundable for one year after the application date. After lapsing of the one-year period, these deposits become non-refundable.

The official withdrawal date, for the purpose of a refund calculation, will be the last date on which the student was recorded present in attendance for a class. If no payment was made, or if the student was participating in a payment plan and the payments are insufficient to cover the student's obligations according to the schedule above, the university will send the student a bill for the difference.

If a student fails to pay the full amount as scheduled, VIU is authorized to take the following actions until the outstanding balance is paid in full:

- Apply financial penalties including late fees.
- Place a financial hold on the student's account and limit the access to Student Portal and Canvas.
- Withhold the release of the student's academic records or any information based upon or included in the records.
- Withhold the issue of the student's transcripts.

To initiate the institutional withdrawal process, the student may submit an *Institutional Withdrawal Form* to Virginia International University. Students may download the form from our website or obtain a hard copy from the Registrar's Office or the Office of International Student Services.

### ***Non-Credit Programs***

Students who wish to request a refund or defer their courses should visit the Student Accounts Office, or call (703) 591-7042 during regular business hours or email to [accounting@viu.edu](mailto:accounting@viu.edu).

Due to the short-term nature of non-credit programs, students should submit a Refund Request form to initiate the refund process. Students may download the form from our website or obtain a hard copy from the Student Accounts Office.

### ***Saturday Museum Classes Refund and Deferral Policy***

Museum class tuition is non-refundable. However, a student may choose another Saturday Museum class and request a deferral up until one business day before the class for which he/she originally registered.

### ***Non-intensive Evening and Weekend Classes Refund and Deferral Policy***

Refunds for the non-intensive evening and weekend classes are granted up to three business days before the first day of classes. Students are permitted to defer to another course within the program up until one business day after the first day of class for which he/she originally registered.

### ***Test Preparation Refund and Deferral Policy***

Refunds for the non-intensive evening/daytime and weekend classes are granted up to three business days before the first day of classes for which the student originally registered. Students are permitted to defer to another course within the

program up until one business day after the first day of class for which he/she originally registered.

## **4.9 Return to Title IV Funds (R2T4)**

### **4.9.1 Title IV Refunds**

When a student withdraws, the student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of Title IV funds that the student was originally scheduled to receive. If a recipient of Title IV grant or loan funds withdraws from a school after beginning attendance, the amount of Title IV funds earned by the student must be determined. If the amount disbursed to the student is greater than the amount the student earned, it is the responsibility of the school and the student to return any unearned funds to the Department of Education. The R2T4 Policy and Institutional refund policy is provided to all students via the catalog, which can be accessed at [www.viu.edu](http://www.viu.edu).

#### **4.9.1.1 Withdrawal Process**

The law requires that if a recipient of Title IV assistance withdraws/resigns from an institution before completing the semester in which the recipient began attendance, the institution must calculate the percentage and amount of Title IV assistance the student earned. Unearned Title IV funds must be returned to the Title IV programs by the school and/or the student. Students who wish to resign from the University should follow withdrawal procedures located in the academic catalog. An electronic version of the catalog is located online at [www.viu.edu](http://www.viu.edu).

#### **4.9.1.2 Withdrawal Date, Last Date of Attendance, and Date of Determination**

The date of withdrawal or withdrawal date is always the last date of attendance (LDA) as supported by VIU's attendance records. The date of determination (DOD) is no later than 14 days from the LDA, except if the student confirmed and documented his or her return into a course within the payment period. When a student indicates his or her intent to return, the DOD is no later than 14 days from the date the student was scheduled to return.

#### **4.9.1.3 Leave of Absence**

Students on leave of absence will be treated as a withdrawal for Federal Financial Aid purposes.

#### **4.9.1.4 Post-Withdrawal Disbursements**

If the amount disbursed to the student is less than the amount the student earned, and for which the student is otherwise eligible, he or she is eligible to receive a post-withdrawal disbursement of the earned aid that was not received. Any post-withdrawal disbursement due must meet the current required conditions for late disbursements. A school is required to make (or offer as appropriate) post-withdrawal disbursements to eligible students. A post-withdrawal disbursement must be made within 180 days of the date the institution determines that the student withdrew. The amount of a post-withdrawal disbursement is determined by following the requirements for calculating earned FSA and has no relationship to incurred educational costs.

### **4.9.2 Procedures:**

- A student (or parent, in the case of a Direct PLUS loan) is notified of eligibility for a post-withdrawal disbursement within 30 days of the date of determination by email and must respond within fourteen days.
- If the student (or parent) accepts the post-withdrawal disbursement, it will be made as soon as possible but no later than 180 days of the withdrawal date.
- The Financial Aid Office will track this notification and make appropriate updates in the system as necessary.
- When the student's (or parent's) response is received it will be updated in the system.
- The priorities for disbursement are grants first; paid to outstanding institutional charges before being paid directly to the student (or parent).

### **4.9.3 Determining the Percentage of Aid Earned**

VIU uses the payment period for the calculation of the Return of Title IV Funds formula. The payment period is the semester in which the student received Title IV funds. Because classroom attendance is taken by instructors and tracked for online courses, VIU is an attendance taking institution.

The percentage of time the student completed for the semester determines the "earned percentage." The earned percentage is based on calendar days in the semester, including weekends. Only scheduled breaks of at least 5 days will be excluded. The length of the break is determined by counting from the first day of the break up to the next day on which classes are offered. The weekends preceding and following the break are counted as part of the break, unless Saturday classes are scheduled.

#### **4.9.4 Responsibility to Return Funds**

Institutional charges are used to determine the unearned portion of Federal Student Aid. It is the school and student's responsibility to return any un-earned aid funds. Any unearned funds are returned within 45 days of the date of determination that the student withdrew.

##### **4.9.4.1 Order of Return of Title IV Funds**

Title IV aid is returned in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loans
2. Subsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loans
3. Federal Direct PLUS Loans
4. Federal Pell Grants
5. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
6. Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

##### **4.9.4.2 Student Notifications**

Upon completing the R2T4 calculation, the business office will return any unearned Loan and Grant funds to the Department of Education. Students will be notified in writing of any funds returned on their behalf.

#### **4.9.5 Return to Title IV Examples:**

1. It is Jennifer's first semester, and she is enrolled in the Business Administration program. She is a full-time student enrolled in 12 credits in the semester (15 weeks / 105 days). On the 2nd day of week 7, Jennifer withdrew from her courses to pursue an acting career. Jennifer attended VIU for 51 days  $((7 \times 7) + 2 = 51)$  in an enrollment period of 105 days; therefore, she completed 48.57%  $(51/105)$  of her enrollment period. During the current payment period, Jennifer was disbursed a Pell grant for \$1,500 and a subsidized loan for \$1,500, a total of \$3,000. Her earned aid is \$1,457  $(48.57\% \times 3,000)$ , whereas her unearned aid is \$1,543  $(\$3,000 - \$1,457)$ . After the institutional refund is applied and unearned Pell Grant funds are returned Jennifer will have to repay the disbursed and earned subsidized loan amount funds. She may also have to repay any disbursed unearned loan funds to VIU.
2. It is John's second semester and he is a full-time student enrolled in 12 credits in the semester. On the 5th day of week 11, it was the last time John attended class. John attended VIU for 75 days  $((11 \times 7) + 5 = 82)$  in an enrollment period of 110 days; therefore, he completed 74.54. %  $(82/110)$  of his enrollment period. During the current payment period, John was disbursed a Pell grant for \$900, a subsidized loan for \$2,500, and an unsubsidized loan for \$1,000, a total of \$4,400. Because he attended for at least 60% of the enrollment period, his total earned aid is \$4,400, and there is no unearned aid.

#### **4.10 GI Bill Delayed Payment Policy**

In compliance with (Section 103) of the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018, Virginia International University (VIU) permits a Veteran Affairs (VA) student using Ch.33 Post 9/11 GI Bill or Ch. 31 VocRehab benefits to attend or participate in the course of education during the semester/term that the student is enrolled and certified with the VA. All VA students are required to provide the VA's certificate of eligibility by the first day of class to the VA certifying official. If Veterans Affairs delays the payment for tuition and fees, VA students will continue to have access to class, the learning management system (LMS; i.e., Canvas), library, Student portal, and any other facilities that are also available to other officially enrolled students. In addition, VA students will not be charged a late fee due to a delayed payment from the VA.

## 5. Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Office provides a variety of services to help students pay for their education; including, financial aid advising, exploring funding resources, and financial assistance. Federal student financial aid awards may consist of grants and loans. Awards are based primarily on financial need, although there are some alternative financial aid sources available for those who may not qualify for need-based financial assistance. Financial Aid counseling service is available Monday through Friday by phone, email, or personal appointment.

### 5.1 Eligibility

In order to be eligible to receive federal financial aid at Virginia International University, both new and currently enrolled students must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and comply with all federal, state, and VIU regulations and policies regarding financial aid. **Virginia International University Federal Title IV School code for the FAFSA is 041440.** Priority consideration for all sources of financial aid is given to those students whose financial aid applications are on file with the Financial Aid Office by the deadline of that given semester/session. To meet this priority filing date, students should file the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1<sup>st</sup>, of each year. The FAFSA is filed online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

### 5.2 Annual Renewal of Financial Aid

Students that wish to apply for federal student financial aid, including federal loans, are required to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year to determine eligibility. The financial aid awarded may be adjusted annually based on the renewed FAFSA application.

Financial aid for summer is generally limited to students who have remaining Federal Pell Grant or Federal Loan eligibility. Contact the Financial Aid Office for specific information regarding eligibility.

### 5.3 Financial Aid Programs

Virginia International University administers the following federal student financial aid programs: Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and Federal PLUS Loans for parents of dependent students and graduate students.

Title IV aid is packaged in the following order:

1. **Federal Pell Grant** – federal grant that are awarded only to undergraduate students who display exceptional financial need and have not earned a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree. It does not have to be repaid. Eligible students receive a specified amount each year under this program.
2. **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)** – additional grant for students who demonstrate exceptional financial need, and it does not have to be repaid. Funds for this program are only limited to Federal Pell Grant recipients.
3. **Federal Direct Subsidized Loan** – a low interest loan available to students who demonstrate financial need. Interest does not accrue and repayment does not begin until six months after the recipient leaves school or drops below half-time status.
4. **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan** – a low interest loan available to undergraduate and graduate students who are eligible with or without financial need. Note that interest begins accruing on this type of loan while recipients are still in school.
5. **Federal Direct PLUS Loan for Parents of Dependent Students and Graduate Students** - a loan available to parents of dependent undergraduate students and to graduate students. Eligible participants can borrow up to the cost of attendance.
6. **Federal Work Study** – a federal financial aid program that provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing students to earn money to pay for education expenses while enrolled in school.

All financial aid recipients are responsible for becoming familiar and complying with applicable federal and state regulations, and university policies.

All students receiving financial aid must be enrolled in an eligible degree or certificate program; maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) as defined by Virginia International University in accordance with federal guidelines (see below); be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident of the U.S., or eligible non-citizen, and meet other basic eligibility criteria as defined by the U.S. Department of Education.

#### 5.3.1 Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards

Federal legislation governing the administration of federal programs requires colleges and universities to define and enforce standards of academic progress for students receiving or applying for financial aid. To comply with this legislation,

Virginia International University established a formal satisfactory academic progress policy. For detailed information, go to the Satisfactory Academic Progress section or contact the Financial Aid Office.

### **5.3.2 Return of Title IV Funds**

The Financial Aid Office is required by federal law to recalculate federal financial aid eligibility for students who completely withdraw from all classes, drop out, are dismissed, or take a leave of absence prior to completing the payment period or term. According to the regulations, the amount of Federal Title IV awarded to a student must be recalculated in these situations and any portion of the financial aid received that is considered to be “unearned” must be returned to the Title IV Program(s) from which it was received. Any student considering dropping or withdrawing from all courses, should contact the Financial Aid Office immediately regarding possible adjustments to their financial aid.

### **5.3.3 Programs that Qualify for Federal Student Financial Aid**

All graduate, undergraduate, and certificate (except Graduate Certificate in Project Management and ESL) programs qualify for federal student financial aid. All non-credit certificate programs and continuing education programs do not qualify for federal student financial aid.

For more information, please contact the Financial Aid Office by email at [financialaid@viu.edu](mailto:financialaid@viu.edu). To be considered for federal financial aid, please complete your FAFSA to determine your eligibility for all federal aid programs.

### **5.4 Contact Information**

Financial Aid Office  
4401 Village Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
Phone: 703.591.7042  
Email: [Financialaid@viu.edu](mailto:Financialaid@viu.edu)

### **5.5 Title IX Compliance**

In compliance with the Title IX 20 U.S.C. § 1681(a), no student at Virginia International University shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Furthermore, sexual harassment and violence are strictly prohibited at Virginia International University. For more information, please see section 8.6. *Sexual Misconduct Policy and Notice of Non-Discrimination*.

Any victims or third parties should report all incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, or sexual violence to the Title IX Coordinators, at the below contact information:

#### **Title IX Coordinator**

Name: Elizabeth St.George  
Title: Quality Assurance & Compliance Manager  
Office Address: 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030  
Telephone: (703) 591-7042 Ext. 330  
Email: [estgeorge@viu.edu](mailto:estgeorge@viu.edu)

#### **Title IX Coordinator**

Name: Mary Cepeda  
Title: Chief Student Experience Officer  
Office Address: 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030  
Telephone: (703) 591-7042 Ext. 367  
Email: [mbanish@viu.edu](mailto:mbanish@viu.edu)

#### **Title IX Coordinator**

Name: Amy Buras  
Title: Student Coach/Learning Center Manager  
Office Address: 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030  
Telephone: (703) 591-7042 Ext. 314  
Email: [aburas@viu.edu](mailto:aburas@viu.edu)

In accordance with the federal law, all victims and third parties have the option of reporting incidents by email, phone, mail, or in person to the Title IX Coordinator. All victims have the right to report to police, Virginia International University will facilitate that process if desired by the victim. Victims also have the right not to report to police.

All incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, or sexual violence will be investigated promptly, in order to remedy any hostile educational environment created by such behaviors. Investigations may include the assistance of police, which

may delay the response of Virginia International University to accommodate a police investigation. If the case requires police investigation, Virginia International University will delay their response to the case a maximum of 10 days in order to give appropriate time for police to gather evidence. If Virginia International University must delay their response, all parties will be informed of the delay and given an approximate timeline for when the response will resume. Institutional investigations will take no more than 60 days, except of in the instance of a complex case, which will be addressed within a reasonable period of time given the circumstances.

Employees and third party reports are protected along with reporting victims from any adverse consequence, harassment, intimidation, or discrimination that is causally related to reporting sex discrimination under Title IX.

## **6. ACADEMIC REGULATIONS**

### **6.1 Enrollment**

#### **6.1.1 Full-Time Students**

For fall and spring semesters, a full-time course load is 9 semester credit hours for graduate level programs and 12-15 semester credit hours for undergraduate level program. ESL students must study for 20 hours per week to be considered a full-time student, which applies for all terms. For summer terms, graduate students registered for three or more credit hours per term and undergraduate students registered for six or more credit hours per term are considered full-time students. Certification by the Registrar's Office of any student as full-time requires that the student be engaged in full-time academic study. Certification will not be warranted merely by payment of full-time tuition. Students not attending classes full-time will not be certified as such.

#### **6.1.2 Part-Time Students**

All students who do not meet the criteria as a full-time student (e.g., students who enroll for less than the minimum number of credit hours per semester/term as prescribed above) are considered part-time students.

#### **6.1.3 Course Overload**

Students who wish to register for more than nine credits for graduate programs or more than 15 credits for undergraduate programs in the fall or spring semester, or more than 6 credits for graduate or undergraduate programs in the summer terms must complete a course overload form. For graduate programs, a minimum CGPA of 3.5 and for undergraduate programs a minimum CGPA of 3.0 is required to become eligible. For first-time students, the school dean may approve the request after reviewing the students' previous course works such as transcripts from previously attended post-secondary institution(s). Students must obtain an approval signature from their academic advisor as well as the dean of the appropriate school, and submit the form to the Registrar's Office prior to the end of the add/drop period. Students must be in a good academic standing to request for a course overload. The school dean has the authority to approve or deny the request.

#### **6.1.4 Undergraduate Students Classification**

Classification of undergraduate students is based on the number of undergraduate course credits earned as follows: freshman, 0–29 credits earned; sophomore, 30–59 credits earned; junior, 60–89 credits earned; and senior, 90 or more credits earned. All undergraduate certificate students are considered freshman.

#### **6.1.5 Continuous Enrollment**

All students in degree-seeking programs (whether full-time or part-time) are required to maintain enrollment in consecutive semesters of consecutive academic years until completion of the academic program. Summer breaks and an authorized leave of absence are the only acceptable exceptions to this rule. If a student fails to enroll by the add/drop deadline of a given semester, his or her status as a student at Virginia International University will be terminated.

For the degree-seeking students, the fall and spring semesters are mandatory, and the summer terms are optional. Degree-seeking F-1 students are not required to take classes during the summer terms, and they are allowed to take a break or take less than full-course load during the summer terms, unless summer is the first term of enrollment. ESL students who complete four (4) consecutive terms of ESL classes and wish to continue with the ESL program is eligible to take an annual break. F-1 students enrolled in the intensive ESL program must submit an Annual Break Request Form and get an official approval from the International Student Services Office (ISS Office/DSO).

### **6.2 Non-Degree Enrollment**

All non-degree-seeking applicants must meet VIU's admission requirements and submit the following items to the Admissions Office:

- Online application
- Application fee
- Transcripts from all previously attended schools and all diplomas received (refer to Section 3.1 Application for Admission)
- Evidence of sufficient English language proficiency (non-native English speakers only)

Non-degree applicants who wish to take graduate level courses may be required to submit additional materials. Please refer to our graduate admission requirements.

Registration is permitted on a space-available basis. Students must understand that they cannot graduate from any program or receive any degree in non-degree status. Non-degree students must follow and meet the same academic standards as degree-seeking students. Courses in which non-degree students enroll are subject to all regular tuition and fees. The university does not issue I-20s for non-degree study.



If a non-degree-seeking student wishes to change his or her status to degree seeking, the student must reapply to the university through the regular admission process with the Admissions Office. A maximum of 12 credits from non-degree study can be transferred to a graduate level program at the university; a maximum of 18 credits from non-degree study can be transferred to an undergraduate level program at the university.

### **6.3 Language of Instruction**

VIU proudly maintains an international focus as one of its core values, which is evident in the curriculum and among the wider learning community membership. In order to facilitate communication and instruction in a manner that would be conducive to all community members, English is used as the official medium of instruction. Community members should strive to communicate in English wherever possible.

### **6.4 Academic Advising**

Academic advising includes, but is not limited to, assisting students in choosing a concentration, planning course selection and registration, tracking academic progress, developing an academic plan, advising the student on how to improve his or her GPA, and providing guidance on career planning. General academic advising procedures are to be followed by all VIU students. With their advisor's help, students design and maintain an academic program that will fulfill general and specific degree or certificate requirements. It is the student's responsibility to understand and satisfy all academic requirements. Since individual programs may establish their own advising processes, students should check with their school dean or director for any additional procedures.

Upon admission to a VIU program of study, but before the beginning of classes, students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisors. This initial advising session includes the following:

- A review of the requirements for the student's intended program of study.
- A review of the student's record-to-date to determine whether academic deficiencies exist that must be remedied.
- A recommendation as to course selection for the upcoming semester/academic year.
- A discussion of the career and/or graduate study options open to the student.
- Further evaluation of the student's suitability to major in the chosen discipline.

Students returning for study at VIU must schedule a meeting with their advisors to take place no later than one week before the start of classes. The meeting should accomplish at least one, two, and three above (four and five as needed).

### **6.5 Semester and Credit System**

VIU operates on a calendar in which the academic year is divided into two main semesters: fall and spring. Courses are also offered during the two shorter summer terms. The fall and spring semesters span over 15 weeks each. The summer term consists of two concentrated sessions consisting of 8 weeks each for academic courses. The ESL program is offered in a 7-week term format.

#### **6.5.1 Credit Hours**

Federal regulation (§600.2 of the Department of Education Federal Code) defines a credit hour as the amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

1. One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
2. At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

For VIU students to complete any program, they must complete a specified number of credit hours as required by their respective programs of study. One credit hour can be earned by successful completion of 15 contact hours of learning. One contact hour of learning is defined as a minimum of 50 minutes of supervised or directed instruction and appropriate break(s). For example, for three graduate credit hours, a student must receive 45 contact hours of classroom instruction or a combination of lab and class work. Two hours of lab is equal to one hour of classroom teaching. Additionally, three hours of internship or externship is equal to one hour of classroom teaching.

### **6.6 Grading System and Grade Point Average**

#### **6.6.1 Explanation of Grades**

For graduate level courses, the grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, and C are passing grades, and C-, D+, D, D-, and F are failing grades. For undergraduate level courses, the grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, and D- are passing grades,

and F is a failing grade. The grade of S is a passing grade and the grade of U is a failing grade for ESL courses. The grade of "I" (Incomplete) is given to a student whose work has been of passing quality but who has, for compelling reasons, been unable to complete all of his or her required coursework within 8 weeks of the beginning of next term. For the purpose of SAP evaluation, a grade of "I" is included in the calculation of the CGPA as a failing grade and counts as credit hours attempted for calculating the completion rate. The quality of performance in any academic course is reported by a letter grade. These grades denote the character of work and are assigned grade points as follows:

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Points	CGPA	Academic Standing
94.00-100.00	A	4.00	4.00	
90.00-93.99	A-	3.70		
87.00-89.99	B+	3.30		
83.00-86.99	B	3.00	3.00	<i>Satisfactory grade for graduate level programs</i>
80.00-82.99	B-	2.70		
77.00-79.99	C+	2.30		
73.00-76.99	C	2.00	2.00	<i>Lowest passing grade for graduate level course, and satisfactory grade for undergraduate level programs</i>
70.00-72.99	C-	1.70		
67.00-69.99	D+	1.30		
63.00-66.99	D	1.00		
60.00-62.99	D-	0.70	0.70	<i>Lowest passing grade for undergraduate level programs</i>
0.00-59.99	F	0.00	0.00	<i>Failure</i>
--	AU	--	--	<i>Audit</i>
--	I	0.00	--	<i>Incomplete</i>
--	InP	--	--	<i>In Progress</i>
--	NR	--	--	<i>Not Reported</i>
--	PA	--	--	<i>Passing (credit awarded for thesis work)</i>
--	SP			<i>Satisfactory Progress (credit awarded for thesis work)</i>
75.00-100.00	S	--	--	<i>Satisfactory (non-credit)</i>
--	TC	--	--	<i>Transfer Credit</i>
--	UP			<i>Unsatisfactory Progress (no-credit awarded for thesis work)</i>
0.00-74.99	U	--	--	<i>Unsatisfactory (non-credit)</i>
--	W	--	--	<i>Withdrawn</i>

### 6.6.1.1 Symbols

The following symbols may appear next to a grade or in the grade column:

- AU Audited Course
- I Incomplete
- InP In Progress
- R Repeat Course
- TC Transfer-in Credits
- W Withdrawn
- NR Not Reported
- PA Passing (Thesis Courses)
- SP Satisfactory Progress (Thesis Courses)
- UP Unsatisfactory Progress (Thesis Courses)

### 6.6.1.2 Grade Point Average (GPA)

GPA is defined as the total grade points (PTS) divided by credit hours (HRS).

### 6.6.1.3 Cumulative GPA (CGPA)

CGPA is defined as the overall GPA attained so far in an ongoing education period.

The GPA is determined by dividing the total number of grade points earned in courses by the total number of credits attempted. The GPA is carried out to three digits past the decimal point (example 1.000). No rounding up or down shall be done to arrive at the GPA. When a course is repeated, only the highest grade earned is counted in the computation of the GPA and the CGPA for graduation.

### 6.6.1.4 Course Codes and Levels

- ESL 0100-0899: English as a Second Language courses (ESL is a non-credit program)

- XXXX 100-499: Undergraduate level courses, classified by academic subject (alternatively division or area) and level of difficulty.
  - 100-199: General Education Courses\*
  - 100-299: Lower Division Courses
  - 300-499: Upper Division Courses
- XXXX 500-999: Graduate level courses, classified by academic subject (alternatively division or area) and level of difficulty.

**NOTE:** General Education courses in the languages division may contain course numbers up to 305

### **6.6.1.5 Receiving Grades**

Students will receive their grades by the close of business on the day grades are due to the Registrar's Office. Students can view their grades via the student portal.

### **6.6.1.6 Grade Change Policy**

Faculty members (instructors) are responsible for and have the authority to assign grades due to their position to evaluate the student's academic work and performance in a course. It is the responsibility of the instructor to initiate any grade change. Grade changes from an incomplete must be submitted to the Registrar's Office within 8 weeks of the beginning of next term as stated in the Academic Calendar. Other grade changes must be submitted to the Registrar's Office no later than the end of the following semester. Any grade change submitted after the deadline will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office.

### **6.6.1.7 Incomplete Grade ("I")**

The grade of "I" (Incomplete) is given to a student whose work has been of passing quality but who has, for compelling reasons, been unable to complete all of his or her required coursework by the end of the semester. An "I" grade is not to be given for late submission of work. A grade of "I" must be evaluated and changed within 8 weeks of the beginning of next term. At this time, all work from the previous semester/session must be completed and submitted to the instructor. If a grade is not submitted within 8 weeks of the beginning of next term, the grade will be changed from "I" to "F" with the assumption that the student has not fulfilled his/her requirements for the course.

The impact of an "I" grade on a student's satisfactory academic progress is as follows:

- A grade of "I" is included in the calculation of the CGPA as a failing grade and counts as credit hours attempted for calculating the completion rate.
- Courses that remain as an "I" at the end of 8th week of the beginning of next term will automatically become an "F" grade.
- Incomplete and Withdrawal grades may have an adverse effect on the successful course completion percentage of a student if he/she has been charged tuition for any part of the course.
- The "I" grade is only issued for verifiable, unavoidable reasons. Since the "I" grade extends enrollment in the course, requirements for will be established through student/faculty consultation and documented on the student's transcript.

Prior to the submission of a grade change from an Incomplete to an actual letter grade, an instructor must send a request for grade re-submission to the Registrar by email. Upon receiving the request, the Registrar enables the grade book to allow a grade to be amended by the instructor. Then, the instructor will make changes to the grade book on the faculty portal and re-submit the grade to the Registrar via the faculty portal.

### **6.6.1.8 Grade Change**

The following are examples of appropriate reasons for grade appeals:

- Arithmetical errors, typos, or incorrect calculations in the grade book
- Coursework submitted was excluded in grade calculation
- Grade appears to be based on impermissible factors such as discrimination, bias, or retaliation

The following are examples of denial reasons for grade appeals:

- To enable a student to graduate
- To allow a student to be awarded a scholarship, President's/Dean's List inclusion, or Latin honors
- To avoid receiving an academic warning, probation, or dismissal
- Personal issues that are not related to academics
- To comply with internal and/or external program standards
- Demonstration of not having completed course requirements

### **6.6.1.9 Grade Change Initiated by an Instructor**

A grade can be changed by an instructor regardless of whether the change was a requested by the student. After final grades are submitted, an instructor must notify the Registrar by email at [registrar@viu.edu](mailto:registrar@viu.edu) and copy the dean/program director prior to making any changes or corrections to a grade. Upon request, the Registrar can enable the grade book to allow a grade to be amended by the instructor. Then, the instructor will make changes to the grade book on the faculty portal and re-submit the grade to the Registrar via the faculty portal.

### **6.6.1.10 Grade Change Initiated by a Student**

A student who wishes to question a grade must contact the instructor of the course in writing within the first two weeks of the next semester/session. This includes the summer sessions, even if the student decides not to take course(s) during the summer sessions. The instructor will review the request and reply to the student regarding the decision. The school dean and Registrar may be copied on the written request and decision.

In the event that the instructor does not respond within 2 weeks or the issue remains unresolved after receiving the instructor's determination, the student may appeal in writing to the school dean within seven (7) days. The school dean will call a meeting with a grievance panel, which consists, at minimum, of the dean and/or the Program Designee, one faculty member, and the President or Vice President of the Student Union. The student and faculty member will be invited to present their sides of the issue to the grievance panel. The grievance panel will then determine an appropriate resolution; both the student and faculty member will be notified of the decision within seven (7) days. The decision made by the grievance panel is final and cannot be further appealed.

## **6.7 Repeat Courses ("R")**

If a student repeats a course and successfully completes the course, the following rules will apply in posting the student's cumulative record:

- The original grade, credit hours, and subsequent repetitions must be calculated as credits attempted in the successful course completion percentage for the purpose of satisfactory academic progress. As a rule, all of the credit hours for which the university has collected any tuition, whether for a first time or repeated course, will be included in the computation of the successful course completion percentage.
- The cumulative GPA will be based only upon the higher grade for the repeated course attempted.
- The original grade for the course repeated under this rule will remain on the student's academic record. The lower attempt will be excluded in the cumulative GPA calculation and the higher grade will be included in the cumulative GPA calculation.
- Course repetition does not extend the Maximum Time Frame for completing a program of study. (Maximum Time Frame is the time allowed for a student to complete a course of study. This requirement is discussed in more detail in other sections.) The student must complete the program within the original Maximum Time Frame allowed for their program.

## **6.8 Transfer Credits ("TC") Policy**

When a student brings credits from other institutions, these credits will be noted with a grade of "TC" (Transfer Credits). Transfer credits ("TC") are included in the calculation of the maximum allowable credits and completion rate requirements as credits attempted and credits earned for SAP calculation. Since these courses will not carry grades, they will have no effect on GPA calculations. The student's new normal program length will be shortened to reflect the transfer courses and the Maximum Time Frame will be recalculated.

A transfer student must complete at least 50% of the credit hours required by their program of study at VIU. For example, a transfer student in VIU's graduate degree program would have to complete at least 18 of the required 36 credit hours at VIU. This means that prior to enrollment, a graduate degree student may transfer up to 18 semester graduate credits from other accredited institutions and apply them towards a graduate degree program at VIU at the discretion of the institution. A graduate level certificate student may transfer up to 9 semester credit hours of graduate credit hours from other accredited institutions and apply them towards a graduate level certificate program. A minimum of a 3.000 grade point average ("B") out of 4.000 must have been earned on all graduate level transferable credit hours. An undergraduate degree student may transfer up to 60 semester credit hours from other accredited institutions and apply them to their program. A minimum of a 2.000 grade point average ("C") out of 4.000 must have been earned on all undergraduate level transferable credit hours. Transferable credit is considered upon the request of the student at the time of initial registration. Graduate students who want to apply courses taken at another college/university toward their VIU graduate degree must understand that the following criteria must be met in order to be considered for transfer of credit:

- (a) Courses are from an accredited institution recognized by the US Department of Education, the Council on Higher Education Accreditation, or, for foreign institutions, the government or appropriately recognized organization accreditation;
- (b) Courses are equivalent to VIU courses;
- (c) Courses consist of at least 3 credit hours;
- (d) Course grades are B or higher;

- (e) Courses does not duplicate;
- (f) Course descriptions, syllabi or course catalogs are submitted along with the transfer of credit request;
- (g) Any student looking to obtain transfer credit from an institution located outside of the United States will need to obtain a detailed course-by-course evaluation from an evaluation agency that is an endorsed member of National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) – [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org) or Association of International Credentials Evaluators (AICE) – [www.aice-eval.org](http://www.aice-eval.org), or by American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)'s own International Education Services – [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org); and
- (h) The maximum number of transferable credits is 18 credits for the graduate degree programs and 9 credits for the graduate certificate programs.

Undergraduate students who want to apply courses taken at another college/university toward their VIU undergraduate degree must understand that the following criteria must be met in order to transfer their credits:

- (a) Courses are from an accredited institution recognized by the US Department of Education, the Council on Higher Education Accreditation, or, for foreign institutions, the government or appropriately recognized organization accreditation;
- (b) Courses are equivalent to VIU courses;
- (c) Courses consist of at least 3 credit hours;
- (d) Course grades are C or higher;
- (e) Courses does not duplicate;
- (f) Course descriptions, syllabi or course catalogs are submitted along with the transfer of credit request;
- (g) Any student looking to obtain transfer credit from an institution located outside of the United States will need to obtain a detailed course-by-course evaluation from an evaluation agency that is an endorsed member of National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) – [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org) or Association of International Credentials Evaluators (AICE) – [www.aice-eval.org](http://www.aice-eval.org), or by American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)'s own International Education Services – [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org); and
- (h) The maximum number of transferable credits is 60 credits for the undergraduate degree programs.

## 7.9 Thesis Course Grades (“PA”, “SP”, and “UP”)

Given the unique nature of work required to complete the thesis, students will be awarded the grade of Passing (“PA”), Unsatisfactory Progress (“UP”), or Satisfactory Progress (“SP”), as determined by the mentor/committee chair.

- A grade of **Passing** (“PA”) requires final official approval of the thesis as determined by the committee chair and indicates successful completion of the course.
- A grade of **Unsatisfactory Progress** (“UP”) may include but is not limited to: not following a schedule that was agreed upon with the chair or other committee members, neglect of progress toward or completion of the thesis, failure to address comments or concerns in a timely manner, late submission of work that does not allow enough time for committee members to review, etc.
- A grade of **Satisfactory Progress** (SP) would be awarded for students who have made progress toward the completion of their thesis requirements, but still have work to complete at the end of the semester. A grade of SP indicates that they have made satisfactory progress, but have not yet completed all requirements for the thesis. This would include but is not limited to: a substantial approved demonstration of having actively worked toward completion of the thesis (e.g., the collection of at least some data) or the completion of a defense with major revisions required. Students receiving an “SP” grade receive credit for the course, but must retake the thesis course and complete the thesis in the following semester.

## 7.10 Dual Enrollment

Being enrolled and studying at another institution during the time while also enrolled at VIU is considered dual enrollment. A student may transfer no more than two courses (up to 6 credit hours) from another institution; provided that the total number of transfer credit does not exceed the 50% threshold and the institution's accreditation (or its equivalency) is verifiable, with the exception of a bachelor's degree program which allows up to four courses (12 credit hours) to be transferred. The transfer credits are counted as part of the maximum transfer credits, and a prior written approval of the school dean/director is required.

## 7.11 Transferability of Credits

Transfer of Virginia International University credits to another institution is at the discretion of the receiving institution and no guarantee of credit transfer can be made by the university.

## 7.12 Course Add/Drop

After registration, a student may add a course at any time before the deadline specified in the Academic Calendar. Permission to add a course after the last day of the add/drop period requires proof of extenuating circumstances and the written approval of the school dean. Under no circumstances may a course be added after three (3) calendar days beyond the last day to add a course. Students wishing to drop a course must do so before the last day of the add/drop period. A course that is dropped before the specified date will not appear in the student's academic record.

## 7.13 Withdrawals After the Add/Drop Period:

A student who wishes to change his/her schedule without financial penalty by dropping a course may do so only during the add/drop period by submitting a Course Add/Drop/Withdrawal Form. Students may withdraw only after obtaining the school dean's or academic advisor's signature on the Course Add/Drop/Withdrawal Form. Forms must be received within the following timeframes to be considered withdrawal without penalty. Any withdrawal after that will result in failing grade.

Course Length	Submission Window
15 Weeks	Week 2 to end of Week 10
8 Weeks	Week 2 to end of Week 5
7 Weeks	Week 2 to end of Week 4

A grade of "W" (indicating official withdrawal) will be recorded on the student's transcript. "W" grades are not calculated in the CGPA; however, they will be considered credit hours attempted if the student has incurred a financial obligation for the course. "W" grades affect the required minimum completion rate.

To withdraw from a course, the student must complete the relevant section of the Course Add/Drop/Withdrawal Form, obtain the school dean or academic advisor's signature, and submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office.

## 7.14 Withdrawals from the University

A student may withdraw from the university when circumstances beyond the student's control make it impossible for him or her to complete their coursework for the semester. A student wishing to withdraw from the university must complete the relevant section of the Institutional Withdrawal Form, obtain the school officials' signatures, and submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office. If a student fails to attend for a period of 14 consecutive calendar days of classes for which he or she is registered in a given semester or term, the university will make a determination as to whether the student intends to return to classes or should be administratively withdrawn from his or her program of study. The student will receive a grade of "W" if he or she withdraws between the second and tenth week of the semester for 15-week courses, between the second and fourth week of the session for 7-week courses. A student who does not withdraw from the university before the deadline will receive a failing grade or a letter grade based upon his/her performance in the course. The institutional refund policy is applied to determine if the institution is required to provide a refund to the student. Students who fail to register by the end of add/drop period are automatically considered officially withdrawn from the University.

## 7.15 Course Auditing ("AU")

Students electing to take a course for audit must receive approval from the school dean prior to the completion of the add/drop period. Students may not make changes to their audit status after the add/drop period. A variety of factors go into reviewing and approving a course audit, including space available in the course, a student's current and previous academic standing, the total number of courses in a program, a student's visa status, and the number of remaining courses left in the program. A grade of "AU" is awarded for a course audit. The faculty member and the student must agree to the terms of a course audit including expectations for attendance, participation, and coursework to be completed. Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in failure with a grade of "F" for the course. Classes taken for audit may be repeated for credit. Audited courses do not count as credits attempted for the purpose of determining satisfactory academic progress. Therefore, they have no effect on the student's GPA computation. Course prerequisite policy will apply to all auditing courses. Audited courses are subject to all regular tuition and fees. Tuition and fees are subject to change without prior notice.

## 7.16 Not Reported ("NR")

An "NR" grade means that a grade has not yet been reported by an instructor at the time of grade processing. If an instructor does not submit grades by the deadline of grade submission, the Registrar's Office records a temporary grade of "NR" to the student records. An actual letter grade will replace the NR grade once final grade processing takes place.

"NR" grades are not calculated in the CGPA; however, they will be considered credit hours attempted for academic satisfaction progress calculation. At the time "NR" changes to the letter grade, the student's SAP will be re-evaluated.

## 7.17 Program Prerequisite Completion Policy

In recognizing the potential for students to wish to broaden their professional perspectives, and/or build interdisciplinary knowledge bridging two fields of study, when programs are created by content-area experts, they are requested to define minimum content knowledge required for success. In instances in which some content-area background knowledge would be required, the faculty designate special "program prerequisite" courses aimed at providing this foundational knowledge.

Program prerequisite courses are courses that the faculty within a discipline have deemed necessary for entry into a program of study. These may be required in instances in which (including but not limited to) a student wishing to pursue a graduate degree in a content area other than that of their undergraduate degree (i.e., a student completing a degree unrelated to the program in which they are applying at VIU).

Prerequisite courses are intended to provide an educational foundation of skills and content that will help students to meet educational and institutional learning outcomes and be successful in their pursuit of a master's degree. In the interest of ensuring that VIU students are able to hone these skills in a meaningful manner, VIU places regulations on the time-period in which our students must complete their prerequisite courses.

This policy recognizes the importance of completing prerequisite courses as an integral part earning a graduate degree.

### 7.17.1 Importance of Prerequisites

According to the ACICS Accreditation Criteria (section 3-6-405. Enrollment), "Enrollment in graduate-level courses must be sufficient to support regularly scheduled and conducted classes and laboratory work. Graduate-level courses shall be offered and shall be based on appropriate prerequisites." In the interest of providing an enriched academic classroom experience for all students, VIU has set forth the following regulations on the completion of the prerequisite component of certain graduate programs offered at VIU.

Program prerequisite courses are intended to fill in content-area knowledge that may missing from an undergraduate experience, especially when that undergraduate degree is outside of the student's new intended degree area. In the interest of having enriched classroom discussions and laying the foundation for all other coursework as quickly as possible, VIU requires that all students complete all program prerequisites within the first 12 months of study. Most students are able to complete all program prerequisites within one or two semesters of full-time study. Advisors and students will ensure that all undergraduate prerequisites are completed before students can take other graduate-level coursework with the only exception being in cases in which students need to be enrolled full time and they have fewer than three prerequisites remaining (see below).

Since the nature of program prerequisites was determined by faculty in the creation of the program and/or in any subsequent program revisions, the additional program prerequisites were instituted specifically to provide equal foundational knowledge to all students in these programs. The exact number and nature of these program prerequisites differs from program-to-program. Some programs require as many as five program prerequisites, others require up to two, and some do not require prerequisites at all. This policy specifically lays out the procedures for reviewing/approving program prerequisites for programs that currently require them.

The exact number of required prerequisites depends upon the individual situation of the student, including his or her previous degree(s) and/or professional coursework or certifications that they might have. As such, a content-area expert is required to advise and develop an individualized plan centered around identifying and filling in any potential gaps that the student might have. Because prerequisites are introductory in nature and would be required for the student to be successful, they must complete all of their prerequisites before enrolling in their degree-area courses unless the number of courses that the student needs might put them under full-time enrollment. In such cases, students may be concurrently registered in courses that do not require prerequisites prior to enrollment (see below). Generally, this would require taking a full or nearly full load only with program prerequisites.

A full-time student load is defined by VIU as 3 graduate courses or 4 undergraduate courses; wherever possible, VIU attempts to ensure that all students who wish to/need to be full time can do so. Although VIU's full-time load policy is defined elsewhere in the catalog, students who are required to complete less than 3 program prerequisite courses, but need to be registered for full course load, are eligible to enroll for graduate level courses that do not require prerequisite. In this case, students must complete their program prerequisite courses during their first semester of study.

Students who must complete program prerequisite will not be allowed to register for classes by themselves. The academic advisor must create a Program Prerequisite Completion Plan for the student and ensure classes are offered for

the established period. The Program Prerequisite Completion Plan will be outlined upon acceptance, and it will be put into place after a meeting between student and advisor.

### **7.17.2 Course Prerequisite Policy**

Course prerequisites are designed to ensure that students registered for a course have the required minimum background for study of the course content. This background may be obtained through courses equivalent to the listed prerequisites or through other educational and professional experiences. In such cases, students should consult school deans for advice and guidance. In very rare cases, a prerequisite may be waived with the appropriate approval. The approval of the waiver, to include documentation, will be maintained in the student records.

### **7.17.3 Consequences for Non-Fulfillment of Program Prerequisites**

If, for any reason, a student has not fulfilled all required program prerequisites after 12 months of study, they will be required to work with their academic advisor prior to the start of the next semester and to update their Program Prerequisite Completion Plan. The plan outlines the steps that the student will be required to take to complete the program prerequisites in a clear and expeditious manner. Upon approval by the student and academic advisor, the plan must be submitted to the Chief Academic Officer for final approval. The Chief Academic Officer will then submit the finalized form to the registrar before the end of the add/drop period in the semester following the completion of the first full year of study.

The plan will be monitored on a semester-basis until such time that the plan has been fulfilled any all program prerequisite requirements have been met. If the plan is put into place and not followed by the student, further disciplinary action may be taken, including an academic warning.

### **7.17.4 Prerequisite Requirement Waiver**

VIU recognizes that there are myriad of ways that potential students learn this foundational knowledge. One such way would be to fulfill the program's foundational knowledge as part of an undergraduate degree/certificate. If a student's degree is directly aligned with the program, then the program prerequisites have been satisfied. Alternatively, if a student can demonstrate through professional coursework or certifications from progression organizations recognized as industry standards in the field, these program prerequisites may be deemed satisfied by a qualified program chair/department chair who is a content-expert in the area in question.

To demonstrate that program prerequisites have been satisfied, the applicant needs to provide proof of official examinations and/or certifications pertaining to the prerequisite's subject. If a waiver is requested by an applicant, a Prerequisite Evaluation Request Form with all supporting documents (i.e. examination and certifications) must be submitted to the chair of the applicant's elected program for review and consideration. Upon evaluation of the student's supporting documentation, the program chair will decide if it suffices the prerequisite(s) criteria and approve or deny the request.

## **7.18 Attendance Policies**

### **7.18.1 General Attendance Policy**

The policy applies to all programs unless specified otherwise.

1. In recognizing the correlation between attendance and academic achievement as well as student retention, regular and punctual attendance is mandatory for students enrolled at Virginia International University. Instructors are required to maintain attendance for each class meeting.
2. In cases of absence, it is the student's responsibility to notify the course instructor prior to missing class. In cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g. accident or emergency) the student must provide notification as soon as possible after the absence. This notification should include an explanation of why a notice could not be sent prior to the class.
3. Some absences can be determined as "excused absence" and permit the student to make up the missed coursework without penalty.
4. There are only five acceptable reasons for absence from a class or lab to be "excused absence":
  - 1) **Serious illness or serious medical emergencies on the part of the student or a dependent.** The student must submit a doctor's note explaining the reason for the absence to the instructor(s).
  - 2) **Family emergency.** The student must submit a note and supporting documents to their instructor explaining the reason for their absence. In case of a death in the family, a death certificate must be submitted as supporting documents.



- 3) **Legal.** The student must submit the official documentation to their instructor explaining the reason for their absence.
  - 4) **Military duty.** Student must provide an official government, state, or civic document indicating conditions and length of required service.
  - 5) Authorized and approved events that are of significant relation to course content as approved by the faculty member and/or dean.
5. The instructor can require additional documentation substantiating the excused absence from the student and have established timeframe for such submission.
  6. To make up the excused absence course work, the student must initiate communication with the instructor to determine the deadline and what will constitute as the make-up of the course work. The instructor must provide the student an opportunity to make up any in-class quizzes, exams, or other works that contribute to the final grade or provide a reasonable alternative by a date agreed upon by the student and instructor. The final decision on the content and deadline of the make-up must be communicated to the student in writing, by the instructor, via VIU campus email. If the student does not follow the makeup plan (e.g., no show at the prearranged time or missed the deadline for makeup work), they forfeit their rights for further make up of that work. Timely communication between the student and instructor is important.
  7. Absences for unexcused reasons will result in not being able to make up in-class work, quizzes, exams or other assignments and may negatively affect the student's final course grade. The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity to a student that has unexcused absences.
  8. Students with more than four absences (e.g., five or more excused and/or unexcused) in a course per semester will result in a failing grade for the course. F-1 visa students must continue attending classes to maintain their visa status even if they have missed more than four classes and will receive a failing grade.
  9. The Registrar's Office will notify a student and his/her academic advisor when he/she misses the third class (excused and/or unexcused). The notification is sent to the student VIU campus email. However, students are responsible for monitoring their own attendance records on Student Portal. Failure to receive the notification does not negate their attendance status.
  10. Students must maintain at least 75% attendance at any given time during the semester, regardless of whether the absence is excused or unexcused. Failure to do so will result in further warnings from the Registrar's office. F-1 visa students whose attendance falls below 75% will also be reported to the International Student Services Office for further action. F-1 visa students may lose their status if their attendance rate does not improve.
  11. If the student feels that he or she has been unfairly denied an excused absence, the student may appeal to the School Dean who will consider the case and attempt to resolve the problem. If the case cannot be satisfactorily resolved at that level, a final appeal may be made to the grievance panel.
  12. Tardiness. All students are expected to arrive to on-ground classes on time. Late attendance is disruptive to both the instructor and students. If a student is tardy for an on-ground class more frequently than what the instructor(s) considers acceptable, the instructor will report the issue to the student's school dean for appropriate disciplinary action. Three class sessions of tardiness per course whether arriving late, leaving early, or a combination of both will be counted as one unexcused absence. The conversion is made in Registrar's Office based on attendance records submitted by the instructor.
  13. A student who wishes to question their attendance must contact the instructor of the course in writing before the course ends or within the first two weeks of the next semester/session. This includes the summer sessions, even if the student decides not to take course(s) during the summer sessions. The instructor will review the request and reply to the student regarding the facts of the student's attendance record. The school dean and Registrar may be copied on the written request and facts regarding the attendance record.

In the event that the instructor does not respond within 2 weeks or the issue remains unresolved after receiving the instructor's determination, the student may appeal or request exception to the attendance policy in writing to the school dean within seven (7) days. The school dean will call a meeting with a grievance panel, which consists, at minimum, of the dean and/or the Program Designee, one faculty member, and the Chair of Academic Affairs. The student and faculty member will be invited to present their sides of the issue to the grievance panel. The grievance panel will then determine an appropriate resolution; both the student and faculty member will be notified of the decision within seven (7) days. The decision made by the grievance panel is final and cannot be further appealed.

### 7.18.2 ESL Attendance Policy

VIU's Intensive English Program's attendance policy requires all students to attend their scheduled classes and to arrive to class on time. Missing more than three classes (excused and/or unexcused) that meet 70 hours per term or two classes that meet 35 hours per term may result in losing your visa status. VIU maintains meticulous attendance records and will cancel students' I-20s if they cannot maintain compliance with the regulations on their visa status. Furthermore, low attendance will have a negative effect on a student's grades and may result in a failing grade. Failing more than one course per semester means that the student may have to repeat the level entirely.

In cases of absence, it is the student's responsibility to notify the course instructor prior to missing the class. In cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g. accident, or emergency), the student must provide notification by the next class meeting after the absence. This notification should include an explanation of why a notice could not be sent prior to the class.

1. Some absences can be determined as "excused absence" and permit the student to make up the missed coursework without penalty.
2. There are only three acceptable reasons for absence from a class or lab to be "excused absence":
  - a. Serious illness or serious medical emergencies on the part of the student or a dependent. The student must submit a doctor's note explaining the reason for the absence.
  - b. Family emergency - The student must submit a note and supporting documents explaining the reason for their absence. In case of a death in the family, a death certificate must be submitted as supporting documents.
  - c. Legal - The student must submit the official documentation explaining the reason for their absence.
3. To make up the excused absence coursework, the student must initiate communication with the instructor to determine the deadline, and what will constitute as the makeup of the course work. The instructor must provide the student an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other coursework that contributes to the final grade or provide a reasonable alternative by a date agreed upon by the student and instructor.
4. To submit an excused absence, a student should fill out the excused absence documentation submission form. Any doctor's notes and additional supporting documentation should be included. All documents must be submitted directly to the Dean of the School of Education & Language Studies.
5. One unexcused absence (one class absence per session) can be made up by completing a pre-arranged two-hour session in the tutoring center. Prior arrangements must be made with your teacher and the tutoring center administrator.
6. Absences for unexcused reasons will result in not being able to make up coursework, quizzes, exams or other work and may negatively affect the student's final course grade.

## 7.19 Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy

The Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy monitors and measures whether the students are maintaining satisfactory academic progress in their educational programs. The standards and requirements of satisfactory academic progress apply to all enrolled students.

The SAP Policy contains the following sections:

- 7.19.1. President's and Dean's List
- 7.19.2. Graduation Requirements
- 7.19.3. Latin Honors
- 7.19.4. Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards
  - 7.19.4.1. Maximum Time Frame (MTF)
  - 7.19.4.2. Qualitative Standards – CGPA
  - 7.19.4.3. Quantitative Standards – CR
  - 7.19.4.4. SAP Requirement Charts
  - 7.19.4.5. Academic Warning and Notification
  - 7.19.4.6. Academic Dismissal and Notification
  - 7.19.4.7. Procedure to Appeal an Academic Dismissal
  - 7.19.4.8. Academic Probation
  - 7.19.4.9. Re-entry (Student Withdrawal and Readmission Policy)
  - 7.19.4.10. Special Letter Grades and SAP evaluation
  - 7.19.4.11. Remedial Courses and SAP evaluation
  - 7.19.4.12. Changing or Adding Program, Concentration or Specialization and SAP evaluation
  - 7.19.4.13. Satisfactory Progress Requirement for ESL Program

### 7.19.1 President's and Dean's Lists

The President's and Dean's Lists are compiled at the end of the Fall and Spring semesters to recognize VIU's high-achieving academic students in degree programs. The list consists of names of students who meet the criteria for that semester as outlined below.

President's List			
#	Requirements	Undergraduate Students	Graduate Students
1	Minimum GPA	4.00	4.00
2	Minimum credit hours attempted and earned	12	9
3	Minimum grade	A	A
4	Other requirements	No I, U or F Only required grades for the intended program are considered	

### Dean's List

#	Requirements	Undergraduate Students	Graduate Students
1	Minimum GPA	3.75	3.90
2	Minimum credit hours attempted and earned	12	9
3	Minimum grade	C+	B+
4	Other requirements	No I, U or F Only required grades for the intended program are considered	

A letter from either the Office of the President or the Dean's Offices is sent to students noting their accomplishments and placement on the list. The President's and Dean's list are published on VIU's website twice a year.

### 7.19.2 Graduation Requirements

It is a student's responsibility to notify the Registrar's Office of intent to graduate. To be considered for graduation, a student must submit an Application for Graduation Form, a complete Degree Audit Form and meet all academic requirements.

**Degree Requirements:** Students should meet the following minimum requirements to qualify for a degree:

	Graduate Degree	Undergraduate Degree	Graduate Certificate	Undergraduate Certificate
<b>Minimum Passing Grade Per Course</b>	C	D-	C	D-
<b>CGPA</b>	3.00	2.00	3.00	2.00
<b>Total Required Credit Hours</b>	36	120	18	24

**Fees:** The fee for graduation is \$150 for all undergraduate and graduate students if paid by the deadline, or \$200 if paid after the deadline. The graduation fee is non-refundable.

**Records:** Records are sealed at graduation. No changes may be made to the academic record (transcript) after a degree has been awarded.

**Cancellation of Degree Application:** Students who cancel their application for graduation, or whose applications are cancelled by the Office of the Registrar, must reapply for graduation in order to be considered for a subsequent semester.

### 7.19.3 Latin Honors

Latin honors are given to graduate and undergraduate degree recipients who have achieved a high cumulative grade point averages (CGPA) in their program of study. The notation will appear on the diploma as well as on the transcript. Because transfer credits do not carry grades and therefore have no effect on GPA calculations, transfer courses are not considered for Latin honors.

The requirements for graduation with honors are as follows:

Graduate Degree Program	Degree CGPA
Summa Cum Laude	3.950 or higher
Magna Cum Laude	3.900 - 3.949
Cum Laude	3.800 - 3.899
Undergraduate Degree Program	Degree CGPA
Summa Cum Laude	3.800 or higher
Magna Cum Laude	3.700 - 3.799
Cum Laude	3.600 - 3.699

### 7.19.4 Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

The satisfactory academic progress (SAP) standards are measured after the final grades are recorded at the end of Fall, Spring, Summer I and Summer II, which are called "evaluation points". SAP is measured by the following three criteria.

1. Maximum Time Frame for Program Completion (MTF)
2. Qualitative Standard: a required minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA)
3. Quantitative Standard: a required minimum completion rate (CR)

If SAP is met, a student will continue on in good academic standing with no additional indication in the student's record.

Students who fail to meet any of the above-mentioned criteria will be considered not meeting the SAP requirements and will be put on Academic Warning or Academic Dismissal. If SAP is not met, a letter will be placed in the student record based on the category.

At the time of SAP review, students will fall into one of the following categories:

- **GOOD STANDING:** Student has met the required SAP and is eligible for aid for the following semester or academic year.
- **ACADEMIC WARNING:** Student has not made progress standards for the first time; the student will remain eligible for financial aid for one semester.
- **ACADEMIC DISMISSAL:** Student fails to meet the required SAP at the end of an academic warning period or at the end of an academic probation period, or fails to comply with Academic Plan during or at the end of an Academic Probation period; the student is no longer eligible for Financial Aid. Please see re-establishing eligibility below.
- **ACADEMIC PROBATION:** The student will remain eligible for financial aid for one semester or length of Academic Plan. At the next evaluation point, if the student continues not to meet SAP, then the student will not be eligible for financial aid.

SAP is calculated by Registrar's Office and the actual calculation is maintained by the Registrar's.

#### 7.19.4.1 Maximum Time Frame (MTF)

Students at VIU must complete their program of study within 1.5 times the Normal Program Length (NPL) as measured in semester credit hours attempted. This is called the Maximum Time Frame (MTF) and is formulized as  $MTF = 1.5 \times NPL$ . For example, the MTF for an undergraduate degree program is 180 credits  $MTF = 1.5 \times NPL = 1.5 \times 120 \text{ credits} = 180 \text{ credits}$ .

Credit hours attempted are defined as any clock or credit hour for which a student has incurred a financial obligation. All registered hours at the end of the add/drop period will be counted in the MTF determination. In addition, all transfer credit hours accepted from other institutions will be counted in the MTF.

Program of Study	NPL in credits	MTF credits
Undergraduate Certificate Programs	24	36
Graduate Certificate Programs	18	27
Undergraduate Degree Programs	120	180
All Other Graduate Degree Programs	36*	54*

\* Beyond the program prerequisites.

If a student is unable to complete the program within one of the aforementioned MTF allowed in credits, the individual will be dismissed from the program, no academic warning or probation is allowed at this point, and the student will not be eligible to receive the original credential (e.g., bachelor's degree).

#### 7.19.4.2 Qualitative Standards - CGPA

Students must meet the qualitative standard of a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) requirement at each SAP evaluation point, as shown in the "SAP Requirement Charts" by program level in section 7.17.4.4 below.

Undergraduate degree program students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.00 and graduate degree program students must have a minimum CGPA of 3.00 at the end of the second academic year and at the end of each semester thereafter.

Undergraduate certificate program students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.00 and graduate certificate program students must have a minimum CGPA of 3.00 at the end of academic year and at the end of each semester thereafter.

A student who fails to meet SAP standards for the first time will be placed on "Academic Warning" status. A student who fails to meet SAP standards at the end of the "Academic Warning" period will be dismissed (Academic Dismissal) from the program and the university, with the option to appeal if mitigating circumstance(s) resulted in the dismissal. If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed on "Academic Probation" with an approved Academic Plan and expected to improve academic standing within the given timeframe in the Academic Plan.

There are only certain mitigating circumstance(s) that can be considered for an appeal. Please refer to Section 7.17.4.7 Procedure to Appeal Academic Dismissal for the exhaustive list.

#### 7.19.4.3 Quantitative Standards – CR

Students must meet the quantitative standard of a minimum completion rate (CR) requirement at each SAP evaluation point, as shown in the "SAP Requirement Charts" below, by program level.

A student who fails to meet SAP standards for the first time will be placed on "Academic Warning." A student who fails to meet SAP standards at the end of the "Academic Warning" period will be dismissed from the program and the university, with the option to appeal if mitigating circumstance(s) resulted in the dismissal. If the appeal is approved, the student will

be placed on “Academic Probation” with an approved Academic Plan and expected to improve academic standing within the given timeframe in the Academic Plan.

There are only certain mitigating circumstance(s) that can be considered for an appeal. Please refer to Section 7.17.4.7 Procedure to Appeal Academic Dismissal for the exhaustive list.

#### 7.19.4.4 SAP Requirement Charts

Undergraduate Degree Programs			
Credits Attempted	Required Minimum CGPA	Required Minimum CR	Result if SAP Not Met
1 – 24 credits	1.60	50.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Warning if 1st time</li> <li>Academic Dismissal if on Academic Warning in the previous semester.</li> </ul>
25 - 47 credits	1.80	60.00%	
48 - MTF credits	2.00	66.67%	

**NOTE:** If MTF is reached, Academic Warning is not allowed.

Undergraduate Certificate Programs			
Credits Attempted	Required Minimum CGPA	Required Minimum CR	Result if SAP Not Met
1-15 credits	1.60	60.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Warning if 1st time</li> <li>Academic Dismissal if on Academic Warning in the previous semester</li> </ul>
16 - MTF credits	2.00	66.67%	

**NOTE:** If MTF is reached, Academic Warning is not allowed.

Graduate Degree Programs			
Credits Attempted	Required Minimum CGPA	Required Minimum CR	Result if SAP Not Met
1-9 credits	2.50	50.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Warning if first time</li> <li>Academic Dismissal if on Academic Warning in the previous semester</li> </ul>
10-18 credits	2.60	55.50%	
19-27 credits	2.80	60.00%	
28 - MTF credits	3.00	66.67%	

**NOTE:** If MTF is reached, Academic Warning is not allowed.

Graduate Certificate Programs			
Credits Attempted	Required Minimum CGPA	Required Minimum CR	Result if SAP Not Met
1 - 9 credits	2.60	60.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Warning if 1st time</li> <li>Academic Dismissal if on Academic Warning in the previous semester</li> </ul>
10 - MTF credits	3.00	66.67%	

**NOTE:** If MTF is reached, Academic Warning is not allowed.

#### 7.19.4.5 Academic Warning and Notification

Failure to achieve the required minimum CGPA and/or the required minimum completion rate at the required evaluation point will result on Academic Warning (See the “SAP Requirement Charts”). The academic warning period is one semester. A notification to students on Academic Warning will be sent no later than the end of the course add/drop period of next semester/session. The notification is sent to the students VIU campus email. However, students are responsible for monitoring their own academic progress. Failure to receive the notification does not negate the student’s SAP result and its implications.

Students on Academic Warning are required to meet with their academic advisor to register for the next semesters, and must work towards improving his or her CGPA and/or completion rate to meet the minimum SAP requirements by the end of next semester to be in good academic standing.

If a student fails to meet the SAP requirements at the end of the Academic Warning period, the student will be dismissed from the program and the university, with the option to appeal if mitigating circumstance(s) resulted in the dismissal. If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed on Academic Probation. Refer to Section 7.17.4.7: Procedure for Appealing Academic Dismissal and Academic Probation for further detail on this process.

#### 7.19.4.6 Academic Dismissal and Notification

There are four (4) reasons that a student can be on Academic Dismissal due to the SAP requirements:

1. Failure to meet the required SAP standards at the end of an Academic Warning period

2. Failure to meet the required SAP standards at the end of an Academic Probation period
3. Failure to comply with Academic Plan during or at the end of an Academic Probation period
4. If the review of a student's SAP evaluated at any time indicates that it is mathematically impossible for the student to meet the minimum requirements of the Standards of SAP policy at the next mandatory evaluation point the result will be an Academic Dismissal from the program and the university.

Students will be notified of Academic Dismissal by the Registrar's Office via VIU campus email within five business days after the final grades being posted. However, all students are responsible for monitoring their own academic progress. Failure to receive the notification does not negate the student's SAP result and its implications.

Any student who is dismissed may appeal to the Office of Academic Affairs within 10 business days of the notification by writing if a mitigating circumstance resulted in the dismissal. Refer to Section 7.17.4.7: Procedure for Appealing Academic Dismissal for more detail on this process. F-1 students dismissed from the program and the university and/or students who have lost their appeal will have their F1 visa status terminated.

#### **7.19.4.7 Procedure for Appealing Academic Dismissal**

A student being dismissed for not meeting SAP requirements can appeal the Academic Dismissal if they have mitigating circumstances that contributed to the dismissal. The following is a list of conditions that may be considered as mitigating circumstances, which have negatively impacted academic progress:

- Student illness or injury that led to hospitalization or a documented serious illness or injury of the student (including mental health issues)
- Death of an immediate family member (a parent, spouse, sibling or child)
- Illness of an immediate family member where the student is the primary caretaker or the family member is the primary financial support
- Work-related major changes during the period (e.g. Military deployment)
- Natural disaster
- Other circumstances that resulted in undue hardship to the student

The appeal must be submitted to the school dean within 10 business days from the notification, in writing, and must include the following documents:

1. Letter of appeal, explaining the mitigating circumstances that resulted in the academic dismissal, and an explanation on how the circumstance have been remedied or changed to ensure that he or she will be able to meet SAP requirements
2. Supporting documentation of the mitigating circumstances, and its remediation or change.
3. An academic plan approved by academic advisor. Refer to the Section 7.18.1.1: Academic Probation for further information on academic plans.

If a student is dismissed for the second time during or after an academic probation due to not meeting the SAP requirements and/or the Academic Plan goals, the student will not be able to appeal the second dismissal immediately unless the mitigating circumstance claim that affected low academic progress is different than the one indicated in the first approved appeal.

Title IV federal student aid recipients cannot appeal two times in a row even if the mitigating circumstance that resulted in the academic dismissal is different than the one indicated in the first approved appeal. Two times in a row is defined as submitting an appeal for a semester immediately following an appealed semester whether submitted, approved, or denied. After the second dismissal, if the student wishes to enroll back at VIU, for the same program or a different program, the student must sit out one year, after which the student will be eligible to re-appeal and if approved resume study at VIU under Academic Probation.

The appeal process is the same, and if approved, Academic Probation requirements apply. In other words, the student must meet the standards of SAP by complying with the Academic Plan, and successfully meet the SAP requirement by the end of the probation period. (See the "Academic Probation" section for further detail.) If the second re-entry appeal is denied, no additional appeals may be allowed and the student is permanently dismissed from the university.

No consideration of a dismissal appeal will be given until all financial holds have been removed. The SAP Appeal Committee will not review an appeal if the financial holds have not been removed prior to the deadline.

#### **7.19.4.8 Academic Probation**

A student whose academic dismissal appeal is approved by the SAP Appeals Committee will be placed on academic probation and can continue his or her study under the condition of an approved academic plan. The statement "Academic Probation" will be entered into the student's permanent record.

Academic probation is one semester with the exception of an additional semester if it is approved in the academic plan. The “academic plan” is defined as a written agreement between a student and an academic advisor in order for the student to improve his/her academic progress. The academic plan includes a course schedule plan during the academic plan period to ensure that the student has a realistic achievable academic plan. It may include the courses that need to be repeated during the probationary period. The plan also includes the required minimum CGPA and minimum completion rate that the student must achieve at the end of academic plan period.

If the student on academic probation attains the minimum SAP requirement at the end of or during the 6974 period, the academic probation status will be lifted and the student will be considered in a good academic standing. If a student fails to meet the SAP requirement at the end of the probationary period, or fail to follow and meet the academic plan goals, the student will be dismissed from the program and the university. “Academic Dismissal” will be entered into the student’s permanent record.

#### **7.19.4.9 Re-entry (Student Withdrawal and Readmission Policy)**

**Withdrawal:** Students who have voluntarily withdrawn from the university in good standing may apply to be re-admitted into the university through the regular VIU admission process. If accepted, they may re-enroll and become a VIU student once again. Students who were on an academic warning, or academic probation at the time of their voluntarily withdrawal, will be placed back on those statuses and the same requirements will apply, upon successful re-admission. The students who were on academic probation will be conditionally accepted with the understanding that the student will submit a revised academic plan, approved by their academic advisor, to the Registrar’s Office to complete enrollment.

**Termination Due to Academic Dismissal:** Students must successfully complete the regular admission process first to receive conditional acceptance. After which the student must successfully appeal the Academic Dismissal to be enrolled back in class. Refer to the Section 7.17.4.7: Procedure for Appealing Academic Dismissal for information on how to appeal.

**Termination Due to Non-Academic Reasons:** Students who have had their status as a student involuntarily terminated due to non-academic reasons must apply to be re-admitted through the VIU admission process. A written petition may be requested during the re-admission process. All students who have had their student status terminated for any reason must clear all outstanding financial balances with the Accounting Office prior to applying for re-admission into the university.

**F-1 Visa Reinstatement:** Students who have failed to maintain their F-1 visa status for any reason must apply for reinstatement of their F-1 status with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) before they can enroll at the university. VIU will evaluate the circumstances in which the student lost the visa status and only those who were terminated for reasons beyond the student’s control will be considered for reinstatement. Students who have been out-of-status for more than five months are not eligible to apply for reinstatement within the United States. Student must leave the U.S and reapply for a new I-20 in order to resume full time attendance.

Students who have their visa status terminated will need to clear all financial obligations with the VIU Accounting Office before formally beginning the reinstatement process. Students who have their visa status terminated while studying at VIU will not be able to continue their studies during the semester in which their status was terminated. Students will instead may apply for reinstatement and continue their studies during the semester following the termination. Applying for reinstatement does not guarantee the terminated status will be reversed. This decision is made solely by USCIS.

#### **7.19.4.10 Special Letter Grades and SAP evaluation**

**Incomplete Grade (“I”):** For the purpose of SAP evaluation, a grade of “I” is included in the calculation of the CGPA as a failing grade and counts as credit hours attempted for calculating the completion rate. Courses that remain as an “I” at the end of 14 calendar days after the final grade submission date will automatically become an “F” grade. If the student’s SAP is not met while receiving an “I” grade, SAP will be re-evaluated after the “I” grade changes to an actual letter grade.

**Repeat Course (“R”):** The original grade, credit hours, and subsequent repetitions must be calculated as credits attempted in the completion rate and MTF for the purpose of SAP evaluation. When a course is repeated, the lower grade will be excluded in the cumulative GPA calculation and the higher grade will be included in the cumulative GPA calculation.

**Non-Punitive Grades:** “AU”, “TC”, “W”, “NR” grades are considered as Non-Punitive Grades.

**Audited Course (“AU”):** Audited courses do not count as credits attempted for the purpose of determining satisfactory academic progress and have no effect on the student’s CGPA and Semester GPA computation.

**Transfer Credits (“TC”):** When a student brings credits from other institutions, these credits will be noted with a grade of “TC” (Transfer Credits). Transfer credits (TC) are included in the calculation of the maximum allowable credits and completion rate requirements as credits attempted and credits earned for SAP calculation. Since these courses will not carry grades, they will have no effect on GPA calculations. The student’s new normal program length will be shortened to reflect the transfer courses and the Maximum Time Frame will be recalculated.

**Withdrawal (“W”) – Withdraw without penalty:** A student who wishes to change his/her schedule by dropping a course may do so only during the add/drop period by submitting a Course Add/Drop/Withdrawal Form. Students may withdraw only after obtaining the school dean’s or academic advisor’s signature on the Course Add/Drop/Withdrawal Form. Forms must be received within the following timeframes to be considered withdrawal without penalty. Any withdrawal after that will result in failing grade.

Course Length	Eligible Timeframe for “W”
15 Weeks	Week 2 to end of Week 10
8 Weeks	Week 2 to end of Week 5
7 Weeks	Week 2 to end of Week 4

A grade of “W” (indicating official withdrawal) will be recorded on the student’s transcript. “W” grades are not calculated in the CGPA; however, they will be considered credit hours attempted if the student has incurred a financial obligation for the course. “W” grades affect the required minimum completion rate. Please refer to the Withdrawals (“W”) section in the academic catalog for further information.

**Not Reported (“NR”):** An “NR” grade means that a grade has not yet been reported by an instructor at the time of grade processing. “NR” grades are not calculated in the CGPA; however, they will be considered credit hours attempted for academic satisfaction progress calculation. At the time “NR” changes to the letter grade, the student’s SAP will be re-evaluated.

**Non-Credit Courses (ESL Courses):** The grade of “S” (Satisfactory) is a passing grade and the grade of “U” (Unsatisfactory) is a failing grade for ESL courses. ESL courses do not affect CGPA or Completion Rate calculations.

Given the unique nature of work required to complete the thesis, students will be awarded the grade of Pass (“PA”), Unsatisfactory Progress (“U”), or Satisfactory Progress (“S”), as determined by the mentor/committee chair.

**Pass (“PA”):** A grade of “PA” requires final official approval of the thesis as determined by the committee chair and indicates successful completion of the course. The “PA” grade is not calculated in the CGPA; however, it is considered credit hours attempted.

**Satisfactory (“S”):** An “S” grade reflects satisfactory work towards a thesis course. Students who have made progress toward the completion of their thesis requirements, but still have work to complete at the end of the semester, may receive a Satisfactory grade (“S”) for the course, indicating that they have made satisfactory progress, but have not yet completed all requirements for the thesis. This would include but is not limited to: a substantial approved demonstration of having actively worked toward completion of the thesis (e.g., the collection of at least some data) or the completion of a defense with major revisions required. Students receiving an “S” grade do not receive credit for the course, and must work to complete the thesis in the following semester. The “S” grade is not calculated in the CGPA; however, it is considered credit hours attempted.

**Unsatisfactory Progress (“U”):** Unsatisfactory Progress (“U”) may include but is not limited to: not following a schedule that was agreed upon with the chair or other committee members, neglect of progress toward or completion of the thesis, failure to address comments or concerns in a timely manner, late submission of work that does not allow enough time for committee members to review, etc The “U” grade is not calculated in the CGPA; however, it is considered credit hours attempted.

#### 7.19.4.11 Remedial Courses and SAP evaluation

**Remedial and/or Program Prerequisite Courses:** Remedial and/or program prerequisite courses needed to meet certain conditions of admission to the program do not apply towards any degree requirements. Therefore, those courses do not affect CGPA, Completion Rate and Maximum Time Frame calculation.

**Extended-Enrollment:** Virginia International University does not offer extended enrollment.

#### 7.19.4.12 Changing or Adding Programs, Concentrations or Specializations and SAP Evaluation

**Change of Program, Concentration, or Specialization:** When a student changes his or her program, the grades earned in the first program will be recorded as earned if the courses are applicable to the new program and will affect the student’s new program CGPA, Completion Rate and MTF calculation.

To change a program, concentration, or specialization, a student must:

1. Submit a Change of Program or Concentration/Declaration Form
2. Meet with the current program school dean for acknowledgement



3. Meet with the new program school dean for advising
4. Meet with a representative of VIU's Admissions Office to determine if extra documentation is required and to request for a transfer credit evaluation if applicable

If a student being on academic warning or academic probation changes a program, the SAP will be re-evaluated for the new program. If a student is dismissed from the previous program, he or she must appeal with a mitigating circumstances and the appeal must be approved in order to start the new program. Such student will start on academic probation in the new program.

**Additional Programs, Concentrations or Specializations:** When a student graduates from a program at VIU and enrolls in another program, concentration, or specialization the grades used in the CGPA of the previous curriculum, if applicable to the new curriculum, will be recorded as grades earned, and will be applied to the student's new curriculum CGPA, Completion Rate and MTF calculation.

#### **7.19.4.13 Satisfactory Progress Requirement for ESL Program**

**Evaluation Points:** Students enrolled in the ESL program are assessed at each level to determine satisfactory progress. Full-time ESL students are expected to pass a level in each term. Part-time ESL students are expected to pass a course(s) in each term they registered for.

**ESL Academic Warning:** A full-time ESL student who fails to pass a level in the ESL program will receive an academic warning. A part-time ESL student who fails to pass a course(s) will receive an academic warning.

**ESL Academic Probation:** A full-time ESL student with an academic warning status will be placed on ESL academic probation if s/he fails to pass a level in the next consecutive term. A part-time ESL student with an academic warning status will be placed on ESL academic probation if s/he fails to pass a course(s) in the next consecutive term.

**ESL Academic Dismissal:** A full-time ESL student who is on academic probation must pass the current level or s/he will be dismissed and the statement "Academic Dismissal" will be entered into the student's permanent record. A part-time ESL student on academic probation must pass all courses in order to avoid being dismissed from the program and the university. F-1 students dismissed from the program and the university will lose their F-1 visa status if they do not appeal or the result of appeal is denied by the SAP Appeals Committee.

**Procedure for appealing ESL Probation or Dismissal:** A student being dismissed for violating Satisfactory Academic Progress can appeal if they have mitigating circumstance(s) that contributed to the dismissal. The mitigating circumstance(s) must be supported with sufficient documentations. The following is a list of conditions that can be considered as mitigating circumstances, which have negatively affected academic progress.

- Student illness or injury that lead to hospitalization or documented serious illness or injury of the student (including mental health issues)
- Death of an immediate family member (a parent, spouse, sibling or child)
- Illness of an immediate family member where the student is the primary caretaker or the family member is the primary financial support
- Work-related major changes during the period (including Military deployment)
- Natural disaster

Any consideration of the conditions outside of the list provided should be discussed with the Office of Academic Affairs. The student must appeal to the Office of Academic Affairs within 10 business days from the notification. The appeal must be in writing and must include following documents:

1. Letter of appeal, explaining the mitigating circumstances that resulted in the academic dismissal, explanation on how the circumstance have been remedied or changed to ensure that he or she will be able to meet SAP requirements
2. Supporting documentation of the mitigating circumstances, and its remediation or change.

#### **7.20 Leave of Absence (LOA)**

From time-to-time, students may seek authorization for a leave of absence (LOA) from the university to temporarily interrupt a program of study. A LOA allows a student to suspend his or her enrollment for a brief period of time rather than withdrawing from the program and re-enrolling. In the case of prolonged illness or accident, death in the family, or other special circumstances that make attendance impossible or impractical, a LOA may be granted to the student if requested in writing by the student.

##### **Instructions**

1. A student seeking a LOA must consult with his/her academic dean, and submit a LOA form to Registrar's Office. The request must be signed and dated with the reason for LOA.

2. Upon receiving the LOA request and form, the university will determine if there is a reasonable expectation that the student will return to the university and resume his/her study. The university will grant the request or deny it, and inform the student by email.
3. The LOA cannot exceed 180 days in any 12-month period. Students with F-1 visa must contact the International Student Advisor for consultation prior to requesting for a LOA to ensure compliance with federal immigration regulations [8 C.F.R. §214.2(f)(6)(iii)(B)].
4. The student must report to Registrar's Office upon returning from the approved LOA on/or prior to the expected return date stated on the LOA form.
5. If a student does not resume attendance at the university on/or before the end of an approved LOA, the student will be considered withdrawn from the institution. The date that the LOA was approved should be considered the last date of attendance for refund purposes.

## **7.21 Learning Management System**

All courses at VIU have a course resource page through the learning management system (LMS), Canvas. Courses can be accessed at <http://canvas.viu.edu>. The LMS is a place where faculty will provide resources to students for their classes as well as accept electronically submitted homework. Therefore, students are expected to log in and use the LMS to access their course resource pages. Students can access their current semester's course(s) under "My Courses". On the course's resource page, students can access resources, submit assignments, participate in discussion forums, etc.

Students will have access to their previous course pages as long as they are actively enrolled in courses.

## **7.22 Learning Beyond the Classroom**

VIU embraces a learning model that allows for continued learning beyond just in-class contact time through use of our learning management system (LMS). The LMS allows for facilitated growth opportunities used to supplement the traditional in-class experience. Unless otherwise specified, all courses are fully conducted in their specified modality/format to include the completion of 15 lecture; 30 lab; or 45 practicum/externship hours per credit. Outside or supplemental work through the LMS would be in addition to these hours. All courses at VIU utilize the LMS for tasks like assignment submission and other out-of-class activities aimed at engagement beyond the classroom. These additional learning opportunities can include guest lectures, discussion forums, or other similar means of interacting with the course outside of the traditional lecture time. All such work/activities are conducted through the LMS in addition to the traditional contact time in class.

## **7.23 Campus Email**

All students and faculty are provided an @campus.viu.edu email ("campus email"). All university correspondence and notifications are sent via campus email, therefore it is required that all students and faculty use it. Everyone is expected to log into their campus email regularly. No university communication (communications about classes or academic administrative matters should occur student-to-student, faculty-to-student, faculty-to-faculty, student-to-staff, etc.) should occur via personal email.

## **7.24 Student Portal**

The student portal is a centralized location for accessing and managing students' personal VIU information. In the portal students will be able to access university announcements, grades, class schedules, electronic bills, and much more. In addition, the portal is place for students to be able to update their personal details including any changes to their address or phone number.

## **7.25 University's Official Gradebook**

While our learning management system includes a gradebook, the Canvas gradebook is an unofficial grade. Please refer to the Student portal for your official grades for the course. Access the student portal here:

<https://portal.viu.edu/student/login.asp>.

## 7. STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Students at VIU enjoy certain rights but also have certain responsibilities. The submission of an application for admission to VIU represents a voluntary decision on the student's part to participate in the programs offered by the institution pursuant to its policies, rules, and regulations. The university's approval of that application, in turn, represents the extension of a privilege to join VIU and remain a part of the university so long as the student meets the required academic and social standards of VIU.

VIU is a learning community with specific expectations concerning the conduct of its students. The university strongly believes that students are adults who are expected to take personal responsibility for their own conduct. Acceptance into any of the university's programs implies that the student has the following rights and responsibilities:

1. To pursue his/her educational goals through the resources and the opportunities made available to him/her by the university.
2. To challenge any university ruling or other sanction by appealing to due process, except as hereinafter provided.
3. To inquire, express views, and assemble with others as long as the student does not interfere with the rights of others or the university's effective operation.
4. To receive a professional and non-biased review of his/her academic ability and performance.
5. To recognize the safety and protection of property and the continuity of the educational process.
6. To help the university maintain good relations with its neighbors and the surrounding community by, among other things, obeying all traffic regulations, refraining from causing any disturbance, and respecting private property.

### 7.1 Grounds for Warning, Suspension, or Dismissal

Any of the following may be considered as cause for probation, suspension, or dismissal:

1. Academic dishonesty of any kind
2. Failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress
3. Violation of institutional rules and regulations
4. Failure to meet financial obligations

### 7.2 Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures

#### Academic Integrity and Code of Academic Excellence

In the pursuit of academic excellence, it is the policy that all parties associated with Virginia International University (VIU) conduct themselves with a high level of honesty and responsibility in regard to academic scholarship. VIU is committed to the establishment of and adherence to high academic and integrity standards in order to foster reputations that students, faculty, staff, and alumni can be proud of. These reputations directly correlate to the value of the degrees conferred by the institution and are viewed with utmost importance. This requires that students understand the importance of integrity and adhere to the highest standards while in class or on internships, at work, and in continuing education.

The university commits to preparing students to be professionally and academically prepared for the rigors of the world of work. In order to ensure that high quality educational opportunities are offered and to ensure the rigors of academic excellence, VIU requires that students adhere to the Code of Academic Excellence.

#### 7.2.1 Academic Integrity

Formal oversight of academic integrity is monitored by the entire VIU learning community including students, faculty, and staff of VIU. Suspected violations of academic integrity shall be directed to the appropriate School Dean or the Office of the Academic Affairs in writing.

#### 7.2.2 Code of Academic Excellence

The Code of Academic Excellence is a commitment by the entire learning community to adhere to, sustain, and build upon the reputation of the university by continually focusing on academic integrity and rigor. The following statement is adopted by VIU and applies to all students at the Institution:

*"All Virginia International University learning community members are expected to perform with integrity and respect for the high rigors of academic excellence espoused by VIU. Academic integrity includes the maintenance of a learning environment where everyone is given an opportunity to succeed through their own efforts and violations to the Code of Academic Excellence are not tolerated by the learning community."*

#### 7.2.3 Academic Misconduct

Violations to the Code of Academic Excellence can ultimately lead to the improper evaluation of assessment tasks leading to unjust attribution of grades or course status. Therefore, it is essential to monitor and evaluate any allegation of academic misconduct. Forms of violation can include, but are not limited to the following:

- Cheating and unauthorized use of materials: Cheating assumes taking advantage of people, materials, or other resources that are not your own and/or are not permitted. Unless otherwise instructed, students are expected to use their own ideas, work, and independent research for exams, projects, presentations, etc. The intentional or unintentional use of materials that are outside of the boundaries provided by the instructor or assignments is considered cheating.
- Improper collaboration: Permission to collaborate on homework, assignments, projects, exams, etc. must be authorized by an instructor. When not explicitly granted permission for collaboration, students should assume that they are not permitted to collaborate. In the absence of authorization for collaboration, it is assumed that all submitted work is the result of the student's own understanding and academic research. If submitted work is identical or overwhelmingly similar to another student's work, particularly where individual variation would be expected, the instructor has reasonable suspicion to assume that misconduct has occurred.
- Submission of material for multiple courses: Submission of work to a course (or even for publication) assumes that this material is new and/or full disclosure is made if the work has already been used/printed. This includes submission of assignments for multiple courses or journals. Submission of work for a class should be original work specifically for that course.
- Fabrication, forgery, purchase, alteration or unlawful use of documents for academic advantage: Any form of lying, forgery, falsification, or unlawful use of data or other information is in direct violation of the Code of Academic Excellence. This can include, but is not limited to, lying to an instructor or administrator; misusing copyrighted information; purchasing, stealing, or misusing documents; or fabricating or falsifying results in order to achieve undue academic advantage.
- Conspiring/attempting/intimidating others to commit academic misconduct: Any student who aids in another's misconduct or attempts to intimidate another student to commit misconduct would be considered to be in violation of the Code of Academic Excellence. This would include, but is not limited to, (1) providing whole or partial work to another student who did not participate in and/or do the work, with a reasonable assumption that the information would be used in a manner consistent with misconduct; (2) attempting to cheat before the misconduct is discovered even if no cheating ultimately occurs; or (3) intimidating others, including threats and/or physical intimidation in order to take or misuse materials from another student.
- Representing the work of others as one's own work: Using the work of others and representing it as one's own work, regardless of whether or not the individual whose original work was used knows of the use, is not permitted. Work submitted is assumed to be the work of the submitter (or submitters, in the case of approved group work).
- Unauthorized access to the work of others: Hacking into accounts or stealing work from another in order to achieve an undue academic advantage is considered to be a violation of the Code of Academic Excellence. This includes unauthorized access to a computer, email account, portal, or other form of storage by an individual with the intent of stealing or copying another's work.
- Interference with the work of others: Intentionally harming, deleting, or altering the work of others to gain an undue advantage are acts that are considered to be inappropriate for scholars. These sorts of actions undermine the work of others and create an environment where the work of others is not valued. It is expected that scholars respect the work of others and not attempt to harm or destroy this work.
- Plagiarism: Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the intentional or unintentional use of the ideas of others without properly attributing them to the original owner/thinker. This even includes personally reusing your own ideas without properly citing them.

Each alleged violation of the Code of Academic Excellence will be evaluated and reviewed by members of the VIU learning community taking into consideration such factors as the student's prior academic history. Therefore, the listing above is not intended to be exhaustive and is merely meant to serve as a list of potential areas for violation.

## 7.2.4 Reporting and Resolving Academic Misconduct

VIU is committed to the immediate resolution of allegations of misconduct. Wherever possible, if academic misconduct can be stopped prior to the occurrence of a violation, it is encouraged that members of the learning community hold each other accountable. When necessary, students, instructors, administrators and staff members, or other external parties may report misconduct. In doing so, it is important to understand both the scope of program oversight regarding allegations of misconduct and the adjudication process for allegations of misconduct.

### 7.2.4.1 Scope of School/Program Oversight

Each School within the university has an appointed designee ("Program Designee") who oversees and manages the adjudication process for allegations of misconduct. In cases where violations of the Code of Academic Excellence are suspected, the student, staff or faculty member shall notify the Program Designee of the School in which the allegation has taken place. This Designee will either be the Dean of the School or someone on the Dean's staff. In the rare instance where the Dean has a conflict of interest, a Dean from another School will be made the de facto Designee for the proceedings as selected by the Chief Academic Officer.

### 7.2.4.2 Adjudication of Allegations

In the event that an instructor or colleague suspects academic dishonesty, he or she will follow the procedures outlined below in order to encourage a fair and equitable solution for any and all violations to the Code of Academic Excellence. Before taking any steps, the instructor who has identified an academic integrity violation must immediately contact the Program Designee (PD) of the School in which the violation has occurred in order to determine whether the student has shown previous academic integrity violations. The PD will verify with the Registrar and the heads of all Schools in which the student has taken classes to be sure.

As a gatekeeper for academic integrity, the Program Designee will determine if the offense constitutes a first, second, etc. violation. In instances where an egregious offense is presented, the PD may recommend that the steps for the first four possible allegations be skipped, moving directly to the procedures for an egregious violation described below. Instances are cumulative and are recorded in a student's permanent file.

#### **FIRST INSTANCE: Resolution for the First Allegation of Misconduct:**

The instructor alleging misconduct must gather proof of the potential violation (e.g., a TurnItIn report, a side-by-side comparison of the student's work against something found on the internet, or other proof), then inform the Program Designee. The PD will consult with the Registrar and PDs of the other Schools in which the student has taken classes to determine the total number of instances of academic integrity violations on file in the student's record, and will share that information with the instructor. If this is the first documented instance, then the following procedures will apply:

- a. The instructor has the discretion to decide, according to the severity of the violation, whether the student should be given a grade of zero (0) on the assignment with no option to redo the work, or whether the student should have the option of resubmitting a revised version of the assignment that adheres to VIU's Code of Academic Excellence in order to earn a reduced portion of the grade.
- b. The instructor must inform the student in writing of the violation and host a meeting between him/herself and the student to ensure that the student understands the problem and to discuss ways of avoiding it in the future. As part of this meeting, the instructor will also have the student sign two documents: VIU's Academic Integrity Policy and an Academic Integrity Remediation Plan (First Instance) form. The student will be strongly encouraged to visit VIU's Writing, Research, and Media Center for further information and feedback on avoiding academic misconduct.
- c. The instructor must submit the signed Academic Integrity Remediation Plan and all supporting documentation providing evidence of the violation (e.g., TurnItIn report, side-by-side internet comparison) to the Program Designee.
- d. The Program Designee will send all of the documentation associated with the academic integrity violation to Academic Affairs ([academicaffairs@viu.edu](mailto:academicaffairs@viu.edu)) and the Registrar ([registrar@viu.edu](mailto:registrar@viu.edu)) so that copies can be maintained in the student's permanent record at VIU.

#### **SECOND INSTANCE: Resolution for Second Allegation of Misconduct**

The instructor alleging misconduct must gather proof of the alleged misconduct (i.e., a TurnItIn report, a side-by-side comparison of the student's work against something found on the internet, or other proof), then inform the Program Designee. The PD will consult with the Registrar and PDs of the other Schools in which the student has taken classes, then inform the instructor of the total number of instances of academic integrity violations on file in the student's record. If this is the second documented instance, then the following procedures will apply:

- a. The instructor will award a zero, with no option to redo the assignment.
- b. The Program Designee will schedule a meeting with the student to discuss the allegation. In this meeting, the PD will provide a copy of the Academic Integrity Policy and will have the student sign an Academic Integrity Remediation Plan (Second Instance) form. During the meeting, the student will be reminded of the Code of Academic Excellence and Academic Integrity Policy, and will discuss the consequences of repeated violations (including a discussion about what would happen if a third and fourth instance were to occur). The PD will also inform the student that he/she will receive a zero for the assignment with no option to resubmit the work.
- c. Additional required remediation will be included in order to ensure that the student fully understands what academic misconduct is and how to avoid it.
- d. The student will meet with VIU's Writing, Research, and Media Center for further information and feedback on avoiding academic misconduct.
- e. The Program Designee must submit the signed Academic Integrity Remediation Plan (Second Instance) form and evidence of the suspected violation (e.g., TurnItIn report, side-by-side internet comparison) to Academic Affairs ([academicaffairs@viu.edu](mailto:academicaffairs@viu.edu)) and the Registrar ([registrar@viu.edu](mailto:registrar@viu.edu)) so that copies can be maintained in the student's permanent file at VIU.

### **THIRD INSTANCE: Resolution for Third Allegation of Misconduct:**

The instructor alleging misconduct must gather proof of the alleged misconduct (i.e., a TurnItIn report, a side-by-side comparison of the student's work against something found on the internet, or other proof), then inform the Program Designee. The PD will consult with the Registrar and PDs of the other Schools in which the student has taken classes, then inform the instructor of the total number of instances of academic integrity violations on file in the student's record. If this is the third documented instance, then the following procedures will apply:

- a. The Program Designee will schedule a meeting with the student to discuss the allegation. In this meeting, the PD will provide a copy of the Academic Integrity Policy and will have the student sign an Academic Integrity Remediation Plan (Third Instance) form. During the meeting, the student will be reminded of the Code of Academic Excellence and Academic Integrity Policy, and will discuss the consequences of repeated violations (including a discussion about what could happen as a result of this third instance, as well as what would happen if a fourth instance were to occur). The PD will also inform the student that he/she will receive a zero for the assignment with no option to resubmit the work. The PD will inform the student that this matter will be handled by the School's grievance panel, which consists, at minimum, of the Dean and/or Program Designee, one or more faculty members, and the Chief Academic Officer. The meeting of the School's grievance panel should occur as soon as possible following the meeting with the student.
- b. During the grievance panel meeting, the Program Designee shall present documentation about all the instances of academic misconduct (the first, second, and current allegations). The panel will then discuss the violation and possible consequences of the violation. Consequences can include but are not limited to:
  - i. Failure of the course with the option to repeat the course,
  - ii. Failure of the internship or externship with the option to repeat, or
  - iii. Suspension from the university for a minimum of one semester.
- c. A formal meeting will be arranged between the Dean and/or Program Designee and the student in which the verdict will be presented to the student in the form of a formal letter. A copy of this letter will also be provided to Academic Affairs and the Registrar's Office, where it will be added to the student's permanent record. Appeals to decisions can only be made to the Office of Academic Affairs. The PD will provide a copy of the letter outlining the requirements set forth by the School's grievance panel, a copy of the signed Academic Integrity Remediation Plan (Third Instance) form, and evidence of the suspected violation (e.g., TurnItIn report, side-by-side internet comparison). A copy of the student's work and supporting documentation will then be kept in the student's permanent record at VIU.

### **FOURTH INSTANCE: Resolution for the Fourth Allegation of Misconduct:**

The instructor alleging misconduct must gather proof of the alleged misconduct (i.e., a TurnItIn report, a side-by-side comparison of the student's work against something found on the internet, or other proof), then inform the Program Designee. The PD will consult with the Registrar and PDs of the other Schools in which the student has taken classes, then inform the instructor of the total number of instances of academic integrity violations on file in the student's record. If this is the fourth documented instance, then the following procedures will apply:

- a. The Program Designee will schedule a meeting with the student to discuss the allegation. In this meeting, the PD will provide a copy of the Academic Integrity Policy and will have the student sign an Academic Integrity Remediation Plan (Fourth Instance) form. During the meeting, the student will be reminded of the Code of Academic Excellence and Academic Integrity Policy, and will discuss the consequences of repeated violations (including a discussion about what could happen as a result of this fourth instance). The PD will also inform the student that he/she will receive a zero for the assignment with no option to resubmit the work. The PD will inform the student that this matter will be handled by the Institutional Grievance Panel, which consists, at a minimum, of the Dean and/or Program Designee, one or more other Deans, one or more faculty members, the Chief Academic Officer, and a designee from the Office of the President. The meeting of the Institutional Grievance Panel should occur as soon as possible following the meeting with the student.
- b. During the Institutional Grievance Panel hearing, the Program Designee will provide documentation of all allegations of misconduct (the first, second, third, and current allegations). The Panel will then discuss the violation and possible consequences of the violation. Possible consequences can include:
  - i. Suspension from the university for a minimum of one semester, or
  - ii. Permanent expulsion from the university.
- c. The student will be notified in writing by a letter from the Office of Academic Affairs regarding the decision.
- d. A copy of this letter will also be provided to the Registrar's Office, where it will be added to the student's permanent record. The Program Designee will provide a copy of the letter outlining the requirements set forth by the Institutional Grievance Panel, a copy of the signed Academic Integrity Remediation Plan (Fourth Instance) form, and evidence of the suspected violation (e.g., TurnItIn report, side-by-side internet comparison). A copy of the student's work and supporting documentation will then be kept in the student's permanent record at VIU. Appeals to decisions can only be made to the Institutional Grievance Committee.

### **EGREGIOUS VIOLATION: Resolution of Allegation of an Egregious Instance of Misconduct**

The instructor alleging misconduct must gather proof of the alleged misconduct (i.e., a TurnItIn report, a side-by-side comparison of the student's work against something found on the internet, or other proof), then inform the Program Designee. If the alleged violation to the Code of Academic Excellence is determined by the Program Designee to be an egregious instance of misconduct, then the following procedures will apply:

- a. The Program Designee will schedule a meeting with the student to discuss the allegation. In this meeting, the PD will provide a copy of the Academic Integrity Policy and will discuss the specific violation with the student, including why it was designated as an egregious violation. During the meeting, the student will be reminded of the Code of Academic Excellence and Academic Integrity Policy, and will discuss the consequences of egregious violations (including a discussion about what could happen as a result of this instance). The PD will also inform the student that he/she will receive a zero for the assignment with no option to resubmit the work. The PD will also inform the student that this matter will be handled by the Institutional Grievance Panel, which consists, at a minimum, of the Dean and/or Program Designee, one or more other Deans, one or more faculty members, the Chief Academic Officer, and a designee from the Office of the President. The meeting of the Institutional Grievance Panel should occur as soon as possible following the meeting with the student.
- b. During the Institutional Grievance Panel hearing, the Program Designee will provide documentation of all allegations of misconduct, including previous allegations, if any. The Panel will then discuss the violation and possible consequences of the violation. Possible consequences can include:
  - i. Redesignation of the violation as instance 1, 2, 3, or 4 (if so, follow procedures as above),
  - ii. Failure of the course with the option to repeat the course,
  - iii. Failure of the internship or externship with the option to repeat,
  - iv. Suspension from the university for a minimum of one semester, or
  - v. Permanent expulsion from the university.
- c. If the Panel deems that the allegation is egregious (and chooses any of the options corresponding to ii through v above), the student will be notified in writing by a letter from the Office of Academic Affairs regarding the decision. If the Panel chooses to redesignate this violation following option (i) above, the student will be notified in writing following the procedures outlined for instances 1-4 above.
- d. A copy of this letter will also be provided to the Registrar's Office, where it will be added to the student's permanent record. Appeals to decisions can only be made to the Institutional Grievance Committee. The Program Designee will provide a copy of the letter outlining the requirements set forth by the Institutional Grievance Panel and evidence of the suspected violation (e.g., TurnItIn report, side-by-side internet comparison). A copy of the student's work and supporting documentation will then be kept in the student's permanent record at VIU.

The university does not excuse any violation of its policies on the basis that the student was not aware of these policies and their subsequent penalties and sanctions.

## **7.3 Expectations of Scholarship & Academic Work**

In recognizing that Virginia International University is a multicultural learning community made up of people from different backgrounds and previous educational experiences, it is important that all community members share a common understanding of the expectations of scholarship and academic work that takes place in and around courses and programs within the institution. As such, VIU establishes expectations for scholarship & academic work.

VIU expects that students hold the utmost standards related to academic integrity and academic excellence. Students are expected to adhere to VIU's Code of Academic Excellence in all of their work. This includes an emphasis on the communication skills (both oral and in writing) that would be expected in courses at VIU and beyond our learning community). Consequences for violating the Code of Academic Excellence are defined in VIU's Academic Integrity policy. As such, VIU has adopted high expectations of academic rigor as a means of ensuring the success of our students in class and in their eventual careers.

### **7.3.1 Academic Professionalism**

Meaningful and substantive work is defined as demonstrating preparation, reflection, and critical analysis of course content, learning resources, and/or in interactions with others. It also represents meeting the minimum requirements for academic work as outlined in the course syllabus.

Grades for written work will be determined by the quality of their content, formatting, and compliance with grammatical and genre conventions of academic/professional English. If a submitted assignment does not meet the academic and professional writing standards of work at the level of instruction, it may not be accepted.

Superior academic work demonstrates critical thinking and reflection on the part of the student and shows a depth of understanding and/or mastery of the required materials and concepts. It also demonstrates presentation quality that is genre appropriate clearly conveying one's ideas using grammatical language, logical organization, precision and accuracy, and exhibiting meticulous proofreading. Furthermore, superior academic work presents one's own ideas, while appropriately incorporating literature and resources in support of their ideas.

### 7.3.1.1 Student Engagement

Higher education institutions have traditionally been safe places where members of the learning community share and discuss ideas openly. In fostering this kind of environment, students are expected to actively engage with their peers in a variety of contexts related to the classroom and generally on campus. All students are expected to adhere to respectful debate/discussion with one another at all times on and off campus.

Any project or activity related to VIU should be substantive and reflective of each individual's work. Students are expected to contribute meaningfully and in a substantive way in all learning activities. Although this applies to all work, projects, or activities some special cases are highlighted below to provide examples:

- Group Work: In recognizing that some professions place special emphasis on working in groups or collaborating closely with others, some courses might require group work. If a course allows or requires group work, all students must contribute in an equitable manner. Students are expected to report on their colleagues' contributions and are expected to report if someone in the group does not perform their work as required.
- Virtual Classroom Discussions: Some courses require submission of/participation in virtual classroom discussions. As such, students must contribute to discussions in a manner that reflects thoughtful, substantive contributions. If a peer response is required for a discussion posting, students are expected to make "substantive" postings/responses to their peers. Substantive responses are ones that demonstrate that you have read, reflected, and critically analyzed what someone else has said. Non-substantive responses are those that represent just single words or simple phrase response like "yes" or "good job". A substantive response includes questions for further thought or that would otherwise make your peers/instructor think about what you have posted. A substantive response could include something like "Could you tell me more about XXXX?" or "I found what you said about YYYY interesting, but have you thought about....?" Students who do not meet these requirements will be given zeros for their discussion board assignment.
- Residential Classroom Discussions: In a residential classroom, students are expected to contribute in a way that reflects thoughtful, substantive contributions. All students must contribute in a meaningful and active way in residential classroom discussions. Substantive participation includes participating in a way that reflects a thorough understanding of the materials, following the requirements of the discussion, and/or following any specific guidelines from the instructor

This list is non-exhaustive and is intended to reflect some common means of interactions likely to be encountered peer-to-peer.

### 7.3.1.2 Student and Faculty Engagement

All interactions between students and faculty should be appropriate for a professional environment. Because of the unique nature of the faculty to student relationship, faculty are encouraged to maintain high professional and ethical standards with respect to their interactions with students. This includes monitoring and speaking up about any real or perceived conflict of interest that might exist.

### 7.3.2 Academic Writing Style

VIU subscribes to the American Psychological Association's (APA) formatting requirements across all programs and disciplines at the university. The American Psychological Association (APA) has a publication manual that outlines specific formats and styles to use when submitting a manuscript for publication to APA. The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (commonly referred to as the APA manual) is the source for all things related to formatting and style according to the American Psychological Association. APA is commonly used in the social sciences as a means of standardizing communication and formatting.

The APA style guide defines standards for writing and documenting, and provides consistency for format and style. The APA manual gives guidelines for many aspects of writing and researching, including some of the following:

- Documenting sources
- Ethically research
- Write properly
- Presentation of ideas



### **7.3.3 Assignment Submission Guidelines:**

All written assignments should be typed and utilize APA 6th Edition guidelines for citations and formatting. All assignments must minimally include the following:

- A title page with the following information:
  - Title of assignment
  - Student first and last name
  - Email
  - Program of study
  - Course number and name
  - Professor name
  - Submission date (month/day/year)
- Running head
- Page numbers
- References (as applicable)

#### **7.3.3.1 On-time Submission of Work**

All work must be completed on time according to the announced schedule. Assigned readings must be completed before the day the topic will be covered in class. Late assignments may be accepted only with advance written permission from the instructor and will result in an automatic grade deduction. No late submissions will be accepted after 7 days from the initial due date.

Timely submission of work includes the completion of work or participation in an activity by the due date defined in the course syllabus. Students are considered to have participated on time if participation/completion is done by the due date identified in the syllabus.

#### **7.3.3.2 Submissions of Electronic Work**

All assignments must be submitted electronically via the learning management system (LMS). Only on rare exceptions would a physical submission be the most educationally appropriate submission format. If so, faculty must consult with their department chair and/or school head prior to finalizing their course syllabus for special exemptions.

#### **7.3.3.3 Plagiarism Detection Resources**

Academic integrity is essential in the learning process, and in order to provide a measure of compliance with the academic integrity policy, students are expected to demonstrate high moral and ethical standards in regard to their work. As such, faculty are expected to use TurnItIn as a learning tool for all written assignments submitted electronically. TurnItIn should be used and viewed as a tool for personal monitoring of one's own academic integrity. Students should be proactive with their use of TurnItIn and consider checking all assignments and discussion postings prior to submitting them to the official submission locations.

In some courses, instructors may require students to submit an assignment more than once (i.e., students receive feedback on a draft and then resubmit a revised version). For assignments that require resubmission, the draft document will generally not be submitted to the TurnItIn database; however, they will be checked against existing information in the database. Only final submissions will be submitted to the database.

### **7.3.4 Use of Campus Educational Resources**

Students who struggle with course content should contact their instructor for additional support. This could include meeting with a faculty member in person, via electronic meetings, and/or via email. Faculty want students to be successful, and students should take advantage of the support offered by the faculty.

It is the expectation of the faculty at VIU that students who need additional support beyond the course content take advantage of VIU's full range of free educational support services. VIU has a variety of service departments that aim to support students to be successful. These include, but are not limited to, the Library and the WRMC.

## 7.4 Non-Academic Dishonesty/Misconduct

By enrolling in the university, the student recognizes that the following types of behavior are prohibited and that being found guilty of engaging in them can serve as grounds for certain sanctions, including expulsion or the involvement of the local police department:

**Illegal activities:** Violation of any federal, state, and local laws and any published or decreed university policies will be reported to the proper authorities.

**Copyright infringement:** Most printed materials, photographs, motion pictures, sound recordings, and computer software are protected by copyright. Copyrighted works may not be reproduced, distributed, performed, or adapted by students without the copyright owner's permission. For more information, please see the Copyright & Fair Use Policies for Software & Other Materials section in this Catalog.

**Computer misuse:** Some software products are protected by copyright laws. Students may not copy the institution's software without permission of the copyright holder. Additionally, students may not place personal software on the institution's computers or damage or destroy either software or computers. For more information, please see the Copyright & Fair Use Policies for Software & Other Materials section in this Catalog.

**Drug use:** The manufacture, sale, dispensation, possession, or use of any controlled substances or illegal drug paraphernalia on university premises or at university sponsored events is considered an illegal activity and is prohibited on all university property. For more information, please see section 8.7. Drug and Alcohol Policy.

**Alcohol consumption:** The use, possession, or sale of any alcoholic beverage, regardless of its potency or lack thereof, is prohibited on all university property. For more information, please see section 8.7. Drug and Alcohol Policy.

**Firearms possession:** The use, possession, or sale of firearms or other weapons or any dangerous explosives or explosive elements or component parts on university property is strictly prohibited. For more information, please see section 8.9 Weapons Policy.

**Physical and psychological abuse:** Any form of physical and/or psychological abuse, threat, or harassment of another person or fighting on university property will result in sanctions. If the abuse is judged severe enough, the local police department may be consulted.

**Property damage:** Littering, defacing, destroying, stealing, or damaging university property (or attempting to do so), initiation thereof, or causing such damage to be initiated is prohibited. Any false report, warning or threat of fire, explosion, or other emergency under the University's jurisdiction is also prohibited.

**Gambling:** Gambling or holding a raffle or lottery at the university without proper approval is forbidden.

**Obscene language or conduct:** Use of profanity and disorderly or obscene conduct is strictly prohibited.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the university's policies on the following activities: unauthorized entry or presence in any university building or facility; solicitation and sales; smoking; sexual harassment & misconduct; physical or psychological assault/abuse of others; and unauthorized or disorderly assemblies that hamper the effective functioning of the university, its students, staff, and visitors, and its daily routine operations.

The university does not excuse any violation of its policies on the basis that the student was not aware of these policies and their subsequent penalties and sanctions. The university reserves the right to expel any student for illegal activity and/or for any action outlined above.

**Disruptive Classroom Behavior:** In general, classroom management is the responsibility of the instructor. The learning environment of the entire class should not be jeopardized for the sake of a single student or group of students. Inappropriate classroom behavior may include, but is not limited to:

1. Disruption of the classroom atmosphere;
2. Engaging in non-class activities, for instance, talking to another student, talking on a cell phone, or working on an assignment for another class;
3. Use of profanity in classroom discussion; or
4. Use of abusive or disrespectful language toward the instructor or a student in the class, or about other individuals or groups.

Instructors have the right to dismiss a student temporarily from class when the student's behavior distracts or disrupts the other students' learning.

## 7.5 Civil Rights and Sexual Harassment

VIU does not, and will not tolerate sexual harassment of students, faculty, and/or staff. This policy is part of the university's effort to maintain a learning and working environment free from sexual harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. Violation of this policy will subject individuals to disciplinary actions, up to and including dismissal for employees and students. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that is illegal under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for employees and under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 for students. In keeping with the guidelines provided by the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on sexual harassment in employment, VIU defines sexual harassment as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed at an individual, or action taken in retaliation for reporting such behavior, regardless of where such conduct may occur. Sexual harassment is deemed to have occurred when:

1. Submission to the conduct is either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic performance;
  2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions, including, but not limited to, promotion, transfer, selection for training or performance evaluation, or used as the basis for academic evaluation;
  3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an affected employee's work performance or an affected student's academic performance or participation in educational pursuits; or
  4. The conduct has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or study environment.
- Sexual harassment is a serious offense. As a consequence, any faculty or staff member who engages in such conduct or encourages such behavior by others shall be subject to disciplinary action that may include dismissal. A student who engages or assists in such conduct shall be subject to disciplinary measures including reprimands, suspensions, or termination to remedy violations of this policy. Students accused of sexual harassment will have the right to a fair due process hearing.

## 7.6 Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Policy

Virginia International University is a diverse community that provides equal opportunity in employment, activities, and its academic programs. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, ethnic or national origin, disability, age, marital status, veteran status, membership in uniformed services, gender identity, or sexual orientation in the administration of any of its education policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered policies and programs, or in its employment related policies and practices. Virginia International University is firmly committed to adhere to all federal and state equal opportunity and civil rights laws, including but not limited to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and their implementing regulations. For more information about Title IX, please see section 5.2. *Title IX Compliance*.

In accordance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 506, Virginia International University is committed to ensuring that all of its facilities and programs are accessible to all persons. If you believe you may qualify for course adaptations or accommodations in accordance with ADA, Section 506, it is your responsibility to contact VIU's Office of Student Affairs for an accommodation approval letter.

Documentation about your particular diagnosis must be provided by a qualified health professional (such as a physician, surgeon, psychiatrist, licensed clinical or educational psychologist, or certified learning disability specialist), and must be currently relevant (less than 3 years old). The assessment of reasonable accommodation is the decision of the university and will be provided to you in a letter of accommodation for your instructors no later than the second class session.

VIU's Office of Student Affairs contact information:

Email: [studentaffairs@viu.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@viu.edu)

Phone: (703) 591-7042 ext. 367

Location: 4401 Village Dr, Fairfax, VA 22030

The Office of Student Affairs is open from Monday to Friday during regular hours of operation.

## 7.7 Sexual Misconduct Policy and Notice of Non-Discrimination

Virginia International University does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities. Prohibited Conduct under the Sexual Misconduct Policy constitutes sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), sections of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act), and the Virginia Human Rights Act.

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in all aspects of university activities and programs. This means that students are entitled to an environment that is free from sex discrimination. Both men and women can be victims of sex discrimination, and sex discrimination can occur between members of the same or opposite sex.

Individuals who have been found to have violated this policy will face disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. It is the responsibility of every member of the VIU community to create and foster an environment free from sex discrimination. As such, all members of the community are encouraged to take reasonable actions to stop or prevent an act of sex discrimination. Anyone who takes such actions will receive the support of VIU.

Virginia International University (VIU or the University) is committed to maintaining a safe educational and work environment in which no member of the community is, on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in any VIU program or activity.

The Sexual Misconduct Policy applies to any form of sexual or gender-based discrimination, which includes, but is not limited to, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and harassment.

VIU provides ongoing prevention, awareness, and training programs for employees and students in an effort to:

- To eliminate, prevent, and address sex discrimination and its effects;
- Encourage reporting;
- Make available timely services for those affected by Prohibited Conduct; and
- To provide the prompt and equitable investigation and resolution of Prohibited Conduct cases.

Any question regarding the interpretation and application of this policy shall be referred to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator may designate a Title IX Deputy Coordinator to serve as the Title IX Coordinator for any procedures outlined in this policy. For more information, please see the Sexual Misconduct Policy available at <https://www.viu.edu/our-university/about-viu/institutional-effectiveness/title-ix-at-viu/sexual-misconduct-policy/>.

## **7.8 Drug and Alcohol Policy**

VIU is committed to providing an environment free of alcohol and drug abuse in compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Virginia International University does not condone the illegal or otherwise irresponsible use of alcohol and other drugs. It is the responsibility of every member of the VIU community to know the risks associated with substance use and abuse. This responsibility obligates students and employees to know all relevant VIU policies, and federal, state, and local laws and to conduct themselves in accordance with those laws and policies. To ensure the availability of this information, the University publishes the following information regarding VIU policies and sanctions; laws and penalties associated with substance use and abuse; health and behavioral risks of drug use; and resources for treatment and educational programming. The dissemination of this information is in support of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and the Clery Act.

### **7.8.1 Alcohol Policy**

VIU hopes the Alcohol Policy will encourage students and employees to make responsible decisions regarding the consumption of alcoholic beverages. As such, VIU is a dry campus and expressly prohibits the sale, consumption, or use of alcoholic beverages on any VIU property.

All members of the VIU community are expected to know and act in accordance with Virginia laws concerning the purchase, possession, consumption, sale, and storage of alcoholic beverages. However, ignorance of the law is not a viable defense. Thus, the VIU community is reminded of the following:

- Any sale of an alcoholic beverage requires an ABC license.
- Alcoholic beverages are not to be given or sold to persons who are under the legal drinking age, which is 21 years of age.
- Alcoholic beverages are not to be given to persons who are intoxicated.
- State law prohibits drinking in unlicensed public places; public intoxication; possession of an alcoholic beverage by someone under the legal drinking age; falsely representing one's age for the purpose of procuring alcohol; and purchasing an alcoholic beverage for a person who is under the legal drinking age.
- Violations of state alcohol laws are criminal misdemeanors punishable by fines up to \$2,500, imprisonment up to 12 months, and suspension of a driver's license.
- The use of alcoholic beverages as a prize in a contest, drawing, lottery, etc., is prohibited.
- The use of alcoholic games (e.g., quarters, drink-offs, beer-pong, etc.) is prohibited.
- VIU recognizes the value of group-sponsored social events that take place off-campus. VIU acknowledges that some of these group-sponsored events that take place off-campus may be at establishments that serve alcohol. VIU does not prohibit the consumption of alcohol at these events. However, groups or individual group members may be held accountable for the underage possession or consumption of alcohol, and unsafe or irresponsible behavior that occurs

during a group-sponsored event.

Unsafe behavior includes, but is not limited to, consuming alcohol through beer bongs, participating or facilitating drinking games, or consuming an excessive quantity of alcohol in a short amount of time. Irresponsible behavior includes, but is not limited to, the use or attempted use of fraudulent identification to obtain alcohol or making alcohol available to underage persons.

- VIU funds may not be used to purchase or obtain alcohol.
- Members of the VIU community, and their invited guests, who reside in property leased by VIU who are lawfully permitted to purchase, possess, and consume alcohol, may do so in the residence.

Any member of the University community who violates state alcohol laws is subject to disciplinary action. Whether or not criminal charges are brought, all students are subject to disciplinary action for any violation of state alcohol laws that occurs:

- On VIU owned, controlled, or leased property;
- At VIU sponsored functions; or
- Under other circumstances involving a direct and substantial connection to the University.

Any student found to have engaged in such conduct is subject to the entire range of sanctions, including suspension and expulsion.

Students and recognized student organizations are always expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and to assume full responsibility for their activities and events.

### **7.8.2 Drug Policy**

The unauthorized manufacture, sale, distribution, and possession of “controlled substances” (illegal drugs), including marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and LSD, are prohibited by both state and federal law and are punishable by severe penalties. VIU does not tolerate or condone such conduct.

Any member of the University community who violates state or federal drug laws is subject to disciplinary action. Whether or not criminal charges are brought, all students are subject to disciplinary action for any violation of state or federal laws that occurs:

- On VIU owned, controlled, or leased property;
- At VIU sponsored functions; or
- Under other circumstances involving a direct and substantial connection to the University.

Any student found to have engaged in such conduct is subject to the entire range of sanctions, including suspension and expulsion. Students and employees who are found to be in violation of state or federal drug laws may be referred to the appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

### **7.8.3 Health and Behavioral Risks**

The negative physical and mental effects of the use of alcohol and other drugs are well documented. Use of these drugs may cause blackouts, poisoning and overdose; physical and psychological dependence; damage to vital organs such as the brain, heart and liver; inability to learn and remember information; and psychological problems including depression, psychosis and severe anxiety. Other risks include impaired judgment and coordination, which can lead to DUI/DWI arrests; hazing; falls, drowning and other injuries; contracting sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS; and unwanted or unplanned sexual experiences and pregnancy.

The substance abuse of family members and friends may also be of concern to students and employees. Patterns of risk-taking behavior and dependency not only interfere in the lives of the abuser, but can also have a negative impact on the affected students' academic work, emotional well-being and adjustment to college life.

Assistance is available both on-campus and off-campus for students and employees who are dependent on, or who abuse alcohol or other drugs. Counseling services are available on-campus for students. Visit the website for counseling services or if you would like to make an appointment, email [counseling@viu.edu](mailto:counseling@viu.edu).

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services' Treatment Referral Routing Service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organizations. Callers can also order free publications and other information. It is a confidential, free, 24/7/365 information service.

Hotline: 1-800-662-4357

Online treatment locators: <https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>

Helpline website: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>

Organization website: <https://www.samhsa.gov/>

## **7.8.4 Federal and Commonwealth of Virginia Penalties**

Federal and Virginia law penalizes the unlawful manufacturing, distribution, use, and possession of controlled substances, including prescription drugs. Synthetic designer drugs such as “bath salts,” “plant food,” and “carpet cleaner,” contain mixtures of many different chemicals, including those that resemble cocaine, methamphetamine, and MDMA or “ecstasy.” Federal law makes the distribution of “analogue” substances marketed for human consumption illegal if those substances are chemically similar to a scheduled illegal drug and have the same pharmacological effect on a user.

Federal law sets penalties for first offenses ranging from less than one year to life imprisonment and/or fines up to \$10 million. Penalties may include forfeiture of property, including vehicles used to possess, transport or conceal a controlled substance, and the denial of professional licenses or federal benefits, such as student loans. The punishment for the possession and/or distribution of a controlled substance analogue is up to twenty years in prison and a fine of up to \$1 million.

Convictions under Virginia law may be misdemeanor or felony crimes with sanctions ranging from probation to life imprisonment and/or fines of up to \$1 million. Virginia law specifically prohibits the sale, gift, distribution, and possession of synthetic cannabinoids, which carry penalties as a Class 6 felony.

Federal law holds that any person, who distributes, possesses with intent to distribute, or manufactures a controlled substance in, or within one thousand feet of an educational facility is subject to a doubling of the applicable maximum punishments and fines. A similar Virginia law carries sanctions of between one and five years’ imprisonment and up to a \$100,000 fine for similar violations.

## **7.8.5 Limited Amnesty**

Virginia International University encourages the reporting of all potential violations of Prohibited Conduct under the Sexual Misconduct Policy. VIU does not condone underage alcohol consumption or the use of illegal drugs. However, because it is of the utmost importance of VIU to protect the wellbeing of its students and employees, VIU may extend limited amnesty from disciplinary action for the illegal consumption of alcohol or illegal drug use by victims, witnesses, and those reporting incidents or assisting victims of Prohibited Conduct. These individuals must have acted in good faith, and any such violation must not have placed the health or safety of any other person(s) at risk.

The Title IX Coordinator and the President, or their designees’, will determine if amnesty will be applied and to what extent. Alcohol and drug amnesty is intended to encourage students and employees to seek assistance for themselves and others by reducing the fear of facing VIU’s Students Rights & Responsibilities Policy/Employee Handbook Policies for such conduct. It is an attempt to remove barriers that may prevent an individual from reporting, seeking medical assistance, or other assistance.

## **7.9 Non-Smoking Policy**

Smoking is not permitted within facilities owned or leased by the university or in university-owned vehicles. Smoking is not permitted within 50 feet of any university facility.

## **7.10 Weapons Policy**

The use, possession, or sale of firearms, other weapons, or any dangerous explosives or explosive elements or component parts on university property is strictly prohibited. Weapons are defined as, but not limited to:

1. Any gun, bow, crossbow, or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind, including any pistol, revolver, rifle, musket, long gun, or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind by action of an explosion of any combustible material; or any object similar in appearance whether capable of being fired or not, in such a manner as to induce fear in the mind of a reasonable person;
2. Any stun weapon, including any device that emits a momentary or pulsed output, which is electrical, audible, optical, or electromagnetic in nature and is designed to temporarily incapacitate a person;
3. Any knife, including but not limited to any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, machete, sword, saber, or razor, except a pocket knife having a folding metal blade less than three inches;
4. Any slingshot, spring stick, metal knucks, or blackjack;
5. Any flailing instrument consisting of one or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain;
6. Any disc, of any configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart;
7. Any frame, receiver, muffler, silencer, missile, projectile or ammunition designed for use with a dangerous weapon, including any cartridge, pellet, ball, missile or projectile adapted for use in a firearm;
8. Any explosive substance or explosive device, if such substance or device is intended to be used as a weapon that causes but not limited to bodily harm of another person; any person who constructs, uses, places, sends, or causes to be sent any hoax explosive device so as to intentionally cause another person to believe that such device is a bomb or explosive;

9. Any tear gas, mustard gas, phosgene gas or other noxious or nauseating gases or mixtures of chemicals designed to, and capable of, producing vile or injurious or nauseating odors or gases, if such gas or chemical is intended to be used as a weapon to cause bodily injury to another person(s).

No student, faculty, staff, visitor, or affiliate shall carry, possess, maintain, or conceal weapons on any property owned or controlled by Virginia International University. This includes concealed handgun carry permits. The security officers that VIU has contracted with are permitted to carry weapons on property owned by Virginia International University.

## **7.11 Copyright & Fair Use Policies**

VIU, its students, faculty, and employees must comply with the provisions of the United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Copyright is the right of the creator of a work of authorship to control the use of that work by others. Copyrighted work may not be reproduced distributed, performed, or adapted by others without the copyright owner's permission. Unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, may subject them to civil and criminal liabilities. Works protected by copyright include, but are not limited to literary, musical, and pictorial works; sound recordings, motion pictures, and other audiovisual works; and computer software.

VIU employees shall use computer software only in accordance with the terms of the VIU Computer Software Policy and the licensing agreement for the software. The University does not condone or support the use of any unauthorized copies of software. All software used by University employees to perform their responsibilities shall be purchased through appropriate procedures.

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement. Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For "willful" infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys' fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505. Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense. For more information, please see the website of the U.S. Copyright Office at <http://www.copyright.gov/>, especially their FAQ's at [www.copyright.gov/help/faq](http://www.copyright.gov/help/faq).

There are some exceptions in United States copyright law such as the fair use doctrine. The fair use doctrine allows limited use of copyrighted material without the permission of the copyright owner for several purposes, including teaching and scholarship. It is the responsibility of each student, faculty, and staff to inform oneself about what is and what is not permissible use of copyrighted material. Copyright and fair use guidelines for students, faculty, and staff can be found on the VIU Library website and are posted in the VIU Library as well as at all photocopy machines at VIU. For additional assistance with copyright and fair use issues, please consult the VIU Librarians.

Violations of VIU's copyright and fair use policies will be dealt with in the same manner as violations of other university policies and may result in disciplinary review. In such a review, the full range of disciplinary sanctions is available, including the loss of computer use privileges, dismissal from the University, and legal action.

## **7.12 Students' Records and Release of Information**

In compliance with Public Law 93-380, "The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act" (FERPA), which is Section 438 of the General Education Provision Act, VIU has adopted policies and procedures that permit students the opportunity to view their educational records upon request. Educational records mean those records, files, documents, and other materials that contain information directly related to a student. The institution will not permit access to or release of confidential information from a student's records to any individual or agency without the written consent of the student, except for the following situations:

1. Name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, program undertaken, dates of attendance, and certificates, diplomas, and degrees awarded may be provided to third parties unless the request to omit such information is presented in writing.
2. Records are required by VIU officials in the proper performance of their duties. VIU defines a school official as a person employed by the university including a full-time or adjunct professor/instructor, an administrator, and clerical staff, a member of the board of trustees or a member of committees and disciplinary boards, or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary committee, with legitimate educational interests.
3. In accordance with FERPA, a school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility.
4. Information may be provided to organizations conducting studies for educational and governmental agencies.

5. Information may be provided to US government agencies as listed in Public Law 93-380 who request information for specific purposes.
6. Information may be provided at the request of any accrediting agencies.
7. Information may be provided to parents of dependent children as defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.
8. Information may be provided to appropriate persons in connection with an emergency.
9. Information may be provided for the purposes of awarding financial aid.
10. Information may be provided in response to legal court orders.

### 7.12.1 Definition of Student Records

A student file (electronic file in the university's file server for the students who initiated a program in Spring 2012 or physical file for the students who enrolled prior to Spring 2012) is maintained by the Registrar's and Admissions Offices, which includes the following student information:

- Enrollment Agreement Form at the time of initial enrollment for each program, which includes the enrollment contract and other information relating to the payment for educational services
- Passport copy or ID card that indicates the student name
- Permanent (home) and/or local addresses
- Admission-related documents as well as an acceptance letter issued by the university
- Copy of diploma/certificate
- Copy of transcript which shows the graduation date and the degree/certificate obtained at VIU
- Record of warning, probation, dismissal, or termination, if applicable

These additional records are kept in a student file when applicable:

- Copy of I-20 for F-1 visa students
- Copy of non-immigrant visa for foreign students
- Veterans Administration records for veterans

VIU has the right to keep all documents that a student submits to the university.

### 7.12.2 Academic Record Retention Policy

All student academic records including transcripts are required to be maintained by the Registrar's Office. The student files are kept for specific duration as follow:

- Minimum 10 years following a student's graduation from VIU
- Minimum 10 years following a student's withdrawal from VIU (including those who transferred out, those terminated by SEVIS, and unauthorized withdrawal cases)

The following records are kept in electronic format in the university database permanently in accordance with the guidelines published by the State Council for Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV).

- Transcripts showing the name of student, the program title, the semesters enrolled, and grades and credit hours
- Grades
- Attendance records
- Course descriptions

In addition to the regulations defined by the Commonwealth of Virginia, VIU maintains the following academic records:

- **Course Syllabi:** While students are responsible for maintaining their own syllabi, the educational units/departments also maintain course syllabi for the current academic year. Students may be able to contact their previous instructors for older versions of the syllabus.
- **Submitted Coursework:** While students are expected to maintain a copy of their own submitted work, assignments that are submitted into the learning management system will be maintained electronically for at least the current academic year.
- **Theses or Dissertations:** Permanently maintained by the University in VIU's Library.

All admission related documents and records for applicants who do not enroll in the university are maintained by the Admissions Office electronically in the student file server for the period of time mentioned below:

- 5 years following the applied semester or session
- 5 years following the denial of a student's visa request and a completed refund, if applicable
- Incomplete application files will be kept for 2 years



### 7.12.3 FERPA and Directory Information Withheld/Released

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is also known as the "*Buckley Amendment*." FERPA is a federal law enacted in 1974, which enables certain rights of students with respect to their education records. Specifically, it enables students the right to:

1. Inspect and review their education records;
2. Request the amendment of inaccurate or misleading records;
3. Consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in their education record; and
4. File a complaint with the US Department of Education concerning alleged failures by VIU to comply with this law.

Virginia International University strives to fully comply with this law by protecting the privacy of student records and judiciously evaluating requests for release of information from those records. FERPA authorizes the release of "Directory Information" without the student's prior consent under certain conditions, which are set forth in the Act.

Students who wish to withhold their directory information must submit a Directory Information Withhold Form to the Registrar's Office.

### 7.13 Formal Complaint Procedure

Virginia International University is committed to provide a positive educational experience for its students. VIU faculty and staff attempt to create, in all areas, an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. For this reason, VIU has established a procedure to address any school-related problems, concerns, or complaints to ensure that student concerns on academic and non-academic matters are constantly aware, addressed, resolved, improve and enhance the quality of services.

The life cycle of a complaint is made up of five stages, wherein the first stage encourages informal resolutions to address and resolve the student complaints as quickly as possible. In the event that matters are unresolved or do not result in a satisfactory outcome, the complaints can be escalated to the next stage. Certain complaints will receive immediate attention by the Department of Quality Assurance and a formal investigation will be launched, based on the urgency and sensitive nature of a given complaint.

#### Stage 1: Informal Complaint

VIU team members maintain an open-door policy. Students may express concerns to any administrator. In order to resolve the problem at the earliest opportunity, all students are encouraged to address their complaints initially to VIU staff member involved or the other department responsible to oversee the immediate area causing the concerns. It is advisable for VIU staff members and department involved to briefly record the complaints in writing and share with other departments if the case and experience could benefit other departments. For example, academic concerns will be handled by the instructors directly. Students should first discuss the problem with the instructor and then with the Dean of the School, if necessary. If the problem is not resolved at that level, the student should then contact the Chief Academic Officer.

#### Stage 2: Referral to Appropriate Executive

In the event that a complaint may not be resolved at the departmental level, the complaint will be escalated to the next highest level. If the complaint is academic in nature, it would be escalated from the faculty to the dean, and eventually the VP of Academic Affairs level. A complete list of possible escalation is below:

Department Receiving Complaint	Executive Level Escalation
Academic Affairs	Chief Academic Officer
Accounting	Chief Financial Officer
Admissions	Chief Administrative Officer
Alumni Relations	Chief Student Experience Officer
Business & Property Management	Chief Administrative Officer
Career Services	Chief Strategic Engagement Officer
Financial Aid	Chief Student Experience Officer
Human Resources	Chief Administrative Officer
Information Technology	Chief Administrative Officer
Inquiry & Communications	Chief Administrative Officer
Institutional Effectiveness	Dean, Graduate Studies
International Student Services	Chief Administrative Officer
Library	Chief Student Experience Officer
Marketing	Chief Strategic Engagement Officer
Media & Public Relations	Chief Strategic Engagement Officer

Quality Assurance & Compliance	Dean, Graduate Studies
Registrar	Chief Student Experience Officer
Scholarship Office	Chief Administrative Officer
Student Affairs	Chief Student Experience Officer
Writing, Media & Research Center	Chief Student Experience Officer

### Stage 3: Complaint to Institutional Effectiveness & Quality Assurance Department

Students have various options to file complaints and suggestions for academic and non-academic matters to Institutional Effectiveness & Quality Assurance Department. There are three options that students can choose to file the complaints and suggestions.

1. Online: Individuals can complete the online suggestion form on the website or send an email to [qa@viu.edu](mailto:qa@viu.edu).
2. On Campus: Suggestion boxes are placed at the front desk of each campus, along with business cards for the Quality Assurance team.
3. In Person: Students can walk in to discuss complaints with quality assurance department every day of the week.

Quality Assurance staff investigates the complaint, interviews the parties involved, find the related resources and provides the resolution. The complaint is logged and is forwarded to the related department to review, improve and enhance the quality of the education and services.

### Stage 4: Referral to Office of the President

If the complaint or grievance may not be resolved at any of the previous three levels, a student is referred directly to the office of the President for resolution of their complaint. The President and his support staff take the time to listen to the student or staff member, hear the grievances, and also receives a full, written report on the background of the issue from Quality Assurance and tries to find a fair and agreeable resolution for all parties.

### Stage 5: Formal Written Complaint

At any time throughout the complaint process, at the written request of the student for issues that are academic in nature, an ad-hoc Grievance Committee comprised of the Provost, one senior faculty member, the Dean of the School, and other invited staff or faculty. The Committee will convene to address concerns that remain unresolved. The ad-hoc Grievance Committee will convene within ten (10) working days of a written request from the student. The student will be notified of the committee's decision within three working days of the meeting.

If after following the above stated procedure, the student feels that his or her concerns have not been resolved, he or she may address these concerns in writing to the following organizations:

**State Council for Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)**

James Monroe Building,  
101 N. 14th Street,  
Richmond, VA 23219

**Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)**

1350 Eye Street, NW  
Suite 560  
Washington, DC, 20005

For Intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Students Only:

**Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA)**

1001 North Fairfax Street, Suite 630  
Alexandria, VA 22314 USA

CEA Complaint Procedures can be found at:

[https://www.viu.edu/docs/CEA\\_Filing\\_a\\_Complaint\\_Against\\_an\\_Accredited\\_Program.pdf](https://www.viu.edu/docs/CEA_Filing_a_Complaint_Against_an_Accredited_Program.pdf)

For **GI Bill** beneficiaries, Veterans Affairs (VA) students

The Virginia State Approving Agency (SAA)

Beneficiary should contact the SAA office via email [saa@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:saa@dvs.virginia.gov)

VIU ensures that a student will not be subjected to unfair action as a result of initiating a complaint proceeding.

## 7.14 Academic Catalog Changes Policy

This Academic Catalog is current as of the time of printing. From time to time, it may be necessary or desirable for VIU to make changes to the Academic Catalog due to the requirements and standards of the university's accrediting body, state licensing agencies, the US Department of Education, and market conditions, among other reasons. The University publishes an online version of the Academic Catalog, which is the most up to date version and supersedes the print version. As changes to the Catalog are warranted, the online version is updated throughout the academic year.

VIU reserves the right to make changes to any provision of the Academic Catalog, including the amount of tuition and fees, academic programs and courses, university policies and procedures, faculty and administrative staff, the Academic Calendar and other dates and provisions. VIU reserves the right to make changes in equipment, instructional materials, modify curricula, and when size and curriculum permit, to combine classes.

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness maintains the catalog and is responsible for its contents at the university. The Office should be contacted for information concerning any such changes. Any department or university body may request changes to occur to the Academic Catalog by emailing [OIE@viu.edu](mailto:OIE@viu.edu) including the original content with new language underlined, and deleted language struck out. Changes will be added as an addendum to the Catalog, which serves as a public notice, and will be published on VIU's website.

## 8. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### 8.1 Academic Program Listing

VIU currently offers 21 different programs of study across the graduate, undergraduate and certificate levels. A breakdown of each program and information related to each is displayed in the table below:

	Program Name	Total Credit Hours	Program Length	Credential Awarded
1	BS in Business Administration	120	48 Months	Bachelor's Degree
2	BS in Computer Science	120	48 Months	Bachelor's Degree
3	Certificate in Business Intelligence	18	12 Months	Graduate Certificate
4	Certificate in Information Systems	18	12 Months	Graduate Certificate
5	Certificate in Information Systems Management	18	12 Months	Graduate Certificate
6	Certificate in Information Technology Audit & Compliance	18	12 Months	Graduate Certificate
7	Graduate Certificate in Project Management	18	12 Months	Graduate Certificate
8	Certificate in TESOL	18	12 Months	Graduate Certificate
9	MS in Applied Linguistics	36	24 Months	Master's Degree
10	MS in Accounting	36	24 Months	Master's Degree
11	Master of Business Administration	36	24 Months	Master's Degree
12	MS in Computer Science	36	24 Months	Master's Degree
13	MS in Information Systems	36	24 Months	Master's Degree
14	MS in Information Systems Management	36	24 Months	Master's Degree
15	MS in Information Technology	36	24 Months	Master of Science
16	MS in International Relations	36	24 Months	Master's Degree
17	MS in Project Management	36	24 Months	Master's Degree
18	Master of Public Administration	36	24 Months	Master's Degree
19	MS in Software Engineering	36	24 Months	Master's Degree
20	MA in TESOL	36	24 Months	Master's Degree
21	English as a Second Language	840*	36 Months	Certificate of Completion

\*Program measured in clock hours

### 8.2 Undergraduate Programs

VIU currently offers two undergraduate degree programs from the School of Business (SB) and the School of Computer Information Systems (SCIS):

1. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA)
2. Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BCS)

VIU's undergraduate degree programs provide a high level of professional education in business administration and computer science studies. They cover a broad range of subjects, thereby qualifying students for more diverse job opportunities. For the admission requirements and a list of materials required for admission to the undergraduate degree programs, please refer to the Application for Admission section of the Academic Catalog.

#### 8.2.1 Undergraduate Program Requirements

An undergraduate baccalaureate degree at VIU can be earned by completing the program minimum course requirements of 120 credit hours and undergraduate certificate can be completed by earning 24 credit hours. All courses, including the General Education Department (GEC) courses, are three (3) credit hour courses. To qualify for a bachelor's degree, students must meet all credit requirements as described below:

1. Students enrolled in any undergraduate degree program must maintain a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of at least 2.0 (C) out of 4.0, and a minimum grade of at least 0.7 (D-) out of 4.0, in all courses to remain in good standing and to graduate.
2. The maximum number of credit hours permitted for the completion of any undergraduate degree program is 180 semester credits.
3. Undergraduate students may transfer up to 60 semester credit hours of college credits earned at other accredited institutions.
4. No degree credit is earned by a student for any grade below 0.7(D-) out of 4.0, received in an undergraduate-level course. However, any grades lower than 0.7 (D) out of 4.0, will be calculated in the CGPA.
5. The student must have completed a minimum of 120 semester credit hours. The required distribution of these credit hours is shown under the detailed description of each undergraduate degree program.

## **8.2.2 Undergraduate Internships**

Undergraduate degree programs offer academic internship options. An internship provides an opportunity for students to gain practical experience. In each program, there are separate internship courses in which a student can earn 3 credits. In some cases, internships can be completed in conjunction with specific courses and the student can earn a portion of the course credit with his or her internship program. Those courses are marked as “Internship qualified” in the course lists, as well as in the course descriptions. There are no guarantees that all interested students will be able to participate in internships, as they are based solely on the student’s academic credentials, the internship interview, and internship availability. International students must complete the Academic Internships authorization process in order to participate in the internship program. For more information, see the Regulations for International Students section or contact VIU’s Career Services.

## **8.3 General Education Department**

### **8.3.1 General Education Mission**

The mission of the General Education Department is to prepare VIU students to obtain the necessary skill set to be well prepared for their academic programs; shape their world view as an individual; foster engagement and motivated creativity; and to simply be able to contribute to the society as an accomplished human being.

### **9.3.2 General Education Completion Policy**

VIU recognizes the importance of general education as an integral part of a well-rounded baccalaureate degree. General Education is intended to provide an educational foundation of skills and content that will help students to meet educational and institutional learning outcomes and be successful in their academic pursuit as well as beyond graduation. In the interest of ensuring that our students are able to hone these skills in a meaningful manner, VIU places regulations on the time period in which our students should progress through the general education curriculum.

#### **9.3.2.1 VIU Policy on Completion of General Education Requirements**

In the interest of providing an enriched academic classroom experience for undergraduate students, VIU has set forth the following regulations on the completion of the General Education component of the bachelor’s degree programs.

General Education courses comprise a total of 36 credit hours of any bachelor’s degree at Virginia International University. This is a total of 30% of the undergraduate degree requirements. General Education at VIU provides a clear foundation for all of the courses that a student will take throughout the academic program of study. In the interest of promoting an environment that engenders the intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity required of well-rounded students, VIU requires that all students complete all 36 hours of general education courses by the time the student reaches completion of 60 semester credit hours of study.

If for extenuating circumstances, a student has not met all general education requirements by the time they complete their 60<sup>th</sup> credit, they will be required to work with their academic advisor to create a General Education Completion Plan. The plan outlines the steps that the student will be required to take to complete their General Education requirements in a clear and expeditious manner. Upon approval by the student and academic advisor, the plan would be submitted to the General Education Department for final approval. The head of the General Education department will then submit the finalized form to the registrar before the end of the add/drop period in the semester following the completion of the 60<sup>th</sup> credit

The plan will be monitored on a semesterly basis until such time that the plan has been fulfilled and all general education requirements have been met. If the plan is put into place and not followed by the student, further disciplinary action may be taken, including an Academic Warning

## **8.3.2 Divisional Outcomes**

### **Arts & Humanities Division**

1. Define and express an appreciation of the essential elements of the arts as they relate to societal and cultural values.
2. Express sensitivity and tolerance of cultural differences.
3. Understand differing worldviews in order to be literate in concepts that are behind one’s behavior, traditions, daily preferences, and values.

### **Communications Division**

1. Express oneself clearly both orally and in writing in a respectful and academic manner.
2. Develop critical and reflective reading and inquiry skills to synthesize, analyze, and evaluate.
3. Conduct research and organize material effectively.

### **Languages Division**

1. Understand the language, customs, and culture of an additional language.
2. Develop critical thinking skills in order to analyze the human condition of speakers of other languages.
3. Recognize that language skills allow students to be able to communicate in new ways.

### **Mathematical Sciences Division**

1. Apply problem solving skills and pattern intelligence skills.
2. Develop analytical reasoning to solve problems.

### **Natural Sciences Division**

1. Apply problem-solving skills and utilize the scientific method.
2. Recognize natural systems and processes in relation to the surrounding world.

### **Social Sciences & Cultural Studies Division**

1. Interpret human behavior and develop skills to successfully interact with individuals at all levels of society.
2. Critically analyze the organization of society and the role of individuals and groups in the larger society.
3. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of ethical norms to exercise independent judgment and ethical decision-making.

## **8.3.3 Structure of General Education Department**

The General Education Department requires completion of 36 credits (12 courses). Undergraduate students are required to meet the General Education Department requirements consisting of courses across six divisions: Communications (nine credits), Arts and Humanities (six credits), Social Sciences and Cross Cultural Studies (six credits), Mathematical Sciences (three credits), Natural Sciences (six credits), and Languages (six credits). Student are able to choose among courses within a Division unless otherwise noted by their academic program of study or School. Students should choose courses in consultation with their academic advisor who will provide suggestions for courses most relevant to the student's academic discipline.

<b>GEC Division</b>	<b>Number of Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Arts and Humanities	2	6
Communications	3	9
Languages	2	6
Mathematical Sciences	1	3
Natural Sciences	2	6
Social Sciences and Cross Cultural Studies	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>

## **8.3.4 Distribution of Courses**

### **Arts and Humanities Division (2 Courses - 6 Credit Hours)**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
HUMN 101	Introduction to the Arts and Humanities	3
LING 105	Language and the Human Experience	3
PHIL 101	Philosophy	3
RLGN 110	Comparative Religion	3

### **Communications Division (3 Courses - 9 Credit Hours)**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
COMM 110	Oral Communication Skills	3
ENGL 113	English Composition and Rhetoric	3
ENGL 120	Academic Writing and Research	3

### **Languages Division (2 Courses - 6 Credit Hours)**

Students are permitted to substitute other undergraduate-level foreign language courses than those listed below to satisfy the Languages Division requirements as long as they can demonstrate that the divisional outcomes are met.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
ARAB 100	Elementary Arabic I	3
ARAB 105	Elementary Arabic II	3
ARAB 200	Intermediate Arabic I	3

ARAB 205	Intermediate Arabic II	3
ARAB 250	Conversational Arabic I	3
ARAB 300	Advanced Arabic I	3
ARAB 305	Advanced Arabic II	3
CHIN 100	Elementary Chinese I	3
CHIN 105	Elementary Chinese II	3
CHIN 200	Intermediate Chinese I	3
CHIN 205	Intermediate Chinese II	3
CHIN 250	Conversational Chinese I	3
CHIN 300	Advanced Chinese I	3
CHIN 305	Advanced Chinese II	3
FREN 100	Elementary French I	3
FREN 105	Elementary French II	3
FREN 200	Intermediate French I	3
FREN 205	Intermediate French II	3
FREN 250	Conversational French I	3
FREN 300	Advanced French I	3
FREN 305	Advanced French II	3
SPAN 100	Elementary Spanish I	3
SPAN 105	Elementary Spanish II	3
SPAN 200	Intermediate Spanish I	3
SPAN 205	Intermediate Spanish II	3
SPAN 250	Conversational Spanish I	3
SPAN 300	Advanced Spanish I	3
SPAN 305	Advanced Spanish II	3

### Mathematical Sciences Division (1 Course - 3 Credit Hours)

Code	Course Title	Credits
MATH 160	Pre-Calculus	3
MATH 165	Calculus I	3

### Natural Sciences Division (2 Courses - 6 Credit Hours)

Code	Course Title	Credits
BIOL 101	General Biology	3
CHEM 101	General Chemistry	3
GEOG 101	Introduction to Geology	3
PHYS 101	College Physics	3

### Social Sciences and Cross Cultural Studies Division (2 Courses - 6 Credit Hours)

Code	Course Title	Credits
GOVT 120	Comparative Government	3
GOVT 130	American Society and Politics	3
GOVT 140	International Relations	3
GEOG 101	World Geography	3
HIST 101	World History	3
SOCI 101	Sociology	3
PSYC 101	Psychology	3

## 8.4 Graduate Programs

VIU currently offers twelve graduate degree programs and six graduate certificate programs from the School of Business, the School of Computer Information Systems, the School of Education, and the School of Public & International Affairs:

1. Master of Business Administration (MBA)
2. Master of Science in Accounting (MAC)
3. Master of Science in Project Management (MPM)
4. Master of Science in Computer Science (MCS)

5. Master of Science in Information Systems (MIS)
6. Master of Science in Information Systems Management (MISM)
7. Master of Science in Information Technology (MIT)
8. Master of Science in Software Engineering (MSE)
9. Master of Arts in TESOL (MATESOL)
10. Master of Science in Applied Linguistics (MSAPLX)
11. Master of Science in International Relations (MIR)
12. Masters of Public Administration (MPA)
13. Graduate Certificate in Project Management
14. Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence
15. Graduate Certificate in Information Systems
16. Graduate Certificate in Information Systems Management
17. Graduate Certificate in Information Technology Audit & Compliance
18. Graduate Certificate in TESOL

VIU's graduate degree programs provide a high level of professional education in business and public administration, computer information systems, software engineering, education, international relations, and TESOL. They cover a broad range of subjects, thereby qualifying students for diverse career opportunities. For the admission requirements and a list of materials required for admission to the graduate degree programs, please refer to the Application for Admission section of the Academic Catalog.

### **8.4.1 Graduate Program Requirements**

Graduate degrees are earned by completing a minimum of 36-39 credit hours, or a minimum of 18 credit hours for certificate programs, beyond the prerequisite courses and typically 3 credit hours per course. To qualify for a graduate degree, students must meet the requirements below.

1. Students enrolled in the graduate degree program must maintain a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of at least 3.0 (B), out of 4.0, and a minimum grade of at least 2.0 (C), out of 4.0, in all courses to qualify for the degree, to remain in good standing, and to graduate.
2. The Maximum Time Frame (MTF) permitted for the completion of any graduate degree program is 54 semester credit hours for 36 credit hour programs, and 58.5 semester credit hours for 39 credit hour programs. The Maximum Time Frame (MTF) permitted for the completion of any graduate certificate program is 27 semester credit hours for 18 credit hour programs.
3. Only graduate level courses may be applied toward the degree. A master's student may transfer up to 18 credit hours of graduate credits earned at other accredited institutions.
4. No degree credit is earned by a graduate student for any grade below 2.0 (C), out of 4.0, received in a graduate level course. However, any grades lower than 2.0 (C), out of 4.0, will be calculated in the CGPA.
5. Credit earned with undergraduate level courses taken as required prerequisite courses by the graduate student will not be counted towards the total credit requirement for degree completion.

### **8.4.2 Thesis Guide**

For programs requiring a thesis, a VIU Thesis Guide is available from the academic advisor. The guide is designed assist VIU graduate students at all stages of the thesis or project process. Students are advised to consult the guide as early into their program of study as possible, as it will help facilitate the process of submitting a thesis or project that conforms to VIU regulations. The thesis must be bound, catalogued, archived and made available to the university's academic community. Students must consult with their academic advisor for thesis courses.

### **8.4.3 Graduate Internships**

Some graduate degree programs offer an internship program in which students are eligible to participate. An internship provides an opportunity for students to gain practical experience. In each program, there are separate internship courses in which a student can earn 3 credit hours. In some cases, internships can be completed in conjunction with specific courses and the student can earn a portion of the course credit with his or her internship program. Those courses are marked as "Internship qualified" in the course lists, as well as in the course descriptions. There are no guarantees that all interested students will be able to participate in internships, as they are based solely on the student's academic credentials, the internship interview, and internship availability. International students must complete the Academic Internship authorization process in order to participate in the internship program. For more information, see the Regulations for International Students section above or contact VIU's Career Services.



## 9. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### 9.1 School of Business Mission Statement

The mission of the School of Business is to provide a diverse body of students with the ability to succeed in a global business environment. Through our faculty, the School of Business at VIU is committed to helping students to respect, value, and appreciate the wealth of diversity common to the international business community.

### 9.2 School of Business Learning Outcomes

To achieve the mission of the School, all graduates are expected to achieve the following learning outcomes:

1. Integrate knowledge of business concepts, functions and methodologies to achieve successful business decisions.
2. Recognize and incorporate cultural diversity and promote collaborative enterprise in business decisions.
3. Apply managerial decision making through utilization of best practices in business.
4. Determine the role of leadership in high performing organizations and business entities.

### 9.3 Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) program prepares qualified students for leadership positions in the 21st century global marketplace. Future leaders will need to balance the goals of economic success with the constraints of greater social and environmental responsibility. Students are instructed by a distinguished faculty and learn to integrate changing human and information resources with continually developing technology, while nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit that has always been one of the key characteristics to successful businesses. The School of Business offers a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree with the following three concentrations: (a) Finance, (b) International Business, and (c) Marketing.

#### 9.3.1 BSBA Program Outcomes

In business organizations, VIU BSBA graduates will be able to:

1. Describe the major concepts of the global economy, finance and accounting and their implications for business decision making.
2. Analyze business issues and apply business functional area knowledge, quantitative and qualitative tools and techniques to solve problems.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary theory and practice in international business.
4. Identify principles of management, organizational behavior, operations management, strategy and policy, international management and entrepreneurship.
5. Utilize information technology and effective communication tools and methods to complete work and disseminate results and findings of research and analysis.
6. Explain ethical and social responsibilities of businesses.

#### 9.3.2 Career Paths for BSBA Graduates

Students graduating from the BSBA program should be prepared to provide leadership a variety of business settings. The BSBA Program develops the foundation for continuing education and growth in all fields of business and administration. Graduates of the BSBA Program can anticipate jobs in the following types of careers at the entry-level, experienced, and management levels:

- Small Business Owner
- Retail Store Manager
- Management Consultant/Analyst
- Business Development Officer
- Business Manager
- Financial Officer
- Financial Advisor
- Marketing Coordinators
- /Manager

#### 9.3.3 Structure of the BSBA Program

The BSBA program degree requires the completion of 40 courses at 3 credits hours each. Students will take 84 credit hours of Foundation Core Courses, Professional Core Courses, Concentration Courses, and 36 credit hours of General Education Department Courses, for a total of 120 credit hours.

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
General Education Department Courses	12	36
Foundation Core Courses	8	24
Professional Core Courses	10	30

Concentration Courses	6	18
Elective Courses	4	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>120</b>

### Foundation Core: (8 Courses - 24 Credit Hours)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CAR 100	Career Planning & Management	<i>None</i>	3
COMP 124	Information Technology	<i>None</i>	3
COMP 127	Office Applications	<i>None</i>	3
ACCT 201	Principles of Financial Accounting	<i>None</i>	3
STAT 200	Introduction to Statistics	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 210	Introduction to Business	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 301	Principles of Management	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 302	Principles of Marketing	<i>None</i>	3

### Professional Core: (10 Courses - 30 Credit Hours)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
ACCT 202	Principles of Managerial Accounting	<i>ACCT 201</i>	3
ACCT 305	Accounting Information Systems	<i>ACCT 201</i>	3
ECON 101	Principles of Microeconomics	<i>None</i>	3
ECON 102	Principles of Macroeconomics	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 303	Principles of Finance	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 307	Business Law I	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 312	Organizational Theory & HR Management	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 406	Operations Management	<i>STAT 200</i>	3
BUSS 407	Political & Social Environment of Business	<i>BUSS 301</i>	3
BUSS 480*	Senior Business Research Project	<i>All Core Courses &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Concentration</i>	3

\* Internship qualified course - per approval by the Dean

### Concentration: (6 Courses - 18 Credit Hours)

All concentration courses should be taken during the third and fourth years of study. Some of these concentration courses may be replaced with elective courses. Elective course offerings may vary semester to semester and are subject to change without prior notice. All concentration courses are internship qualified.

### Finance: (6 Courses - 18 Credit Hours)

The Finance concentration prepares students to examine the decision-making process and the role of markets in the allocation of both real and financial resources. It integrates the fields of finance and business economics. Students will explore both theoretical and applied concepts in the related fields of corporate finance, investment, speculative and financial markets, real estate, banking, industrial organization, and public policy to business. Balanced emphasis is placed on primary theory and its application to business problems.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
ECON 207	Intermediate Microeconomics	<i>ECON 101</i>	3
ECON 208	Intermediate Macroeconomics	<i>ECON 102</i>	3
BUSS 314	Corporate Finance	<i>BUSS 303</i>	3
BUSS 420	Introduction to Investment Banking	<i>BUSS 303</i>	3
BUSS 430	Financial Analysis & Valuation	<i>BUSS 303</i>	3
BUSS 444	International Finance	<i>BUSS 303/ECON 101</i>	3

### International Business: (6 Courses - 18 Credit Hours)

The International Business concentration provides a solid foundation in the theory and practice of modern business organizations in relation to current economic, political, and socio-cultural environments.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
BUSS 154	Introduction to Import and Export	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 340	International Business	<i>BUSS 210/ BUSS 312</i>	3
BUSS 420	Introduction to Investment Banking	<i>BUSS 303</i>	3
BUSS 442	International Marketing	<i>BUSS 302</i>	3

BUSS 443	International Strategy	<i>BUSS 210</i>	3
BUSS 444	International Finance	<i>BUSS 303/ECON 101</i>	3

### Marketing: (6 Courses - 18 Credit Hours)

The Marketing concentration prepares students for careers in any sector of this exciting field. A wide range of course options allow students to acquire a strong general background in marketing or to specialize in one of the sub disciplines of the field, for example, Internet Marketing.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
BUSS 322	Marketing Research	<i>STAT 200</i>	3
BUSS 421	Advertising & Promotion	<i>BUSS 302</i>	3
BUSS 422	Sales Management	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 423	Services Marketing	<i>BUSS 302</i>	3
BUSS 424	Not-for-Profit Marketing	<i>BUSS 302</i>	3
BUSS 442	International Marketing	<i>BUSS 302</i>	3

### Elective Courses: (4 Courses - 12 Credit Hours)

Students are required to take four (4) elective courses. The courses can be selected from other BSBA concentrations, the School of Computer Information Systems courses (with the permission of the Dean of SCIS and the academic advisor), or the courses listed below.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
BUSS 348	Public Relations	<i>BUSS 210</i>	3
BUSS 456	Project Management	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 470	Business Law II	<i>BUSS 307</i>	3
BUSS 260	Internship Level I	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 261	Internship Level II	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 360	Internship Level III	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 460	Internship Level IV	<i>None</i>	3

## 9.4 Master of Business Administration

VIU's Master of Business Administration (MBA) program enables students to gain knowledge in the core business areas of management, finance, marketing, accounting, and decision-making. The program provides students with high quality, professional education in business administration, thereby qualifying students for more diverse career opportunities.

### 9.4.1 MBA Program Outcomes

In business organizations and situations, VIU MBA graduates will be able to:

1. Employ effective business communication practices to share and disseminate information.
2. Apply business statistics, qualitative and quantitative methods including regression analysis, descriptive statistics and business forecasting to solve problems.
3. Utilize tools and techniques of business management to ensure efficient business outcomes on time and within budget
4. Examine the role of leadership in creating high performing organizations
5. Strategically analyze business decisions by integrating theory and practice.
6. Identify and distinguish the impact of ethical obligations and social responsibilities on business decisions.

### 9.4.2 Career Paths for MBA Graduates

Students graduating from the MBA program should be prepared to provide leadership a variety of business settings. The MBA program develops the foundation for continuing education and leadership in all fields of business and administration. Graduates of the MBA Program can anticipate jobs in the following types of careers at the management, director, and executive levels:

- Account Manager
- Administrative Services Manager
- Business Manager
- Business Analyst
- Management Consultant
- Officer Manager
- Operating Supervisor
- Senior Administrator/Executive Level Manager
- Leadership Consultant

- Management Consultant
- Marketing Manager
- Project Manager
- Finance Manager
- Financial Analyst

### 9.4.3 Concentrations of the MBA Program

There are fifteen (8) concentration in the MBA program.

- Accounting
- Global Logistics
- Health Care Management
- Human Resource Management
- International Business Management
- International Finance
- Marketing Management
- Project Management

This degree is earned by completing the program course requirements of 36 credit hours at 3 credit hours per course, beyond the prerequisite courses.

### 9.4.4 MBA Program Prerequisites

Applicants seeking admission into the MBA program who have no previous business background and whose bachelor's degrees are not related to business, and who have not completed the equivalency of the five courses listed below are required to take the following MBA program prerequisite courses:

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
ECON 101	Principles of Microeconomics	<i>None</i>	3
STAT 200	Introduction to Statistics	<i>None</i>	3
ACCT 201	Principles of Financial Accounting	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 303	Principles of Finance	<i>None</i>	3
ENGL 120 <sup>†</sup>	Academic Writing and Research	<i>None</i>	3

<sup>†</sup> This requirement is added effective with Spring 2015 semester.

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

### 9.4.5 Master of Business Administration Degree Requirements

#### MBA Core Courses: (21 Credit Hours)

Core courses provide students with the skills and knowledge that all managers need. Every MBA student must complete the following seven (7) core courses:

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
MBA 500	Managerial Communication	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 511	Managerial Accounting and Finance	<i>ACCT 201, BUSS 303</i>	3
MBA 512	Project & Cost Management	<i>STAT 200</i>	3
MBA 513	Organizational Behavior & Human Resource Management	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 514	Marketing Management	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 515	Business Statistics	<i>STAT 200</i>	3
MBA 516	Strategic Management and Organizational Leadership	<i>None</i>	3

#### MBA Concentration Courses: (9 Credit Hours)

Students must specialize in one of the concentrations listed below during the second year of their program. Students must choose three (3) courses (9 credit hours) from the concentration courses. All concentration courses are internship eligible.

#### Accounting:

Students in this program will learn how to examine financial statements to ensure that they are accurate and comply with laws and regulations, compute taxes owed, prepare tax returns, and ensure that taxes are paid properly and on time, inspect account books and accounting systems for efficiency and use of accepted accounting procedures, organize and maintain financial records, assess financial operations, and make best-practice recommendations to management, suggest ways to reduce costs, enhance revenues, and improve profits.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
MBA 605	Auditing	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 608	Financial Reporting and Decision Making	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 610	Taxation of Business Entities	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 611	Business Ethics and Law	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 636	Managerial Accounting	<i>MBA 511</i>	3
MBA 654	Accounting Information Systems	<i>None</i>	3

## Global Logistics

Students in this program will be able to direct the allocation of materials, supplies, and finished products, develop business relationships with suppliers and customers, work to understand customers' needs and how to meet them, design strategies to minimize the cost or time required to move goods, review the success of logistical functions and identify areas for improvement.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
MBA 611	Business Ethics and Law	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 616	International Marketing	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 617	Import & Export Management	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 628	Global Sourcing and Logistics	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 634	Operations Management	<i>None</i>	3

## Health Care Management

Students in this program will be able to improve efficiency and quality in delivering healthcare services, keep current on new laws and regulations, supervise assistant administrators, manage the finances of the facility, such as patient fees and billing, create work schedules, maintain and organize records of the facility's services, and communicate with members of the medical staff and department heads.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
MBA 640	The Health Services System	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 641	Economics of Health Care & Policy	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 642	Financial Management of Health Institutions	<i>MBA 511</i>	3
MBA 643	Legal Aspects of Health Care	<i>None</i>	3

## HR Management

Students in this program will be able to plan and coordinate an organization's workforce to best use employees' talents, administer employee services, advise managers on organizational policies, coordinate and supervise specialists and support staff, oversee an organization's recruitment, interview, selection, and hiring processes and effectively resolve conflicts.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
MBA 523	HR Law	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 536	Labor Relations	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 538	Compensation and Benefits	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 551	Conflict Resolution	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 611	Business Ethics and Law	<i>None</i>	3

## International Business Management

Students in this program will be able to analyze an organization, submit process improvement plans, effectively communicate with leaders in diverse cultures, and utilize critical thinking.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
MBA 611	Business Ethics and Law	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 612	International Management	<i>MBA 513</i>	3
MBA 613	Enterprise Resource Planning	<i>MBA 512</i>	3
MBA 614	International Finance	<i>MBA 511</i>	3
MBA 615	International Strategy	<i>MBA 516</i>	3
MBA 616	International Marketing	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 617	Import & Export Management	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 634	Operations Management	<i>None</i>	3

## International Finance

Students in this program will be able to prepare financial statements, business activity reports and forecasts, monitor financial details to comply with legal requirements, supervise employees, review company financial reports and seek ways to reduce costs and analyze market trends.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
MBA 611	Business Ethics and Law	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 614	International Finance	<i>MBA 511</i>	3
MBA 618	International Economics & Trade	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 620	Long-Term Financial Decisions	<i>MBA 511</i>	3
MBA 621	Trading & Risk Management	<i>MBA 511</i>	3

## Marketing Management

Students in this program will be able to develop marketing plans from market research, select advertising media, create and evaluate the effectiveness of promotional campaigns and negotiate advertising contracts.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
MBA 611	Business Ethics and Law	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 616	International Marketing	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 622	Marketing Research	<i>MBA 515</i>	3
MBA 623	Sales Management	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 624	Advertising & Promotion	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 625	Effective Negotiations	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 626	Consumer Behavior	<i>None</i>	3

## Project Management

Students in this program will be able to manage the lifecycle of the project while managing financial scope, risk, and business development objectives on time and within budget.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
PMP 605	Project Management Systems	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 610	Quality Project Management Practices	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 615	Risk Project Management	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 620	Contract & Procurement Management	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 623	Leading Projects Across Cultural, Corporate, & Global Boundaries	<i>None</i>	3

## MBA Capstone Course: (3 credit hours)

Students must take a course that integrates and synthesizes MBA education, and facilitates the transition from the academic to the professional business world.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
MBA 627*	Advanced Business Project	<i>All Core, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Concentration</i>	3

*\*Internship eligible with Dean's approval*

## MBA Elective Course: (3 credit hours)

Students must take one (1) additional course from any of the concentrations or one (1) of the following courses:

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
MBA 600	Business Residency	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 631	Current Topics in Business	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 633	Business Planning and Development	<i>MBA 516</i>	3
MBA 560	Graduate Internship I	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 660	Graduate Project Internship II	<i>None</i>	3
CAR 600	Career Planning & Management	<i>None</i>	3

## Pre-MBA Program

Students who have earned their Bachelor's degree with less than 120 undergraduate credit hours can be given conditional admission to the MBA program, provided they enroll in and successfully complete the remaining credit hours needed to equal 120, by selecting from the undergraduate courses offered at VIU. Among the 120 required credit hours, the MBA Program prerequisite courses (ECON 101, STAT 200, ACCT 201, BUSS 303 and ENGL 120) must be fulfilled. Students

must consult their academic advisor before choosing classes. Successful completion of the 120 credit hours, including the four MBA Program prerequisite courses, will allow students to complete the undergraduate credit requirement and enter the MBA program.

## 9.5 Masters of Science in Accounting Degree

The Masters of Science in Accounting (MAC) degree program is designed to provide mastery of both technical and operational competencies for students and professionals with financial, accounting, management, and general business backgrounds who are seeking positions in Accounting.

### 9.5.1 MAC Program Outcomes

In business organizations and situations, VIU MAC graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to apply concepts of accounting theory and practice in a variety of business settings.
2. Analyze complex financial and managerial accounting problems and formulate, communicate and explain recommendations to decision makers.
3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate fundamental accounting and tax principles and techniques effectively both in writing and orally.
4. Construct GAAP compliant financial statements including the balance sheet, income statement, statement of cash flows, and statement of stockholder's equity, and understand their interrelationships.
5. Evaluate accounting practices from ethical, legal, and regulatory perspectives while considering the interests of diverse stakeholders.
6. Integrate accounting principles and enterprise technology solutions to maximize value recognized by organizations.

The Masters of Science in Accounting degree program is earned by completing 30 semester credits of coursework and 6 semester credits of thesis work beyond the required courses.

### 9.5.2 Career Paths for MS in Accounting Graduates

Students graduating from the MS in Accounting program should be prepared to provide leadership a variety of financial and accounting settings. The MS in Accounting program develops the foundation for continuing education and leadership in all fields of accounting. Graduates of the MS in Accounting Program can anticipate jobs in the following types of careers at the management, director and executive levels:

- Accounting Manager
- Auditor
- Budget Analyst
- Controller
- Environmental Accountant
- Financial Analyst
- Financial Manager
- Financial Planner
- Fraud Investigator
- Internal Auditor
- Payroll Staff, Manager
- Risk Manager
- Strategic Planner
- Tax Specialist
- Postsecondary Business Teacher

### 9.5.3 MS in Accounting Program Prerequisites

If an applicant does not have previous business and/or management background, finance and accounting experience and his/her bachelor's degree is not related to business and management, he/she is required to take the following MS in Accounting Program prerequisite courses (5 courses, 15 credits):

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
STAT 200	Introduction to Statistics	<i>None</i>	3
ACCT 201	Principles of Financial Accounting	<i>None</i>	3
ACCT 202	Principles of Managerial Accounting	<i>ACCT 201</i>	3
BUSS 303	Principles of Finance	<i>None</i>	3
ENGL 120 <sup>+</sup>	Academic Writing and Research	<i>None</i>	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

### 9.5.4 Masters of Science in Accounting Degree Requirements

VIU's Master of Science in Accounting Degree requires 36 academic credits, consists of two study areas that develop core competency in accounting field, and additional necessary knowledge and skills to become an accountant. If desired, an MS in Accounting graduate can take an additional course aimed at successful preparation for obtaining the Certified Professional Accountant (CPA) certification.

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
Core courses	7	21
Elective courses	3	9
Thesis courses	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>

#### Accounting Core: (7 courses, 21 credits)

This set of courses provides basic concepts, analysis and fundamental knowledge in auditing, taxation, financial reporting, business ethics and information systems within the accounting field. Every MAC student must complete the following seven (7) courses:

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
MBA 511	Managerial Accounting and Finance	ACCT 201, BUSS 303	3
MBA 605	Auditing	None	3
MBA 608	Financial Reporting and Decision Making	None	3
MBA 610	Taxation of Business Entities	None	3
MBA 611	Business Ethics and Law	None	3
MBA 654	Accounting Information Systems	None	3
ACCT 600	Cost Accounting	None	3

#### Accounting Electives: (3 courses, 9 credits)

To expand the knowledge and broaden the experience and skills in accounting field, students are required to complete three elective courses (9 credits) from the list below

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
MBA 614	International Finance	MBA 511	3
MBA 620	Long-term Financial Decisions	MBA 511	3
MBA 621	Trading and Risk Management	MBA 511	3
ACCT 601	Advanced Financial Accounting	MBA 511	3
ACCT 602	International Accounting	MBA 511	3
ACCT 603	Contemporary Topics in Accountancy	None	3

#### Accounting Thesis Courses (2 courses, 6 credits)

Accountants are widely employed throughout practically every industry and every area of employment. Often serving as the essential source for financial data critical to the organization's ultimate success, accountants may provide financial insights, which serve as the primary factor in making all other decisions. Through the thesis process, students will have an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to integrate accounting practices, various business models, and business operational procedures for the purpose of maintaining an organization's fiscal, legal, and ethical stability as well as actualize their understanding through imperial research.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
ACCT 698	Master Thesis I	Completion of 5 Core & Dean's Approval	3
ACCT 699	Master Thesis II	ACCT 698	3

#### OPTIONAL: CPA Professional Preparation Course (3 credits)

To obtain in-depth professional preparation for passing the Certified Professional Accountant (CPA) exam, students may consider taking an additional course. The requirement for taking this course is the completion of the MS in Accounting core curriculum.

Code	Course Title	Course Prerequisite	Credits
ACCT 650	CPA Exam preparation	All ACCT Core Courses	3



## 9.6 Masters of Science in Project Management Degree

VIU's Master of Science in Project Management (MPM) degree is designed to provide mastery of both technical and operational competencies for professionals with diverse backgrounds seeking leadership positions as a project manager.

### 9.6.1 MPM Program Outcomes

In business organizations and situations, VIU MPM graduates will be able to:

1. Explain the elements of project initiation, project implementation and termination.
2. Apply cost accounting concepts to project management according to its contractual parameters.
3. Function as a leader in the formulation of the project management plan, implementation, and validation of outcomes.
4. Strategize on problem solving reflective of the triple constraints of scope, time, and schedule.
5. Distinguish between projects and the ongoing nature of operations.
6. Recognize and understand cultural diversity and acceptance of others.
7. Apply technological skills, tools and techniques to guide overall project execution.
8. Apply effective oral and written communication skills.
9. Demonstrate a high level of ethics and professional behavior in all matters of project contract negotiation.

The MPM degree program is earned by completing the program course requirements of 30 semester credit hours and 6 semester credit hours of thesis, beyond the program prerequisite courses.

### 9.6.2 Career Paths for Master of Project Management Graduates

Students graduating from the MPM program should be prepared to provide leadership a variety of business settings. The MPM program develops the foundation for continuing education and leadership in all fields of business and administration. Graduates of the MPM Program can anticipate jobs in the following types of careers at the management, director and executive levels:

- Construction Manager
- Cost Estimator
- General and Operations Manager
- Industrial Production Manager
- Management Consultant
- Organizational Change Manager
- Procurement Manager
- Project Developer
- Project Quality Manager
- Project Specialist
- Project Team Lead
- Project Manager

### 9.6.3 MPM Program Prerequisites

If applicants do not have previous business background and project management experience, and their bachelor's degrees are not related to business and management, they are required to take the following MPM program prerequisite courses:

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
ECON 101	Principles of Microeconomics	None	3
STAT 200	Introduction to Statistics	None	3
ACCT 201	Principles of Financial Accounting	None	3
BUSS 303	Principles of Finance	None	3
ENGL 120 <sup>+</sup>	Academic Writing and Research	None	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

### 9.6.4 MPM Degree Requirements

MS in Project Management requires 36 academic credit hours, and consists of three areas of study that develop necessary knowledge and skills to become a Project Manager. If desired, an MS in Project Management graduate can take an additional course aimed at successful preparation for obtaining the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification.

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
General Management Core courses	4	12
Project Management Core courses	6	18
Thesis courses	2	6

<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>
--------------	-----------	-----------

### General Management Core (4 courses, 12 credits)

General management core courses provide students with the skills and knowledge that all project managers need including accounting, finance, organizational behavior, marketing and leadership. Every MPM student must complete the following four (4) courses:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Prerequisite</b>	<b>Credits</b>
MBA 511	Managerial Accounting and Finance	<i>ACCT 201, BUSS 303</i>	3
MBA 512	Project & Cost Management	<i>STAT 200</i>	3
MBA 513	Organizational Behavior & HR Management	<i>None</i>	3
MBA 514	Marketing Management	<i>None</i>	3

### Project Management Core (6 courses, 18 credits)

Project Management core courses offer students the familiarity and skills in managing projects, evaluating risks, handling contractual and procurement activities and analyzing advanced projects management practices. Every MPM student must complete the following six (6) courses:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Prerequisite</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PMP 605	Project Management Systems	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 610	Quality Project Management Practices	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 615	Risk Project Management	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 620	Contract and Procurement Management	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 623	Leading Projects Across Cultural, Corporate, and Global Boundaries	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 625	Advanced Project Management Practices	<i>PMP 605</i>	3

### Project Management Thesis Course (2 courses, 6 credits)

The project management concept is commonly integrated across many disciplines. As a project manager, it is important to have a working understanding of various industries. Through the thesis process, students will have an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to integrate people, processes, and technology for the purpose of understanding an organization's mission and vision as well as actualize their understanding through imperial research.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Prerequisite</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PMP 698	Master Thesis I	<i>5 Core Courses &amp; Dean's Approval</i>	3
PMP 699	Master Thesis II	<i>PMP 698</i>	3

### OPTIONAL: PMP Exam Preparation (3 credits)

To obtain in-depth professional preparation for passing the Project Management Professional (PMP) exam, students may consider taking an additional course. The requirement for taking this course is the completion of Project Management core curriculum.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Prerequisite</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PMP 650	PMP Exam Preparation	<i>PMP 605, 610, 615</i>	3

## 9.7 Graduate Certificate in Project Management

The VIU Certificate in Project Management is uniquely different from the Master's Degree in Project Management or the MBA with a concentration in Project Management in two areas: The focus of a Graduate Certificate in Project Management is on strategic outcomes rather than organizational strategic outcomes, and certificate courses are aligned principally to the core processes and knowledge areas found in the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK).

### 9.7.1 GCPM Program Outcomes

In business organizations and situations, VIU GCPM graduates will be able to:

1. Manage the initiation of projects and planning of activities that accurately forecast project costs, timeline, and quality.
2. Implement processes for successful resource, communication, and risk and change management.
3. Demonstrate effective project execution and control techniques that result in successful projects.
4. Conduct project closure activities and obtain formal project acceptance.
5. Demonstrate a strong working knowledge of ethics and professional responsibility.

The GCPM degree program is earned by completing the program course requirements of 18 semester credit hours.

### 9.7.2 Career Paths for Graduate Certificate in Project Management

The GCPM program develops the foundation for continuing education and leadership in all fields of business and administration. Graduates of the GCPM Program can anticipate jobs in the following types of careers at the management and director level:

- Construction Manager
- Cost Estimator
- General and Operations Manager
- Industrial Production Manager
- Management Consultant
- Procurement Manager
- Project developer
- Project Specialist
- Project Manager

### 9.7.3 Graduate Certificate in Project Management Courses

Students must take all six (6) courses (18 credit hours).

Code	Course Title	Course Prerequisite	Credits
PMP 605	Project Management Systems	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 610	Quality Project Management Practices	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 615	Risk Project Management	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 620	Contract and Procurement Management	<i>None</i>	3
PMP 625	Advanced Project Management Practices	<i>PMP 605</i>	3
PMP 650	PMP Exam Preparation	<i>PMP 605, 610, 615</i>	3

## 10. SCHOOL OF COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

### 10.1 School of Computer Information Systems Mission Statement

The mission of the School of Computer Information Systems is to empower graduates to serve as leading practitioners in the field of computing in a global marketplace and to enable them to realize their full potential through academic excellence. We provide quality education in the computing discipline from diverse faculty who are experts in the fields of computer science, information systems, software engineering and information technology.

### 10.2 School of Computer Information Systems Learning Outcomes

1. Apply various critical thinking and programming skills tailored to professional objectives
2. Recognize and utilize a variety of tools for technical and operational aspects of IT project management
3. Maintain and understand knowledge of current and future trends in computer technology
4. Effectively communicate and collaborate with a variety of invested individuals
5. Facilitate practices and procedures with social, ethical and legal understandings of technologies

### 10.3 Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

The curriculum for the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BCS) degree is designed to give a student a state of the art education in both the theory and practice of Computer Science. Upper-level courses involve students in team projects that emphasize industrial applications and best practices.

#### 10.3.1 BCS Program Outcomes

VIU's BCS program emphasizes the design and use of computer technology to develop information-processing systems. The program provides students with broad range of computer knowledge and practical skills required in most of business and industry areas today. Successful graduates are awarded a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree. No concentration or specialization is associated with this degree, but students have a large selection of electives to choose from in the final year based on their specific areas of interest.

Specifically, the BCS program graduates will be able to:

1. Learn object oriented programming to apply fundamental concepts of programming
2. Introduce IDE and DBMS and managerial tools in case studies and practice with these tools
3. Analyze current and future trends in computer science
4. Demonstrate effective communication and collaboration skills with peers
5. Develop an appreciation of social, ethical and legal aspects of technologies and their applications in the Computer Science field
6. Introduce computer science theory and algorithms in the modeling and design of computer-based systems
7. Understand network concepts, protocols, security, and cloud computing technologies.

#### 10.3.2 BCS Career Paths

VIU's BCS program educates and trains students to create and implement solutions for information systems-based needs and problems in research, commercial, financial, governmental, or other types of organizations. The approach of this degree program is to integrate theoretical and practical aspects of the computing science and technology. The program provides a blend of theory and applications, preparing students for a variety of Computer Science careers in industry, government, and academia; and to develop the foundation for continuing education and growth in the field of Computer Science. Specific career paths include positions at the entry, experienced professional and management level such as:

- Computer Systems Analyst
- Software Developer
- Database Developer
- Database Administrator
- Computer Programmer
- Web Developer
- QA Tester
- Network System Administrator

#### 10.3.3 BCS Degree Requirements

The Bachelor of Science in Computer Science requires 40 courses: twelve (12) General Education Department Courses, eighteen (18) Professional Core Courses and ten (10) Elective Courses.

Area		Number of Courses	Credits
General Education Department Courses		12	36
Professional Core Courses	a) Fundamental Core (FC) 7 courses – 21 credit hours	18	54
	b) Programming Core (PC)		

Elective Courses	4 courses – 12 credit hours	10	30
	c) Application Core (AC)		
	7 courses – 21 credit hours		
<b>Total</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>120</b>

## Professional Core Courses

The eighteen (18) Professional Core Courses belong to three categories: Fundamental Courses (7 courses), Programming Courses (4 courses) and Application Courses (7 courses).

### Fundamental Courses (7 courses – 21 Credit Hours)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 110	Introduction to Computing	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 120	Programming Logic	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 130	Ethical, Societal and Legal Aspects of Computing	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 230	Discrete Mathematical Methods for Computing	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 250	Computer Architecture	<i>CMP 110</i>	3
CMP 260	Introduction to Operating Systems	<i>CMP 110</i>	3
CMP 270	Essentials of Networking	<i>CMP 110</i>	3

### Programming Courses (4 Courses – 12 Credit Hours)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 210	Programming I	<i>CMP 120</i>	3
CMP 220	Programming II	<i>CMP 120</i>	3
CMP 330	Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis	<i>CMP 120</i>	3
CMP 340	Principles of Programming Languages	<i>CMP 120</i>	3

### Application Courses (7 Courses – 21 Credit Hours)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 343	Computer Security Principles	<i>CMP 270</i>	3
CMP 350	Database Concepts	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 360*	Web Development Methods	<i>CMP 120</i>	3
CMP 375	Human-Computer Interaction	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 440	Software Engineering	<i>CMP 220 or CMP 330</i>	3
CMP 498	Capstone Project I	<i>All 300-Level core courses or Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 499	Capstone Project II	<i>CMP 498 or Dean's approval</i>	3

\*Internship qualified course

### Elective Courses: (10 courses – 30 Credit Hours)

Students are also required to take ten (10) Elective courses from the following list. Four (4) of these courses can be selected from the Business Department Core courses (with the permission of the Chair of Business Department.)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 353*	Application Software Security	<i>CMP 343</i>	3
CMP 355	Programming with C/C++	<i>CMP 120</i>	3
CMP 365	Information Technology Project & Service Management	<i>All Core courses or Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 373	Operating Systems Security	<i>CMP 343</i>	3
	Independent Study I	<i>All FC courses, Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 391	Internship Level I	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 392	Internship Level II	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 420*	Usability Evaluation and Interface Development	<i>CMP 375</i>	3
CMP 443*	Network Security	<i>CMP 343</i>	3

CMP 445*	Distributed Systems	<i>CMP 250 or CMP 260</i>	3
CMP 463*	Computer Forensics	<i>CMP 343</i>	3
CMP 465	Theory of Computation	<i>CMP 230</i>	3
CMP 466*	Programming for Mobile Devices	<i>CMP 330 or CMP 220 or CMP 360</i>	3
CMP 467*	Database Systems for Web Applications	<i>CMP 350</i>	3
CMP 471*	Special Topics in Computer Science	<i>All FC courses</i>	3
CMP 472*	Special Topics in Information Technologies and Systems	<i>All FC courses</i>	3
CMP 489	Independent Study II	<i>All FC courses, Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 491	Internship Level III	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 492	Internship Level IV	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CAR 100	Career Planning & Management	<i>None</i>	3

\*Internship qualified course

## 10.4 Master of Science in Computer Science

The Master of Science in Computer Science (MCS) program is designed to appeal to a broad range of individuals. The program balances theory with practice, offers an extensive set of traditional and state-of-the-art courses, and provides the necessary flexibility to accommodate students with various backgrounds, including computer professionals who want to expand their understanding of Computer Science, as well as individuals whose undergraduate degrees are not in Computer Science but wish to broaden their knowledge in computing. The program also provides the background necessary to continue the study of Computer Science at the doctoral level. Students may choose a thesis option, which requires two semesters of study under the direction of a professor in which the student gains an understanding of an area of current research and contributes to it.

In the MCS program, a student must opt to pursue one specialization from the choice of the following seven specializations available:

1. Computer Animation and Gaming;
2. Cybersecurity;
3. Data Management;
4. Intelligent Systems;
5. Networking;
6. Software Applications Development;
7. Software Engineering.

### 10.4.1 MCS Program Outcomes

The main objective of VIU's MCS program is to provide a deep understanding of computer science theory and applications. The program aims to equip the student with the knowledge and skills that enable her/him to identify and solve problems in specific areas using analytical and critical thinking skills; communicate effectively using visual, mathematical and/or language skills in the modes of oral and/or written presentation; develop a macro-vision understanding that the world is a set of related systems and that problem solving contexts do not exist in isolation; and contribute to cross-functional teams, including geographically dispersed teams. Each MCS specialization will have its own specialization-specific objective, which is given in the relevant part of this document.

The curriculum design provides all MCS degree holders with a core set of knowledge. Furthermore, to make students more employable, the program offers students a set of courses (reinforced with practical experience) in a particular area within Computer Science (CS) as a specialization. A particular MCS specialization allows a student to concentrate in a specific area for which there is demand and to achieve mastery of in the area. These graduates will have the following skills, knowledge, and values:

1. Apply object oriented programming in desktop and mobile applications
2. Employ IDE and managerial tools in real world applications
3. Analyze current and future trends in computer science and adapt them appropriately to changing business needs
4. Illustrate effective communication and collaboration skills with stakeholders
5. Demonstrate understandings of privacy, security, forensics and copyright issues in professional and social environments
6. Understand various data structures and developing effective algorithms
7. Understand, develop and apply database management concepts and tools
8. Understand and design computer and network architecture and analyze different architectural models
9. Concentration Specific Outcomes:
  - a. Computer Animation and Gaming: Conceptualize, design and implement computer graphics and animation programs that meet certain objective criteria.

- b. Cybersecurity: Identify, develop, and implement effective and efficient defense mechanisms to secure organization networks and information resources to support organizational goals.
- c. Data Management: Collect, organize, store, manipulate, analyze, secure, and communicate structured and unstructured data; in order to integrate information technology solutions and business processes to meet the information needs of businesses and other enterprises.
- d. Intelligent Systems: Apply artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and intelligent systems techniques to solve real-world problems.
- e. Networking: Understand network and Internet architecture, network design and implementation, network performance analysis, network management, network security, and emerging trends in networking technology.
- f. Software Applications Development: Analyze, design, implement and test software applications that meet the business objectives of an organization using techniques such as design patterns, component-based architectures, web services, service-oriented architectures and emerging technologies.
- g. Software Engineering: Carry out requirements engineering, design and construct high quality software, software testing, maintenance, configuration and management to meet the business needs of an enterprise in a highly dynamic and competitive business environment.

### 10.4.2 Career Paths for MCS Graduates

Students graduating from the MCS program should be prepared to provide leadership in the Computer Science field. The MCS program prepares students for productive long-term careers in industry, government, and academia; and to develop the foundation for continuing education and growth in the field of Computer Science. MCS graduates will become key contributors to Computer Science research and applied Computer Science and can further their education by entering a doctoral degree program. Graduates of the MCS program can anticipate the following types of computer science professional careers at the management, director and executive levels:

- Computer scientist in the role of researcher, theorist or inventor;
- Computer engineer or designer for hardware based organizations;
- Consultant for projects that include a substantial dependence on Computer Science;
- Research and development in Computer Science and related disciplines;
- Application and system programmers or developers;
- Software system architect;
- Instructor at a college or university teaching Computer Science related courses.

### 10.4.3 MCS Program Prerequisites

All new MCS students need certain basic skills to prepare them for success in the MCS program. The MCS degree provides a broad understanding of computer science theory and technology. Students who do not have the required background need to take some or all of the prerequisites before taking the Core Courses. In some cases, the program prerequisite courses may have course prerequisites to be taken before enrolling in the program prerequisite courses. Thus to be successful, students must have a background in the following areas:

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 220	Programming II	<i>CMP 120</i>	3
CMP 260	Introduction to Operating Systems	<i>CMP 110</i>	3
CMP 270	Essentials of Networking	<i>CMP 110</i>	3
CMP 330	Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis	<i>CMP 120</i>	3
CMP 350	Database Concepts	<i>None</i>	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

### 10.4.4 MCS Degree Requirements

The MCS degree will be earned by completing the program course requirements of 36 credit hours, beyond the program prerequisite courses. To qualify for the MCS degree, students must meet all credit requirements, as described below.

VIU's MCS program is generally completed within two years of full time study. It consists of five (5) core courses (15 credits), five (5) specialization elective courses (15 credits) and two (2) other electives. The specialization electives allow a student to concentrate in a specific area for which there is demand and to achieve knowledge depth in that area. The two other (exit) electives give a student the opportunity to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills studied so far to real-world situations/problems through a capstone project, internship or a master's thesis. The specialization elective courses provide an opportunity for students to develop and fine-tune specific computing skills according to their areas of interest.

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
Core courses	5	15

Specialization Elective courses	5	15
Other Electives	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>

### MCS Core Courses: (5 Courses – 15 Credits)

Each candidate must satisfactorily complete the following five (5) core courses (15 credits):

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 511	Computer Architecture and Implementation	CMP 250 or CMP 260	3
CMP 556	Database Management Systems I	CMP 350	3
CMP 560	Software Engineering	None	3
CMP 561	Design and Analysis of Algorithms	CMP 220 or CMP 330	3
CMP 641	Operating Systems	CMP 260	3

### MCS Specialization Courses: (5 courses - 15 Credit Hours)

Students must select one of the specializations listed below during the second year of their study. Students must choose five (5) courses (15 credit hours) from the Specializations Elective Courses.

#### Computer Animation and Gaming

The objective of this specialization is to equip students with in-depth knowledge and skills that will enable them to conceptualize, design and implement computer graphics and animation programs that meet certain objective criteria.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 582	Computer Graphics	CMP 561	3
CMP 583	Computer Animation	CMP 561	3
CMP 584	Human-Computer Interface Design	CMP 561	3
CMP 585*	Design of Interactive Multimedia	None	3
CMP 586*	Computer Vision	CMP 582	3
CMP 587*	Game Design and Programming	CMP 582	3
CMP 588*	Special Topics Computer Animation and Gaming	Dean's approval	3

#### Cybersecurity

The objective of this specialization is to equip the students with in-depth knowledge skills that will enable them to identify, develop, and implement effective and efficient defense mechanisms to secure organization networks and information resources to support organizational goals.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 558	Network and Information Security	CMP 550/CMP 562	3
CMP 562	Computer Networks	CMP 270	3
CMP 630*	Network Security Audit and Forensics	CMP 550 or CMP 562	3
CMP 643*	Database Security and Data Protection	CMP 556/CMP 553	3
CMP 644	Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems	CMP 558	3
CMP 645*	Security Management	CMP 558	3
CMP 647*	Wireless and Mobile Security	CMP 558	3
CMP 648*	Special Topics in Cybersecurity	Dean's approval	3

\* Internship qualified course

#### Data Management

The objective of this specialization is to equip the student with the knowledge and skills to collect, organize, store, manipulate, analyze, secure, and communicate structured and unstructured data; in order to integrate information technology solutions and business processes to meet the information needs of businesses and other enterprises.

Code	Course Name	Course Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 622	Database Management Systems II	CMP 556	3
CMP 624	Data Warehousing	CMP 556	3
CMP 625	Text Analytics	CMP 556	3
CMP 626	Distributed Databases	CMP 556	3
CMP 627*	Data Mining	CMP 556	3
CMP 628*	Special topics in Data Management	Dean's approval	3
CMP 643*	Database Security and Data Protection	CMP 556/CMP 553	3

\* Internship qualified course

#### Intelligent Systems



The objective of this specialization is to equip students with in-depth knowledge skills that will enable them to apply artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and intelligent systems techniques to solve real-world problems.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 621	Artificial Intelligence	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 652	Natural Language Processing	<i>CMP 561, CMP 621</i>	3
CMP 653	Machine Learning	<i>CMP 621</i>	3
CMP 654*	Adaptive Learning Systems	<i>CMP 621</i>	3
CMP 655*	Intelligent Agents	<i>CMP 621</i>	3
CMP 658*	Special Topics Intelligent Systems	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3

\* Internship qualified course

## Networking

The objective of this specialization is to equip the students with a comprehensive understanding of the network and Internet architecture, network design and implementation, network performance analysis, network management, network security, and emerging trends in networking technology. The program is designed to equip students with extensive hands-on experience in order to analyze, design, procure, manage, and implement state-of-the art computer networking solutions and technologies.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 558	Network and Information Security	<i>CMP 550 or CMP 562</i>	3
CMP 562	Computer Networks	<i>CMP 270</i>	3
CMP 602	Network Design and Implementation	<i>CMP 562</i>	3
CMP 603*	Network management	<i>CMP 558</i>	3
CMP 604*	Cloud Computing	<i>CMP 558</i>	3
CMP 608*	Special Topics Networking	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 647*	Wireless and Mobile Security	<i>CMP 558</i>	3
CMP 665*	Virtualization Technologies	<i>CMP 558, CMP 641</i>	3

\* Internship qualified course

## Software Applications Development

The objective of this specialization is to equip the students with a comprehensive understanding of advanced software applications development using modern program paradigms and tools. The program is designed to equip students with extensive hands-on experience in order to analyze, design, implement and test software applications that meet the business objectives of an organization using techniques such as design patterns, component-based architectures, web services, service-oriented architectures and emerging technologies.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 573	Compiler Construction	<i>CMP 561</i>	3
CMP 632	Requirements Engineering	<i>CMP 560</i>	3
CMP 636	Trends in Software Applications Development	<i>CMP 632</i>	3
CMP 650*	Software Design and Construction	<i>CMP 560</i>	3
CMP 661*	Software Testing	<i>CMP 561, CMP 650</i>	3
CMP 663*	Web Applications Development	<i>CMP 553/ CMP 561</i>	3
CMP 664*	Mobile Applications Design & Development	<i>CMP 553/ CMP 561</i>	3
CMP 618*	Special Topics in Software Applications Development	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3

\* Internship qualified course

## Software Engineering

The objective of this specialization is to equip the student with the knowledge and skills to effectively carry out requirements engineering, design and construct high quality software, software testing, maintenance, configuration and management to meet the business needs of an enterprise in a highly dynamic and competitive business environment.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 632	Requirements Engineering	<i>CMP 560</i>	3
CMP 635*	Software Quality and Process Improvement	<i>CMP 560</i>	3
CMP 637	Software Engineering Management	<i>CMP 560</i>	3
CMP 650*	Software Design and Construction	<i>CMP 560</i>	3
CMP 661*	Software Testing	<i>CMP 561, CMP 650</i>	3
CMP 662*	Software Maintenance & Configuration Management	<i>CMP 650</i>	3
CMP 673*	Special Topics in Software Engineering	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3

\* Internship qualified course

## MCS Other Elective Courses: (2 Courses – 6 Credits)

The student must select two courses from the list of courses below or from any other specialization electives. Students can only enroll in the Capstone project course of their chosen specialization.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP xxx	Elective from any specialization	<i>Varies</i>	3
CMP 551	Research Methods	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 589	Computer Animation and Gaming Capstone Project	<i>All core, four specialization elective courses</i>	3
CMP 609	Networking Capstone Project	<i>All core courses, four specialization courses.</i>	3
CMP 619	Software Applications Development Capstone Project	<i>All core, four specialization elective courses</i>	3
CMP 629	Data Management Capstone Project	<i>All core courses, four specialization courses</i>	3
CMP 639	Software Engineering Capstone Project	<i>All core courses, four specialization courses</i>	3
CMP 649	Cybersecurity Capstone Project	<i>All core, four specialization courses</i>	3
CMP 659	Intelligent Systems Capstone Project	<i>All core, four specialization courses</i>	3
CMP 591	Graduate Internship Level I	<i>All core courses, one specialization elective course, Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 691	Graduate Internship Level II	<i>All core courses, two specialization elective courses, Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 696	Independent Study I	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 697	Independent Study II	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 698	Master's Thesis I	<i>All core, two specialization elective courses, academic advisor's approval.</i>	3
CMP 699	Master's Thesis II	<i>CMP 698</i>	3
CAR 600	Career Planning & Management	<i>None</i>	3

## Pre-MCS Program

Students who have earned their bachelor's degree with less than 120 undergraduate credits can be given conditional admission to the MCS program, provided they enroll in and successfully complete the remaining credits by selecting from the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BCS) undergraduate courses offered at VIU. Among the 120 required credits, the MCS program prerequisite courses must be fulfilled. Students must consult their academic advisor before choosing the pre-MCS courses who will advise them on the appropriate course selections from VIU's BCS program while complying with MCS program prerequisites. Successful completion of the pre-MCS courses will allow these students to complete the undergraduate credits requirement of 120, and enter into the MCS program.

## 10.5 Master of Science in Information Systems

The Master of Science in Information Systems (MIS) is designed to prepare students for positions in Information Systems and related fields. The curriculum is focused on gaining a better understanding of the use of information systems to enhance business processes and the decision-making process associated with them. Business theory is merged with information systems theory to prepare leaders for success in public and private business environments. Practical applications are emphasized throughout the curriculum.

VIU's Master of Science in Information Systems (MIS) program is the study of information systems, including their design, development, deployment, and usage in various organizations. Research in this field covers a wide range of topics including design and architecture, deployment and execution, adoption of information technology in organizations, human factors in information systems, knowledge acquisition, expert systems, systems analysis and design methods, object-oriented enterprise modeling, knowledge-based systems to support database design, automated mediation in group support systems, and distributed information systems.

The main objective of the MIS program is to provide a comprehensive understanding of information systems in organizations. The program aims to equip the student with the knowledge and skills that enable her/him to focus on integrating information technology solutions and business processes to meet the information needs of businesses and other enterprises, enabling them to achieve their objectives in an effective and efficient way. The program also aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to identify and solve problems using analytical and critical thinking skills; communicate effectively using visual, mathematical and/or language skills in the modes of oral and/or written presentation; develop a macro-vision understanding that the world is a set of related systems and that problem solving contexts do not exist in isolation; and contribute to cross-functional teams, including geographically dispersed teams.

The curriculum design provides all MIS degree holders with a core set of knowledge. Furthermore, to make students more employable, the program offers students a related set of courses (reinforced with practical experience) in a particular focus

area within information systems as a *specialization*. A particular MIS specialization allows a student to concentrate in a specific area for which there is demand and to achieve breadth and depth in that area. Each MIS specialization has its own specific objective, which is given in the relevant section of this catalog. Students graduating from the MIS program should be prepared to provide leadership in the information systems field.

In the MIS program, a student must opt to pursue one specialization from the following seven specializations available:

1. Business Intelligence and Data Analytics;
2. Cybersecurity;
3. Data Management;
4. Enterprise Project Management;
5. Health Informatics;
6. Information Assurance;
7. Knowledge Management.

### 10.5.1 MIS Program Outcomes

These graduates will have the following skills, knowledge, and values:

1. Develop an understanding of social, ethical, information and network security, and legal aspects of technologies.
2. Introduce fundamental programming concepts, design, and develop IDE applications that efficiently utilize database concepts and manipulation.
3. Be prepared for leadership roles in professional practices with strengths in design, problem solving, communications and collaboration with peers.
4. Apply knowledge of formal software development concepts to processes, programming paradigms and mathematical models appropriate to different application contexts.
5. Apply critical thinking and problem solving skills to synthesize managerial business decisions.
6. Understand IT infrastructure and different architectural models in computer networks.
7. Concentration Specific Outcome:
  - a. Business Intelligence and Data Analytics: Demonstrate the ability to analyze and mine large volumes of data in order to support marketing, and financial decision making to give an enterprise a competitive advantage.
  - b. Cybersecurity: Apply knowledge and skills to identify, develop, and implement effective and efficient defense mechanisms to secure organization networks and information resources.
  - c. Data Management: Apply knowledge and skills to collect, organize, store and manipulate data; in order to integrate information technology solutions and business processes to meet the information needs of businesses.
  - d. Enterprise Project Management: Apply managerial knowledge and skills to optimize time, budget, personnel and other resources required for enterprise IT projects.
  - e. Health Informatics: Apply knowledge and skills to health care information systems and data management, and related ethics and compliance considerations.
  - f. Information Assurance: Apply knowledge and skills to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability to protect and defend information and information systems.
  - g. Knowledge Management: Apply managerial skills to collect, organize, and analyze knowledge to meet the business organizational needs in order to remain competitive.

### 10.5.2 Career Paths for MIS Graduates

The MIS program is designed to support both traditional and emerging career opportunities. The Career paths for the MIS graduates include the following positions at the manager, director, and executive levels:

- Data administration
- Systems integration
- Networking, telecom, and infrastructure
- Management of sourcing and global projects
- IT project management
- Analysis of information systems development projects
- Cybersecurity
- IT consulting for projects that include a substantial dependence on information systems
- Academia as an instructor at a college or university teaching information systems-related courses
- Research and development of information technologies and related products and services

VIU's MIS program is generally completed within two years of full time study. It consists of five (5) core courses (15 credits), five (5) specialization elective courses (15 credits) and two (2) other electives. The specialization electives allow a student to concentrate in a specific area for which there is demand and to achieve breadth and depth in that area. The two other electives give a student the opportunity to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills studied so far to real-world

situations/problems through a capstone project, internship or a master's thesis. The specialization elective courses provide an opportunity for students to develop and fine-tune specific computing skills according to their areas of interest.

### 10.5.3 MIS Program Prerequisites

All new MIS students need certain basic skills to succeed in the MIS program. Students who do not have the requisite background in business administration and information technology need to take some or all of the prerequisite courses before they begin work on the core courses. In some cases, the program prerequisite courses may have course prerequisites to be taken before enrolling in the program prerequisite courses.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 350	Database Concepts	<i>None</i>	3
ACCT 201	Principles of Financial Accounting	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 312	Organizational Theory & HR Management	<i>None</i>	3
<b>Also one of the following courses:</b>			
CMP 270	Essentials of Networking	<i>CMP 110</i>	3
CMP 340	Principles of Programming Languages	<i>CMP 120</i>	3
CMP 355	Programming with C/C++	<i>CMP 120</i>	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

### 10.5.4 MIS Degree Requirements

The MIS degree will be earned by completing the program course requirements of 36 credit hours, beyond the program prerequisite courses.

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
Core Courses	5	15
Specialization Elective Courses	5	15
Other Electives	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>

### MIS Core Courses: (5 Courses – 15 Credits)

The MIS core courses provide students with the skills and knowledge needed by all information systems professionals. Along with the knowledge of the specific technical areas of information systems, these courses are designed to improve communication and other skills relevant to working in cross-functional teams. Each candidate must satisfactorily complete the following five (5) core courses (15 credits):

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 550	IT Infrastructure	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 553	Analysis, Modeling and Design	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 570	Enterprise Information Systems	<i>CMP 550 or CMP 556</i>	3
CMP 612*	IT Project Management	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 620*	IT Governance	<i>None</i>	3

### MIS Specialization Courses: (5 courses - 15 Credit Hours)

Students must select one of the specializations listed below during the second year of their study. Students must choose five (5) courses (15 credit hours) from the specializations elective courses.

#### MIS: Business Intelligence and Data Analytics

The objective of this specialization is to equip the student with the knowledge and skills to collect, organize, store, manipulate, analyze, and mine very large volumes of structured and unstructured data using information technology tools in order to support marketing, financial decision-making and to give an enterprise a competitive advantage.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 556	Database Management Systems I	<i>CMP 350</i>	3
CMP 624	Data Warehousing	<i>CMP 556</i>	3
CMP 640	Decision Support & BI	<i>CMP 556</i>	3
CMP 681	Enterprise Analytics	<i>CMP 556</i>	3
CMP 682*	Big Data Analytics	<i>CMP 556</i>	3

CMP 684*	Management Decision Modeling	None	3
CMP 685*	Advanced Big Data Analytics	CMP 682	3
CMP 688*	Special Topics Business Intelligence and Data Analytics	Dean's approval	3

\* Internship qualified course

## MIS: Cybersecurity

The objective of this specialization is to equip the students with in-depth knowledge skills that will enable them to identify, develop, and implement effective and efficient defense mechanisms to secure organization networks and information resources to support organizational goals.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 558	Network and Information Security	CMP 550 or CMP 562	3
CMP 562	Computer Networks	CMP 270	3
CMP 630*	Network Security Audit and Forensics	CMP 550 or CMP 562	3
CMP 643*	Database Security and Data Protection	CMP 553 or CMP 556	3
CMP 644	Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems	CMP 558	3
CMP 645*	Security Management	CMP 558	3
CMP 647*	Wireless and Mobile Security	CMP 558	3
CMP 648*	Special Topics in Cybersecurity	Dean's approval	3

\* Internship qualified course

## MIS: Data Management

The objective of this specialization is to equip the student with the knowledge and skills to collect, organize, store, manipulate, analyze, secure, and communicate structured and unstructured data; in order to integrate information technology solutions and business processes to meet the information needs of businesses and other enterprises.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 556	Database Management Systems I	CMP 350	3
CMP 622	Database Management Systems II	CMP 556	3
CMP 624	Data Warehousing	CMP 556	3
CMP 625	Text Analytics	CMP 556	3
CMP 626	Distributed Databases	CMP 556	3
CMP 627*	Data Mining	CMP 556	3
CMP 628*	Special Topics in Data Management	Dean's approval	3
CMP 643*	Database Security and Data Protection	CMP 556 or CMP 553	3

## MIS: Enterprise Project Management

The objective of this specialization is to equip the student with the knowledge and skills to manage the time, budget, personnel and other resources required in IT projects in large enterprises.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 513	Risk Management and Control	CMP 612	3
CMP 514	Virtual Organizations	CMP 612	3
CMP 515*	Enterprise Program Management	CMP 612	3
CMP 516	IT Investment Economics	CMP 513	3
CMP 518*	Special Topics Enterprise Project Management	Dean's approval	3
CMP 680	Organizational and Social Dimensions of Computing	None	3

\* Internship qualified course

## MIS: Health Informatics

The objective of this specialization is to equip the students with in-depth knowledge skills that will enable them to efficiently and effectively collect, organize, store, manipulate, analyze, and secure healthcare information systems and delivery systems, using information technology tools in order to support the organizational goals of healthcare systems.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 554	Healthcare Information Systems	CMP 550 or CMP 570	3
CMP 555	Healthcare Data Management	CMP 553	3
CMP 557*	Healthcare Delivery Models	CMP 570	3
CMP 670	Legal, Ethical and Social Issues in Healthcare	None	3

CMP 666*	Healthcare Economics	None	3
CMP 667	Biostatistics	None	3
CMP 668*	Special Topics Health Informatics	Dean's approval	3

\*Internship qualified course

## MIS: Information Assurance

The objective of this specialization is to equip the students with in-depth knowledge skills that will enable them to identify, develop, and implement effective and efficient defense mechanisms to secure organization networks and information resources to support organizational goals.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 558	Network and Information Security	CMP 550 or CMP 562	3
CMP 559	Introduction to Information Assurance	CMP 540 or CMP 550	3
CMP 593	Security Policy, Law, and Ethics	None	3
CMP 594	Risk Management and Disaster Recovery Planning	None	
CMP 598*	Special Topics Information Assurance	Dean's approval	3
CMP 630*	Network Security Audit and Forensics	CMP 550 or CMP 562	3
CMP 643*	Database Security and Data Protection	CMP 553 or CMP 556	3
CMP 644	Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems	CMP 558	3

\*Internship qualified course.

## MIS: Knowledge Management

The objective of this specialization is to equip the student with the knowledge and skills to collect, organize, store, manipulate, analyze, secure, and communicate structured and unstructured organizational knowledge to meet the businesses needs of an organization and for the organization to remain competitive.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 556	Database Management Systems I	CMP 350	3
CMP 624	Data Warehousing	CMP 556	3
CMP 625	Text Analytics	CMP 556	3
CMP 640*	Decision Support and Business Intelligence	CMP 556	3
CMP 675*	Knowledge Management and the Learning Organization	None	3
CMP 676*	Digital Document Analysis	None	3
CMP 678*	Special Topics Knowledge Management	Dean's approval	3
CMP 680	Organizational and Social Dimensions of Computing	None	3

\*Internship qualified course

## MIS: Other Elective Courses: (2 Courses – 6 Credits)

The student must select two courses from the list below or from any other specialization. Students can only enroll in the Capstone project course of their chosen specialization.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP xxx	Elective from any specialization	Varies	3
CMP 551	Research Methods	None	3
CMP 509	Health Informatics Capstone Project	All core, four specialization elective courses	3
CMP 519	Enterprise Project Management Capstone Project	All core, four specialization courses	3
CMP 599	Information Assurance Capstone Project	All core, four specialization courses	3
CMP 629	Data Management Capstone Project	All core, four specialization courses.	3
CMP 649	Cybersecurity Capstone Project	All core, four specialization courses	3
CMP 679	Knowledge Management Capstone Project	All core, four specialization courses	3
CMP 689	Business Intelligence and Data Analytics Capstone Project	All the core, four specialization courses.	3
CMP 591	Graduate Internship Level I	All core courses, one specialization elective course, Dean's approval	3
CMP 691	Graduate Internship Level II	All core courses, two specialization elective courses, Dean's approval	3

CMP 696	Independent Study I	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 697	Independent Study II	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 698	Master's Thesis I	<i>All core, two specialization elective courses, academic advisor's approval.</i>	3
CMP 699	Master's Thesis II	<i>CMP 698</i>	3
CAR 600	Career Planning & Management	<i>None</i>	3

## Pre-MIS Program

Students who have earned their Bachelor's degree with less than 120 undergraduate credits can be given conditional admission to the MIS program, provided they enroll in and successfully complete the remaining credits by selecting from the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BCS) undergraduate courses offered at VIU. Among the 120 required credits, the MIS program prerequisite courses must be fulfilled. Students must consult their academic advisor or the Dean before choosing the pre-MIS courses who will advise them on the appropriate course selections from VIU's BCS program while complying with MIS program prerequisites. Successful completion of the pre-MIS courses will allow these students to complete the undergraduate credit requirement of 120, and enter into the MIS program.

## 10.6 Master of Science in Information Systems Management

The Master of Science in Information Systems Management (MISM) has been designed to address the urgent needs of hiring managers in the information systems area with regard to the skill sets of information systems managers. The graduates will be able to manage the in-house and outsources development of information systems and perform effectively as both producer and consumer of information systems services. Program graduates will demonstrate professional competencies that will make them valuable contributors in cross-functional teams, able to keep their skills fresh as the industry develops, with a clear understanding of their roles as responsible professionals in a complex business, policy and social context. Program graduates will be responsible and ethical professionals who understand the economic, organizational, policy and social dimensions of their work in this dynamic and complex field.

### 10.6.1 MISM Program Outcomes

The program objectives of the Master of Science in Information Systems Management fall in three general categories: Technical, organizational and cross-cutting knowledge, skills and dispositions. Upon completion of the program, the graduates will be able to:

1. Develop an understanding of social, ethical, information and network security, and legal aspects of technologies;
2. Design effective management information systems to address organizational needs;
3. Be prepared for leadership roles in professional practices with strengths in design, problem solving, communications and collaboration with peers;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the major phases of the system development life-cycle;
5. Apply critical thinking and problem solving skills to synthesize managerial business decisions;
6. Describe theories, components, strategies, frameworks, models, processes and practices of the information technology governance.

### 10.6.2 Career Paths for MISM Graduates

The MISM program is designed to support both traditional and emerging career opportunities. The career paths for the MISM graduates include the following positions at the management, director, and executive levels:

- Information systems manager
- Information systems project manager
- Information systems integrator
- Information systems security specialist
- Database administrator
- Chief technology officer
- Chief information officer
- IT consultant
- Computer systems analyst
- Cloud architect

### 10.6.3 MISM Program Prerequisites

All new MISM students need certain basic skills to succeed in the MISM program. Students who do not have the requisite background in business administration and information technology need to take some or all of the prerequisite courses

before they begin work on the Core Courses. In some cases, the program prerequisite courses may have course prerequisites to be taken before enrolling in the program prerequisite courses.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 120	Programming Logic	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 350	Database Concepts	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 301	Principles of Management	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 210	Introduction to Business	<i>None</i>	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

### 10.6.4 MISM Degree Requirements

The program consists of seven (7) Core Courses and five (5) Elective courses. The elective courses provide the opportunity for the students to develop further competencies covered in the core courses, based on their area of interest.

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
Core courses	7	21
Elective courses	5	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>

### MISM Core Courses (7 courses – 21 credits)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 550	IT Infrastructure	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 551	Research Methods	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 552	Information Systems	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 553	Analysis, Modeling and Design	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 610	Managing Information System Development	<i>CMP 552 or CMP 553</i>	3
CMP 611*	Global Information System Development	<i>CMP 552 or CMP 553</i>	3
CMP 680	Organizational and Social Dimensions of Computing	<i>None</i>	3

### MISM Elective Courses (5 courses – 15 credits)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 556	Database Management Systems I	<i>CMP 350</i>	3
CMP 558	Network and Information Security	<i>CMP 550 or CMP 562</i>	3
CMP 560	Software Engineering	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 570	Enterprise Information Systems	<i>CMP 550 or CMP 556</i>	3
CMP 591	Graduate Internship Level I	<i>All core courses, Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 612*	IT Project Management	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 613*	Technology and Development of E-Business	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 614*	Management Information Systems in Supply - Chain Management	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 620*	IT Governance	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 630*	Network Security Audit and Forensics	<i>CMP 550 or CMP 562</i>	3
CMP 650*	Software Design and Construction	<i>CMP 560</i>	3
CMP 672*	Special Topics in Information Systems	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 691	Graduate Internship Level II	<i>All core courses, Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 696	Independent Study I	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 697	Independent Study II	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 698	Master's Thesis I	<i>All core courses, academic advisor's approval</i>	3
CMP 699	Master's Thesis II	<i>CMP 698</i>	3
CAR 600	Career Planning & Management	<i>None</i>	3

\*Internship qualified course. All 600-level CMP elective courses in the MISM program are internship eligible for the students enrolled in the MISM program.

### Pre-MISM Program



Students who have earned their Bachelor's degree with less than 120 undergraduate credit hours can be given conditional admission to the MISM program, provided they enroll in and successfully complete the remaining credit hours by selecting from the Bachelor of Science in computer science (BCS) undergraduate courses offered at VIU. Among the 120 required credit hours, the MISM program prerequisite courses must be fulfilled. Students must consult their academic advisor before choosing the Pre-MISM courses who will advise them on the appropriate course selections from VIU's BCS program while complying with MISM program prerequisites. Successful completion of the Pre-MISM courses will allow these students to complete the undergraduate credit hour requirement of 120, and enter into the program.

## 10.7 Master of Science in Information Technology

The Master of Science in Information Technology (MIT) program prepares individuals for leadership roles in the IT industry. The program provides knowledge and skills across an entire range of topics related to the design and implementation of solutions aligned with business and organizational needs.

The core of the program is focused on building a foundation of critical thinking skills with which to make professional judgments, design, and implement solutions aligned with business needs. The MIT program builds these skills through a solid understanding of theoretical methods, principles, and tools and an examination of fundamental information technology issues and processes.

Faculty with both academic and industry backgrounds also provide practical perspective. Real-world problems and opportunities with software intensive systems are explored, and methods to evaluate, adopt and take advantage of emerging technologies are studied. MIT students will also be working closely with fellow IT professionals, completing applicable assignments and projects within teams.

### 10.7.1 MIT Program Outcomes

The program objectives fall in two general categories: technical and organizational. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

1. Apply problem solving skills in web site development, web-database integration, and network and system administration.
2. Contribute to business processes through mathematical analysis, design and optimization in response to organizational needs.
3. Demonstrate understandings of privacy, security, forensics and copyright issues in professional and social environments.
4. Illustrate effective communication and collaboration skills with stakeholders.
5. Understand and develop real world IDE applications using database management concepts.
6. Develop computer and network architectural solutions for information systems and technologies.

### 10.7.2 Career Paths for MIT Graduates

The MIT program is designed to support both traditional and emerging career opportunities. The career paths for the MIT graduates include the following positions at the experienced professional, management, director and executive levels:

- IT manager
- IT project manager
- Chief technology officer
- Chief information officer
- Database administrator
- IT consultant
- Computer systems analyst
- Cloud architect
- Information security analyst

### 10.7.3 MIT Program Prerequisites

All new MIT students need certain basic skills to succeed in the MIT program. Students who do not have the requisite background in computing need to take some or all of the prerequisite courses before they begin work on the Core Courses. In some cases, the program prerequisite courses may have course prerequisites to be taken before enrolling in the program prerequisite courses.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 220	Programming II	<i>CMP 120</i>	3
CMP 260	Introduction to Operating Systems	<i>CMP 110</i>	3
CMP 270	Essentials of Networking	<i>CMP 110</i>	3
CMP 350	Database Concepts	<i>None</i>	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

### 10.7.4 MIT Degree Requirements

The program consists of seven (7) Core Courses and five (5) Elective courses. The elective courses provide the opportunity for the students to develop further competencies covered in the core courses, based on their area of interest.

Area	Number of Courses	Credit Hours
Core courses	7	21
Elective courses	5	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>

### MIT Core Courses (7 courses – 21 credits)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 511	Computer Architecture and Implementation	<i>CMP 250 or CMP 260</i>	3
CMP 540	Information Technology Fundamentals and Management	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 553	Analysis, Modeling and Design	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 556	Database Management Systems I	<i>CMP 350</i>	3
CMP 559	Introduction to Information Assurance	<i>CMP 540 or CMP 550</i>	3
CMP 562	Computer Networks	<i>CMP 270</i>	3
CMP 663*	Web Applications Development	<i>CMP 553 or CMP 561</i>	3

*\*Internship qualified course*

### MIT Elective Courses (5 courses – 15 credits)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 558	Network & Information Security	<i>CMP 550 or CMP 562</i>	3
CMP 560	Software Engineering	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 570	Enterprise Information Systems	<i>CMP 550 or CMP 556</i>	3
CMP 620*	IT Governance	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 630*	Network Security Audit and Forensics	<i>CMP 550 or CMP 562</i>	3
CMP 641	Operating Systems	<i>CMP 260</i>	3
CMP 664*	Mobile Applications Design and Development	<i>CMP 553 or CMP 561</i>	3
CMP 674*	Special Topics in Information Technology	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 680	Organizational and Social Dimensions of Computing	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 591	Graduate Internship Level I	<i>All core courses, Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 691	Graduate Internship Level II		3
CMP 696	Independent Study	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 697	Independent Study	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 698	Master's Thesis I	<i>All core courses, dean's approval CMP 698</i>	3
CMP 699	Master's Thesis II		3
CAR 600	Career Planning & Management	<i>None</i>	3

*\*Internship qualified course.*

### Pre-MIT Program

Students who have earned their Bachelor's degree with less than 120 undergraduate credit hours can be given conditional admission to the MIT program, provided they enroll in and successfully complete the remaining credit hours by selecting from the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BCS) undergraduate courses offered at VIU. Among the 120 required credit hours, the MIT program prerequisite courses must be fulfilled. Students must consult their academic advisor before choosing the Pre-MIT courses who will advise them on the appropriate course selections from VIU's BCS program while complying with MIT program prerequisites. Successful completion of the Pre-MIT courses will allow these students to complete the undergraduate credit hour requirement of 120, and enter into the program.

### 10.8 Master of Science in Software Engineering

The Master of Science in Software Engineering (MSE) program prepares students to become Software Engineering professionals. Graduates are prepared to address the global need for professionals that apply computer science, engineering, and mathematical principles to design, develop, test and maintain software. The core of the program is focused on building a foundation of critical thinking skills on which to make professional judgments and solve real world problems.

This program builds these thinking skills through a solid understanding of theoretical concepts, principles, and tools; and coverage of the fundamental software development issues and processes. Topics covered include requirements engineering, software design and construction, verification, testing, maintenance, software process improvement, project management, quality assurance, etc. Faculty with both academic and industry backgrounds also provide practical perspectives. Real-world problems and opportunities with software intensive systems are explored, and methods to evaluate, adopt and take advantage of emerging technologies are learned. Students of the Master of Science in Software Engineering program will also be working closely with fellow software professionals, completing applicable assignments and projects within teams.

### 10.8.1 MSE Program Outcomes

The program objectives fall in three general categories: technical, organizational and cross-cutting knowledge, skills and dispositions. Upon completion of the program, the graduates will be able to:

1. Apply object oriented software engineering to build robust software solutions and web applications;
2. Apply knowledge of formal software development concepts to processes, programming paradigms and mathematical models appropriate to different application contexts;
3. Analyze current and future trends in software engineering and adapt them appropriately to changing business needs;
4. Illustrate effective communication and collaboration skills with stakeholders;
5. Demonstrate understandings of privacy, security, forensics and copyright issues in professional and social environments;
6. Carry out requirements engineering, design and construct high quality software, software testing, maintenance, configuration and management to meet the business needs of an enterprise in a highly dynamic and competitive business environment;
7. Analyze, design, implement and test software applications that meet the business objectives of an organization using techniques such as design patterns, component-based architectures, web services, service-oriented architectures and emerging technologies.

### 10.8.2 Career Paths for MSE Graduates

Graduates of the MSE program can expect to pursue the following professional careers at the experienced professional, managerial, and executive levels:

- Software engineer
- Software architect
- Software project leader
- Software project manager
- Software designer
- Program developer
- Chief technology officer
- Chief information officer
- Software consultant
- Computer systems analyst

### 10.8.3 MSE Program Prerequisites

All new MSE students need certain basic skills to succeed in the MSE program. Students who do not have the requisite background in computing concepts or programming need to take some or all of the prerequisite courses before they begin work on the Core Courses. In some cases, the program prerequisite courses may have course prerequisites to be taken before enrolling in the program prerequisite courses.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 220	Programming II	CMP 120	3
CMP 330	Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis	CMP 120	3
CMP 340	Principles of Programming Languages	CMP 120	3
CMP 350	Database Concepts	None	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

### 10.8.4 MSE Degree Requirements

The program consists of seven (7) Core Courses and five (5) Elective courses. The elective courses provide the opportunity for the students to develop further competencies covered in the core courses, based on their area of interest.

Area	Number of Courses	Credit Hours
Core Courses	7	21

Elective Courses	5	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>

### MSE Core Courses (7 courses – 21 credits)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 550	IT Infrastructure	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 553	Analysis, Modeling and Design	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 560	Software Engineering	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 610	Managing Information System Development	<i>CMP 552/ CMP 553</i>	3
CMP 650*	Software Design and Construction	<i>CMP 560</i>	3
CMP 660	Issues and Trends in Software Engineering	<i>CMP 560</i>	3
CMP 669*	Software Engineering Project	<i>CMP 610, CMP 650</i>	3

### MSE Elective Courses (5 courses – 15 credits)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 556	Database Management Systems I	<i>CMP 350</i>	3
CMP 558	Network and Information Security	<i>CMP 550/CMP 562</i>	3
CMP 561	Design and Analysis of Algorithms	<i>CMP 220/330</i>	3
CMP 611*	Global Information System Development	<i>CMP 552/CMP 553</i>	3
CMP 621	Artificial Intelligence	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 627*	Data Mining	<i>CMP 556</i>	3
CMP 640*	Decision Support and Business Intelligence	<i>CMP 556</i>	3
CMP 661*	Software Testing	<i>CMP 561, CMP 650</i>	3
CMP 662*	Software Maintenance & Configuration Management	<i>CMP 650</i>	3
CMP 663*	Web Applications Development	<i>CMP 553/CMP 561</i>	3
CMP 664*	Mobile Applications Design and Development	<i>CMP 553/CMP 561</i>	3
CMP 673*	Special Topics in Software Engineering	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 680	Organizational and Social Dimensions of Computing	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 591	Graduate Internship Level I	<i>All core courses, Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 691	Graduate Internship Level II		3
CMP 696	Independent Study I	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 697	Independent Study II	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 698	Master's Thesis I	<i>All core courses, academic advisor's approval</i>	3
CMP 699	Master's Thesis II	<i>CMP 698</i>	3
CAR 600	Career Planning & Management	<i>None</i>	3

\*Internship qualified course

### Pre-MSE Program

Students who have earned their Bachelor's degree with less than 120 undergraduate credit hours can be given conditional admission to the MSE program, provided they enroll in and successfully complete the remaining credit hours by selecting from the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BCS) undergraduate courses offered at VIU. Among the 120 required credit hours, the MSE program prerequisite courses must be fulfilled. Students must consult their academic advisor before choosing the Pre-MSE courses who will advise them on the appropriate course selections from VIU's BCS program while complying with MSE program prerequisites. Successful completion of the Pre-MSE courses will allow these students to complete the undergraduate credit hour requirement of 120, and enter into the program.

### 10.9 Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence

In a knowledge-intensive economy, success depends on an organization's ability to understand trends in its data and exploit it to generate intelligence to gain and maintain competitive advantages. The Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence (BI) program is designed to meet the overwhelming need of the industry to transform raw data and information into business intelligence that is used to drive efficiency, maximize the technology investment and strengthen customer relationships.

VIU's Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence enables managers and system/business analysts to understand how information can be accessed from corporate databases and data warehouses, and how models can be built for a broad variety of decision problems. The modeling techniques that are covered in the program range from traditional statistical models and optimization models to new techniques.

### 10.9.1 Graduate Certificate in BI Program Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Introduce fundamental programming concepts and skills involving object-oriented programming languages.
2. Develop an understanding of social, ethical, information and network security, and legal aspects of technologies.
3. Introduce, design, and develop applications that efficiently utilize database concepts to support marketing, and financial decision making.
4. Be prepared for leadership roles in professional practices with strengths in design, problem solving, communications and collaboration with peers.
5. Apply critical thinking and problem solving skills to synthesize managerial business decisions

### 10.9.2 Career Paths for Graduate Certificate in BI Graduates

Career paths for the Graduate Certificate in BI include the following positions at the experienced professional and managerial levels:

- Business intelligence analyst
- Business intelligence manager
- Business intelligence consultant

### 10.9.3 Graduate Certificate in BI Program Prerequisites

All new students in this certificate program need certain basic skills before they can enroll in the program. Students who do not have the requisite background in business administration and information technology need to take some or all of the prerequisite courses before they begin studying the courses in the program. In some cases, the program prerequisite courses may have course prerequisites to be taken before enrolling in the program prerequisite courses.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 120	Programming Logic	None	3
CMP 350	Database Concepts	None	3
BUSS 301	Principles of Management	None	3
BUSS 210	Introduction to Business	None	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

### Graduate Certificate in BI Degree Requirements

The program consists of four (4) Core Courses and two (2) Elective courses. The elective courses provide the opportunity for the students to develop further competencies covered in the core courses, based on their area of interest.

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
Core courses	4	12
Elective courses	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>

### Graduate Certificate in BI Core Courses

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 550	IT Infrastructure	None	3
CMP 553	Analysis, Modeling and Design	None	3
CMP 556	Database Management Systems I	CMP 350	3
CMP 640*	Decision Support and Business Intelligence	CMP 556	3

### Graduate Certificate in BI Elective Courses

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 558	Network and Information Security	CMP 550/CMP 562	3
CMP 591	Graduate Internship Level I	All core courses, Dean's approval	3
CMP 620*	IT Governance	None	3
CMP 630*	Network Security Audit and Forensics	CMP 550 or CMP 562	3

\* Internship qualified course

## 10.10 Graduate Certificate in Information Systems

The Graduate Certificate in Information Systems (IS) is designed to prepare students for positions in the information systems field. The curriculum is focused on gaining a better understanding of the use of information systems to enhance business processes and the decision-making process associated with them.

Information systems professionals design, implement and deploy software solutions that are the driving force in every organization. This program accommodates students just beginning to explore the field and those with a thorough understanding of computerized information systems. Practical applications are emphasized throughout the program.

VIU's Graduate Certificate in Information Systems is the study of information systems, including their design, development, deployment, and usage in various organizations. Research in this field covers a wide range of topics including design and architecture, deployment and execution, and management of information systems and the underlying technology in organizations.

### 10.10.1 Graduate Certificate in IS Program Outcomes

VIU's Graduate Certificate in Information Systems teaches students the significance of an effective information system for any organization and the creation and execution of an information system for achieving an organization's objectives. Students will be able to use technology as a competitive advantage and understand how technology helps to achieve the key business goals of an organization. Upon the completion of the program, the students will be able to:

1. Apply knowledge of formal software development concepts to processes, programming paradigms and mathematical models appropriate to different application contexts;
2. Develop an understanding of social, ethical, information security, and legal aspects of technologies in the Computer Science field;
3. Introduce, develop, and apply database management concepts and IDE tools;
4. Adapt professional and communication skills to function effectively in both centralized and distributed software development teams;
5. Develop competency in creativity, critical thinking, problem identification, formulation and solving.

### 10.10.2 Career Paths for Graduate Certificate in IS Graduates

Graduates of this program can anticipate the following types of careers at the experienced professional and managerial levels:

- System/Programmer/Business Analyst
- Database designer
- Systems manager
- Information systems director

VIU's Graduate Certificate in IS program is generally completed within two years full time. It consists of four (4) Core Courses (12 credit hours) and two (2) Elective Courses (6 credit hours).

### 10.10.3 Graduate Certificate in IS Program Prerequisites

All new students of IS Graduate Certificate program, need certain basic skills in order to succeed in the program. Students who do not have the requisite background in business administration and information technology need to take some or all of the prerequisite courses before they begin studying the Core Courses. In some cases, the program prerequisite courses may have course prerequisites to be taken before enrolling in the program prerequisite courses.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 350	Database Concepts	None	3
<b>One of the following courses:</b>			
CMP 330	Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis	CMP 120	3
CMP 340	Principles of Programming Languages	CMP 120	3
CMP 355	Programming with C/C++	CMP 120	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

### 10.10.4 Graduate Certificate in IS Program Degree Requirements

This certificate will be earned by completing the program course requirements of 18 credit hours, beyond the program prerequisite courses.

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
Core courses	4	12
Elective courses	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>

## Graduate Certificate in IS Core Courses:

The Core Courses provide students with the essential skills and knowledge needed by all information systems professionals. Each candidate must satisfactorily complete the following four (4) Core Courses (12 credit hours):

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 552	Information Systems	None	3
CMP 553	Analysis, Modeling and Design	None	3
CMP 556	Database Management Systems I	CMP 350	3
CMP 570	Enterprise Information Systems	CMP 550/CMP 556	3

## Graduate Certificate in IS Elective Courses

In addition to Core Courses, students are required to choose two (2) additional Elective Courses according to their interests from the following:

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 550	IT Infrastructure	None	3
CMP 558	Network and Information Security	CMP 550/CMP 562	3
CMP 591	Graduate Internship Level I	All core courses, Dean's approval	3
CMP 640*	Decision Support and Business Intelligence	CMP 556	3
CMP 680	Organizational and Social Dimensions of Computing	None	3

## 10.11 Graduate Certificate in Information Systems Management

The Graduate Certificate in Information Systems Management (ISM) develops students' abilities to conceptualize and manage the design and implementation of high-quality information systems. The curriculum focuses on the concepts, methods and practical applications of information systems in the global workplace.

Graduates of the Graduate Certificate in ISM will be able to manage the in-house and outsourced development of information systems and perform effectively as both producer and consumer of information systems services. Program graduates will demonstrate professional competencies that will make them valuable contributors and managers of cross-functional global teams working together in implementing change processes and innovation in the organizations by introducing, managing, and updating new and existing information systems.

### 10.11.1 Graduate Certificate in ISM Program Objectives

The program objectives of the Graduate Certificate in ISM fall in two general categories: technical, and organizational. Upon completion of the program, the graduates will be able to:

1. Design effective management information systems to address organizational needs;
2. Be prepared for leadership roles in professional practices with strengths in design, problem solving, communications and collaboration with peers;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the major phases of the system development life-cycle;
4. Apply critical thinking and problem solving skills to synthesize managerial business decisions.

### 10.11.2 Career Paths for Graduate Certificate in ISM Graduates

Career paths for the Graduate Certificate in ISM include the following types of positions at the experienced professional and managerial levels:

- Information systems manager
- Information systems consultant
- Information systems administrator

### 10.11.3 Graduate Certificate in ISM Program Prerequisites

All new students in this certificate program need certain basic skills in order to succeed in the program. Students who do not have the requisite background in business administration and information technology need to take some or all of the prerequisite courses before they begin studying the courses in the program. In some cases, the program prerequisite courses may have course prerequisites to be taken before enrolling in the program prerequisite courses.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 120	Programming Logic	None	3
CMP 350	Database Concepts	None	3
BUSS 301	Principles of Management	None	3
BUSS 210	Introduction to Business	None	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

#### 10.11.4 Graduate Certificate in ISM Degree Requirements

The program consists of four (4) Core Courses and two (2) Elective courses. The elective courses provide the opportunity for the students to develop further competencies covered in the core courses, based on their area of interest.

Area	Number of Courses	Credit Hours
Core courses	4	12
Elective courses	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>

#### Graduate Certificate in ISM Core Courses

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 552	Information Systems	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 553	Analysis, Modeling and Design	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 610	Managing Information System Development	<i>CMP 552/CMP 553</i>	3
CMP 611*	Global Information System Development	<i>CMP 552/CMP 553</i>	3

#### Graduate Certificate in ISM Elective Courses

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 556	Database Management Systems I	<i>CMP 350</i>	3
CMP 591	Graduate Internship Level I	<i>All core courses, Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 612*	IT Project Management	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 614	Management Information Systems in Supply-Chain Management	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 620*	IT Governance	<i>None</i>	3

\* Internship qualified course

#### 10.12 Graduate Certificate in Information Technology Audit & Compliance

Businesses today operate in complex technology-based environments. To ensure efficiency and accuracy in information systems and for prevention of fraudulent practices, businesses require their information systems and processes to be audited. Stakeholders need assurance of confidentiality, integrity and availability of data. VIU's Graduate Certificate in Information Technology Audit and Compliance (ITAC) courses enables students to learn security concepts and understand how IT-related risks can be minimized through security and control measures. Students will also develop an understanding of major regulatory requirements.

##### 10.12.1 Graduate Certificate in ITAC Program Objectives

Upon completion of the program, the graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understandings of privacy, security, forensics and copyright issues in professional and social environments;
2. Illustrate effective communication and collaboration skills with stakeholders;
3. Introduce and develop real world applications using database management concepts;
4. Perform audit planning, information collection techniques and forms of evidence.

##### 10.12.2 Career Paths for Graduate Certificate in ITAC Graduates

Career paths for the Graduate Certificate in ITAC include the following types of positions at the experienced professional and managerial levels:

- Information security auditor
- Network security auditor
- Information security administrator

##### 10.12.3 Graduate Certificate in ITAC Program Prerequisites

All new students in this certificate program need certain basic skills in order to succeed in the program. Students who do not have the requisite background in business administration and information technology need to take some or all of the



prerequisite courses before they begin studying the courses in the program. In some cases, the program prerequisite courses may have course prerequisites to be taken before enrolling in the program prerequisite courses.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 120	Programming Logic	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 350	Database Concepts	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 301	Principles of Management	<i>None</i>	3
BUSS 210	Introduction to Business	<i>None</i>	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

#### 10.12.4 Graduate Certificate in ITAC Degree Requirements

The program consists of four (4) Core Courses and two (2) Elective courses. The elective courses provide the opportunity for the students to develop further competencies covered in the core courses, based on their area of interest.

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
Core courses	4	12
Elective courses	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>

#### Graduate Certificate in ITAC Core Courses

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 550	IT Infrastructure	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 558	Network and Information Security	<i>CMP 550/CMP 562</i>	3
CMP 620*	IT Governance	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 630*	Network Security Audit and Forensics	<i>CMP 550 or CMP 562</i>	3

\*Internship qualified course

#### Graduate Certificate in ITAC Elective Courses

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
CMP 552	Information Systems	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 553	Analysis, Modeling and Design	<i>None</i>	3
CMP 570	Enterprise Information Systems	<i>CMP 550 or CMP 556</i>	3
CMP 591	Graduate Internship Level I	<i>All core courses, Dean's approval</i>	3
CMP 680	Organizational and Social Dimensions of Computing	<i>None</i>	3

## **11. SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

### **11.1 School of Education Mission Statement**

The School of Education's mission is to provide a diverse and practical preparation for graduates to serve in roles of instructional design and delivery, educational leadership, and social change. The School provides an excellent education from faculty who are experts in the field of education.

### **11.2 School of Education Learning Outcomes**

The curricula offered within the School of Education encompass its core mission, which is achieved by incorporating the following school learning outcomes into each program. Graduates of the School of Education will be able to:

1. Engage in critical thinking and innovative problem solving for successful leadership in a variety of educational organizations.
2. Communicate and collaborate with stakeholders in an effective and professional manner.
3. Create meaningful and supportive learning environments with a focus on student success and social justice.
4. Utilize research to inform the development of curricula, course content, and assessment tools to meet the needs of students and communities.
5. Demonstrate expertise in content areas.
6. Creatively utilize technology skills to achieve learning objectives in a variety of modern educational environments.

The School of Education offers graduate-level programs in applied linguistics and language education.

### **11.3 Master of Arts in TESOL**

#### **11.3.1 Program Mission and Description**

The Master of Arts program in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at Virginia International University prepares students to work as English teachers in a world where the global need for English language skills is growing. The mission of the program is to enable students to be successful language teaching professionals in a wide variety of contexts and among diverse student populations in the US and abroad by equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and experience to contribute to and excel in innovative and collaborative work environments. To this end, students gain valuable classroom experience through observation and supervised teaching.

##### **11.3.1.1 Accreditation**

Virginia International University is an accredited institution of higher learning holding accreditation through the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), which is certified to operate by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). Additional information on accreditation can be found in the Accreditation and Certifications section of this catalog.

**NOTE:** Please note that this program does not provide the licensure required to teach grades K-12 in American public schools. Students who are interested in obtaining teacher licensure are encouraged to contact the relevant state Department of Education to determine eligibility and requirements.

##### **11.3.1.2 Learning Beyond the Classroom**

VIU embraces a learning model that allows for continued learning beyond in-class contact time through use of our learning management system (LMS). The LMS allows for facilitated growth opportunities that supplement the traditional in-class experience. Unless otherwise specified, all courses are fully conducted in their specified modality/format and include the completion of 15 lecture hours, 30 lab hours, or 45 practicum/externship hours per credit. Outside or supplemental work through the LMS is in addition to these contact hours. All courses at VIU utilize the LMS for tasks such as assignment submission and other out-of-class learning opportunities aimed at engagement beyond the classroom, including guest lectures, discussion forums, or other similar means of interacting with the course outside of the traditional lecture time.

##### **11.3.1.3 Program-Specific Admission Requirements:**

Admission to the program does not require any previous coursework in pedagogy or language studies. A bachelor's degree or its equivalent in any field is required for admission.

Each candidate is also required to submit a resume or curriculum vitae detailing his/her work history and education, along with a 500-word statement of purpose describing his/her academic interests, professional objectives, reasons for applying to the program, and areas of interest to be explored in the program. In addition, the candidate is required to submit a minimum of two (2) official recommendation letters, at least one of which must be dated within the past three years. These recommendations must be from professionals (preferably current or former instructors or employers) who can speak to the candidate's academic abilities, and must be written in English or accompanied by official translations. Recommendations must include contact information with a minimum of an email address (preferably an institutional email address) and physical mailing address. By submitting recommendations, applicants are permitting VIU to contact recommenders on their behalf regarding their application.

Additionally, since the language of instruction at VIU is English, candidates will need to provide evidence of sufficient English language proficiency by obtaining academic-level scores on all components of VIU's placement test or by submitting examination information from an approved standardized examination (examples: TOEFL, IELTS, etc.)

#### 11.3.1.4 Program-Specific Graduation Requirements:

All candidates for graduation are required to submit a formal Summative Concentration Portfolio containing the following sections: (Part A) Career Preparation, (Part B) Two Writing Samples, (Part C) Concentration Application, and (Part D) Practicum Experience. Additional information regarding the elements to be included in each section is available on the School of Education's website (<https://www.viu.edu/sed>). The required minimum cumulative GPA for graduation from this program is 3.0.

#### 11.3.2 Program Learning Outcomes

The outcomes of the program are interwoven throughout all courses within the degree. Students are expected to make progress towards meeting these outcomes throughout their program of study. The learning outcomes are for students to:

1. Understand the nature, structure, and uses of human language and theoretical models of language acquisition.
2. Critically analyze current research regarding language learning and teaching, and demonstrate knowledge of research findings and how to apply them.
3. Design language courses, assessment practices, and learning environments for a particular program and its curriculum.
4. Make principled use of established, new, and emerging technologies to promote access, engagement, and success in learning both within and beyond the classroom.
5. Utilize critical-thinking skills to problem-solve issues faced by language learners and educators.
6. Use community, institutional, and technological resources to demonstrate use of proper academic communication, ethics, and professionalism.

#### 11.3.3 Career Paths for MA in TESOL Graduates

Upon successful completion of the program, students will have a solid linguistic and pedagogical foundation for teaching English to speakers of other languages. Graduates from VIU's MATESOL program will be qualified to teach English in a variety of educational settings in the US and abroad, such as intensive language programs, private language schools, adult education programs, and English as a foreign language programs in non-English speaking countries. Employment opportunities for graduates of this program are available at the experienced professional, management, and director levels.

#### 11.3.4 Program Structure

This program can be completed within four (4) semesters of full-time study. A total of 36 credit hours (12 courses) are required for graduation. The program consists of seven (7) Core courses (21 credit hours) and five (5) Elective courses (15 credit hours).

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
Core: Foundations of Applied Linguistics and Principles of Language Teaching	7	21
Elective Courses	5	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>

This program requires completion of a practicum course (APLX 665). This practicum gives students opportunities to observe and collaborate with experienced teachers, to formulate and reflect on their ideas about teaching and learning, and to gain classroom experience through supervised teaching.

#### Core Courses in Foundations of Applied Linguistics and Principles of Language Teaching (7 courses – 21 credits)

The Core courses for this program cover two major areas including foundational coursework in (1) applied linguistics and (2) principles of language teaching. The *Foundations of Applied Linguistics* courses provide students with the foundational theoretical knowledge required of TESOL professionals. This includes a strong understanding of the nature and structure of language, theoretical models of language acquisition, and awareness of connections to language pedagogy. The *Principles of Language Teaching* courses provide students with the fundamentals of language teaching, building upon the theoretical principles explored in the *Foundations of Applied Linguistics* courses. Aspects explored in these courses include the development of a strong background in language teaching methodology; curriculum, materials, and course design; assessment strategies; and effective uses of technology to enhance language learning and teaching. All courses in the *Principles of Language Teaching* Core require classroom observation and reflection on topics related to the course content. The TESOL Practicum course (APLX 665) gives students opportunities to observe and collaborate with more experienced teachers, to reflect on and refine their ideas about teaching and learning, and to gain classroom experience through supervised teaching.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
APLX 500	Introduction to Language and Applied Linguistics	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 510	Introduction to Language Acquisition	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 530	Language Teaching Methods	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 540	Language Curriculum and Materials Design	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 550	Language Assessment	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 615	Pedagogical Grammar for Communicative Classrooms	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 665	TESOL Practicum	<i>APLX 530 or APLX 540</i>	3

## MA in TESOL Elective Courses (5 courses – 15 credits)

The Elective courses provide an opportunity for students to develop specific skills and interests based upon their eventual career trajectories.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
APLX 520	Introduction to Multilingualism	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 572	Technologies for Language Learning	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 620	Teaching Pronunciation	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 623	Teaching Multiliteracy	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 630	Sociolinguistics in the Classroom	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 635	Intercultural Communication	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 655	Special Topics in Applied Linguistics	<i>Advisor's approval</i>	3
EDUC 574	Materials Development for Online Learning	<i>Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course</i>	3
EDUC 575	Online Teaching Principles and Practices	<i>Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course</i>	3
EDUC 576	Course Design for the Virtual Classroom	<i>Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course</i>	3
EDUC 590	Program Administration	<i>Completion of a teaching methods and course completion of or concurrent enrollment in a curriculum course</i>	3
EDUC 595	Program Development and Evaluation	<i>Completion of an assessment course</i>	3
EDUC 640	Introduction to Research Methods	<i>Completion of 9 credits or permission of the instructor</i>	3
MBA 513	Organization Behavior and HR Management	<i>Completion of 18 credits and advisor's approval</i>	3
MBA 514	Marketing Management	<i>Completion of 18 credits and advisor's approval</i>	3
MBA 516	Strategic Management and Organizational Leadership	<i>Completion of 18 credits and advisor's approval</i>	3
MBA 624	Advertising and Promotion	<i>Completion of 18 credits and advisor's approval</i>	3

**NOTE:** Students who wish to take a course that is offered by another program within the School of Education outside of their major can petition to do so with permission from the instructor of the course and the Dean. Requests are considered based upon a student's previous academic performance including meeting the minimum attendance requirements for previous courses and maintaining satisfactory progress.

## 11.4 Graduate Certificate in TESOL

### 11.4.1 Program Mission and Description

The Graduate Certificate (GC) in TESOL program prepares its students to work as English teachers in a world where the global need for English language skills is growing. Upon successful completion of the program, students will have a sound grasp of the structure of modern English as well as basic concepts of language acquisition and language pedagogy, and will have gained valuable classroom experience through observation and supervised teaching.

The mission of the GC in TESOL program at Virginia International University is to provide foundational knowledge and skills required for graduates to be successful language teaching professionals in a wide variety of contexts and among diverse student populations in the US and abroad by equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and experience to contribute to and excel in innovative and collaborative work environments.

#### **11.4.1.1 Accreditation**

Virginia International University is an accredited institution of higher learning holding accreditation through the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), which is certified to operate by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). Additional information on accreditation can be found in the Accreditation and Certifications section of this catalog.

**NOTE:** Please note that this program does not provide the licensure required to teach grades K-12 in American public schools. Students who are interested in obtaining teacher licensure are encouraged to contact the relevant state Department of Education to determine eligibility and requirements.

#### **11.4.1.2 Learning Beyond the Classroom**

VIU embraces a learning model that allows for continued learning beyond in-class contact time through use of our learning management system (LMS). The LMS allows for facilitated growth opportunities that supplement the traditional in-class experience. Unless otherwise specified, all courses are fully conducted in their specified modality/format and include the completion of 15 lecture hours, 30 lab hours, or 45 practicum/externship hours per credit. Outside or supplemental work through the LMS is in addition to these contact hours. All courses at VIU utilize the LMS for tasks such as assignment submission and other out-of-class learning opportunities aimed at engagement beyond the classroom, including guest lectures, discussion forums, or other similar means of interacting with the course outside of the traditional lecture time.

#### **11.4.1.3 Program-Specific Admission Requirements:**

Admission to the program does not require any previous coursework in pedagogy or language studies. A bachelor's degree or its equivalent in any field is required for admission.

Each candidate is also required to submit a resume or curriculum vitae detailing his/her work history and education, along with a 500-word statement of purpose describing his/her academic interests, professional objectives, reasons for applying to the program, and areas of interest to be explored in the program. In addition, the candidate is required to submit a minimum of two (2) official recommendation letters, at least one of which must be dated within the past three years. These recommendations must be from professionals (preferably current or former instructors or employers) who can speak to the candidate's academic abilities, and must be written in English or accompanied by official translations. Recommendations must include contact information with a minimum of an email address (preferably an institutional email address) and physical mailing address. By submitting recommendations, applicants are permitting VIU to contact recommenders on their behalf regarding their application.

Additionally, since the language of instruction at VIU is English, candidates will need to provide evidence of sufficient English language proficiency by obtaining academic-level scores on all components of VIU's placement test or by submitting examination information from an approved standardized examination (examples: TOEFL, IELTS, etc.).

#### **11.4.1.4 Program-Specific Graduation Requirements:**

All candidates for graduation are required to submit a formal Summative Concentration Portfolio containing the following sections: (Part A) Career Preparation, (Part B) Two Writing Samples, (Part C) Concentration Application, and (Part D) Practicum Experience. Additional information regarding the elements to be included in each section is available on the School of Education's website (<https://www.viu.edu/sed>). The required minimum cumulative GPA for graduation from this program is 3.0.

#### **11.4.2 Program Learning Outcomes**

The outcomes of the program are interwoven throughout all courses within the degree. Students are expected to make progress towards meeting these outcomes throughout their program of study. The learning outcomes are for students to:

1. Understand the nature, structure, and uses of human language and theoretical models of language acquisition.
2. Critically analyze current research regarding language learning and teaching, and demonstrate knowledge of research findings and how to apply them.
3. Demonstrate the ability to design English language courses and curricula that enhance learning and reflect the needs, goals, and values of students and other stakeholders.
4. Demonstrate the ability to use established, new, and emerging technologies to promote access, engagement, and success in the classroom.
5. Utilize critical-thinking skills to problem-solve issues faced by language learners and educators.
6. Use community, institutional, and technological resources to demonstrate use of proper academic communication, ethics, and professionalism.

#### **11.4.3 Career Paths for Graduate Certificate in TESOL Graduates**

Graduates will be qualified to teach English in a variety of educational settings in the US and abroad, such as intensive language programs, private language schools, adult education programs, and English as a foreign language programs in

non-English speaking countries. Employment opportunities for graduates of this program are available at the experienced professional and management levels.

#### 11.4.4 Program Structure

This program can be completed within two (2) semesters of full-time study. A total of 18 credit hours (6 courses) are required for graduation. The program consists of four (4) Core courses (12 credit hours) and two (2) Elective courses (6 credit hours).

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
Core: Foundations of Applied Linguistics and Principles of Language Teaching	4	12
Elective Courses	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>

This program requires completion of a practicum course (APLX 665). This practicum gives students opportunities to observe and collaborate with experienced teachers, to formulate and reflect on their ideas about teaching and learning, and to gain classroom experience through supervised teaching.

#### Core Courses in Foundations of Applied Linguistics and Principles of Language Teaching (4 courses – 12 credits)

The Core courses for this program cover two major areas including foundational coursework in (1) applied linguistics and (2) principles of language teaching. The *Foundations of Applied Linguistics* courses provide students with the foundational theoretical knowledge required of TESOL professionals. This includes a strong understanding of the nature and structure of language, theoretical models of language acquisition, and awareness of connections to language pedagogy. The *Principles of Language Teaching* courses provide students with the fundamentals of language teaching, building upon the theoretical principles explored in the *Foundations of Applied Linguistics* courses. Aspects explored in these courses include the development of a strong background in language teaching methodology and the design of language learning materials and curricula, with frequent attention given to assessment strategies and effective uses of technology to enhance language learning and teaching. All courses in the *Principles of Language Teaching* Core require classroom observation and reflection on topics related to the course content. The TESOL Practicum course (APLX 665) gives students opportunities to observe and collaborate with more experienced teachers, to reflect on and refine their ideas about teaching and learning, and to gain classroom experience through supervised teaching.

Graduate Certificate in TESOL students must take one course in each of the following areas, for a total of 12 credit hours:

- Language Structure (either APLX 500 or APLX 615)
- Language Acquisition (APLX 510)
- Language Teaching Methodology (APLX 530)
- Language Teaching Practicum (APLX 665)

The courses listed below can be taken in any order with the exception of APLX 665 TESOL Practicum, which must be taken either together with or after APLX 530 Language Teaching Methods.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
APLX 500	Introduction to Language and Applied Linguistics	None	3
<b>OR</b>			
APLX 615	Pedagogical Grammar for Communicative Classrooms	None	3
<b>AND ALL OF THE FOLLOWING</b>			
APLX 510	Introduction to Language Acquisition	None	3
APLX 530	Language Teaching Methods	None	3
APLX 665	TESOL Practicum	APLX 530 or APLX 540	3

In addition, students must take two Elective courses in the areas of particular interest to them and their professional trajectories, for a total of 6 credits. Any of the courses offered for the MA in TESOL degree can be taken to satisfy this requirement except for the courses listed with the course code corresponding to the shared business courses (codes including BUSS).

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
APLX 520	Introduction to Multilingualism	None	3
APLX 540	Language Curriculum and Materials Design	None	3
APLX 550	Language Assessment	None	3
APLX 572	Technologies for Language Learning	None	3
APLX 620	Teaching Pronunciation	None	3
APLX 623	Teaching Multiliteracy	None	3
APLX 630	Sociolinguistics in the Classroom	None	3
APLX 635	Intercultural Communication	None	3

APLX 655	Special Topics in Applied Linguistics	<i>Advisor's approval</i>	3
EDUC 590	Program Administration	<i>Completion of a teaching methods course and completion of or concurrent enrollment in a curriculum course</i>	3
EDUC 595	Program Development and Evaluation	<i>Completion of an assessment course</i>	3
EDUC 574	Materials Development for Online Learning	<i>Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course</i>	3
EDUC 575	Online Teaching Principles and Practices	<i>Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course</i>	3
EDUC 576	Course Design for the Virtual Classroom	<i>Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course</i>	3
EDUC 640	Introduction to Research Methods	<i>Completion of 9 credits or permission of the instructor</i>	3

**NOTE:** Students who wish to take a course that is offered by another program within the School of Education outside of their major can petition to do so with permission from the instructor of the course and the Dean. Requests are considered based upon a student's previous academic performance including meeting the minimum attendance requirements for previous courses and maintaining satisfactory progress.

## 11.5 Master of Science in Applied Linguistics

### 11.5.1 Program Mission and Description

The mission of the Master of Science in Applied Linguistics (MS in APLX) degree program is to enable multilingual education professionals and administrative leaders to serve effectively in technologically enhanced educational environments using the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for success in culturally and linguistically diverse contexts.

#### 11.5.1.1 Accreditation

Virginia International University is an accredited institution of higher learning holding accreditation through the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), which is certified to operate by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). Additional information on accreditation can be found in the Accreditation and Certifications section of this catalog.

**NOTE:** Please note that this program does not provide the licensure required to teach grades K-12 in American public schools. Students who are interested in obtaining teacher licensure are encouraged to contact the relevant state Department of Education to determine eligibility and requirements.

#### 11.5.1.2 Learning Beyond the Classroom

VIU embraces a learning model that allows for continued learning beyond in-class contact time through use of our learning management system (LMS). The LMS allows for facilitated growth opportunities that supplement the traditional in-class experience. Unless otherwise specified, all courses are fully conducted in their specified modality/format and include the completion of 15 lecture hours, 30 lab hours, or 45 practicum/externship hours per credit. Outside or supplemental work through the LMS is in addition to these contact hours. All courses at VIU utilize the LMS for tasks such as assignment submission and other out-of-class learning opportunities aimed at engagement beyond the classroom, including guest lectures, discussion forums, or other similar means of interacting with the course outside of the traditional lecture time.

#### 11.5.1.3 Program-Specific Admission Requirements:

Admission to the program does not require any previous coursework in pedagogy or language studies. A bachelor's degree or its equivalent in any field is required for admission.

Each candidate is also required to submit a resume or curriculum vitae detailing his/her work history and education, along with a 500-word statement of purpose describing his/her academic interests, professional objectives, reasons for applying to the program, and areas of interest to be explored in the program. In addition, the candidate is required to submit a minimum of two (2) official recommendation letters, at least one of which must be dated within the past three years. These recommendations must be from professionals (preferably current or former instructors or employers) who can speak to the candidate's academic abilities, and must be written in English or accompanied by official translations. Recommendations must include contact information with a minimum of an email address (preferably an institutional email address) and physical mailing address. By submitting recommendations, applicants are permitting VIU to contact recommenders on their behalf regarding their application.

Additionally, since the language of instruction at VIU is English, candidates will need to provide evidence of sufficient English language proficiency by obtaining academic-level scores on all components of VIU's placement test or by submitting examination information from an approved standardized examination (examples: TOEFL, IELTS, etc.).

#### **11.5.1.4 Program-Specific Graduation Requirements:**

All candidates for graduation are required to submit a formal Summative Concentration Portfolio containing the following sections: (Part A) Career Preparation, (Part B) Two Writing Samples, (Part C) Concentration Application, and (Part D) Internship Experience. Additional information regarding the elements to be included in each section is available on the School of Education's website (<https://www.viu.edu/sed>). The required minimum cumulative GPA for graduation from this program is 3.0.

#### **11.5.1.5 Optional Master's Thesis Track:**

Students wishing to conduct original research in an area of interest should consider electing to complete an optional thesis. Students who wish to complete a thesis must receive approval from the Dean of the School of Education in addition to consulting a potential mentor before the completion of their second semester of study. The thesis is not required for the MS in APLX, but will serve as a personalized and distinguishing mark on the student's graduate degree. Students intending to continue their education in a Ph.D. program should consider the thesis option as one of several ways to demonstrate their research potential. Students electing to take the Thesis Track must supply their fully developed thesis prior to the conferral of the degree.

Given the necessity of having a solid foundation in research methods in order to complete a Master's Thesis, a student choosing the thesis option should consider taking an additional advanced research methods course beyond the foundational research course required in the program. To facilitate the research process for the thesis, this course should focus on the methods that would be used in the thesis. This would be an additional course beyond the requirements of the program. Permission must be obtained by the instructor of the course that is being requested and the Dean of the School of Education.

Requests to complete a thesis are considered based upon a student's previous academic performance including meeting the minimum attendance requirements for previous courses and maintaining satisfactory progress.

### **11.5.2 Program Learning Outcomes**

The outcomes of the program are interwoven throughout all courses within the degree. Students are expected to make progress toward meetings these outcomes throughout their program of study. The learning outcomes are for students to:

1. Understand the nature, structure, and uses of human language and theoretical models of language acquisition.
2. Critically analyze current research regarding language learning and teaching, and demonstrate knowledge of research findings and how to apply them.
3. Design language courses, assessment practices, and learning environments for a particular program and its curriculum.
4. Make principled use of established, new, and emerging technologies to promote access, engagement, and success in learning within and beyond the classroom.
5. Drawing on observations, experiences, theory- and research-based knowledge, and/or reflection, design and conduct research to answer original questions of personal and professional interest.
6. Utilize critical-thinking skills to problem-solve issues faced by language learners and educators.
7. Use community, institutional, and technological resources to demonstrate use of proper academic communication, ethics, and professionalism.

### **11.5.3 Career Paths for MS in Applied Linguistics Graduates**

VIU's MS in Applied Linguistics program is designed to prepare future educators for leading roles in the growing field of education. Graduates from the MS in APLX program will be able to work as educators and consultants in a broad array of educational institutions that provide services to learners from differing linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Graduates can serve in these institutions in the following positions at the experienced professional, management, and director levels:

- Multilingual language instructors
- Researchers
- Program administrators
- Intercultural communications specialists
- Language learning technology specialists.

### **11.5.4 Program Structure**

This program can be completed within four (4) semesters of full-time study. A total of 36 credits (12 courses) are required for graduation. The program consists of seven (7) Core courses (21 credit hours) and four (4) Concentration courses (12 credit hours), and one (1) Elective course (3 credit hours).

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
Core: Foundations of Applied Linguistics and Principles of Language Teaching	7	21



Concentration Courses	4	12
Elective Courses	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>

The MS in APLX program requires the completion of an internship (APLX 666, EDUC 667, or EDUC 668) within the student's content area and concentration area. The internship gives students opportunities to observe real-world practices, to formulate and reflect on their ideas about teaching and learning, and to gain valuable practical experience in the field.

### **Core Courses in Foundations of Applied Linguistics and Principles of Language Teaching (7 courses – 21 credits)**

The Core courses for this program cover two major areas including foundational coursework in (1) applied linguistics and (2) principles of language teaching. The *Foundations of Applied Linguistics* courses provide students with the foundational theoretical knowledge required of applied linguistics professionals. This includes a strong understanding of the nature and structure of language, theoretical models of language acquisition, and awareness of connections to language pedagogy. The *Principles of Language Teaching* courses provide students with the fundamentals of language teaching, building upon the theoretical principles explored in the *Foundations of Applied Linguistics* courses. Aspects explored in these courses include the development of a strong background in language teaching methodology; curriculum, materials, and course design; assessment strategies; and effective uses of technology to enhance language learning and teaching. All courses in the *Principles of Language Teaching* Core require classroom observation and reflection on topics related to the course content.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
APLX 500	Introduction to Language and Applied Linguistics	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 510	Introduction to Language Acquisition	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 530	Language Teaching Methods	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 540	Language Curriculum and Materials Design	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 550	Language Assessment	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 572	Technologies for Language Learning	<i>None</i>	3
EDUC 640	Introduction to Research Methods	<i>Completion of 9 credits or permission of the instructor</i>	3

### **MS in APLX Concentration Options (4 courses – 12 credits)**

VIU's MS in Applied Linguistics program offers three Concentrations: Multilingual Education, Program Management, and Educational Technology. Students enrolled in the MS in Applied Linguistics degree program are required to complete four courses (12 hours) in one of the Concentrations.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
<b>Concentration in Multilingual Education (must take 4)</b>			
APLX 520	Introduction to Multilingualism	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 615	Pedagogical Grammar for Communicative Classrooms	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 630^	Sociolinguistics in the Classroom	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 635^	Intercultural Communication	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 666	Internship in Multilingual Education	<i>Completion of 18 credits and advisor's approval</i>	3
<b>Concentration in Program Management (must take 4)</b>			
APLX 630^	Sociolinguistics in the Classroom	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 635^	Intercultural Communication	<i>None</i>	3
EDUC 590	Program Administration	<i>Completion of a teaching methods course and completion of or concurrent enrollment in a curriculum course</i>	3
EDUC 595	Program Development and Evaluation	<i>Completion of an assessment course</i>	3
EDUC 667	Internship in Program Management	<i>Completion of 18 credits and advisor's approval</i>	3
<b>Concentration in Educational Technology (must take 4)</b>			
EDUC 574	Materials Development for Online Learning	<i>Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course</i>	3
EDUC 575	Online Teaching Principles and Practices	<i>Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course</i>	3

EDUC 576	Course Design for the Virtual Classroom	<i>Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course</i>	3
EDUC 668	Internship in Educational Technology	<i>Completion of 18 credits and advisor's approval</i>	3

### MS in APLX Elective Course Options (1 course – 3 credits)

The MS in Applied Linguistics program offers several Elective options. Students are required to take 1 Elective course (3 credit hours).

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
APLX 520	Introduction to Multilingualism	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 615	Pedagogical Grammar for Communicative Classrooms	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 620	Teaching Pronunciation	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 623	Teaching Multiliteracy	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 630	Sociolinguistics in the Classroom	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 635	Intercultural Communication	<i>None</i>	3
APLX 655	Special Topics in Applied Linguistics	<i>Advisor's approval</i>	3
APLX 699	Master's Thesis Research	<i>EDUC 640, Advisor's approval</i>	3
EDUC 574	Materials Development for Online Learning	<i>Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course</i>	3
EDUC 575	Online Teaching Principles and Practices	<i>Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course</i>	3
EDUC 576	Course Design for the Virtual Classroom	<i>Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course</i>	3
EDUC 590	Program Administration	<i>Completion of a teaching methods course and completion of or concurrent enrollment in a curriculum course</i>	3
EDUC 595	Program Development and Evaluation	<i>Completion of an assessment course</i>	3
MBA 513	Organization Behavior and HR Management	<i>Completion of 18 credits and advisor's approval</i>	3
MBA 514	Marketing Management	<i>Completion of 18 credits and advisor's approval</i>	3
MBA 516	Strategic Management and Organizational Leadership	<i>Completion of 18 credits and advisor's approval</i>	3
MBA 624	Advertising and Promotion	<i>Completion of 18 credits and advisor's approval</i>	3

**NOTE:** Students who wish to take a course that is offered by another program within the School of Education outside of their major can petition to do so with permission from the instructor of the course and the Dean. Requests are considered based upon a student's previous academic performance including meeting the minimum attendance requirements for previous courses and maintaining satisfactory progress.

**Master's Thesis Track:** Students electing to complete the optional Thesis Track must be on track for successful completion and must meet all other program requirements prior to conferral of the degree. Students must be in good academic standing at the time of registration for the thesis and must remain in good standing throughout the time enrolled in the thesis course (typically the final semester of study). VIU's MS in Applied Linguistics Program, with the optional thesis, requires completion of APLX 699 as the Elective course option for a minimum of three credits.

## 12. SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE STUDIES

### 13.1 School of Language Studies Mission

The School of Language Studies supports the mission and philosophy of VIU by empowering its student population with the linguistic, academic, and intercultural communication skills necessary to become leaders in the global community.

### 13.2 School Learning Outcomes

The goal of the ESL program is to develop student proficiencies in the types of oral and written communication required for professional and academic success in English speaking contexts.

The objectives of the program are to:

1. Apply language skills to various communicative situations and audiences
2. Produce a variety of written work with clear arguments and well-organized ideas following academic formats
3. Use strategies to read academic and everyday texts with purpose
4. Communicate in English clearly and effectively

### 13.3 Intensive English as a Second Language Program

VIU's Intensive English as a second language (ESL) Program provides quality English language instruction for students whose native language is not English. The program focuses on helping students develop sufficient language proficiency and skills for successful study at an American university or college.

#### 13.3.1 ESL Learning Outcomes

The outcomes are interwoven throughout all courses within the program. Students are expected to make progress toward achieving these outcomes throughout their studies within the program. The learning outcomes are intended to help the learner to attain their desired level of English language proficiency skills for future academic success by allowing them to:

1. Apply language skills to various communicative situations and audiences
2. Produce a variety of written work with clear arguments and well-organized ideas following academic formats
3. Use strategies to read academic and everyday texts with purpose
4. Communicate in English clearly and effectively

#### 13.3.2 ESL Program Mission

The School of Language Studies supports the mission and philosophy of VIU by empowering its student population with the linguistic, academic, and intercultural communication skills necessary to become leaders in the global community.

##### 13.3.2.1 ESL Programmatic Accreditation

The Intensive English (7-week) Program is accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA).

##### 13.3.2.2 ESL Program Admission Requirements

In addition to the general admission requirements, students being admitted to the Intensive English Program are required to complete a placement test available on site or online.

### 13.4 Expected Proficiency Level

The Intensive English Program has aligned its curriculum to the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). The CEFR offers a scale that includes levels and detailed descriptors about each level. Language proficiency ranges from A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2. The European Council says that an A-level (A1 or A2) proficiency is a "basic user" level; B-level (B1 or B2) is an "independent user"; and C-level (C1 or C2) is a "proficient user" (Council of Europe, 2019). For reference, someone who knows just a few words or expressions in another language might be an A1, while many students who will study in college or university would be expected to be at a C1 or C2.

Below is a table that shows how our courses correspond to the CEFR scale:

VIU Course	VIU Proficiency	CEFR Scale
200	Low Beginner	A1
300	Beginner	A2
400	Elementary	A2+
500	Low Intermediate	B1
600	Intermediate	B1+
700	High Intermediate	B2

<b>800</b>	Advanced	B2+
<b>Degree program</b>	Degree	C1

Upon completion of level 800, students should be at a B2+ or C1 level. All students entering a degree program at the university should have the equivalent of a C1 or higher for success.

### 3.4.1 Learn More About the CEFR

If you want to explore more about the CEFR and how it was created, access the European Council's CEFR page here: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/language-policy/cefr>

If you want to read more about what you should be able to do (globally) at individual proficiency bands, see this page: <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168045bc7b>

To take a self-assessment of your own proficiency (in English or another language), access a self-assessment tool here: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/table-2-cefr-3.3-common-reference-levels-self-assessment-grid>

## 13.5 Initial ESL Program Placement

All new students must demonstrate their current level of English proficiency by taking the English language proficiency test. This assessment includes computer-based subtests of grammar, vocabulary, reading skills, and an essay writing task. Results determine student placement within the program. Students are placed at a level that is consistent with their individual language proficiency. In placing student, both the overall raw scoring, as well as a more holistic view of a student's skills are taken into account for placement.

In the case of multiple test results prior to beginning the program, the highest overall score will be used to determine placement. All placement tests are at the expense of the student applicant and are valid for no more than six months.

### 13.5.1.1 ESL Program Advancement and Completion

ESL courses are non-credit-bearing courses. All ESL courses are graded on a pass/fail basis.

Full-time students who pass all of their ESL core courses within a level (Levels 0200-0700) are eligible to advance to the next level.

For students completing their program, there are two options: 1) a student who wishes to leave the program prior to the completion of level 0800 (i.e., leaving a the completion of levels 0200 through 0700) may do so as a **level completer**, 2) students who complete level 0800 may do so as a **program graduate**.

- **Program Graduate:** Successful completion of a minimum of 140 contact hours in level 0800 and completion of the exit test. Program graduates will receive a diploma indicating that they have completed the highest level in the program.
- **Level Completer:** Successful completion of a minimum of 140 contact hours in a level between 0200 through 0700 and completion of the exit test. Partial level completions (for example, only taking one core course in a level) do not count toward level completion; in such instances, the highest completed level would be used for level completion. Level completers will receive a certificate of completion showing the highest level completed in the program.

Students who are completing the program as a Program Graduate or a Level Completer, must complete an *Intensive ESL Completion Form* and take the exit examination before completing the program. VIU's intensive English program diploma (for program graduates) can serve as evidence of sufficient English proficiency for admission to VIU's degree programs unless otherwise noted.

Students on an F-1 visa should consult the DSO for details regarding any changes in enrollment and/or matriculation to Degree Track programs.

### 13.5.1.2 Appealing Level Placement

Students may appeal their initial placement by completing a "Level Change Request Form" from the third day of classes. Any student level changes are discussed by the teacher, student and administrators as well as reviewing the placement test scores and finalized by the fifth day of classes. After that day, there are no further changes to students' levels.

Students do not have the option of taking the placement test during their time in the program as a way of skipping level.

### 13.5.1.3 ESL Program Length

Each level is designed to be completed in one term of full-time study, with a minimum of 140 academic hours of classroom instruction per level/term. Each term is 7 weeks long and full-time students receive 20 hours of classroom instruction per week.

The overall length of the program for an individual student depends on the initial placement level and on how quickly the student progresses from one level to another. A student making normal progress who places into level 0800 would be expected to make sufficient progress to complete the level in just one seven week term (equivalent to 140 contact hours); whereas, a student beginning in level 0200 would be required to complete seven terms or 49 weeks (equivalent to 980 contact hours).

### 13.5.2 Program Structure and Courses

The program offers instruction across seven levels of proficiency: Low Beginner (0200), Beginner (0300), Elementary (0400), Low Intermediate (0500), Intermediate (0600), High Intermediate (0700) and Advanced (0800).

Each level can be completed in one term of full-time study. The overall length of the program depends on the initial placement level and on how quickly the student progresses from one level to another.

Each level includes a minimum of 140 academic hours of classroom instruction per level/term. Each term is 7 weeks long and full-time students receive 20 hours of classroom instruction per week.

Students in levels 0200 – 0700 will take two core classes (10 hours/week for each class), Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation and Reading, Writing & Grammar. Students in the Advanced (0800) level are able to choose from elective classes, which either meet for 5 hours/week or 10 hours/week.

Level	Proficiency	Hours	Course Structure
Level 0200	Low Beginner	140 contact hours	2 core classes
Level 0300	Beginner	140 contact hours	2 core classes
Level 0400	Elementary	140 contact hours	2 core classes
Level 0500	Low Intermediate	140 contact hours	2 core classes
Level 0600	Intermediate	140 contact hours	2 core classes
Level 0700	High Intermediate	140 contact hours	2 core classes
Level 0800	Advanced	140 contact hours	ESL 0806 and 1 - 2 electives

### ESL Core Courses

Courses numbered 0200-0299 are open to Low Beginner students; 0300-0399 are open to Beginner students; 0400-0499 are open to Elementary students; 0500-0599 are open to Low Intermediate students; courses numbered 0600-0699 are open to Intermediate students and courses numbered 0700-0799 are open to High Intermediate students; courses numbered 0800-0899 are open to Advanced students.

Course Code	Course Name	Term Hours
ESL 0230	Low Beginner Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation	70
ESL 0235	Low Beginner Reading, Writing & Grammar	70
ESL 0330	Beginner Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation	70
ESL 0335	Beginner Reading, Writing & Grammar	70
ESL 0430	Elementary Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation	70
ESL 0435	Elementary Reading, Writing & Grammar	70
ESL 0530	Low Intermediate Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation	70
ESL 0535	Low Intermediate Reading, Writing & Grammar	70
ESL 0630	Intermediate Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation	70
ESL 0635	Intermediate Reading, Writing & Grammar	70
ESL 0730	High Intermediate Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation	70
ESL 0735	High Intermediate Reading, Writing & Grammar	70
ESL 0806	Advanced Writing and Research Skills	70

### ESL Elective Courses

Elective Courses appeal to a broad range of interests. Not every course is offered every term.

Course Code	Course Name	Term Hours
-------------	-------------	------------

ESL 0720	TOEFL & Academic Listening	70
ESL 0722	TOEFL & Academic Reading	70
ESL 0800	Public Speaking & Presentation Skills	35
ESL 0802	Accent Reduction	35
ESL 0810	Grammar Workshop & Editing	35
ESL 0817	Critical Thinking Through News Around the World	35
ESL 0821	TOEFL Speaking	70
ESL 0823	TOEFL Writing	70
ESL 0840	English for Business Professionals	35
ESL 0850	IELTS Preparation	70

Please refer to the Course Descriptions section in the Academic Catalog for course descriptions.

## 1.4 Non-Intensive ESL Program

Virginia International University's non-intensive adult ESL programs make language learning fun, flexible, and affordable! Ideal for working adults, au pairs, and others interested in part-time study, we offer daytime, evening, and weekend classes focused on building personal and professional language skills as well as cultural understanding.

These courses range from general language improvement to focused study of specific linguistic areas. Explore the American context with relevant discussions and activities to enhance your skills personally and professionally and connect your learning to your own life. Upon successful completion of a course, you will receive a certificate of completion listing course hours and CEUs earned.

All courses (except for the Day at the Museum) classes occur at our Fairfax, VA campus at 4401 Village Drive.

The Day at the Museum courses occur at the Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C. They take place every Saturday year-round, with the exception of major U.S. holidays. Students will spend a day at a different museum each week and participate in a self-guided, themed museum class facilitated by one of our ESL instructors.

### 1.4.1 Non-Intensive ESL Learning Outcomes

Students enrolled in the non-intensive ESL program can expect to:

1. Interact confidently and easily with speakers of English through a sophisticated understanding of language
2. Gain competence and confidence in their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills
3. Expand their knowledge of American culture, art, history, traditions, and social conventions

### 1.4.2 Non-Intensive ESL Learning Registration

For all non-intensive courses, course registration and payment must be completed by 11:59 pm, the Thursday prior to the start of class. Late registrations or payments are not accepted.

### 1.4.3 Non-Intensive ESL Schedule of Classes and Attendance

Evening classes are offered Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday from 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Museum classes are held from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm on Saturdays, with the exception of the American Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery classes, which are held from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm. The schedules for daytime and special weekend non-intensive courses may vary, but times can be found on the non-intensive VIU ESL website.

### 1.4.4 Non-Intensive ESL Fees

New students pay a one-time \$20 application fee. Returning students who enrolled in a non-intensive ESL course at VIU within the last 12 months do not have to pay the \$20 application fee again. Textbook expenses are not included in tuition. Students may spend an average of \$30 per course based on buying a used or new copy from Amazon.

### 1.4.5 Non-Intensive ESL Course Listings

Course Code	Course	CEUs	Total Hours	Cost Per Class
ESL 0010	A Day at the Museum	0.5	5	\$40
ESL 0030	ESL for Better English, Part I	3.0	30	\$240
ESL 0032	ESL for Better English, Part II	3.0	30	\$240
ESL 0036	Essential Grammar and Conversation	3.0	30	\$240

ESL 0037	Effective Grammar and Conversation	3.0	30	\$240
ESL 0038	Fast Fluency with TED Talks	3.0	30	\$240
ESL 0039	Grammar Tune-Up!	1.5	15	\$120
ESL 0040	Delicious English!	1.5	15	\$120
ESL 0050	Business English, Part I	3.0	30	\$240
ESL 0053	Business Communications	3.0	30	\$240
ESL 0055	Public Speaking with Confidence	3.0	30	\$240
ESL 0058	Personal Branding	3.0	30	\$240
ESL 0070	Express Yourself Through Creative Writing	3.0	30	\$240
ESL 0080	American Culture through Movies, TV, Music, & Books	3.0	30	\$240
ESL 0081	English and Culture Through American Short Stories	1.5	15	\$120
ESL 0082	English through Popular American Books	3.0	30	\$240
ESL 0085	English Through U.S. Travel	1.5	15	\$120
ESL 0086	Raising Issues Through American TV	1.5	15	\$120
ESL 0087	Debating Current Events	1.5	15	\$120
ESL 0090	TOEFL: Introduction to the Test	3.5	35	\$300
ESL 0093	TOEFL: Test Taking Strategies	3.5	35	\$300

### Private Courses

Private courses may be arranged through the School of Language Studies. Please contact the office for details on requesting private courses/

Private Course – 1 student	\$45 per hour
Private Course – 2 students	\$40 /hour per student
Private Course – 3 students	\$35/hour per student
Private Course – 4+ students	\$30/hour per student

NOTE: The non-intensive ESL courses are not accredited by CEA.

## 13. SCHOOL OF PUBLIC & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 13.1 School of Public and International Affairs Mission Statement

The mission of the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) is to prepare students for careers in the field of International Relations and Public Administration by providing them with the skills to understand theoretical concepts and theories, think critically and creatively engage in research, and apply analytic and business skills to practical experiences.

### 13.2 School of Public and International Affairs Learning Outcomes

1. Employ critical thinking and problem solving for successful leadership in domestic and international organizations.
2. Demonstrate expertise in the content area including public and international affairs, management and development.
3. Communicate and engage with stakeholders and the wider professional community.
4. Conduct research and offer analysis and policy prescriptions.

### 13.3 Master of Science in International Relations

In an increasingly interdependent world, it is important for professionals to have an understanding of the complex issues that go beyond our own borders. Virginia International University's MS in International Relations is a graduate-level degree that arms students with the tools to understand the implications of global issues in today's world, contribute to, and work in a dynamic and fast-paced environment in a professional setting.

#### 13.3.1 MS in International Relations Program Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the main concepts, empirical findings and theories in the field of International Relations.
2. Use empirical cases and models to apply theoretical concepts, draw new conclusions and applications.
3. Communicate effectively on issues in the areas of international affairs, business and development.
4. Develop original research to analyze complex problems and ideas, and offer solutions and policy prescriptions.
5. Engage with the wider professional community and follow the latest developments in the field of International Relations.
6. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of applied research specific to the theory and practice of International Economic Development.
7. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of applied research specific to the theory and practice of International Business.

#### 13.3.2 Career Paths for MS in International Relations Graduates

Students with degrees in Master of Science in International Relations can pursue a variety of professional careers at the experienced professional, management, and director levels in the areas of institutional/community development, humanitarian aid, public service, diplomacy, foreign affairs, and international law. Graduates can work in the public sector and the civil service as diplomats, conflict analysts, policy researchers, project coordinators or administrators. They can also pursue careers with non-governmental and multilateral organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Those organizations hire International Relations experts as project managers, economic and political risk analysts, consultants and research associates. The private sector also offers a vast range of opportunities, including jobs in field of media and publishing, journalism, sales and marketing, public relations, political campaigns and charitable action.

#### 13.3.3 Program Prerequisites

Applicants seeking admission to the MS in International Relations program, who have no political science or international affairs background, and whose bachelor's degrees did not include the following courses are required to take MIR program prerequisites.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
GOVT 120	Comparative Government	<i>None</i>	3
STAT 200	Introduction to Statistics	<i>None</i>	3
<b><i>And one of the following courses:</i></b>			
ENGL 113	English Composition and Rhetoric	<i>None</i>	3
ENGL 120	Academic Writing and Research	<i>None</i>	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.



### 13.3.4 Program Structure

The program consists of seven (7) Core Courses and students have the choice of any three (3) Concentration courses as well as two (2) Elective courses. The elective courses provide the opportunity for the students to develop further competencies covered in the core courses, based on their area of interest.

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
Core Courses	7	21
Concentration Courses	3	9
Elective Courses	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>

### MIR Core Courses (7 courses – 21 credits)

The Core Courses provide the students with the skills and knowledge needed by all International Relations professionals.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
GOVT 505	Research Methods	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 510	Theories of International Relations	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 520	International Security	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 618	International Economics & Trade	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 632	Comparative Politics	<i>GOVT 510</i>	3
GOVT 711	Globalization	<i>GOVT 510</i>	3
GOVT 790	Advanced Research Project	<i>A minimum of 15 credits from GOVT 505, GOVT 510, GOVT 520, GOVT 632, GOVT 618, GOVT 711</i>	3

### MIR Concentration Courses (3 courses – 9 credits)

The Master of International Relations at VIU offers 2 concentrations for students to choose from. Students must complete a minimum of 9 credit hours of concentration courses to be awarded a degree in International Relations.

#### MIR in International Economic Development

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
GOVT 530	Democratization	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 633	Politics of Development Aid	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 650	Policy Making in a Global Context	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 651	International Economics & Politics	<i>GOVT 618</i>	3
GOVT 652	International Industrial Development Strategies	<i>None</i>	3

#### MIR in International Business

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
GOVT 612	International Management	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 613	Enterprise Resource Planning	<i>GOVT 505</i>	3
GOVT 614	International Finance	<i>MBA 511</i>	3
GOVT 615	International Strategy	<i>GOVT 510</i>	3
GOVT 616	International Marketing	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 617	Import & Export Management	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 634	Operations Management	<i>None</i>	3

### MIR Elective Courses (2 courses – 6 credits)

Students may choose any two of the following elective courses, or any combination of courses from the concentration courses not already applied.

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
GOVT 540	International Law	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 551	Conflict Resolution	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 625	Effective Negotiations	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 631	Intercultural Communication	<i>None</i>	3
GOVT 635	Intelligence & Foreign Policy	<i>GOVT 510</i>	3
GOVT 665	Graduate Internship I	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
GOVT 666	Graduate Internship II	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3

GOVT 713	Fundamentals of US Economic Policy	GOVT 618	3
GOVT 745	Topics in International Relations	None	3
CAR 600	Career Planning Management	None	3

## Pre-MIR Program

Students who have earned their bachelor's degree with less than 120 undergraduate credit hours can be given conditional admission to the MIR program, provided they enroll in and successfully complete the remaining credit hours by selecting from the undergraduate courses offered at VIU. Among the 120 required credit hours, the MIR program prerequisite courses must be fulfilled. Students must consult their academic advisor before choosing the Pre-MIR courses who will advise them on the appropriate course selections from VIU's undergraduate courses while complying with MIR program prerequisites. Successful completion of the Pre-MIR courses will allow these students to complete the undergraduate credit hour requirement of 120, and enter into the program.

## 13.4 Master of Public Administration

The Master of Public Administration Program prepares students for a careers in public management and administration. Students will acquire the skills to resolve industry challenges related to project management, finance, human resources and leadership. They will be able to utilize their knowledge in a variety of areas in state and local government, public and federal agencies and private and public organizations and non-profits both in the DC Metropolitan area and worldwide.

### 13.4.1 MPA Program Outcomes

1. Demonstrate ability to analyze public policy formulation, interactions and implications.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key leadership concepts and theories that can be used to effectively lead in the public sector.
3. Apply principles of finance to public and non-profit operations.
4. Communicate critically and effectively within one's discipline and/or professional practice.
5. Apply quantitative and qualitative techniques of analysis and research.

#### Concentration Specific Outcomes

6A: Demonstrate knowledge and expertise of applied research specific to the theory and practice of Public Management.

6B: Demonstrate knowledge and expertise applied research specific to the theory and practice of Information systems.

6C: Demonstrate knowledge and expertise applied research specific to the theory and practice of Health Care Administration and Public Health.

### 13.4.2 Career Paths for MPA Graduates

The program objectives of the MPA are designed to enable graduates to be successful in the multitude of employment positions at the experienced professional, management and director levels that an MPA degree will garner including, government, organizational management, health care administration, and many more. Typical places of employment for individuals with this degree include state and local government agencies, federal government agencies, public agencies, non-profit corporations, and many private and publicly held organizations worldwide.

### 13.4.3 Program Prerequisites

Applicants seeking admission into the MPA Program, who have no previous business, political science or international affairs background and whose Bachelor degrees did not include the following courses are required to take MPA program prerequisites.

Code	Course Name	Prerequisite	Credits
<b>Management Concepts – one of the following two courses:</b>			
BUSS 301	Principles of Management	None	3
BUSS 312	Organizational Theory & HR Management	None	3
<b>Economic Concepts – one of the following two courses:</b>			
ECON 101	Principles of Microeconomics	None	3
ECON 102	Principles of Macroeconomics	None	3
<b>Academic Writing Skills – one of the following two courses:</b>			
ENGL 113	English Composition and Rhetoric	None	3
ENGL 120	Academic Writing and Research	None	3

These program prerequisites can be taken at the same time. In rare circumstances, students also have the option to test out of these courses or provide other evidence of content knowledge through certifications, successful completion of similar courses, or training certificates.

### 13.4.4 MPA Degree Requirements

The program consists of seven (7) Core Courses and students have the choice any three (3) Concentration courses as well as two (2) Elective courses. The elective courses provide the opportunity for the students to develop further competencies covered in the core courses, based on their area of interest.

Area	Number of Courses	Credits
Core Courses	7	21
Concentration Courses	3	9
Elective Courses	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>

#### MPA Core Courses (7 courses – 21 credits)

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
PUAD 505	Research Methods	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 513	Organizational Theory & HR Management	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 514	Public Policy Analysis & Implementation	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 515	Administration in Public & Non-Profit Organizations	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 608	Financial Reporting & Decision Making	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 611	Business Ethics & Law	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 790	Advanced Research Project	<i>A minimum of 15 credits from PUAD 505, PUAD 513, PUAD 514, PUAD 515, PUAD 608, PUAD 611</i>	3

#### MPA Concentration Courses (3 courses – 9 credits)

The MPA at VIU will offers 3 concentrations for students to choose from. Students must complete a minimum of 9 credit hours of concentration courses to be awarded a degree in Public Administration

##### MPA in Public Management

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
PUAD 512	Project & Cost Management	<i>STAT 200</i>	3
PUAD 536	Labor Relations	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 612	International Management	<i>PUAD 513</i>	3
PUAD 613	Enterprise Resource Planning	<i>PUAD 513</i>	3
PUAD 614	Emergency Planning & Preparedness	<i>None</i>	3
CAR 600	Career Planning & Management	<i>None</i>	3

##### MPA in Information Systems

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
PUAD 552	Information Systems	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 556	Database Management Systems I	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 610	Managing Information System Development	<i>PUAD 552</i>	3
PUAD 620	IT Governance	<i>PUAD 552</i>	3
PUAD 628	Global Sourcing & Logistics	<i>None</i>	3
CAR 600	Career Planning & Management	<i>None</i>	3

##### MPA in Health Care Administration & Public Health

Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	Credits
PUAD 640	The Health Services System	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 641	Economics of Healthcare & Policy	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 642	Financial Management of Healthcare Institutions	<i>PUAD 511</i>	3
PUAD 643	Legal Aspects of Healthcare	<i>None</i>	3
CAR 600	Career Planning & Management	<i>None</i>	3

#### MPA Elective Courses (2 courses – 6 credits)

Students may choose any two of the following elective courses, or any combination of elective courses from the concentration courses listed above, in addition to the three (3) courses required to complete the concentration.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Prerequisite</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PUAD 511	Managerial Accounting & Finance	<i>ACCT 201&amp; BUSS 303</i>	3
PUAD 520	International Security	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 538	Compensation & Benefits	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 551	Conflict Resolution	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 557	Political Theory	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 558	Network and Information Security	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 615	Special Topics in Public Administration	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 625	Effective Negotiations	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 630	Public & Private Partnerships	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 634	Operations Management	<i>None</i>	3
PUAD 665	Graduate Internship I	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3
PUAD 666	Graduate Internship II	<i>Dean's approval</i>	3

### **Pre-MPA Program**

Students who have earned their Bachelor's degree with less than 120 undergraduate credit hours can be given conditional admission to the MPA program, provided they enroll in and successfully complete the remaining credit hours by selecting from the undergraduate courses offered at VIU. Among the 120 required credit hours, the MPA program prerequisite courses must be fulfilled. Students must consult their academic advisor before choosing the Pre-MPA courses who will advise them on the appropriate course selections from VIU's undergraduate courses while complying with MPA program prerequisites. Successful completion of the Pre-MPA courses will allow these students to complete the undergraduate credit hour requirement of 120, and enter into the program.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Course credits are shown in parenthesis, e.g., (3 credits), following the course title. Credits are based on class contact (lecture) hours unless otherwise stated. Lecture courses comprise 1 credit for each 15 hours of face to face, 1 credit for each 30 hours of laboratory, and 1 credit for each 45 hours of practicum/internship. All courses are lecture courses unless otherwise indicated.

### **ACCT 201: Principles of Financial Accounting (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is an introduction to accounting concepts and procedures for an organization. The emphasis is upon the accounting cycle as well as the recording, summarizing, and interpretation of accounting information.

### **ACCT 202: Principles of Managerial Accounting (3)**

*Prerequisite: ACCT 201 Principles of Financial Accounting*

This course continues the elementary accounting principles with a focus on operations, time value of money, and cost accounting. Job-order costing, process costing, cost-volume-profit, budgeting, and variance are introduced.

### **ACCT 305: Accounting Information Systems (3)**

*Prerequisite: ACCT 201 Principles of Financial Accounting*

This course focuses on the design and analysis of automated accounting systems for businesses. It includes the examination of payroll, receivables and payables, charts of accounts, and accounting reports as well as internal control and security issues.

### **ACCT 600: Cost Accounting (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on developing knowledge around the principles and practices related to providing management with cost information critical to decision making. Cost accounting is a process of collecting, analyzing, summarizing and evaluating cost of delivery (products or services) with the goal of informing management around alternative decision points. Topics covered include standard costing practices, activity based costing principles, cost-volume-profit analysis, and other key concepts relevant to the cost accounting discipline.

### **ACCT 601: Advanced Financial Accounting (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 511 Managerial Accounting and Finance*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on understanding the available alternatives and correct accounting for complex business transactions and business models. Topics covered include variable interest entities (e.g. joint venture accounting), merger and acquisition principles, accounting for multinational corporations, and other subject matter required in an increasingly complex business environment. Case studies are used in a highly interactive classroom environment, which allows students to explore topics in depth.

### **ACCT 602: International Accounting (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 511 Managerial Accounting and Finance*

*Internship Qualified*

As activities and interests of investors, lenders, and companies become increasingly global, accounting professionals are expected to understand and communicate to management the impact of these complexities. This course focuses on developing knowledge and understanding of issues such as international financial reporting standards (IFRS), translation of foreign currency financial statements, analysis of foreign financial statements, and contrasts in multinational auditing and corporate governance. At the end of the course, students will have gained a better understanding of the implications for the accounting professional where international influences impact the daily business transactions of an organization.

### **ACCT 603: Contemporary Topics in Accountancy (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

The focus of coursework is current topics of interest in the technical accounting discipline and the general accounting, finance, and business environment. Students will explore hot button topics which impact the practice of the profession as well as the impact on business organizations. A combination of lecture, case studies, classroom interaction, and student project research and presentation will provide students the opportunity to explore contemporary topics of interest and interpret how issues may influence the practice of accounting.

### **ACCT 650: CPA Exam Preparation (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of all core courses of MS in Accounting curriculum*

The focus of this course is to familiarize students with the CPA exam, as administered by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The overall exam administration process is reviewed and each exam section (Auditing and

Attestation, Financial Accounting and Reporting, Regulation, and Business Environment and Concepts) is covered to help students understand the subject matter. Additionally, students will participate in practice exam sessions aimed at providing a self-assessment of exam readiness.

### **ACCT 698: Master Thesis I (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of at least five core courses and Dean's or academic advisor's approval*

The thesis work can comprise basic research or a practical project. Students are encouraged to start their thesis work as early as possible. Usually after completing two semesters of course work, the student will be asked to work with a faculty advisor to choose a suitable master's thesis topic and prepare a thesis proposal. Thereafter, the student completes the project and writes a thesis. The master's thesis will project is conducted over a period of two semesters.

### **ACCT 699: Master Thesis II (3)**

*Prerequisite: ACCT 698 Master Thesis I*

The thesis work can comprise basic research or a practical project. Students are encouraged to start their thesis work as early as possible. Usually after completing two semesters of course work, the student will be asked to work with a faculty advisor to choose a suitable master's thesis topic and prepare a thesis proposal. Thereafter, the student completes the project and writes a thesis. The master's thesis will project is conducted over a period of two semesters.

### **APLX 500: Introduction to Language and Applied Linguistics (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to the scientific study of language and applications of linguistics in a variety of domains. In addition to gaining a solid foundation in linguistic concepts, terminology, and methods of analysis in the areas of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics (sound, structure, and meaning), you will learn about cognitive, psychological, sociocultural, and political aspects of language development, processing, variation, and use, and their implications for language education. Through this introductory course, you will gain knowledge and tools for succeeding in many other courses in TESOL and Applied Linguistics.

### **APLX 510: Introduction to Language Acquisition (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces students to the main theories of language acquisition and their relevance to language teaching. Through the review of theoretical and empirical literature in the field, students will become familiar with the key concepts that inform the study of language development as a cognitive and social process and will be able to evaluate how much justification exists for various pedagogical approaches, methods, and techniques in relation to our evolving knowledge of how languages are learned.

### **APLX 520: Introduction to Multilingualism (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides an introduction to the linguistic theories and methods associated with multilingualism. Students gain perspectives on the similarities and differences between first and additional language acquisition in children and adults. Key areas of the course include models of second language acquisition, multilingual development, sentence processing, aging and the multilingual brain, social and cultural factors, motivational factors, communication disorders, identity and the education of bilinguals.

### **APLX 530: Language Teaching Methods (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is an introduction to the modern theories and current practices of language pedagogy. Students will learn methodologies of lesson planning, skill integration techniques, course and program development and classroom management. This course provides students with a framework to develop course and programmatic curricula defined by outcomes centered on an integrated approach to language teaching.

### **APLX 540: Language Curriculum and Materials Design (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course introduces pre- and in-service language education professionals to a needs-based, goal-driven, student-centered approach to designing curricula, courses, and materials to promote and support language learning. Through needs assessment, course participants identify curricular goals and course objectives. From these they determine an appropriate syllabus structure, develop course units, plan and create materials for lessons, determine training needs for course instructors and devise systems of evaluation.

### **APLX 550: Language Assessment (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines in depth the major categories of language assessment. The main topics include approaches to evaluating language sub-skills (vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation) and communication skills (speaking, listening, reading,

and writing); models of language assessment; examination of standardized tests and their appropriate application; and research-based framework linking assessment to instruction.

### **APLX 572: Technologies for Language Learning (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the use of technology as a teaching tool for the traditional classroom. Students explore methods of implementing technology into the classroom/curriculum and how to discern the efficacy of digital/online resources to provide an engaging and authentic learning environment.

### **APLX 615: Pedagogical Grammar for Communicative Classrooms (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified.*

This course helps pre- and in-service language teachers develop pedagogical approaches to facilitating their students' grammatical development for communicative purposes. Course participants will gain an in-depth understanding of the English language, as well as of challenges that learners of English regularly encounter, and practice in applying this knowledge to language tutoring/teaching. The course draws on insights from generative, cognitive, systemic-functional, and corpus linguistics to illuminate how grammar operates at the levels of morphology, syntax, semantics, and discourse. Focusing on interrelated dimensions of language form, meaning, and use, it encourages viewing grammar not merely as a collection of structures, but as a resource for conveying communicative intentions in context.

### **APLX 620: Teaching Pronunciation (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is a comprehensive introduction to pronunciation pedagogy. This is a two-part course including a theoretical look at the sound system and practical application of phonology/pronunciation in the language classroom and curriculum. Students will study the anatomy and mechanics of speech, teaching principles and practices, and realistic resources and technology for application in the classroom.

### **APLX 623: Teaching Multiliteracy (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course introduces students to pedagogical approaches to second language reading and writing in the framework of current theoretical perspectives on second language reading and writing processes, practices, and authors. Students gain practical knowledge in the areas of phonemic awareness, vocabulary and text comprehension, tactics for improving reading fluency and teaching writing in contextual exercises.

### **APLX 630: Sociolinguistics in the Classroom (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course introduces students to theoretical principles governing social and linguistic variation, the methods used to study it, the patterns and systems that underlie language variation and use, and the ways in which alternations between different language varieties index personal style, social power, and national identity.

### **APLX 635: Intercultural Communication (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course also serves to introduce students to key issues of intercultural communication, core American and foreign cultural concepts, and ways in which culture affects language teaching and learning.

### **APLX 655: Special Topics in Applied Linguistics (3)**

*Prerequisite: Advisor's Approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course covers topics of current interest selected by the faculty before each semester. Special topics courses are developed to cover emerging issues or specialized content not represented in the main curriculum, but deemed to be of special interest to language teaching professionals.

### **APLX 665: TESOL Practicum (3)**

*Prerequisite/Co-requisite: APLX 530 or APLX 540*

*Credit Hour Breakdown: 115 hours of practicum, 15 hours of seminar/lab*

This course is designed to provide experiential exposure to a variety of language classroom settings. Course participants will reflect on, apply, and fine-tune skills and techniques learned in the program through observing language classes taught by experienced teachers, collaborating on lesson planning with language teaching professionals, and engaging in the

supervised teaching of an actual class. The course additionally provides opportunities for personal and professional development through periodic seminars and guided reflection assignments. Throughout the course, students will build a professional teaching portfolio to be used as a final requirement for graduation from the program.

### **APLX 666: Internship for Multilingual Education (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of a minimum of 18 credits in the program Credit Hour Breakdown: 135 hours of practicum*

This course provides supervised field experience in a setting appropriate to the student's program and career goals. Examples of appropriate experience include (but are not limited to) teaching language courses, assisting a language instructor, developing language teaching materials or assessments, and conducting mentored/collaborative research in a multilingual education setting. The students are expected to work on-site for at least 135 hours. When the student is the primary instructor of a course, it may be appropriate to count 2 hours of preparation and grading for each hour of face-to-face classroom instruction. Students are expected to communicate with the faculty advisor regularly and submit required documentation and projects on time.

### **APLX 699: Master's Thesis Research (3)**

*Prerequisite: EDUC 640, good academic standing, and advisor's approval*

The Master's Thesis provides an opportunity for students to incorporate and integrate knowledge gained throughout the program. The student will work closely with a core faculty member to identify a specialized topic of interest directly related to his/her field of study and future academic and/or professional goals. The student will then conduct a rigorous review and analysis of the relevant theoretical, empirical, and practical knowledge, and design an independent research project in a problem area deemed to be in need of more extensive consideration. In doing so, the student will build upon and contribute considerably to existing knowledge in the field.

### **ARAB 100: Elementary Arabic I (3)**

*Prerequisite: Placement or no previous exposure to the language*

This course is an introduction to Arabic grammar, structure, and use. This course uses a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language.

### **ARAB 105: Elementary Arabic II (3)**

*Prerequisite: ARAB 100 or placement*

This course is an introduction to Arabic grammar, structure, and use. This course uses a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Elementary Arabic I while reinforcing production skills and vocabulary building.

### **ARAB 200: Intermediate Arabic I (3)**

*Prerequisite: ARAB 105 or placement*

This course is an intermediate Arabic course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Elementary Arabic II while reinforcing meaningful and purposeful production skills and vocabulary building to emphasize communicative competence. The target language is the primary language of instruction.

### **ARAB 205: Intermediate Arabic II (3)**

*Prerequisite: ARAB 200 or placement*

This course is an intermediate Arabic course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Intermediate Arabic I while reinforcing meaningful and purposeful production skills and vocabulary building to emphasize communicative competence. The target language is the primary language of instruction.

### **ARAB 250: Conversational Arabic I (3)**

*Prerequisite: ARAB 105 or placement*



This course is an intermediate Arabic course and builds upon skills learned in the elementary level. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in elementary and intermediate Arabic with a focus on oral communication in the target language. The target language is the primary language of instruction.

### **ARAB 300: Advanced Arabic I (3)**

*Prerequisite: ARAB 205 or placement*

This course is an advanced Arabic course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language at an advanced level. Students will apply their knowledge of grammar, structure, and use to communicate fluidly and clearly in the target language in meaningful and purposeful activities designed to simulate real-world scenarios. Students will expand their communicative competence skills to be able to apply course content to a final project exemplifying their abilities. The target language is the language of instruction.

### **ARAB 305: Advanced Arabic II (3)**

*Prerequisite: ARAB 300 or placement*

This course is an advanced Arabic course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language at an advanced level. Students will apply their knowledge of grammar, structure, and use to communicate fluidly and clearly in the target language in meaningful and purposeful activities designed to simulate real-world scenarios. Students will expand their communicative competence skills to be able to apply course content to a final project exemplifying their abilities. The target language is the language of instruction.

### **BIOL 101: General Biology (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of biology. It includes cell structure, chemistry and function, adaptation, and ecology.

### **BUSS 154: Introduction to Import & Export Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

For many organizations, the first step toward multinational operations begins with importing and exporting goods. This course focuses on the strategies and processes of import/export management.

### **BUSS 210: Introduction to Business (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course presents an introduction to the functioning of business enterprises within the US economic framework. Topics include developing a business vocabulary and learning the basic principles and practices of contemporary businesses. Upon completion, students will have an understanding of business concepts that will serve as a foundation for their further studies in the business field.

### **BUSS 260: Internship Level I (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides practical training and hands-on experience to undergraduate students working in various areas of business administration. The objective is to expose students to the process and operations of the general business environment. Students will be able to gain insights into general business operations, which would enhance their classroom learning in various business disciplines. Students in this three credit hour internship are expected to work a minimum of 135 hours during the semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

### **BUSS 261: Internship Level II (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides practical training and hands-on experience to undergraduate students in their more concentrated area of business administration. The objective is to give students practical work experience in a business environment specifically related to their undergraduate business concentration area. Students will gain key industry knowledge in specific concentration areas such as international business, marketing, or finance. Students in this three credit hour internship are

expected to work a minimum of 135 hours during the semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

### **BUSS 301: Principles of Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None (For SED students, permission of the advisor and successful completion of 18 credits in the program)*

This course surveys the theories and practices of management, including quantitative and behavioral approaches.

### **BUSS 302: Principles of Marketing (3)**

*Prerequisite: None (For SED students, permission of the advisor and successful completion of 18 credits in the program)*

This course examines the role of marketing in society and the economy, the role of marketing in business operations, and the management of the firm's marketing effort.

### **BUSS 303: Principles of Finance (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course focuses on the methods of financial analysis and planning within the firm including time value of money, cash flow analysis, capital budgeting, and valuation of debt and equity instruments.

### **BUSS 307: Business Law I (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course examines operations relative to the legal and regulatory environment of business. Topics include torts, contracts, liability, sales, and forms of doing business.

### **BUSS 312: Organizational Theory & HR Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None (For SED students, permission of the advisor and successful completion of 18 credits in the program)*

This course examines how knowledge of individual and group behavior is applied in an organizational setting. Topics include motivation, leadership, group formation and behavior, dysfunctional behaviors, job/task behaviors, and job enrichment/enlargement. The course also examines the ways in which firms recruit, select, train, evaluate, and compensate employees. Current practices in industry as well as theories and labor law are discussed.

### **BUSS 314: Corporate Finance (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 303 Principles of Finance*

*Internship Qualified*

This course on corporate money management deals with long- and short-term capital, financial resources, flow of funds analysis and its time value, credit policy formulation and operation, financial aspects of parent-subsidiary relationships, and financial functions in the multinational corporations.

### **BUSS 321: Consumer Behavior (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 302 Principles of Marketing*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines how our knowledge of human behavior is used to create and market goods and services. It also examines how marketers study human behavior to determine consumer needs as well as predict future needs.

### **BUSS 322: Marketing Research (3)**

*Prerequisite: STAT 200 Introduction to Statistics*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the theories and techniques of marketing research. In addition to discussing the design of marketing research studies, the tools used to carry out such studies will be covered as well as the use of marketing research results to make management decisions.

### **BUSS 340: International Business (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 210 Introduction to Business or BUSS 312 Organizational Theory & HR Management*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the international environment and the ways in which businesses adapt to differences in culture, economic systems, and political systems.

### **BUSS 348: Public Relations (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 210 Introduction to Business*

This course explores the interdisciplinary knowledge and skills foundations related to public relations, management, communication, social sciences and research. Students will be trained in the basic practical skills in public relations, international public relations, and ethical and legal issues at a level suitable for an undergraduate academic qualification.

### **BUSS 360: Internship Level III (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course will provide practical training and hands-on experience to undergraduate students in their area of professional interest. The objective is to give students experience and exposure in areas of their specific current and/or future professional interest. Students will be able to work in any key business areas as long as the opportunity clearly aligns to

their professional goals. Students in this three credit hour internship are expected to work a minimum of 135 hours during the semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

### **BUSS 406: Operations Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: STAT 200 Introduction to Statistics*

This course applies the mathematical modeling techniques of operations research to business operations problems such as forecasting, scheduling, facility design, and facility location.

### **BUSS 407: Political & Social Environment of Business (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 301 Principles of Management*

This course examines how business decisions are shaped by the political, legal, and social environment in which firms operate. It includes an examination of ethical decision-making as well as social responsibility.

### **BUSS 420: Introduction to Investment Banking (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 303 Principles of Finance*

*Internship Qualified*

This course analyzes the financial services that investment banks provide to corporations and governments. Topics include raising capital through the issuance of equity and debt securities; initial public offerings and secondary issues; private placements; venture capital; privatizations; and mergers and acquisitions, including the related activities of divestitures, spin-offs, and workouts.

### **BUSS 421: Advertising and Promotion (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 302 Principles of Marketing*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the ways in which organizations promote their goods and services to potential customers. The costs and benefits of various promotional mixes and strategies are examined.

### **BUSS 422: Sales Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course deals with the personal selling function and its related managerial activities. It covers the development of the sales function, sales management planning, and sales force organization, recruiting, training, supervision, motivation, compensation, and evaluation.

### **BUSS 423: Services Marketing (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 302 Principles of Marketing*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the specific challenges of marketing the services firm. The basic conceptual differences between selling a product and selling a service are covered in this course.

### **BUSS 424: Not-for-Profit Marketing (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 302 Principles of Marketing*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the specific challenges of marketing the not-for-profit organization. Topics include marketing for donations, marketing to attract members and volunteers, and how the intangible nature of most not-for-profit activities distinguishes this type of marketing from other marketing activities.

### **BUSS 425: Internet Marketing (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 302 Principles of Marketing*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the marketing of goods and services over the Internet. It examines emerging theories and practices of online companies as well as successes and failures of Internet-based marketing.

### **BUSS 430: Financial Analysis and Valuations (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 303 Principles of Finance*

*Internship Qualified*

The focus of this course is on the valuation of companies. Topics include discounted cash flow techniques and valuations using alternative valuation techniques such as price multiples. Emphasis is on developing the required information for valuation from financial statements and other sources.

### **BUSS 442: International Marketing (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 302 Principles of Marketing*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the marketing of goods and services in international and global markets. It examines the ways in which firms globalize and localize their offerings to balance the demands of scale economies with consumer needs.

**BUSS 443: International Strategy (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 210 Introduction to Business*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the strategies employed by firms competing in multinational and global markets. It draws heavily upon case studies of firm strategies.

**BUSS 444: International Finance (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 303 Principles of Finance or ECON 101 Principles of Microeconomics*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the techniques and strategies of firms operating in the international environment. Topics include exchange rates, currency trading and risk, hedging techniques, international capital markets, and blocked fund alternatives.

**BUSS 456: Project Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces main project management concepts such as the keys to project success, leadership skills in project management, project management process and lifecycle, project planning, defining project outcomes and objectives, working effectively with key stakeholders, defining project scope, project phasing, time and cost, operational risk, project monitoring and control, progress reviews, quality assurance, change management, project risk assessment, and working with people and teams.

**BUSS 460: Internship Level IV (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides practical training and hands-on experience to undergraduate students as related to their area of interest for their senior research project course. The objective is to give students insights and access to information that will help them complete their senior business research project. Students will be able to work in any area of interest as long as it relates to their current or future conceptual framework of their senior research project. Students in this three credit hour internship are expected to work a minimum of 135 hours during the semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

**BUSS 470: Business Law II (3)**

*Prerequisite: BUSS 307 Business Law I*

This course continues the discussion of legal topics relevant to business from Business law I. It is especially useful to accounting students who are preparing for the CPA exam, and is useful for any student wanting to gain further understanding of legal issues in business.

**BUSS 480: Senior Business Research Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: All core courses and first semester senior concentration courses*

*Internship Qualified – per Dean's approval*

This course is designed for students to develop a project that will encompass the key elements of business operations that have been studied throughout the undergraduate degree program, culminating in the submission of a final project paper and an oral presentation.

**CAR 100: Career Planning & Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides an in-depth exploration and assessment of career values, occupational interests, skills, personality style, work environment preferences; concentration and career exploration; exposure to career and occupational information resources. Students learn and practice job search strategies and tools, including resumes and interviewing skills; decision-making, goal setting and action planning; and self-marketing techniques for effective career management.

**CAR 600: Career Planning & Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides an in-depth exploration and assessment of career values, occupational interests, skills, personality style, work environment preferences; concentration and career exploration; exposure to career and occupational information resources. Students learn and practice job search strategies and tools, including resumes and interviewing skills; decision-making, goal setting and action planning; and self-marketing techniques for effective career management.

**CHEM 101: General Chemistry (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces the fundamentals of chemistry including atomic and molecular structure, thermo-chemical changes, and conservation of energy.

**CHIN 100: Elementary Chinese I (3)**

*Prerequisite: Placement or no previous exposure to the language*

This course is an introduction to Chinese grammar, structure, and use. This course uses a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Elementary Chinese I while reinforcing production skills and vocabulary building.

**CHIN 105: Elementary Chinese II (3)**

*Prerequisite: CHIN 100 or placement*

This course is an introduction to Chinese grammar, structure, and use. This course uses a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Elementary Chinese I while reinforcing production skills and vocabulary building.

**CHIN 200: Intermediate Chinese I (3)**

*Prerequisite: CHIN 105 or placement*

This course is an intermediate Chinese course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Elementary Chinese II while reinforcing meaningful and purposeful production skills and vocabulary building to emphasize communicative competence. The target language is the primary language of instruction.

**CHIN 205: Intermediate Chinese II (3)**

*Prerequisite: CHIN 200 or placement*

This course is an intermediate Chinese course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Intermediate Chinese I while reinforcing meaningful and purposeful production skills and vocabulary building to emphasize communicative competence. The target language is the primary language of instruction.

**CHIN 250: Conversational Chinese I (3)**

*Prerequisite: CHIN 105 or placement*

This course is an intermediate Chinese course and builds upon skills learned in the elementary level. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in elementary and intermediate Chinese with a focus on oral communication in the target language. The target language is the primary language of instruction.

**CHIN 300: Advanced Chinese I (3)**

*Prerequisite: CHIN 205 or placement*

This course is an advanced Chinese course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language at an advanced level. Students will apply their knowledge of grammar, structure, and use to communicate fluidly and clearly in the target language in meaningful and purposeful activities designed to simulate real-world scenarios. Students will expand their communicative competence skills to be able to apply course content to a final project exemplifying their abilities. The target language is the language of instruction.

**CHIN 305: Advanced Chinese II (3)**

*Prerequisite: CHIN 300 or placement*

This course is an advanced Chinese course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful

and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language at an advanced level. Students will apply their knowledge of grammar, structure, and use to communicate fluidly and clearly in the target language in meaningful and purposeful activities designed to simulate real-world scenarios. Students will expand their communicative competence skills to be able to apply course content to a final project exemplifying their abilities. The target language is the language of instruction.

### **CMP 110: Introduction to Computing (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces computer systems, their capabilities, limitations, and applications. Students survey computer concepts with an emphasis on the personal computer and its practical use, including hardware, application and system software, the Internet and World Wide Web, communications, database management, e-commerce, and computers in society.

### **CMP 120: Programming Logic (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces algorithmic thinking and problem solving without focusing on any particular language. Students will learn the basic constructs of programming, including variables, constants, expressions, control structures, functions pointers and arrays, and are introduced to functional, decision-based and iterative processing of data.

### **CMP 130: Ethical, Societal and Legal Aspects of Computing (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course first provides a review of computer systems, applications and the Internet; and thereafter discusses the impacts of technology on society and the responsibilities of technical professionals as the principal agents in developing and applying new technology. Various important and controversial issues will be discussed, such as computers and privacy, effects of communications technology on the democratic process, environmental problems, intellectual property, and technology and war. Several different ethics codes will be used as the basis for discussion of professional obligations.

### **CMP 210: Programming I (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 120*

This course examines the fundamental data structures and analyzes algorithms such as files, sets, strings, and linked lists. It introduces searching and sorting algorithms and algorithm analysis. This course also covers abstract data types and essential data structures such as arrays, stacks, queues, and trees. The major emphasis of this course is on program development through various programming projects.

### **CMP 220: Programming II (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 120*

This course concentrates on the concepts of object oriented programming (OOP) paradigm. Concepts presented are exemplified using a selected object oriented programming language. Topics include fundamental abstraction, modularity and encapsulation mechanisms in OOP, classes, inheritance, polymorphism, exception handling, concurrent programming, data structures. Students complete a term project that utilizes object-oriented programming.

### **CMP 230: Discrete Mathematical Methods for Computing (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is intended to be a college-level introductory Discrete Mathematics course for either undergraduate or graduate students. The course focuses on the following seven key topics: Combinatorial Problems and Techniques, Sets, Relations and Functions, Coding Theory, Graphs, Matching, Counting Techniques, Recurrence Relations and Generating Functions.

### **CMP 250: Computer Architecture (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 110*

This course is an introduction to the architecture of computer systems. Topics include computer hardware organization; floating-point arithmetic; central processing units; instructions set design issues; micro-programmed control; addressing and memory hierarchies; bus control and timing; hardwired control; parallelism, pipelining; input/output mechanisms, peripheral devices; interrupt systems; software versus hardware trade-offs.

### **CMP 260: Operating Systems (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 110*

The course is an introduction to the fundamentals of operating systems. Topics include concurrent processes and synchronization mechanisms; processor scheduling; memory management, virtual memory; paging, file management; input/output management; deadlock management; interrupt structures, interrupt processing; device management; performance of operating systems; synchronization in a multi-programmed operating systems and with virtual memory management. Formal principles are illustrated with examples and case studies of one or more contemporary operating systems.

**CMP 270: Essentials of Networking (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 110*

This course includes the fundamentals of network standards, concepts, topologies and terminologies including LANs, WANs, Internet Protocol addressing, subnet masking and network design, and various protocols. This course teaches concepts from the Open Systems Interconnection Networking Reference Model, developed by the International Standards Organization to describe the function and structure of network communications protocols.

**CMP 330: Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 120*

This course introduces the analysis of algorithms and the effects of data structures on them. Topics include algorithms selected from areas such as sorting, searching, shortest paths, greedy algorithms, backtracking, divide and conquer, and dynamic programming. Data structures include heaps and search, splay, and spanning trees. Analysis techniques include asymptotic worst case, expected time, amortized analysis, solution of recurrence relation and reductions between problems.

**CMP 340: Principles of Programming Languages (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 120*

This course covers the fundamental concepts of programming language design and implementation. Topics include: language paradigms, syntax and semantics; names, binding, allocation, data structures, data types; scopes; control structures, data flow, concurrency; exception handling; subprograms; comparison of imperative, functional, logical, and object-oriented programming languages.

**CMP 343: Computer Security Principles (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 270*

The course is an introduction to computer security. Course topics include: computer security incident response process; computer criminal evidence collection, analysis and handling, email investigation, malicious code investigation, network traffic analysis and router investigation, hacker tools analysis, and computer/network forensic report writing. The course identifies and examines information security threats, information security methods, and implementation approaches used in information technology industry.

**CMP 350: Database Concepts (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces the fundamental concepts for design and development of database systems. Topics include review of relational data model and the relational manipulation languages SQL and QBE; integrity constraints; logical database design, dependency theory and normalization; query processing and optimization; transaction processing, concurrency control, recovery, and security issues in database systems; object-oriented and object-relational databases; distributed databases; emerging database applications.

**CMP 353: Application Software Security (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 343*

*Internship Qualified*

This course studies the security concepts in developing software applications. Topics include design principles for secure software development, and some of the security issues in current programming and scripting languages, database systems Web servers, as well as issues in web applications security.

**CMP 355: Programming with C/C++ (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 120*

This course covers the fundamental concepts of C/C++ programming language. Topics include variables, expressions and interactivity, relational and logical operators, looping, functions, arrays, pointers, classes, file operations, inheritance, polymorphism and virtual functions. Student completes a term project that utilizes C/C++.

**CMP 360: Web Development Methods (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 120*

*Internship Qualified*

This course introduces web development technologies. The topics include webpage design techniques, using web design editors, designing graphical user interface with image processing tools, client and server side scripting, and development of database applications. Upon completion, students should be able to employ advanced design techniques to create high impact and highly functional webpages and have hands-on experience in designing a website.

**CMP 365: Information Technology Project & Service Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: All program core courses*

This course introduces the fundamentals of project management, beginning with project definition and culminating in the post-project review. Students learn techniques, terms and guidelines that are used to manage costs, schedules, risk, group dynamics and technical aspects throughout the life cycle of the project. The course also investigates peculiarities of projects when services are outsourced in another department in the organization, domestically, and internationally.

**CMP 373: Operating System Security (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 343*

This course discusses security concepts and issues relative to a wide range of operating systems, as well as existing tools and technologies for setting up a secure system. Topics include vulnerabilities and risk assessment in operating systems, secure passwords, and trusted operating systems.

**CMP 375: Human-Computer Interactions (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

Topics that this course covers include effective, productive information systems, design and evaluation of interactive computer systems, input and output devices, screen layouts, machine design, health issues and ergonomics, and organizational impacts.

**CMP 389: Independent Study (3)**

*Prerequisites: The program fundamental core courses, and Dean's Approval*

This course offers the opportunity and challenge of self-directive, independent study; develops the individual's ability as an independent student; and enables the student to pursue needed study in a field in which appropriate courses are not being offered during a given term.

**CMP 391: Internship Level I (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's Approval*

This course provides practical experience through hands on activities for undergraduate students in direct connection with the core courses taken in their program. Students will have the ability to apply theoretical concepts in real life applications, and to extend their knowledge base examples of real life applications. Students are expected to work at least 135 hours per semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

**CMP 392: Internship Level II (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's Approval*

This course provides practical experience through hands on activities for undergraduate students in direct connection with the core courses taken in their program. Students will have the ability to apply theoretical concepts in real life applications, and to extend their knowledge base examples of real life applications. Students are expected to work at least 135 hours per semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

**CMP 420: Usability Evaluation and Interface Development (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 375*

*Internship Qualified*

This course surveys methods for evaluating user interfaces. For projects, students will perform a heuristic evaluation, a cognitive walkthrough, a usability test and a comparison study. Class meetings will also introduce, discuss and occasionally practice additional methods such as user modeling and questionnaires.

**CMP 440: Software Engineering (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 220 or CMP 330*

This course covers the techniques in software design and development. Topics include: modern software engineering practice for long-term, large-scale programming projects; methods for requirements, specification, design, analysis, implementation, verification, and maintenance of large software systems; advanced software development techniques and large project management approaches; project planning, scheduling, resource management, accounting, configuration control, and technical documentation. Students organize, manage and develop a software engineering project.

**CMP 443: Network Security (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 343*

*Internship Qualified*

This course discusses the network security principles and applications, including authentication applications, IP security, Web security, network management security, wireless security and system security.

**CMP 445: Distributed Systems (3)**

*Prerequisites: CMP 250 or CMP 260*

*Internship Qualified*

This course introduces the fundamentals of distributed systems and algorithms. Topics include: distributed systems architecture; input/output subsystems; distributed shared memory; load-balancing; cache coherency; message passing; remote procedure calls; group communication; naming and membership problems; asynchrony, logical time and consistency; fault-tolerance and recovery.

**CMP 453: Information Assurance and Privacy (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 343*



#### *Internship Qualified*

This course is an introduction to the various technical and administrative aspects of information security and assurance. This course provides the foundation for understanding the key issues associated with protecting information assets, determining the levels of protection and response to security incidents, and designing a consistent, reasonable information security system, with appropriate intrusion detection and reporting features.

#### **CMP 463: Computer Forensics (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 343*

#### *Internship Qualified*

This course surveys the processes of performing computer crime investigations. The course examines three key areas: the computer technology, investigative techniques and the legal aspects. Students learn how to investigate crime scenes, intrusions, and hacker attacks; gathering and analyzing digital evidence to discover the truth; the technical expertise needed to gather, filter, and authenticate e-evidence for use in court or legal actions with knowledge of relevant laws regarding civil rights, search warrants, and rules of evidence; computer and email forensics, PDA and Blackberry forensics, cell phone and IM forensics.

#### **CMP 465: Theory of Computation (3)**

*Prerequisites: CMP 230*

This course covers theoretical frameworks of computing and their relations to formal grammars and languages. Topics include finite state machines; regular languages and their limitations; tape automata, pushdown automata; context free languages, normal form grammars; Turing machines, halting problem; unsolvable decision problems.

#### **CMP 466: Programming for Mobile Devices (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 330 or CMP 220 or CMP 360*

#### *Internship Qualified*

This programming course is designed to introduce and familiarize the student to programming mobile devices using current platforms and mobile device emulators. An overview of the most common tools and techniques for writing mobile applications are examined, with focus on the development of the user interface and the usability of the application.

#### **CMP 467: Database Systems for Web Applications (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 350*

#### *Internship Qualified*

The student explores the software development life cycle for Web applications. It provides an in-depth coverage on critical Web application development topics combined with technical foundations and hands-on experiences, and implementation of real-world Web applications and secure Web transactions.

#### **CMP 471: Special Topics in Computer Science (3)**

*Prerequisites: The program fundamental core courses or Dean's Approval*

#### *Internship Qualified*

This course will cover topics of current interest selected by the faculty. Subjects will be announced before each semester.

#### **CMP 472: Special Topics in Information Technologies & Systems (3)**

*Prerequisites: The program fundamental core courses or Dean's Approval*

#### *Internship Qualified*

This course will cover topics of current interest selected by the faculty. Subjects will be announced before each semester.

#### **CMP 489: Independent Study (3)**

*Prerequisites: The program fundamental core courses and Dean's Approval*

This course offers opportunity and challenge of self-directive, independent study; develops the individual's ability as an independent student; and enables the student to pursue needed study in a field in which appropriate courses are not being offered during a given term.

#### **CMP 491: Internship Level III (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's Approval*

This course provides practical experience through hands on activities for undergraduate students in direct connection with the core courses taken in their program. Students will have the ability to apply theoretical concepts in real life applications, and to extend their knowledge base examples of real life applications. Students are expected to work at least 135 hours per semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

#### **CMP 492: Internship Level IV (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's Approval*

This course provides practical experience through hands on activities for undergraduate students in direct connection with the core courses taken in their program. Students will have the ability to apply theoretical concepts in real life applications,

and to extend their knowledge base examples of real life applications. Students are expected to work at least 135 hours per semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

### **CMP 498: Capstone Project I (3)**

*Prerequisite: All 300-level core courses*

This is the first phase of a technical project that emphasizes engineering design principles on a specific topic in any field of computer science or engineering. It will be carried out by the senior student under the supervision of a faculty member. The first phase of the project includes identification of a topic and completion of the preliminary work. A progress report must be submitted at the end of the semester detailing the problem description, proposed solution approach, and a list of deliverables.

### **CMP 499: Capstone Project II (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 498*

This is the second phase of the technical project that emphasizes engineering design principles on a specific topic in any field of computer science or engineering. It will be carried out by the senior student under the supervision of a faculty member. The first phase of the project must be completed in CMP 498. A written report summarizing the accomplishments of the project and an oral presentation are required in this course.

### **CMP 509: Health Informatics Capstone Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of the all core courses and four specialization elective courses*

A capstone project that integrates knowledge gained in the classroom with real-world problems that consists of practical work and research in a major area of health informatics; including emerging trends and their potential effect on health informatics. Potential areas of work include design or analysis of health informatics systems, programs, or applications; program planning; and policy development.

### **CMP 511: Computer Architecture and Implementation (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 250 or CMP 260*

This course surveys architecture and organization of modern computing systems including: CPU design, instruction sets, memory hierarchy, pipelined machines, and multiprocessors. The emphasis is on the major component subsystems of high performance computers: pipelining, instruction level parallelism, thread-level parallelism, memory hierarchies, input/output, and network-oriented interconnections. This course introduces techniques and tools for quantitative analysis, evaluation, and implementation of modern computing systems and their components.

### **CMP 513: Risk Management and Control (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 612*

This course examines in detail the planning, organizing, and managing of resources to bring about the successful completion of specific project goals and objectives, within time, budget and scope. Topics covered include scope control, resources management, adhering to project constraints of scope, quality, time and budget; risk assessment and identification, handling and monitoring risks, the tools and techniques for risk mitigation and control; using project management tools to facilitate scheduling, estimating, tracking and controlling the project schedule and costs; communicating project status, developing contingency plans, and incorporating risk and quality factors into project cost and schedules. This course emphasizes a hands-on approach in using project management tools.

### **CMP 514: Virtual Organizations (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 612*

This course examines virtual teams and collaborative technologies. The topics covered include the process of virtual teaming, group psychology, group communication theories, group behaviors, design and leadership of meetings, meeting types; information briefing, document writing, focus group, decision making, requirements gathering, and training; leading, participating in and maintaining geographically distributed development (GDD) projects; survey of current collaboration technologies, and selecting appropriate collaboration technologies.

### **CMP 515: Enterprise Program Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 612*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines how an enterprise coordinates and effectively manages all of its IT projects and programs. The topics covered include IT project and program management, the IT program management office, the role of program management, managing stakeholder expectations, program and project governance, organizational change and business process reengineering, global, ethics, and security management.

### **CMP 516: IT Investment Economics (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 513*

This course discusses the application of financial analysis and decision-making approaches to assist in making IT investment decisions. The topics covered include break-even analysis, present value (PV) analysis, profitability index (PI), and return on investment (ROI) for different IT investment decisions, cost benefit analysis, outsourcing including

outsourcing, off-shoring, offshore management, acquisition management and global perspectives, balanced scorecard, and multi-factor scoring, benchmarking, and IT investment portfolio methods.

### **CMP 518: Special Topics in Enterprise Project Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's Approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover topics of current interest, emerging topics and technologies in IT project management selected by the faculty. Topics will be announced before each semester.

### **CMP 519: Enterprise Project Management Capstone Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: All core courses and four specialization courses*

This course consists of a capstone project that integrates and applies concepts previously studied. Best practices in enterprise project management including emerging trends and their potential effect on enterprise project management will be studied.

### **CMP 540: Information Technology Fundamentals & Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides in-depth coverage of the role of information systems in business organizations, with a focus on their applications and current issues facing managers and users. Lectures, discussions, presentations and student project work will promote an understanding of the strategic importance of information systems, their impact on people and organizations, the many ways they can improve work practices, and the ways they can improve products and services.

### **CMP 550: IT Infrastructure (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides a holistic overview of the IT infrastructure in large enterprises. The topics covered include telecommunications fundamentals including data, voice, image, and video, the concepts, models, architectures, protocols, standards, and security for the design, implementation, and management of digital networks, server architectures, server farms, cluster computing, grid computing and cloud computing; storage area networks and network attached storage, data center design and implementation; the development of an integrated technical architecture (hardware, software, networks, and data) to serve organizational needs in a rapidly changing competitive and technological environment; network, data and application architectures, and enterprise application integration, XML, Web Services (WS), and service oriented architectures (SOA).

### **CMP 551: Research Methods (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides knowledge of research methodologies used in management information systems, information systems, information technology, computer science, and other disciplines. The course includes experimental design, surveys, case studies, and fieldwork. It introduces students to applied research methodologies. The use of analytical tools, literature searches, and the application of VIU documentation style will result in a formal written proposal that may serve as the basis for each student's special project.

### **CMP 552: Information Systems (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course explores the management of information systems and related information technologies (IS/IT) as a part of a broader socio-technical system and their impacts on people and processes that extend well beyond organizational boundaries. In addition, subjective and debatable issues associated with IS/IT will be discussed. Critical thinking is an important part of this course and is essential for an analysis and understanding of important issues associated with the management aspects of information systems.

### **CMP 553: Analysis, Modeling and Design (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides an overview of the systems development life cycle. It introduces tools and methods for the analysis and design of information systems and the management and organizational skills needed for their implementation. Information analysis in entity-relationship modeling and process modeling in data flow diagrams will be covered as the key skills in structured system analysis and design.

### **CMP 554: Healthcare Information Systems (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 550 or CMP 570*

This course examines information systems in the healthcare domain including information architectures, administrative and clinical applications, evidence-based medicine, information retrieval, decision support systems, security and confidentiality, bioinformatics, information system cycles, electronic health records (EHR), key health information systems and standards, and medical devices.

### **CMP 555: Healthcare Data Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 553*

This course examines healthcare informatics standards for storing and exchanging data in healthcare technology systems. It explores the issues of data representation in healthcare systems, including patient and provider identification, audit trails, authentication, and reconciliation; the design of repositories for electronic health records (EHRs) and computerized provider order entry (CPOE) systems; privacy issues, legislation, regulations, and accreditation standards unique to healthcare. The course also examines the relational model, query formulation using SQL, database design using the entity relational model, normalization, transactions, optimization, backup and recovery, security issues, clinical data warehousing and mining, database administration, the JSON data interchange format, XML as a data model, and internet database environments.

**CMP 556: Database Management Systems I (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 350*

This course provides an introduction to relational models, normalization, query facilities, transactions, indexing, security issues, relational algebra, SQL database design stages, distributed databases, data warehousing, data and database administration, the JSON data interchange format, and Internet database environments. Students will learn about various DBMS software products and multi-user database environments and how they are controlled.

**CMP 557: Healthcare Delivery Models (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 570*

*Internship Qualified*

The course examines systems of healthcare at a "macro" scale through a variety of readings and classroom discussions. The topics covered include healthcare delivery models, structure, organizations, policy, capital and operating budgets, the budget planning process, and infrastructure design and strategic planning, and the workforce. Other topics include vendor evaluation and selection, clinical administration systems, the design and management of integrated delivery systems, and emerging trends in healthcare delivery systems. In addition, students are exposed to the processes of healthcare at a "micro" scale, through field experiences in a variety of healthcare settings such as inpatient wards, emergency department, and outpatient clinics.

**CMP 558: Network and Information Security (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 550 or CMP 562*

This course is an introduction to the key security concepts required for the design, use, and implementation of secure voice and data communications networks, including the Internet. The security topics covered include defense models, authentication and authorization controls including biometrics, firewalls, packet filtering, virtual private networks (VPNs), security policy development, introduction to wireless network security, cloud computing security, disaster planning, backups, and risks mitigation strategies.

**CMP 559: Introduction to Information Assurance (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 540 or CMP 550*

The course provides an overview of several related topics in information security and assurance. The topics covered include: security architecture, security models, access control systems and methodology, applications and systems security, operation security, database security, cryptography, physical security, network and Internet security, business continuity planning, security management and law and ethics in information assurance.

**CMP 560 Software Engineering (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

The objective of this course is to familiarize students with software application development processes and underlying concepts. Topics covered include Object-Oriented Analysis & Design, Unified Modeling Language, Software Development Life Cycle, Models and Methodologies, Quality Assurance and Improvement, and the basics of tools used for application development such as requirement management tools, version control, modeling, and defect tracking.

**CMP 561: Design and Analysis of Algorithms (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 220 or CMP 330*

This course provides a survey of computer algorithms, examines fundamental techniques in algorithm design and analysis, and develops problem-solving skills required in all programs of study involving computer science. Topics include advanced data structures, recursion and mathematical induction, algorithm analysis and computational complexity, sorting and searching, design paradigms, and graph algorithms. Advanced topics include randomized algorithms, information retrieval, string and pattern matching, and computational geometry.

**CMP 562: Computer Networks (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 270*

This course examines data communication and computer networks. Topics include interconnection of networks, network hardware and software, reference models, data communication services and network standardization; the OSI and the Internet (TCP/IP) network models; encoding digital and analog signals, transmission media, protocols; circuit, packet, message, switching techniques, internetworking devices, topologies; routing algorithms, routers, switches, bridges, addressing and names; LANs/WANs, Ethernet, IP, TCP, UDP; the application layer protocols: HTTP, TELNET, SMTP, FTP,

and SNMP; cloud computing architectures; and the domain name services. The course covers each network layer in details, starting from the physical layer towards the application layer, and includes an introduction to network security topics.

### **CMP 570: Enterprise Information Systems (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 550 or CMP 556*

This course provides a process-oriented view of the organization and its relationships with suppliers, customers, and competitors. The topics covered include processes as vehicles for achieving strategic objectives, gaining a competitive advantage, and transforming the organization; process analysis, design, implementation, control, and monitoring; processes as a means of achieving compliance; the impact of processes on work and work practices; the role and importance of management; the role of enterprise resource planning (ERP), supply chain management (SCM) systems, and customer relationship management (CRM) systems; the process continuum from structured to unstructured processes; the role of systems in transforming organizations and markets; and outsourcing, offshore and acquisition management, and global perspectives.

### **CMP 571: Automata and Formal Languages (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces the fundamental concepts in automata theory and formal languages including grammar, finite automaton, regular expressions, formal language, pushdown automaton, and Turing machines. This course covers properties of these models and various rigorous techniques for analyzing and comparing them using both formalism and examples.

### **CMP 573: Compiler Construction (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP561*

This course provides an introduction to compiler construction and covers stages of compilation including lexical analysis, parsing, code generation and code optimization, formal translation of programming languages, program syntax and semantics, finite state recognizers and regular grammars, context-free parsing techniques, attribute grammars syntax-directed translation schema, type checking, code generation, data flow analysis and code optimization.

### **CMP 582: Computer Graphics (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 561*

This course is mainly a study of the design of graphic algorithms. Topics covered include graphics devices and graphics software, 2D primitives such as lines and curves, algorithms for drawing 2D primitives, polygons, scan conversion and other fill methods, primitives attributes, filtering and aliasing, geometric transformations in 2D in homogeneous coordinates, viewing pipeline, hierarchical graphics modeling, the graphics user interfaces, input functions and interaction modes, 3D graphics: object representations through polygonal methods, spline techniques, and octrees, 3D transformations and the 3D viewing pipeline, and algorithms to detect the visible surfaces of a 3D object in both the object space and the image space.

### **CMP 583: Computer Animation (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 561*

This course covers computer animation. Topics covered include character animation techniques : key-frame animation, inverse kinematics, facial animation, pd-control, flocking, crowd simulation; motion capture technologies: optical, magnetic, mechanical, gyro-sensors; interpolating values; interpolation-based animation; kinematic linkages; motion capture, physically based animation; fluids: liquids and gases; modeling and animating human figures; facial animation; behavioral animation; special models for animation and using commercial 3-D computer animation packages to create digital artistic works and visualizations.

### **CMP 584: Human-Computer Interface Design (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 561*

This course examines some design issues for HCI. Topics covered include the design of dialogues for interactive systems; widgets, windows, and input devices; client-server model; event-driven programming and callbacks; windowing systems and dialog control; psychological, physiological, linguistic, and perceptual factors; advantages and disadvantages of various interaction techniques, command language syntaxes, and data presentation; and design methodology and guidelines.

### **CMP 585: Design of Interactive Multimedia (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the design of interactive multimedia. The topics covered include multimedia development and theory concepts, hardware components, platforms, authoring tool; the scientific, technical, and cognitive foundations of various media including text; sound, graphics, and video; interface design.

### **CMP 586: Computer Vision (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 582*

*Internship Qualified*

Topics covered in this course include: image formation, light and shading, color, linear filters, local Image features, texture, stereopsis, structure from motion, segmentation by clustering, grouping and model fitting, tracking, registration, smooth surfaces and their outlines, range data, learning to classify, classifying images, detecting objects in images, image-based modeling and rendering, looking at people, and image search and retrieval.

### **CMP 587: Game Design and Programming (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 582*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides an in depth study of the tools and techniques used in computer game design and development. Topics covered in this course include: games and video games, design components and processes, game concepts, game worlds, creative and expressive play, character development, storytelling and narratives, user interfaces, gameplay, core mechanics, game balancing, genre of games: action, strategy, adventure, and sports games, role-playing, vehicle simulations, online games, and artificial life and puzzle Games.

### **CMP 588: Special Topics in Computer Animation and Gaming (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover topics of current interest including emerging topics and technologies in computer animation and gaming. Topics will be announced before each semester.

### **CMP 589: Computer Graphics and Animation Capstone Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: All core and four specialization elective courses*

This course consists of a capstone project that integrates and applies concepts previously studied. Best practices and appropriate technologies to design, and implement graphics and animation programs are explored, including emerging trends.

### **CMP 591: Graduate Internship Level I (3, 135 contact hours)**

*Prerequisite: All core courses or Dean's approval (plus one specialization elective course for MCS & MIS students)*

This course represents an opportunity for students receive academic credit through supervised practical training and earn industry experience in an actual work environment. The internship course guides the learning contract established in the beginning of the term, on which students have to report at the end of term. Students are expected to work at least 135 hours per semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

### **CMP 593: Security Policy, Law, and Ethics (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is a study of policy, laws and ethics related to information assurance. The information security responsibilities of major domestic and international agencies such as the NIST, FBI, and NSA are studied. The topics covered include issues involving information security management within an organization, appropriate organizational policy, plans, and implementation strategies. The course also covers ethical issues, such as monitoring employee computer usage in the workplace, and ethical usage of consumer data.

### **CMP 594: Risk Management and Disaster Recovery Planning (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course focuses on the identification of threats, risks and vulnerabilities in enterprise information systems, as well as disaster recovery planning for business continuity. The course also examines the safeguards and policies necessary to meet the requirements for the protection of data in enterprise systems. The topics covered include: gap analysis, gap closure and countermeasures, disaster recovery planning, incidence response, emergency response, event management, recovery time and recovery point objectives (RTO and RPO), and business continuity planning.

### **CMP 598: Special Topics in Information Assurance (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover topics of current interest, emerging topics and technologies in information assurance selected by the faculty. Topics will be announced before each semester.

### **CMP 599: Information Assurance Capstone Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: All core courses and four specialization courses*

This course consists of a capstone project that integrates and applies concepts previously studied. Best practices and appropriate technologies to design, implement, manage, evaluate, and further improve information assurance are explored, including emerging trends and their potential effect on information security and assurance.

### **CMP 602: Network Design and Implementation (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 562*

This course focuses on the diverse quality of service (QoS) requirements associated with different types of data, application and business, and on designing networks and communication systems appropriately to ensure the high performance requirements that meet the business needs of an organization. Topics covered include the specific quality of service requirements for different scenarios, the metrics for measuring quality of service, and the factors which affect the performance of a network, including the actual network design and choice of technologies, as well as the extend, patterns and mix of traffic types present. There is particular emphasis on congestion control, traffic analysis and patterns, performance prediction and network simulation, evaluation of network performance, security, and their manageability.

### **CMP 603: Network Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 558*

*Internship Qualified*

This course studies network management including configuration, performance, fault diagnosis and security management. The course has a strong focus and emphasize on security management. Topics covered include LAN and WAN network management, configuration, fault detection, security, performance, risk assessment and accounting management. The course also emphasizes problem-solving techniques and network management tools based on SNMP.

### **CMP 604: Cloud Computing (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 558*

*Internship Qualified*

Cloud computing has become ubiquitous with many enterprises leveraging the World Wide Web to fulfill various computing needs using a number of models: SaaS, PaaS and IaaS. The topics covered in this course include: origin, enabling technology and key concepts in cloud computing; the unique set of problems and challenges in developing cloud computing applications; the platform, tools, technologies and processes for developing cloud computing applications using an example platform such as Hadoop; and proposing, developing, and running applications for the platforms covered.

### **CMP 608: Special Topics in Computer Networks (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover topics of current interest, specifically emerging topics and technologies in computer networking selected by the faculty. Topics will be announced before each semester.

### **CMP 609: Networking Capstone Project (3)**

*Prerequisites: All core courses and four specialization courses*

This course consists of a capstone project that integrates and applies concepts previously studied. Best practices and appropriate technologies to design, implement, manage, evaluate, and further improve networks are explored; including emerging trends and their potential effect on networking.

### **CMP 610: Managing Information System Development (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 552 or CMP 553*

This course overviews the processes, methods, and techniques to plan, analyze, and design complex Information Systems, within selected existing frameworks. It involves planning, gathering requirements, modeling business needs, creating blueprints for building the system, and managing and organizing resources in these challenging, difficult, complex and expensive activities.

### **CMP 611: Global Information System Development (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 552 or CMP 553*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the organization of development projects in the global service marketplace, based on key considerations and best practices in outsourced and offshore development. Students learn the most important issues and practices for both clients and service providers. Topics include legal, economic, cultural and intellectual property issues; 24-hour development; strategic division of labor; quality and process standards, and global human resources.

### **CMP 612: IT Project Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides an in-depth study of project and change management. The topics covered include: managing projects within an organizational context, including the processes related to initiating, planning, executing, controlling, reporting, and closing a project; project integration, scope, time, cost, quality control, and risk management; software size and cost estimation; monitoring progress; version control; assigning work to programmer and other teams; change management, managing the organizational change process; identifying project champions, working with user teams, training, and documentation; the change management role of the IS specialist; the use of sourcing and external procurement; and contracts and managing partner relationships.

### **CMP 613: Technology and Development of E-Business (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*  
*Internship Qualified*

This course addresses the technological structure, architecture, development tools, and methods for constructing such web-based applications. It includes a project to develop an interactive web-based transaction processing system. With the emergence of e-Business, organizations are adapting their transaction processing systems to use web technology. Such systems may operate as Intranet applications within the business, as Extranet applications between the firm and its business partners, or to provide access to customers via the Internet.

### **CMP 614: Management Information Systems in Supply Chain Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*  
*Internship Qualified*

This course explores the following topics: Integrating information systems technology in manufacturing environments; the role of information systems in supporting manufacturing decision-making processes; manufacturing imposed issues in information processing; and emerging information systems technology affecting manufacturing operations.

### **CMP 618: Special Topics in Software Applications Development (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*  
*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover topics of current interest, specifically emerging topics and technologies in software applications development selected by the faculty. Topics will be announced before each semester.

### **CMP 619: Software Applications Development Capstone Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: All core courses and four specialization courses*

This course consists of a capstone project that integrates and applies concepts previously studied. These concepts include best practices and appropriate technologies to analyze, design, implement, test, evaluate, and further improve software applications development as well as emerging trends.

### **CMP 620: Information Technology Governance (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*  
*Internship Qualified*

This course presents an integrated approach to information technology (IT) governance. It discusses major roadmaps components and IT Governance strategies and frameworks. Topics include strategic alignment of IT with the business, use of assets and resources, delivering on plans and commitments, establishing and/or improving accountability of constituents, managing risk and contingencies, audits, compliance, performance measures and organizational maturity.

### **CMP 621: Artificial Intelligence (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides overview of the main thrusts in artificial intelligence, starting with the historically symbolic, logic-based approaches to knowledge representation, planning, reasoning and learning, leading into more recent directions of statistics-based probabilistic approaches (such as Bayesian approaches, belief nets, probabilistic reasoning, etc.). This course also touches on more recent developments in natural language processing, visual processing, robotics, machine learning, and philosophical foundations. This course covers search, constraint satisfaction, knowledge representation, probabilistic models, machine learning, neural networks, vision, robotics, and natural language understanding.

### **CMP 622: Database Management Systems II (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 556*

This course covers file structures, indexing, hashing, algorithms for query processing and advanced normalization and denormalization, query optimization, database security, privacy, introduction to data mining and data warehousing, information retrieval, object-relational databases and XML, database performance tuning, spatial and temporal databases, advanced transaction processing and an introduction to distributed databases, introduction to big data and Hadoop, and database administration using Oracle.

### **CMP 624: Data Warehousing (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 556*

This course examines the technical skills required to design, implement, and maintain a data warehouse using a DBMS such as Oracle Warehouse Builder. It covers basic data warehousing concepts, data warehousing system design and implementation, gathering data from primary data sources, transforming data, and loading data (ETL) into a DBMS. Students learn how to create a cube using OLAP and analyze cube data using client applications, the typical data warehouse components and architecture.

### **CMP 625: Text Analytics (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 556*

This course covers the querying of unstructured textual data, statistical, syntactical, and logical analysis of natural language, thesaurus and dictionary systems, web corpus construction and web corpora, searching strategies and cataloguing, and large-scale file structures.



**CMP 626: Distributed Databases (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 556*

This course exclusively focuses on the design and system issues related to distributed database systems. Topics covered include distributed database architectures, design strategies for distributed databases, federated databases, query processing techniques and algorithms, transaction management and concurrency control concepts as well as reliability and fault tolerance mechanisms are used in such systems. Design and implementation issues related to multi-database systems are discussed as well.

**CMP 627: Data Mining (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 556*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is an introductory course on data mining. It covers concepts, algorithms, and applications in data warehousing and online analytical processing, mining frequent patterns and association rules, classification and predication, and cluster analysis, implementations and applications of mining sequential and structured data, stream data, text data, Web data, spatiotemporal data, biomedical data and other forms of complex data.

**CMP 628: Special Topics in Data Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course covers advanced classification methods, cluster analysis, advanced cluster analysis, outlier detection, text analytics, big data and mining trends. It also covers emerging trends, research and developments in data management including data mining, data warehousing, text analytics, and big data. Topics will be announced before each semester.

**CMP 629: Data Management Capstone Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of the all Core and four specialization courses*

This course consists of a capstone project that integrates and applies concepts previously studied. Best practices and appropriate technologies to design, implement, manage, evaluate, and further improve databases are explored, including emerging trends and their potential effect on data management.

**CMP 630: Network Security Audit & Forensics (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 550 or CMP 562*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines computer network forensics. The topics covered include digital evidence concepts relating to a digital crime scene; the identification, preservation, collection, examination, analysis, and presentation of evidence for prosecution purposes; network forensics investigative methodology (OSCAR); sources of network-based evidence; evidence acquisition, packet analysis, statistical flow analysis, and wireless network forensics; network intrusion detection and analysis, event log aggregation, correlation and analysis; and malware forensics. The course also studies auditing and compliance requirements and standards, strategies for achieving and maintaining the same, and the laws and ethics related to computer forensics and challenges in computer forensics.

**CMP 632: Requirements Engineering (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 560*

The course is an introduction to requirements engineering. The topics covered in this course include domain understanding and requirements elicitation, requirements evaluation, requirements specification and documentation, use of diagrammatic notations, requirements quality assurance through inspections, reviews, validation and verification, requirements evolution, goal-orientation in requirements engineering, modeling system objectives with goal diagrams, risk analysis on goal models, modeling conceptual objects with class diagrams, modeling system agents and responsibilities, modeling system operations, modeling system behaviors, integrating multiple system views and a goal-oriented model-building method in action.

**CMP 635: Software Quality and Process Improvement (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 560*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is a study of software quality and software process improvement techniques. The topics covered in this course include: software reliability, software quality, verification and validation, ISO 9126 (quality characteristics), ISO 9000 software quality standard, Capability Maturity Models Integration (CMMI) 1 to 5; the Personal Software Process (PSP); and the Team Software Process (TSP) that covers: leadership, teams and team motivation, building teams, managing to plan, maintaining product focus, following the process, managing quality, management support, reporting to management, protecting the team, developing the team, developing team members, and improving team performance.

### **CMP 636: Trends in Software Applications Development (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 632*

The course covers the development of software applications using new paradigms and architectural styles as well as well-known paradigms. Topics covered in this course include Component Based Software Engineering (CBSE): Domain engineering and Component-Based Design, Component Qualification, Component Adaptation, Component Composition and Component Update, the V-Model, the object models: OMG/CORBA, COM/DCOM, JavaBeans, CCM, Testing; Web Service (WS); Service-oriented architecture (SOA): benefits, design concept, principles, types, WS protocols, Programmatic Service Contract, Network Management Architecture, benefits and Challenges, SOA Extensions: SOA, Web 2.0, Services over the Messenger, Mashups, Digital Nervous Systems, etc.

### **CMP 637: Software Engineering Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 560*

This course is a study of software engineering management issues. The topics covered in this course include software project planning, project goals and objectives, project policies and standards, process planning, project assumptions and forecasts, project deliverables, project staffing, effort, schedule, and cost estimation, resource allocation, quality management and project plan/budget development and management; risk management: risk management concepts, risk management process, risk management tools, organizational risk management and joint supplier/customer risk management; software project organization and enactment: project organization, project directing, project control, reporting and supplier contract management; review and evaluation; determining closure and closure activities; software engineering measurement: establish and sustain measurement commitment, plan the measurement process, perform the measurement process, and evaluate measurement; and engineering economics: engineering economics fundamentals, for-profit decision-making, not-for-profit decision-making, estimation, risk, and uncertainty and multiple attribute decisions.

### **CMP 639: Software Engineering Capstone Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of the all core and four specialization courses*

This course consists of a capstone project that integrates and applies concepts previously studied. It includes the best practices and emerging topics and technologies in software engineering.

### **CMP 640: Decision Support and BI (3)**

*Prerequisites: CMP 556*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is an introduction to decision support and Business Intelligence. These topics are combined with practical examples and methods from the real world. The topics covered in this course include: decision making, systems, modeling, and support, decision support systems concepts, methodologies, and technologies, modeling and analysis, business intelligence, data warehousing, data mining for business intelligence, business performance management, and text and web mining, collaboration, communication, group support systems, knowledge management, artificial intelligence and expert systems, and management support systems.

### **CMP 641: Operating Systems (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 260*

This course discusses the design and implementation of computer operating systems. Topics include operating system structures, functions of the kernel, process management, central processing unit scheduling, deadlocks, memory management, input/output, file system facilities, concurrent processes, security, and integrity.

### **CMP 643: Database Security and Data Protection (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 556 or CMP 553*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines defense-in-depth strategies for securing databases that are constantly under threat especially from SQL injection and other forms of attacks. It also covers mechanisms for securing data at rest and in transit. The topics covered in this course include current protocols for the secure exchange of data; the Data Encryption Standard and the Advanced Encryption Standard and secure mechanisms for communication; the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and the use of digital signatures and certificates for protecting and validating data; firewalls, VPN, IDS/IPS, PKI, patch management, authentication and password security, application security, granular access control, securing database-to-database communications, encryption, privacy, fault tolerance, protection of personal identifiable information (PII), regulations and compliance (SOX, HIPAA, GLBA, etc.), logging, auditing and auditing architectures. Strategies for the physical protection of information assets are also studied.

### **CMP 644: Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 558*

The course studies the theory and implementation of intrusion detection and prevention systems. The topics covered in this course include network-based, host-based, and hybrid intrusion detection; intrusion prevention; attack pattern identification; deployment; response; surveillance; damage assessment; data forensics; attack tracing; system recovery; and continuity of operation (COP). The course also examines penetration testing methodologies, planning and scheduling; vulnerability analysis; penetration testing deliverables and documentation.

**CMP 645: Security Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 558*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the managerial aspects of information security and assurance. The topics covered in this course include planning for security and contingencies, information security policy, developing the security program, security management models and practices, risk management, protection mechanisms, personnel and security, law and ethics.

**CMP 647: Wireless and Mobile Security (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 558*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is a study of the wireless and mobile security. The topics in this course include encryption and cryptographic protocols for wireless and specifications needed for 3GPP: AES, KASUMI, public-key and elliptic curve cryptography, MIMO/OFDMA-based for 4G systems such as Long Term Evolution (LTE), Ultra Mobile Broadband (UMB), Mobile WiMAX or Wireless Broadband (WiBro); intrusion detection systems against worm/virus cyber-attacks; secure routing; authentication on wireless networks; security for handheld devices; real-time wireless security; and security measures for embedded devices.

**CMP 648: Special Topics in Cybersecurity (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover topics of current interest, emerging topics and technologies in Cybersecurity selected by the faculty. Topics will be announced before each semester.

**CMP 649: Cybersecurity Capstone Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: All core and four specialization courses*

This course consists of a capstone project that integrates and applies concepts previously studied. Best practices and appropriate technologies to design, implement, manage, evaluate, and further improve network security are explored; including emerging trends and their potential effect on cybersecurity.

**CMP 650: Software Design and Construction (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 560*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is an in-depth study of software design and construction. The topics covered in this course include software design fundamentals; key issues in software design such as concurrency, control and handling of events, distribution of components, error and exception handling and fault tolerance, interaction and presentation, data persistence; architectural structures and viewpoints, architectural styles (macro architectural patterns), design patterns (micro architectural patterns), human computer interface design, families of programs and frameworks; software design quality analysis and evaluation; software structural descriptions (static) and behavioral descriptions (dynamic); software design strategies and methods: general strategies, function-oriented (structured) design, object-oriented design, heuristic methods, formal methods, Component-Based Design (CBD) and SOA; software construction fundamentals: minimizing complexity, anticipating change, constructing for verification, standards in construction; managing construction, construction methods, construction planning, construction measurement; and practical considerations: construction design, coding, construction testing, construction quality and integration.

**CMP 651: Advanced Topics in Database Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 556*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides an in-depth study of new developments in database systems and intelligent information systems. The course covers internet databases, data warehousing and online analytical processing, object-relational, object-oriented, and deductive databases. Formal semantics of relational database and systems, physical database tuning, advanced issues in query optimization and transaction processing, advanced database facilities such as triggers and materialized views, query caching, and database mediation.

**CMP 652: Natural Language Processing (3)**

*Prerequisites: CMP 561 and CMP 621*

The course examines various issues relating to natural language processing. The topics covered in this course include state of the art in natural language processing (parsing and semantic understanding); formal, context-free, and transformational grammars and parsing; augmented transition networks: problems of complexity, semantics, and context; and deterministic parsing and semantic parsing.

**CMP 653: Machine Learning (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 621*

This course provides an introduction to machine learning and statistical pattern recognition. Topics covered include supervised learning: generative and discriminative learning, parametric and non-parametric learning, neural networks, and support vector machines; unsupervised learning: k-means clustering, kernel methods, dimensionality reduction; learning theory: bias and variance tradeoffs, and large margins; and adaptive control and reinforcement learning. The course also discusses recent applications of machine learning such as speech recognition, text and web data processing, robotics, autonomous navigation, bioinformatics, and data mining.

### **CMP 654: Adaptive Learning Systems (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 621*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is a study of adaptive learning as an alternative to rule-based schemes for artificial intelligence. The topics covered in this course include: expert systems, fuzzy methods, neural net architectures, and genetic algorithms are examined and compared.

### **CMP 655: Intelligent Agents (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 621*

*Internship Qualified*

This course discusses multi-agent systems concepts, theories, and applications. The topics in this course include introduction to multi-agent systems (MAS), negotiation in MAS, agent learning, agent communication language (ACL), applications of MAS with examples, agent architectures, agent model and theory, coordination in MAS, agent oriented software engineering techniques, agent oriented programming, agent and grid computing and classification of agents.

### **CMP 658: Special Topics in Intelligent Systems (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover topics of current interest, emerging topics and technologies in machine intelligence and cognitive science. Topics will be announced before each semester.

### **CMP 659: Intelligent Systems Capstone Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: All core and four specialization courses*

This course consists of a capstone project that integrates and applies concepts previously studied. Best practices and appropriate technologies to design, implement, manage, evaluate, and deploy MAS are explored; including emerging trends.

### **CMP 660: Issues and Trends in Software Engineering (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 560*

This course will consider ethical issues relating to various aspects of software development and design. By utilizing case studies, students will examine and discuss various topical situations in the realms of information acquisition, access, stewardship, software licensing, intellectual property, safety and reliability.

### **CMP 661: Software Testing (3)**

*Prerequisites: CMP 561 and CMP 650*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines software-testing issues in software engineering. The topics covered include program testing theory, unit testing, control flow testing, data flow testing, domain testing, system integration testing, system testing categories, functional testing, test generation from a Finite State Machine (FSM), system test design, system test planning and automation, system test execution, acceptance testing, and test team organization, and the IEEE standards for software testing and documentation.

### **CMP 662: Software Maintenance & Configuration Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 650*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is an in-depth study of software maintenance & configuration management issues. Topics covered include software maintenance fundamentals; key issues in software maintenance: technical, management issues, maintenance cost estimation and software maintenance measurement; the maintenance process; techniques for maintenance; management of the configuration management (CM) process; configuration identification; configuration control; configuration status accounting and software release management and delivery.

### **CMP 663: Web Applications Development (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP553 or CMP561*

*Internship Qualified*

This course overviews the processes and techniques for developing software for web applications. The concepts of client-server computing in e-commerce theories of usable graphical user interfaces and models for web-based information retrieval and processing are covered. Students study approaches for evaluating and using various common software tools and languages.

**CMP 664: Mobile Applications Design and Development (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP553 or CMP561*

*Internship Qualified*

This course looks at the quickly developing landscape of mobile applications. It focuses on Web-based mobile applications, and thus covers issues of Web service design, mobile platforms, and the specific constraints and requirements of user interface design for limited devices. The course combines a conceptual overview, design issues, and practical development issues.

**CMP 665: Virtualization Technologies (3)**

*Prerequisites: CMP 558 and CMP 641*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is a study of the virtualization concepts and technologies. The topics covered in this course include virtualization concepts, creating and building virtual machines, deploying virtual workstation software, building guest operating systems, constructing a test environment, partitioning servers, managing virtual servers remotely, data center virtualization, implementing remote management tools, securing virtual machine deployments, and reducing the attack surface. The course emphasizes a hands-on approach to virtualization.

**CMP 666: Healthcare Economics (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the economic aspects of healthcare systems. Healthcare is studied as a commodity that has supply and demand dimensions. Microeconomic methods are used to study markets and resources in health care. The topics studied include demand for health and medical care services, provider behavior, and function and behavior of insurance markets, government role, financing arrangements, insurance reform, rationing, price regulation, and provider competition. Case studies are used to understand the economic efficiency of example health care systems such as the U.S. health system, the UK National Health Service, etc.

**CMP 667: Biostatistics (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course examines the fundamental statistical issues in the design of clinical research studies. Its primary emphasis is on understanding the design and analytical methods of clinical research from a statistical perspective. The topics studied include: exploratory data analysis, basic concepts of statistical analysis, construction of hypothesis tests and confidence intervals, the development of statistical methods for analyzing data, development of mathematical models used to relate a response variable to explanatory or descriptive variables, and an introduction to statistical analysis of microarray and genomic studies.

**CMP 668: Special Topics in Health Informatics (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover topics of current interest, emerging topics and technologies in Health Informatics selected by the faculty. Topics will be announced before each semester.

**CMP 669: Software Engineering Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 610, and CMP 650*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides experience in applying software-engineering techniques by giving the students an opportunity to produce software when working in teams under the schedule constraints commonly experienced in industry. Students utilize a software engineering methodology in a team environment in a real-world application. They are involved in all the phases of software development, including project planning, requirements analysis, design, coding, testing, configuration management, quality assurance, documentation, and delivery.

**CMP 670: Legal, Ethical and Social Issues in Healthcare (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

The course examines the legal principles, statutes, regulations, and case law related to managing health care organizations and health professionals' practice. It also examines the ethical and social issues arising in the use of computerized information systems in the delivery of healthcare. Case studies are used to discuss the role of law in the design and implementation of health informatics systems; the U.S. healthcare regulatory environment; and the structure, concepts, and process of decision making on health matters in legislative, administrative, and judicial bodies. Legal health care issues from international perspectives are also studied.

**CMP 671: Special Topics in Computer Science (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

Students may choose to further study the topics in the Computer Science field. Topics can be taken from the domain of Computer Science and should be of significance with respect to the computer science industry. The work can include literature survey, lectures/discussions with assigned faculty, project work, and detailed reports.

**CMP 672: Special Topics in Information Systems (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

Students may choose to study the topics further that are in accordance to the MIS program and their interests. Topics can be taken from the domain of information technology and should be of significance with respect to the information technology industry. The study work can comprise literature survey, lectures/discussions with assigned faculty, project work, and detailed reports.

**CMP 673: Special Topics in Software Engineering (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover emerging topics and technologies in information technology selected by the faculty and should be of significance with respect to the software engineering industry. The study work can comprise literature survey, lectures/discussions with assigned faculty, project work, and detailed reports. Topics will be announced before each semester.

**CMP 674: Special Topics in Information Technology (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover emerging topics and technologies in software engineering selected by the faculty and should be of significance with respect to the software engineering industry. The study work can comprise literature survey, lectures/discussions with assigned faculty, project work, and detailed reports. Topics will be announced before each semester.

**CMP 675: Knowledge Management & the Learning Organization (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

In today's increasingly competitive business environments, where new business practices and products are regularly introduced, organizations need to be innovative to survive. Knowledge management has been recognized as essential for achieving business success and maintaining an organization's competitiveness. This course explores the concept of knowledge and the means by which organizations seek to manage it through formal technological practices and informal social systems. The topics covered include organizational strategy and knowledge: managing enterprise intelligence, assessing the strategic value of human capital; facilitating knowledge Workflows: knowledge based systems for capturing, storing and distributing explicit and tacit knowledge; data governance; and learning and sharing knowledge: group learning, organizational learning, and knowledge transfer through communities of practice (COP).

**CMP 676: Digital Document Analysis (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

With the ubiquitous use of computer technology and the worlds of paperwork and the web become interdependent, it is becoming increasingly crucial for organizations to find a way to ensure capability, efficiency and security across the totality of their operations by managing the documents properly. This course examines the key issues in document management. The topics covered include: the best practices document management procedures based on ISO standards, application of industry-standard risk management principles related to document control, industry tools and techniques that optimize and streamline project document management, document management systems: capturing paper documents and other digital assets and providing secure storage, document privacy, easy retrieval and archiving, lifecycle administration, and record management.

**CMP 678: Special Topics in Knowledge Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover topics of current interest, emerging topics and technologies in knowledge management selected by the faculty. Topics will be announced before each semester.

**CMP 679: Knowledge Management Capstone Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: All core and four specialization courses*

This course consists of a capstone project that integrates and applies concepts previously studied. Best practices in knowledge management; including emerging trends and their potential effect on knowledge management.

**CMP 680: Organizational and Social Dimensions of Computing (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course discusses the organizational impact and the social implications, rights and duties related to the actions of computing professionals. It investigates the context in which professionals work, the laws and how they are created, human aspects of running a company, software contracts and liability, intellectual property rights, and the legislation that affects the way in which computers are used or misused. Topics include social, legal, financial, organizational and ethical issues in the context of the information technology industry; the role of professional codes of conduct and ethics; and, key legislation.

### **CMP 681: Enterprise Analytics (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 556*

This course examines key issues relating to how an organization can optimize performance, processes, and decisions through big data. The topics covered include: decision making, systems modeling and analysis; decision support systems: concepts, methodologies, and technologies; business intelligence, data warehousing, data mining for business intelligence, return on investments in analytics, business performance management, text and web mining, collaboration, communication, group support systems, knowledge management, applying analytics at production scale, predictive analytics in the Cloud, analytical technology and the business user, organizing analysts, engaging analytical talent, analytics governance, and building a global analytical capability.

### **CMP 682: Big Data Analytics (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 556*

*Internship Qualified*

This course aggregates several key technologies used in manipulating, storing, and analyzing big data. Over the years there has been an accumulation of very large volumes of structured, mostly relational data which has been mined using data warehousing technology for marketing, financial decision making and to gain a competitive advantage. The recent explosion of social media and the ubiquitous usage of computers have created the so-called big data, which mostly consists of unstructured data in the form of e-mails, web logs, videos, tweets, speech, photographs, and others. The topics covered include a study of Hadoop and related tools that provide SQL-like access to unstructured data; Hive and Pig; analysis of NoSQL storage solutions like HBase, Oracle NoSQL and Cassandra, for their critical features: speed of reads and writes, data consistency, and ability to scale to extreme volumes; memory resident databases and streaming technologies; statistical analysis methods; and open source frameworks such as Mahout and Open R and other statistical tools. The main goal is to discover intelligence that could represent opportunities, and/or threats in a limited amount of time.

### **CMP 684: Management Decision Modeling (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines quantitative analysis for management. The topics covered include: probability concepts and applications, decision analysis, regression models and forecasting, inventory control models, linear programming models, transportation and assignment models, integer programming, goal programming, and nonlinear programming, network models, project management, queuing theory models, simulation modeling, Markov analysis, and statistical quality control.

### **CMP 685: Advanced Big Data Analytics (3)**

*Prerequisites: CMP 682*

*Internship Qualified*

This course discusses advanced topics in big data analytics. The topics covered include: K-Means clustering, association rules, linear and logistic regression, Naïve Bayesian classifier, decision trees, time series analysis, text analysis, using *mapReduce*, Hadoop ecosystem tools, in-database analytics, and advanced SQL techniques.

### **CMP 688: Special Topics in BI & Data Analytics (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

*Internship Qualified*

This course covers emerging trends, research and developments in BI and big data analytics. Topics will be announced before each semester.

### **CMP 689: BI & Data Analytics Capstone Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: All the core and four specialization courses*

This course consists of a capstone project that integrates and applies concepts previously studied. Best practices and appropriate technologies for BI and big data analytics, including emerging trends and their potential effect on BI and big data analytics, are studied.

### **CMP 691: Graduate Internship Level II (3)**

*Prerequisite: All core courses and Dean's approval (plus two specialization elective courses for MCS & MIS students)*

This course offers hands-on experience to students enrolled in the MIS or MCS degrees in a domain close to their main career path intentions. Students are encouraged to pursue projects that would allow them to apply engineering design concepts gained in the classroom, going through all stages of system development, from analysis and design to implementation and testing. This three (3) credit hour project internship is for students who are expected to work a minimum

of 135 hours during the semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

**CMP 696: Independent Study I (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

This course offers opportunity and challenge of self-directive, independent study; develops the individual's ability as an independent student; and enables the student to pursue needed study in a field in which appropriate courses are not being offered during a given term.

**CMP 697: Independent Study II (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

This course offers opportunity and challenge of self-directive, independent study; develops the individual's ability as an independent student; and enables the student to pursue needed study in a field in which appropriate courses are not being offered during a given term.

**CMP 698: Master's Thesis I (3)**

*Prerequisite: All core courses and academic advisor approval (plus two specialization elective courses for MIS and MCS students)*

The thesis work can comprise basic research or a practical project. Students are encouraged to start their thesis work as early as possible. Usually after completing two semesters of course work, the student will be asked to work with a faculty advisor to choose a suitable master's thesis topic and prepare a thesis proposal. Thereafter, the student completes the project and writes a thesis. The master's thesis project will be conducted over a period of two semesters.

**CMP 699: Master's Thesis II (3)**

*Prerequisite: CMP 698*

CMP 699 is a continuation of the course CMP 698: Master's Thesis I. The thesis work can comprise basic research or a practical project.

**COMM 110: Oral Communication Skills (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides the skills needed to prepare and deliver informative and persuasive speeches. Students will focus on adapting communication styles and content to diverse speakers and audiences. This course emphasizes how to compose meaningful and coherent messages, conduct research, and develop effective presentation skills. Students will be required to deliver several oral presentations in front of the class during the semester.

**COMM 600: Writing & Editing the News (Introduction to News Editorial Journalism) (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is designed to teach students the craft of basic news writing and editing. Students will learn how to recognize and acquire news information, cultivate sources, conduct effective interviews, and write balanced news and feature stories. Students will also learn how a newsroom functions and how news is evaluated for consideration and use in a given news cycle. Students enrolled in this course will acquire the basic knowledge necessary for practicing journalism and evaluating news through tested and ethically sound practices.

**COMM 605: Media Ethics (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover a wide variety of ethics issues ranging from fairness in the presentation of news (objectivity versus advocacy), to the problems associated with state-sponsored and managed media, to the murky world of maintaining secrecy to hide from the public potentially embarrassing information, on the one hand, and leaking information to the public to further political goals, on the other hand. The course will also look at the manipulation of photo imagery, censorship, and the invasions of privacy that are a part of routine business activities or intrusive government spying. The course will help students develop a deeper, yet clearer, understanding of the complexities involved in the often unethical media practices of governments, businesses, news, and other mass media practitioners.

**COMM 610: News Editing (3)**

*Prerequisite: COMM 600*

*Internship Qualified*

Before or after all credible journalism is the editor. This course will examine the wide-ranging role of the editor in journalism and the editing techniques that result in award-winning products. Among their many roles, editors: set the editorial calendar for the year, determine content, dictate design, assign stories, provide guidance, critique and correct stories, select illustrations, and determine story placement. Students will not only become cognizant of the work editors do, but also learn what editors expect from their writers and how to deliver on those expectations.

**COMM 620: Politics, Journalism, & Business (3)**



*Prerequisite: None*

A principal subject of journalism is politics, but much of the writing about politics involves the triangular relationship between government, business, and journalists. This course will examine those relationships and demonstrate how businesses may use journalism to mediate their interest in shaping public and legislative opinion. It will also examine how government officials use media in attempts to likewise control public opinion and affect control over business activities. This course will offer students a clear and pragmatic understanding of the relationship between journalists and government, allowing students to be better positioned to derive advantages in that relationship.

### **COMM 625: Media Relations (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will provide an in-depth look at news media operations with a focus primarily on using news outlets to deliver, promote, and manage key business messages. Responding effectively to news media queries and crisis communications management will be principal content elements. All major mass communications media will be covered: print, radio, television, and the Internet, with an emphasis on proactivity. (If resources permit in a particular semester, the course will include a day of media training at a Washington, DC, communications facility.) In addition to learning how to effectively respond to news media queries, students will also be able to plan, deliver, and manage media campaigns.

### **COMM 630: International Journalism (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course will introduce the student to varying philosophical approaches, barriers, and ethical challenges to delivering news on a global basis. Emphasis will be placed on a regional approach to the news with a focus on Western and Eastern Europe; the Middle East; Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa; East, South and Central Asia; Latin America; North America; and the U.K. There will also be some discussion of journalism education and international media controversies.

### **COMM 635: Mass Media & Society (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

The psychosocial effects of mass media are deep and varied. This course will introduce the student to the theories and structures underlying mass communications operations and how those operations affect and shape individual perceptions and social values. Additionally, the clash between traditional and emerging media is changing how news is used, disseminated, and interpreted. The media role in education, propaganda, and the formation of public opinion will be among other topics receiving emphasis in this course, which is designed in part to help students develop a better sense of how they may influence others through their own participations in traditional and emerging mass and social media outlets.

### **COMM 641: Media Economics (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to the economic context and the current financial practices of mass media companies. Students will learn the economic factors that influence the success or failure of contemporary media operations, as well as the management issues relating to new product development, the development of global markets, and the challenges of business consolidation. Differentiation will be made between the following industry categories: radio, broadcast TV, cable and satellite TV, motion pictures, music recording, newspapers, magazines, books, and Internet-based outlets.

### **COMM 643: US Press History (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

The history of the US press (and, by extension, mass media) is in many ways a history of US cultural and intellectual development. This course will examine that history and show how the press has changed and developed through varying economic, political, and technological eras. Emphasis will be placed on how news organizations have managed to survive through changing times and economic conditions, and how intellectual freedom changed with them, especially between the cyclical antipodes of war and peace.

### **COMM 645: The Development & Use of New Media Technology (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

The clash between traditional and emerging media continues to alter how information and entertainment purveyors reach their audiences, but also how audiences may become active participants in the mass communications process. The development of mass communications technology has led not only to different ways to communicate with and shape audiences, but also to different expectations by the audiences themselves. This course will introduce the student to the technologies that have formed and continue to form the basis for mass media operations, from the development of printing to the emergence and ever-expanding development of electronic media. The course will also focus on helping students to better protect their privacy and the interests of their business activities.

### **COMM 647: The Movies: Film & Video Criticism (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

Movies – produced with film, video, or hybrid techniques incorporating various types of animation – represent what is arguably the most influential contemporary medium, whether measured in terms of its influence on public opinion, politics, sociology, or sheer entertainment. This course will explore the history of the medium, the variety of its genres, and how films are made and convey meaning through scripting, production, final editing, marketing, and distribution. (Caveat: This is not a hands-on course in scriptwriting or filmmaking.) The course will provide a comprehensive understanding of how movies are made, how to identify the intentions of moviemakers, and how to critically review and evaluate movies. As part of the course, students will learn how to write and publish movie reviews.

### **COMM 649: Small Group & Team Communications (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

Most work today is accomplished through teamwork. That is as true for mass media organizations as it is for other business organizations. One look on any given day at a major news organization like The Washington Post makes it abundantly clear that teams of writers and editors work on a daily basis to deliver individual stories. This course will focus on the small group dynamics, team building, and structure that make such work successful.

### **COMP 124: Information Technology (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces approaches for using information technology and the role of the computer in modern organizations, discussing hardware and software, computer application development, data processing and database systems, and the impact of computer information systems on society. Emphasis is placed on integrating information technologies into the organization to meet organizational needs. Upon completion, students should be able to understand the different approaches to information technology and be able to determine the correct approach to use in the organization.

### **COMP 127: Office Applications (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides an overview of personal computers applications. Students study widely used applications, including word-processing, spreadsheets, presentation, databases, and introductory elements of web development.

### **ECON 101: Principles of Microeconomics (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

Microeconomics mainly studies the economic choices facing the individual entities, including consumers and business firms. This course covers the basic topics of economic tradeoffs, supply and demand model, concept of elasticity, consumer choice model, theories of cost and production, and the firm's behavior and performance under different market structures. The course also introduces the students to the problems of market failure and public choice, and the impacts of public policy on consumers and business firms.

### **ECON 102: Principles of Macroeconomics (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

Macroeconomics is primarily concerned with economic analysis and policy making at the national level. This course introduces the students to the basics of national income determination, measurements of inflation and unemployment rates, economic fluctuations, and economic growth. The course also covers the foundations of aggregate demand and aggregate supply, the basics of the classical and Keynesian models, the tools of fiscal and monetary policies, and an introduction to macroeconomic policy debates.

### **ECON 207: Intermediate Microeconomics (3)**

*Prerequisite: ECON 101 Principles of Microeconomics*

*Internship Qualified*

In addition to an in-depth coverage of the core concepts covered in ECON 101, this course incorporates a number of intermediate microeconomic topics, including the general equilibrium model, game theory, and decision making under risk and uncertainty. The course applies algebra and extensive graphical analysis in presenting its main topics. It also involves problem solving to demonstrate real-world applications of the theoretical microeconomic concepts.

### **ECON 208: Intermediate Macroeconomics (3)**

*Prerequisite: ECON 102 Principles of Macroeconomics*

*Internship Qualified*

This course goes beyond the basic concepts presented in ECON 102 and provides an in-depth coverage of the core macroeconomic topics within an analytical framework. Furthermore, it introduces the students to a number of modern macroeconomic topics; including credit market imperfections, new Keynesian economics, the monetarist counterrevolution, and international macroeconomics. The course applies algebra and extensive graphical analysis and involves problem solving to demonstrate the real-world applications of its theoretical concepts.

### **EDUC 574 Materials Development for Online Learning (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course*

This course emphasizes the theories and methods of course development specifically for the online environment. Students will learn methods of material creation, skill integration techniques, course and program development, adaptation of on-ground materials to the online environment and integrative-skill techniques. Students will also learn about the various methods of delivery including on-ground, online and hybrid courses/programs. Students will learn methods to adapt existing material to a hybrid course.

### **EDUC 575 Online Teaching Principles and Practices (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides an in-depth perspective on methods of teaching in the virtual classroom including virtual classroom management, online student engagement techniques, addressing learning modalities, discipline, methods of providing feedback, motivational theories, and individual needs assessments. Students will be able to apply theories to practice in the virtual classroom in the roles of teacher, coach, and motivator.

### **EDUC 576 Course Design for the Virtual Classroom (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of an introductory technologies for teaching course*

*Internship Qualified*

Students will learn methodologies and principles associated with designing and implementing virtual classrooms. Students will learn theoretical understandings and considerations of the authenticity of material, interaction among participants, practical learning scenarios, and techniques to promote student learning outside of the virtual classroom. Students will also learn about instructional design models and the importance of selecting the appropriate model for lesson development. Additionally, students will be introduced to a needs-based approach to course development in order to identify curricular goals and course objectives. Students will use this needs-based approach to develop a syllabus, a course outline, and lesson plans to develop and implement this material into a fully online course.

### **EDUC 590 Program Administration (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of a teaching methods course and completion of or concurrent enrollment in a curriculum course*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides an in-depth perspective of the administrative requirements of a language program including how to effectively lead and manage a program. Students gain a behind-the-scenes view of what occurs outside of the classroom environment including the areas of people management, curriculum and programmatic development, customer service, and the logistics of managing a program. The course explores the lifecycle of the student from admission to graduation, the lifecycle of faculty members within the program, and the administrative role of managing a curriculum.

### **EDUC 595 Program Development and Evaluation (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of an assessment course*

*Internship Qualified*

Successful educational programs require the development of curricula centered on student needs and ultimate goals. Additionally, language programs have an ethical and social duty to provide a quality, accessible, and relevant educational product for all stakeholders invested in and benefiting from the program. This course explores the need to examine and evaluate both the needs of the stakeholders and the effectiveness of the program by focusing on clear outcomes. Students will learn skills necessary to design evaluations at the course, programmatic, institutional, and societal levels. These skills provide students with the ability to develop, evaluate, and improve existing or new programs.

### **EDUC 640 Introduction to Research Methods (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of 9 credits, or permission of the instructor*

*Credit Hour Breakdown: 40 hours of lecture; 10 hours of lab*

This course covers quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods of research in the fields of applied linguistics and language education. It provides a foundation for language education professionals to conceptualize, plan, conduct, and publish independent empirical research.

### **EDUC 667 Internship in Program Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of a minimum of 18 credits in the program and advisor's approval*

*Credit Hour Breakdown: 135 hours of practicum*

This course provides supervised field experience in a setting appropriate to the student's program and career goals. Examples of appropriate experience include (but are not limited to) managing a writing center or a language learning resource center, assisting with language program administration, and conducting language testing. The students are expected to work on-site for at least 135 hours. Students are expected to communicate with the faculty advisor regularly and submit required documentation and projects on time.

### **EDUC 668 Internship in Educational Technology (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of a minimum of 18 credits in the program and advisor's approval*

*Credit Hour Breakdown: 135 hours of practicum*

This course provides supervised field experience in a setting appropriate to the student's program and career goals. Examples of appropriate experience include (but are not limited to) teaching online or blended language courses, assisting a language instructor teaching online or in blended contexts, developing language teaching materials or assessments for online or blended classrooms, conducting or contributing to online language testing, and conducting or assisting with research into topics relevant to online language learning and teaching. The students are expected to work on-site for at least 135 hours. When the student is the primary instructor of a course, it may be appropriate to count 2 hours of preparation and grading for each hour of classroom instruction. Students are expected to communicate with the faculty advisor regularly and submit required documentation and projects on time.

### **ENGL 113 English Composition and Rhetoric (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed expose students to the conventions of academic writing and critical thinking so that they may successfully produce prose that is clear and direct with appropriate structure and support. Students are introduced to the basic rhetorical modes of narration, classification, exposition, argumentation, description, comparison and contrast, cause and effect, definition, and process in the context of English rhetorical structure. This course provides students with the opportunity to experience writing as a process that requires refinement and experience. Students will learn to write for specific audiences and to understand how to approach writing for different disciplines.

### **ENGL 120: Academic Writing and Research (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

Academic Writing focuses on reviewing the fundamentals of standard written English for academic purposes. Students will practice writing common forms of academic documents and demonstrate the ability to successfully use APA formatting. This interactive class provides students with an opportunity to improve their academic writing skills necessary for success in college and beyond.

### **ESL 0230: Low Beginner Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: Placement or no previous exposure to the language*

In this course, students will begin to build their academic listening, speaking, and vocabulary skills, and focus on clear speech through pronunciation practice. Listening tasks include predicting listening content, listening for main ideas, details, opinions, and examples on a variety of high-interest topics. Some of the speaking tasks include expressing opinions and reactions, asking and answering questions, agreeing and disagreeing, and asking for repetition. Pronunciation features are introduced such as sentence intonation and syllable stress. Students will learn and use selected vocabulary from the Academic Word List.

### **ESL 0235: Low Beginner Reading, Writing & Grammar (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: Placement or no previous exposure to the language*

In this course, students will begin to build their academic reading, writing, and vocabulary skills with a focus on developing a strong grammatical foundation. Reading skills include previewing a text, reading for main ideas and details, and recognizing different text types. Writing skills include basic sentence structures and an introduction to the writing process including pre-writing, outlining, revising, editing, and rewriting. Some grammatical structures covered are affirmative statements, parts of speech, and selected verb tenses.

### **ESL 0330: Beginner Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0230 or placement*

This course will help students develop the necessary academic speaking and listening skills to gain confidence communicating in English in a variety of situations. Students will focus on building skills to listen for main ideas and details, for specific purposes, and for specific information. Speaking skills include forming questions for follow-up, clarification, and repetition. Some speaking tasks involve group and pair discussions, as well as the preparation and delivery of a short presentation. Aspects of pronunciation covered in the course include question intonation, word stress, reduction and linking sounds.

### **ESL 0335: Beginner Reading, Writing & Grammar (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0235 or placement*

This course focuses on developing basic reading and writing skills. Students will develop reading skills including recognizing main ideas and supporting details, making basic inferences, and using charts for comprehension. Students will also focus on developing writing skills such as: capitalizing proper nouns, writing well-formed complete sentences, using coordinating conjunctions, and using time order words. In addition, students will study present and past simple verb tenses, prepositions of location, and subordinating conjunctions. Furthermore, students will also increase their vocabulary by working with synonyms, antonyms, phrasal verbs, and different word forms.

### **ESL 0430: Elementary Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0330 or placement*

This course focuses on developing students' academic speaking and listening skills, including the ability to identify the main ideas and factual information in level-appropriate listening passages, participate in discussions on a variety of topics, give

simple presentations, and verbally summarize listening passages. This course includes an overview and practice of pronunciation features such as sentence stress, reduction, and linking sounds.

### **ESL 0435: Elementary Reading, Writing & Grammar (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0335 or placement*

In this course, students will improve their reading comprehension skills and begin to learn how to write paragraphs. Specifically, students will learn to use a variety of pre-reading strategies to become more effective readers, such as identifying main and supporting ideas of a text, recognizing sequence, and identifying the author's purpose. Students will be introduced to different types of paragraphs, for example opinion and descriptive, and be expected to produce well-structured paragraphs. In addition, students will study different verb tenses (including the present perfect,) modals, comparative & superlative adjectives, future time clauses, adverbs.

### **ESL 0530: Low Intermediate Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0430 or placement*

This course focuses on developing students' listening comprehension, summarizing, and presentation skills. Students will understand main ideas and specific details of recorded passages on academic and general interest topics; take notes while listening; produce oral summaries of written and listening materials; prepare and deliver structured technology-assisted presentations on topics of general interest. In addition, students will give advice, make suggestions, ask for and give clarification to facilitate group discussions; and develop an ability to support opinions, explain in detail, and hypothesize. Students will also work on pronunciation skills including but not limited to word endings, syllable stress, intonation, and linking sounds.

### **ESL 0535: Low Intermediate Reading, Writing & Grammar (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0435 or placement*

In this course, students will work with a variety of academic reading materials to develop basic academic reading skills (skimming for main ideas and scanning for key details). Students will also learn to deduce the meaning of new vocabulary from contextual and structural cues. Students will review the principles of basic paragraph structure and focus on mastering the ability to write different types of paragraphs including descriptive, example, and opinion paragraphs. In addition, students will review sentence structure and learn how to avoid fragments and run-on sentences. Students will continue to work on using verb tenses correctly and ensuring subject-verb agreement in their writing.

### **ESL 0630: Intermediate Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0530 or placement*

This course helps students expand their fluency, emphasizing the language they need for academic studies and real world communication. This course develops students' listening comprehension and note-taking skills, including listening for main ideas and details, tuning out distractions, and understanding the speaker's purpose. This course also provides insights into U.S. life and culture and builds academic vocabulary through topics such as gender issues, the environment, and philanthropy. In addition, students will improve their understanding of American English pronunciation by focusing on intonation, stress patterns, and reduced sound in fast speech.

### **ESL 0635: Intermediate Reading, Writing & Grammar (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0535 or placement*

This course is designed for students who need to improve their academic reading and writing skills and enlarge their vocabulary. The students expand their vocabulary by understanding the meaning from context as well as word root meanings. The course readings explore controversial issues of contemporary U.S. culture. During this course, students will be introduced to the basic essay structure as well as various types of essays including descriptive and compare/ contrast. In addition, the course will focus on the correct usage of dependent clauses, subordinating conjunctions, comparatives, phrasal verbs, and complex verb tenses.

### **ESL 0720: TOEFL & Academic Listening (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0630 or placement*

In this intensive course, students will listen to a variety of conversations and lectures in English. Some topics that will be covered in this class are non-academic and informal; they reflect typical situations university students face in the United States. Other topics are academic and come from various fields of study in the natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts, and business. Through daily exercises, students will learn and practice useful listening strategies and test-taking skills that are required for TOEFL iBT.

### **ESL 0722: TOEFL & Academic Reading (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0635 or placement*

This course trains students to read and understand lengthy readings on a variety of academic topics. Students will learn about vocabulary, pronoun reference, the meanings of sentences, where sentences can be inserted, inferences, rhetorical purpose, and overall organization of ideas.

### **ESL 0730: High Intermediate Speaking, Listening & Pronunciation (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0630 or placement*

This course focuses on developing academic listening and speaking skills. Students will learn to give short structured presentations and improve their ability to comprehend and analyze academic discourse including expressing surprise, encouragement, and approval; and refuting an argument. This course includes an accent-reduction component to help students speak clearly and with appropriate intonation patterns. Furthermore, the academic language skills developed in this course will help to prepare students for the TOEFL iBT test.

### **ESL 0735: High Intermediate Reading, Writing & Grammar (70 hours – core)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0635 or placement*

In this course, students will review the basic principles of essay organization, focus on mastering multiple types of essays, including argumentative, and cause/effect. Students will further develop their academic reading skills in interpretation, inference, and contextual vocabulary cues. Students will analyze summarize, and criticize ideas encountered in reading passages. In addition, this course provides instruction on higher-level grammatical constructions in academic writing, such as verb tense consistency, effective relative clause usage, real and unreal conditionals, and passive voice. Furthermore, the academic language skills developed in this course will help to prepare students for the TOEFL iBT test.

### **ESL 0800: Public Speaking & Presentation Skills (35 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0730 or placement*

In this course, students will develop their confidence and abilities to be effective presenters. Students will build their skills by studying speech models; focusing on the physical aspects of presenting such as eye contact, gestures, stance, and voice; employing presentation aids; organizing and outlining speech materials; and most importantly preparing, giving, and evaluating their own presentations. Additionally, strategies for creating and selecting effective visual aids will be discussed and applied. Students who take this course will be able to deliver solid presentations in academic and professional settings.

### **ESL 0802: Accent Reduction (35 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0730 or placement*

This course is designed to help prepare students to comfortably converse with clear pronunciation in a variety of situations. The course will focus student attention on intonation and syllable stress, which is one of the most important facets of accent reduction. Students will feel more confident about conversing with Americans in their daily lives. In addition, students who are preparing to enter academic programs will gain useful pronunciation experience that will enable them to better understand (and be understood by) native speaking professors and classmates.

### **ESL 0806: Advanced Writing & Research Skills (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0735 or placement*

The main focus of this course is to develop the skills and knowledge required to write an academic research paper including quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, accessing and evaluating research sources, avoiding plagiarism, citing sources and essay formatting according to APA style. In addition, the course familiarizes international students with the general expectations of the American higher education system and assists them in building strong academic skills.

### **ESL 0810: Grammar Workshop & Editing (35 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0735 or placement*

The course is designed for students who have taken grammar courses and have a general understanding of grammar rules, but have trouble demonstrating it consistently, particularly through their writing. Each week, the class will target specific grammar errors that are commonly observed among English learners, such as incorrect use of verb tenses, various forms of agreement, determiners, word forms, and mechanics. After reviewing the rules, students will be asked to check their comprehension by using the targeted grammatical points at the sentence and paragraph level, eventually leading to writing 5-paragraph essays, which will be peer- and self-edited.

### **ESL 0817: Critical Thinking through News around the World (35 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0730 or placement*

Students in this elective course will use a variety of news sources to develop and sharpen their critical thinking and writing skills, as well as hone the speaking skills necessary to partake in stimulating discussions. Through this course, students will gain a better understanding of the impact of current events throughout the world.

### **ESL 0821: TOEFL Speaking (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0735 or placement*

In this intensive course, students will learn six different tasks of the Speaking section: two independent tasks and four integrated tasks. Students will be introduced to a variety of speaking strategies and given ample opportunities to practice responding to different topics in a given period of time with comprehensible pronunciation.

### **ESL 0823: TOEFL Writing (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0735 or placement*

In this course, students will learn how to write two types of essays for the TOEFL iBT independent and integrated tasks.

### **ESL 0840: English for Business Professionals (35 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0735 or placement*

In this course, students will improve their skills in the following key areas of business communication: taking part in meetings, telephoning, negotiating, presenting, and socializing. Students will also be introduced to the style, vocabulary, and various formats of business writing, such as letters, reports, memos, email, and other electronic communication. Grammar and editing skills are reinforced as important components of effective professional communication.

### **ESL 0850: IELTS Preparation (70 hours)**

*Prerequisite: ESL 0735 or placement*

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is an internationally recognized standardized English proficiency exam, which is generally required for universities in the UK, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand. While most American universities require TOEFL scores as entry requirement for international students, some schools also accept IELTS scores. This course prepares students who plan to take the IELTS exam by improving their overall English skills and familiarizing them with the test format, topics, and strategies that are needed to succeed in achieving their desired IELTS score.

### **FREN 100: Elementary French I (3)**

*Prerequisite: Placement or no previous exposure to the language.*

This course is an introduction to French grammar, structure, and use. This course uses a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language.

### **FREN 105: Elementary French II (3)**

*Prerequisite: FREN 100 or placement*

This course is an introduction to French grammar, structure, and use. This course uses a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Elementary French I while reinforcing production skills and vocabulary building.

### **FREN 200: Intermediate French I (3)**

*Prerequisite: FREN 105 or placement*

This course is an intermediate French course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Elementary French II while reinforcing meaningful and purposeful production skills and vocabulary building to emphasize communicative competence. The target language is the primary language of instruction.

### **FREN 205: Intermediate French II (3)**

*Prerequisite: FREN 200 or placement*

This course is an intermediate French course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Intermediate French I while reinforcing meaningful and purposeful production skills and vocabulary building to emphasize communicative competence. The target language is the primary language of instruction.

### **FREN 250: Conversational French I (3)**

*Prerequisite: FREN 105 or placement*

This course is an intermediate French course and builds upon skills learned in the elementary level. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in elementary and intermediate French with a focus on oral communication in the target language. The target language is the primary language of instruction.

### **FREN 300: Advanced French I (3)**

*Prerequisite: FREN 205 or placement*

This course is an advanced French course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language at an advanced level. Students will apply their knowledge of grammar, structure, and use to communicate fluidly and clearly in the target language in meaningful and purposeful activities designed to simulate real-world scenarios. Students will expand their communicative competence skills to be able to apply course content to a final project exemplifying their abilities. The target language is the language of instruction.

### **FREN 305: Advanced French II (3)**

*Prerequisite: FREN 300 or placement*

This course is an advanced French course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language at an advanced level. Students will apply their knowledge of grammar, structure, and use to communicate fluidly and clearly in the target language in meaningful and purposeful activities designed to simulate real-world scenarios. Students will expand their communicative competence skills to be able to apply course content to a final project exemplifying their abilities. The target language is the language of instruction.

### **GEOG 101: World Geography (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides a survey of physical, cultural, and economic aspects of world regions. It serves as an introduction to how constituent parts of the world differ from one another in their associated resources, cultures, and economics. Attention is given to the interrelationships, interdependencies, and associations that bind together the diverse communities of the world.

### **GEOL 101: Introduction to Geology (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides an introduction to the dynamics of the earth –volcanoes, earthquakes, plate tectonics, rivers and streams, groundwater, glaciers, waves, wind, and landslides –with an emphasis on the environment applications of these processes. This course also covers tools of the geologist, for example maps and aerial photographs.

### **GOVT 120: Comparative Government (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course compares political processes and governing structures in European nations, the former Soviet Union, China, and the United States.

### **GOVT 130: American Society and Politics (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This is an introductory course in the study of international relations. Students will examine important historical and contemporary themes in international relations and discuss the main set of theories in the discipline: realism, idealism, and constructivism. Critical themes and developments to be discussed in the course include global and regional conflict and war, cooperation, international law, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, ethnic conflict and peacekeeping, globalization and international trade and finance, and international organizations and regionalism.

### **GOVT 140: International Relations (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

The class is designed to provide students with a core understanding of American politics and society and inspire their interest and possibly involvement in the American political system. It is comprised of three main modules. The first part of the course explores the historic, cultural and religious origins of the American state and focuses on the issues of American exceptionalism, national identity, religious roots and early political development. The second module centers on the key principles, institutions, and decision-making processes of the American political system, and evaluates the basis strengths and weaknesses of American modern governance. Finally, module three, examines some of the most current and prominent dilemmas in modern American life, including the politics of race, social security, health care and gender issues.

### **GOVT 505: Research Methods (3)**

*(Also offered as: CMP 551, PUAD 510)*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides knowledge of research methodologies used in varying disciplines. The course includes experimental design, surveys, case studies, and fieldwork. It introduces students to applied research methodologies. The use of analytical



tools, literature searches, and the application of VIU documentation style will result in a formal written proposal that may serve as the basis for each student's special project.

### **GOVT 510: Theories of International Relations (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This seminar is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the field of international relations. Throughout the course, we will examine different approaches to explaining international relations. By surveying major concepts and theories in the field, the seminar will also assist graduate students in preparing for the further study in the more specialized areas of International Relations.

### **GOVT 520: International Security (3)**

*(Also offered as PUAD 520)*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course will familiarize students with some of the major theoretical issues in the study of international security, and some of the central challenges shaping current debates about security and the use of force. War and conflict have been central to international politics. The study of security investigates causes of war, strategies for avoiding conflict, and the impact of new technologies, actors, and ideas on calculations about the use of force. This course will give students a solid grounding in current theoretical issues and security challenges in the international arena, and to encourage them to think about how an understanding of these issues can help them address existing security problems.

### **GOVT 530: Democratization (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides an overview of the literature in comparative politics on democratization. We will address longstanding conceptual questions including definitions of democracy, democratic transitions, and consolidation. The seminar will also tackle debates related to the preconditions for democratization and as well as different accounts for democratic successes and failures. The course will examine a variety of analytic approaches and methodologies scholars employ in the subfield of comparative politics.

### **GOVT 540: International Law (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course aims to illustrate the importance of international law, in all its forms, in relation to many of the central issues that preoccupy governments and other relevant actors and to highlight the extent to which the assumptions underpinning this body of law have changed in recent decades. The focus is on the norms, actors and processes, which contribute to making international law what it is today. The approach seeks to combine theory and practice, although particular emphasis is attached to the actual practice of international law and its impact, or lack thereof, in relation to some of the most pressing issues on the international agenda. The course will follow relevant current events in the field.

### **GOVT 551: Conflict Resolution (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 551, PUAD 551)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course gives students practical experience in resolving workplace disagreements and discourse. Students will learn how to use different models and theories on resolving conflict in the organization. Students will develop skills in negotiations, dispute resolution, communications, reconciliations and mediations.

### **GOVT 612: International Management (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 612 & PUAD 612)*

*Prerequisite: MBA 513*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the challenges inherent in managing a workforce comprised of employees from more than one country. Particular emphasis is placed on cultural and legal differences as well as the development of programs and processes, which select, motivate, train, and evaluate across national borders.

### **GOVT 613: Enterprise Resource Planning (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 613 & PUAD 613)*

*Prerequisite: MBA 512 or GOVT 505*

*Internship Qualified*

Logistics involves the integration of information, transportation, inventory, warehousing, material handling, and purchasing. All of these areas provide a variety of stimulating jobs for students interested in operations management, marketing, and information systems. Because of the strategic importance of logistical performance, any student interested in senior management will benefit from this course.

### **GOVT 614: International Finance (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 614)*

*Prerequisite: MBA 511*

*Internship Qualified*

This course aims to concentrate on the following two topics: (1) basics of international financial markets including derivatives; and (2) managerial perspectives on international finance. The course includes an analysis of different types of financial instruments, such as currencies, stocks, futures, options, international risk and diversification, and swaps. The course covers the theoretical concepts of international financial markets and the study of valuations, acquisitions, and strategies using various techniques to analyze foreign investments.

### **GOVT 615: International Strategy (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 615)*

*Prerequisite: MBA 516 or GOVT 510*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines entry strategies to foreign markets for international and multinational firms as well as strategies for managing operations across borders.

### **GOVT 616: International Marketing (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 616)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the methods and strategies used by firms in international and multinational marketing efforts. Particular attention is paid to how companies decide whether to go global or remain local and how they engage in multi-level marketing opportunities.

### **GOVT 617: Import & Export Management (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 617)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

For many organizations, the first step toward multinational operations begins with importing and exporting goods. This course focuses on the strategies and processes of import/export management.

### **GOVT 618: International Economics & Trade (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 618)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

The course is designed to provide students with the analytical tools and techniques required to managing financial assets across international borders. Employing modern decision and probability theory and statistical techniques, the students will investigate the concepts governing the economics of international trade, risk management, logistics and international law.

### **GOVT 625: Effective Negotiations (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 625, PUAD 625)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the theory and practice of negotiations, including strategies, legal issues, methods, and approaches.

### **GOVT 631: Intercultural Communication (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course focuses on the importance of culture in our everyday lives, and the ways in which culture interrelates with and effects communication processes. We live in an era of rapid globalization in which being able to communicate across cultures is imperative to our ability to function in a diverse workplace, city, and world. This course will take us on a journey. Using our stories and our online discussions, this course is designed to increase our sensitivity to other cultures. Just as importantly, this journey increases our awareness of our own cultural backgrounds, and the contexts (social, cultural and historical) in which we live and communicate.

### **GOVT 632: Comparative Politics (3)**

*Prerequisite: GOVT 510*

*Internship Qualified*

This course introduces students to some of the main theories, concepts, approaches, and methods in comparative politics. It is a seminar based on classroom discussion and student participation. One major objective of this course is to familiarize students with the most important literature in comparative politics and help to prepare them for the comprehensive exam. We will read and discuss both "classic" and contemporary material drawn from a variety of social science disciplines such

as political science, economics, history, anthropology and sociology. Throughout the course, we will explore important theoretical and methodological issues in the comparative study of political behavior and institutions.

### **GOVT 633: Politics of Development Aid (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides the platform for critical thinking about what makes some countries richer and more developed than others. This question has puzzled social scientists for many generations. In this course, we will engage in a critical evaluation of the existing schools of thought and how these address the politics of development. We will pay particular attention to the situation in non-industrial societies and actively follow the contemporary debate on international development aid.

### **GOVT 634: Operations Management (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 634 & PUAD 634)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the use of mathematical models in managing the operations of organizations. Techniques examined include queuing, facility planning, distribution network, and transportation models.

### **GOVT 635: Intelligence & Foreign Policy (3)**

*Prerequisite: GOVT 510*

This course emphasizes the development of intelligence systems and assesses the ways in which they help or hinder international actors in achieving policy objectives. The course goal is to provide answers to three questions: "What is intelligence?" "How does it work?" and "What difference does it make?"

### **GOVT 650: Policy-Making in a Global Context (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course places the development of policy-making in its international context as it relates to globalization. It considers its impact on enlargement and the evolution of economic policies for implementation. This course also explores how companies must adapt and revise their strategies accordingly. Students will study the economics of European integration and the problems of regulation, redistribution, banking, security, and cooperation.

### **GOVT 651: International Economics & Politics (3)**

*Prerequisite: GOVT 618*

*Internship Qualified*

This course addresses the interaction of economic and political policy and the lessons to be derived for businesses and international organizations. The course will examine the political factors underlying economic policy in emerging market economies including policies toward banking crises, privatization of state-owned enterprises, macroeconomic problems, reform of the international trade system, and corruption.

### **GOVT 652: International Industrial Development Strategies (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

Development is sweeping the globe and the redefinition of boundaries between the public and private sectors has created new and exciting opportunities for business and policy makers. This course will review the international experience with privatization, the current sale of electric utilities, airlines, and telecommunication companies in emerging and developed economies.

### **GOVT 665: Graduate Internship I (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

The objective of the course is to provide hands-on and practical work experience in their business concentration that will give students a competitive advantage when they graduate. Students will have a chance to gain work experience in areas of their interest and gain exposure to the industry practices and key contacts for future employment opportunities. This three (3) credit hour internship is for students who are expected to work a minimum of 135 hours during the semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

### **GOVT 666: Graduate Internship II (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

The objective of the course is to provide hands-on and practical work experience in their business concentration that will give students a competitive advantage when they graduate. Students will have a chance to gain work experience in areas of their interest and gain exposure to the industry practices and key contacts for future employment opportunities. This three (3) credit hour internship is for students who are expected to work a minimum of 135 hours during the semester. Students

are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

### **GOVT 711: Globalization (3)**

*Prerequisite: GOVT 510*

Globalization is the intensification of economic, political, social, and cultural relations across international borders. The course will begin with analyses of the definition of the term "globalization", the causes, nature, and effects of the process of globalization. We will also focus on the controversy surrounding the pros and cons related to the phenomenon within the context of the evolution of the pro and anti-globalization movements.

### **GOVT 713: Fundamentals of US Economic Policy (3)**

*Prerequisite: GOVT 618*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the conduct of U.S. foreign policy through economic means and the use of economic instruments. A state has many tools at its disposal to promote its own security and influence the behavior of other states. These tools range from a multitude of military options to those in the diplomatic and economic spheres. Economic instruments have been utilized by states throughout history as a means of influencing the actions of others. These instruments take the form of both "carrots" and "sticks" and consist of the granting and withholding of trade benefits, employing unilateral and multilateral sanctions and embargoes, as well as other less visible measures such as influencing behavior through aid, monetary policy and the use of the trade remedy laws.

### **GOVT 745: Topics in International Relations (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students to the major issues affecting the global population and policy-making. Students will become aware current trends and problems within the field of international relations.

### **GOVT 790: Advanced Research Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: A minimum of 15 credits from GOVT 505, GOVT 510, GOVT 520, GOVT 632, GOVT 618, & GOVT 711*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is designed for students to develop a project that will encompass the key elements of International Relations, which have been studied throughout the program, culminating in the submission of a final project paper and an oral presentation.

### **HIST 101: World History (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

World History is the only course offering students an overview of the entire history of humankind. The major emphasis is on the study of significant people, events, and issues from the earliest times to the present. Traditional historical points of reference in world history are identified as students analyze important events and issues in western civilization as well as in civilizations in other parts of the world.

### **HUMN 101 Introduction to the Arts and Humanities (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to provide a conceptual understanding and overview of the major disciplines of the humanities including music, theatre, cinema, visual arts, philosophy, and literature. This course will help students hone their critical thinking, interpretation, and discussion skills.

### **LING 105: Language and the Human Experience (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This introductory course emphasizes the importance of language in its relation to the human experience. Topics in the course include the nature of language, how languages are learned and used to communicate, how culture influences communication, and the role of language in conflict resolution. The course is designed to be useful for a variety of eventual professions and social situations as well as to help students to develop sensitivity to differing cultures and worldviews in an evaluative and reflective manner. Students will begin to evaluate their own actions and language use in a way that aids in understanding the diversity of language and thought found in a globalized society.

### **MATH 160: Pre-Calculus (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is intended to prepare students for the study of calculus. It includes a review of algebra; arithmetic operations, fractions, factoring, the quadratic formula, radicals, and exponents. This course also serves as an introduction to linear, polynomial, trigonometric, rational, and logarithmic functions. Graphs of functions are also covered throughout the course.

### **MATH 165: Calculus I (3)**

*Prerequisite: MATH 160*

This course covers functions, limits, the derivative, maximum and minimum problems, the integral and transcendental functions.

**MBA 500: Managerial Communication (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course focuses on the theory and practice of effective communications by managers. Managerial communication continuously ranks as the single most important skill for managers and executives to have. Emphasis is placed on both written and oral communications to make students better, more effective leaders and strategy implementers.

**MBA 511: Managerial Accounting and Finance (3)**

*Prerequisites: ACCT 201, BUSS 303*

This course focuses on companies' sources and uses of financial resources as well as accounting management. Students will focus on capital/debt structure decision and capital budgeting techniques, with particular emphasis on the impact of long and short-term uses and sources of funds on the firm's value.

**MBA 512: Project & Cost Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: STAT 200*

This course focuses on the planning, organizing, and managing of resources to bring about the successful completion of specific project goals and objectives, especially within specific start and completion dates. In addition, students will learn how to adhere to classic project constraints of scope, quality, time and budget while learning the tools and techniques necessary to minimize the risk of failure in achieving the organization's goal and objectives.

**MBA 513: Organizational Behavior & HR Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None (For SED students, the advisors approval and successful completion of 18 credits in the program required)*

This course focuses on how people behave in organizations and groups. Topics include leadership, motivation, organizational culture, and roles within groups.

**MBA 514: Marketing Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None (For SED students, the advisors approval and successful completion of 18 credits in the program required)*

This course examines the methods and strategies used by corporations and firms in developing marketing efforts, strategy and policies. It focuses on the practical application of marketing techniques and the management of company's marketing resources and activities to create an effective, cost-efficient marketing strategy to succeed and become profitable, in particular, within rapidly emerging forces of globalization. In addition, the course provides learning experience and cultivates operational skills and knowledge on designing and facilitating marketing campaigns within the business environment.

**MBA 515: Business Statistics (3)**

*Prerequisite: STAT 200*

This course focuses on the use of statistics in business research. In addition to mastering common statistical tools, students will study the design and execution of typical business research projects using such methods as surveys, analysis of archival data, and direct observation.

**MBA 516: Strategic Management and Organizational Leadership (3)**

*Prerequisite: None (For SED students, the advisors approval and successful completion of 18 credits in the program required)*

The course focuses on the analyses, decisions, and actions that an organization undertakes in order to gain and maintain competitive advantage. The extensive use of case studies focuses on diagnosis of problems and opportunities as well as the development of alternative courses of action and implementing organizational leadership.

**MBA 523: HR Law (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course lays the foundation for in-depth review of federal, state, and international human resource laws and regulations. Students will gain knowledge of employment laws, HR regulations, and international agreements that affect human resource decisions. The students will use case studies to better understand the complexities and challenges of applying HR law to global situations. A focus on HR international activities will include applying HR laws in the international context, legal aspects of managing people across nations and cultures, and legal issues and policies that impact international HR managers. The course will provide a basic foundation of global HR legal regulations and standards.

**MBA 536: Labor Relations (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will introduce students to the history of the labor movement and the collective bargaining process. Case studies will be used to understand the relationship between labor and management. Students will gain practical knowledge of balancing employee needs with organizational goals. Students will learn how to effectively evaluate employee relations

programs to ensure productive and positive organizational environments. Students will participate in collective bargaining activities and understand the contract negotiation process.

### **MBA 538: Compensation and Benefits (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the design and implementation of compensation and benefit strategies to retain talented and qualified staff. The course covers the importance of financial and non-financial benefits when developing a compensation package for employees. The course will review legally required benefits as well as voluntary benefits offered by the employer. Students will learn how to evaluate compensation plans and systems to ensure they are compliant with government regulations, equitable to all staff in the organization, competitive to attract qualified employees and align with organizational goals and values. Students will gain knowledge of federal compensation tax laws, job pricing, various pay programs, and international compensation plans.

### **MBA 551: Conflict Resolution (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course gives students practical experience in resolving workplace disagreements and discourse. Students will learn how to use different models and theories to resolve conflict in the organization. Students will develop skills in negotiations, dispute resolution, communications, reconciliations and mediations.

### **MBA 552: Hospitality and Tourism Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course develops students' competencies in managing people, processes, activities, and events involved in the hospitality and tourism industry. Students will learn the skills needed to be successful in managing for restaurants, hotels, casinos, travel agencies, and other core fields in the industry. The course will introduce students to topics and challenges of managing operational logistics including budgeting, sales, and communications of hospitality, and tourism for the public and private sectors. This course will introduce students to the skills, challenges and complexities of managing international, national and regional tourism.

### **MBA 553: Event Planning and Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 512*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will prepare students for effective event and meeting planning coordination and implementation. The topics and case studies are based on the managerial perspective of organizing and planning events. Students will be introduced to skills required to coordinate meetings, conventions, special events, exhibits, and conferences. Students will be introduced to all aspects of event planning including overseeing catering logistics, coordinating meeting and exhibit space, monitoring client expectations, organizing audio/visual logistics, staffing events and using consultants and contractors. Models and techniques for effective project management and budgeting will be included.

### **MBA 554: Marketing for Hospitality and Tourism (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 514*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will apply marketing concepts and theories to the hospitality and tourism industry. Students will learn how develop, implement and apply marketing strategies to market targets such as corporate, government, nonprofits, educational as well as individuals. Students will learn how to lead or participate in marketing teams to generate new or repeat business. They will also learn how to make decisions and communicate value based on the marketing mix (product, price, place, and promotion). Other areas of marketing appropriate to the hospitality and tourism industry will be addressed including branding, customer loyalty, packaging, seasonal pricing, distribution channels, sales promotion, PR and advertising.

### **MBA 555: Legal Aspects of Hospitality and Tourism (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will give students knowledge of the different types of laws and legal regulations that govern the hospitality and tourism industries including contract law, criminal law, travel regulations, employment/HR law, food law, and insurance regulations. Student will also learn about liability issues, guests' rights, negligence, and food and alcohol laws as they relate to the hospitality and tourism industries. Student will also learn about ethics, preventative legal management and legal aspects of property management.

### **MBA 556: Accounting, Budgeting and Cost Controls: Hospitality and Tourism (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 511*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will apply accounting principles and processes to the hospitality and tourism industry. Students will learn how to use financial statements, budgets, and forecasting to make appropriate management decisions relating to the hospitality and tourism industries. Students will be familiar with the Uniform Systems of Accounts for the lodging industry and profit and loss statements. Student will be able to transfer this knowledge to practical settings with the use of case studies, company profiles, and real life examples.

### **MBA 557: Management of Information Technology in Hospitality and Tourism (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

Students will learn how to use information technology to manage operations and gain competitive advantages in the hospitality and tourism industries. Students will learn about the importance of information security, e-commerce, databases, and social media in the hospitality and tourism industries. Students will learn how information technology impacts transportation, accommodation, vendor distribution, marketing, and customer service.

### **MBA 558: Human Resource Management in the Hospitality and Tourism Industries (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 513*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on HR management from the hospitality and tourism industry perspective. The student will learn about general HR issues such as employment law, recruiting, compensation, social responsibility, and employee safety concerns. The course will also delve into very specific issues that are common to the industries such as tip eligibility, working with unions in the industry, managing global employees in the hospitality and tourism industries, and compliance with US and international employment laws.

### **MBA 560: Graduate Internship I (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides practical learning experience and application for qualified graduate students in a business concentration area such as finance, accounting, management, HR, marketing, international business, global logistics, hospitality and tourism. The objective of the course is to provide hands-on and practical work experience in their business concentration that will give students a competitive advantage when they graduate. Students will have a chance to gain work experience in areas of their interest and gain exposure to the business environment, industry practices and key contacts for future employment opportunities. Students enrolled in this three credit hour internship are expected to work a minimum of 135 hours during the semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

### **MBA 600: Business Residency (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed around local business residency and focuses on practical application of obtained business knowledge through site visits, advising and consultancy to organizations, agencies and business enterprises.

### **MBA 605: Auditing (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides students with the knowledge of a variety of auditing issues. It focuses on basic auditing concepts and principles including professional standards, planning an audit and auditing internal controls, evidence gathering, fraud, and sampling tools for audits, as well as a review of audit procedures and audit reports.

### **MBA 608: Financial Reporting and Decision Making (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course presents accounting reporting and decision-making tools used in various businesses. Students will understand basic to complex financial reporting and decision-making concepts and practices. Topics include the analysis of financial statements, ratio analysis, benchmarking, valuation concepts, risk, budgeting, investments, and taxes.

### **MBA 610: Taxation of Business Entities (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides students with the knowledge of a variety of tax issues. The course includes a basic introduction to taxation, tax issues with investments, and other business transactions. The course will also cover taxation of various types of corporations and individuals including gift and income taxes.

### **MBA 611: Business Ethics and Law (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course examines the legal and ethical basis of decision-making in business organizations. Topics include torts, contracts, liability, and the Uniform Commercial Code.

**MBA 612: International Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 513*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the challenges inherent in managing a workforce comprised of employees from more than one country. Particular emphasis is placed on cultural and legal differences as well as the development of programs and processes to select, motivate, train, and evaluate employees across national borders.

**MBA 613: Enterprise Resource Planning (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 512*

*Internship Qualified*

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) helps organizations effectively gather and quickly act upon critical information. This course will equip students to manage strategic areas such as finance, logistics, human resources and workflow. It will explore the need to implement ERP solutions to real-world business issues that provide value to customers, enable managers to maintain a competitive edge and resolve problems effectively and on time. This course will equip managers to be successful in managing new customer needs and market opportunities, areas of quality, time to market, customer satisfaction as well as performance and profit.

**MBA 614: International Finance (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 511*

*Internship Qualified*

This course concentrates on the following topics: (1) basics of international financial markets including derivatives; and (2) managerial perspectives on international finance. The course includes an analysis of different types of financial instruments, such as currencies, stocks, futures, options, international risk and diversification, and swaps. The course covers the theoretical concepts of international financial markets and the study of valuations, acquisitions, and strategies using various techniques to analyze foreign investments.

**MBA 615: International Strategy (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 516*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines entry strategies to foreign markets for international and multinational firms as well as strategies for managing operations across borders.

**MBA 616: International Marketing (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the methods and strategies used by firms in international and multinational marketing efforts. Particular attention is paid to how companies decide whether to go global or remain local and how they engage in multi-level marketing opportunities.

**MBA 617: Import & Export Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

For many organizations, the first step toward multinational operations begins with importing and exporting goods. This course focuses on the strategies and processes of import/export management.

**MBA 618: International Economics and Trade (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is designed to provide students with the analytical tools and techniques required to manage financial assets across international borders. Employing modern decision and probability theory and statistical techniques, the students will investigate the concepts governing the economics of international trade, risk management, logistics, and international law.

**MBA 620: Long-Term Financial Decisions (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 511*

*Internship Qualified*

This course places an emphasis on the optimal acquisition and allocation of long-term sources of capital. Topics include working capital, capital budgeting evaluation models, cash flow analysis, diversification, portfolio approaches to capital budgeting, capital structure, cost of capital, lease-purchase decisions, abandonment, and mergers.

**MBA 621: Trading and Risk Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 511*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will cover the different financial markets and trading theories that different market participants use to profit from moves in the market. Unlike an investments course, this class will focus more on the economic and psychological factors that move secondary markets instead of advanced calculations based on efficient market theory.



**MBA 622: Marketing Research (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 515*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the theory and practice of marketing research. Use of various statistical tools and study designs is an integral part of the course as is the design and execution of a research project.

**MBA 623: Sales Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

The course focuses on the management of a professional sales force. Particular emphasis is placed on managing the sales force through recruiting, training, motivating, evaluating, and compensating sales force members.

**MBA 624: Advertising & Promotion (3)**

*Prerequisite: None (For SED students, the advisors approval and successful completion of 18 credits in the program required)*

*Internship Qualified*

Advertising and promotion form the means by which organizations communicate the distinctive characteristics of their offerings to potential buyers. This course examines the theory and practice of promotions and advertising. The primary focus is on how advertising and promotions contribute to the overall marketing plan.

**MBA 625: Effective Negotiations (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the theory and practice of negotiations, including strategies, legal issues, methods, and approaches.

**MBA 626: Consumer Behavior (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

Effective marketing lies in understanding the needs and motivations of buyers. This course focuses on what is known about how human behavior influences the purchase decision as well as how to apply this knowledge to specific firms and industries.

**MBA 627: Advanced Business Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: All core courses and first-semester concentration courses*

*Internship Qualified – Per Dean's approval*

This capstone course gives MBA students the opportunity to pull together and build upon what has been learned in separate business fields and to utilize this knowledge in the analysis of complex business problems. It is designed to aid the student in synthesizing and applying knowledge gained in earlier courses and will apply these skills through actual business cases, preferably with local Northern Virginia-based companies.

**MBA 628: Global Sourcing and Logistics (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is designed to examine the complex issues that corporate executives must address in the decision-making process when considering whether or not to outsource internationally. It also examines the equally complex issues that arise once the decision is made to outsource, including how to reduce risk, thereby minimizing exposure while maximizing the opportunities for favorable outcomes and more competitive landed costs.

**MBA 630: Entrepreneurship (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 516*

*Internship Qualified*

In this course, students will understand the role of an entrepreneur in running his or her own business, acting as a business consultant, and serving as a governmental entrepreneur or a consultant. Students will explore strategies of successful entrepreneurs and understand the role of entrepreneurship in economic developments. Students will walk through the initial thought process and groundwork for starting, financing, and managing a new business. Students will be exposed to other topics such as social entrepreneurship, microfinance, and global entrepreneurship.

**MBA 631: Current Topics in Business (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course will cover specific topics as described at the time of offering. Current topics offerings are used to present material not normally covered in existing courses.

**MBA 633: Business Planning and Development (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 516*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the development of new ventures and on strategic planning for new and existing organizations.

**MBA 634: Operations Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the use of mathematical models in managing the operations of organizations. Techniques examined include queuing, facility planning, distribution network, and transportation models.

**MBA 636: Managerial Accounting (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 511*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is an introduction to the concepts and practices of the managerial and cost accounting. Specifically, students will be introduced to the concepts used to develop financial information for the purposes of planning, resource allocation, and financial control.

**MBA 637: Business Innovation (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 516*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is focused on novel technological developments and ways to produce innovative products. Innovations are crucial to the business venture growth and gaining competitive advantages. The course also analyzes the risks of designing new products, issues arising in competition, and the requirements of the marketplace to novel trends. In a practical classroom environment the students will forecast market demands, study market segmentation, rate new product ideas, map customer perceptions, and review product positioning and design, as well as advertising and product testing, in order to recognize the methods employed in bringing a new product to market and eventually gaining sustainable profits from it.

**MBA 638: Entrepreneurial Finance & Venture Capital (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 516*

This course explores investment strategy, financial valuation, and strategic financial decisions from the start-ups phase, through the mature business phase, and eventually exiting the business by either becoming a public company or merging with or selling to other corporations. The course also analyzes different approaches to obtaining initial funding and demonstrates ways to follow the financial plan. The venture capitalists system is also discussed and examined to validate the ways for entrepreneurs to grow and create strong and substantial private ventures.

**MBA 640: The Health Services System (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides an overview of the evolution, structure and current issues in the health care system. It examines the unique features of health care as a product and the changing relationships between patients, physicians, hospitals, insurers, employers, communities, and government.

**MBA 641: Economics of Health Care and Policy (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course applies basic economic concepts to analyze the health care market and evaluate health policies. The course begins with an analysis of the demand for health, the derived demand for medical care, and the demand for health insurance. The second part of the course examines the supply of medical care by physicians and hospitals, medical technology, and the role of managed care organizations.

**MBA 642: Financial Management of Health Institutions (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the application of financial analysis to financial and operating decisions in the health care industry. Valuation methods covered include net present value of free cash flows, decision tree analysis, real options, and multiples.

**MBA 643: Legal Aspects of Health Care (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course offers a current and historical overview of the regulation of health care delivery in the US. It examines principles and practical applications of laws that affect the operational decisions of health care providers, health plans, and third party payers and managers that impact development of markets for health care products and services.

**MBA 644: Basic Principles of Contract Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will explore the process of documenting project purchasing decisions, specifying the approach, defining selection criteria to identify potential sellers, and putting together a procurement management plan. Emphasis will be placed on pre-award, contract award and post-award processes.

### **MBA 645: Contract Formation and Performance (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the formation and administration of a contract with emphasis on common law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), and the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). Emphases will also be placed contract types, contracting authority, contract terms and conditions, contract changes, defaults, communication between parties, contract termination.

### **MBA 646: Contract Administration and Monitoring (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 644*

*Internship Qualified*

This course describes the process of obtaining seller responses, selecting a seller, and awarding the procurement, usually in the form of a contract. Throughout this process, the team will make sure the procurement document created, monitored and change control procedures are implemented.

### **MBA 647: Contract Administration Process and Negotiation (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 644*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on contract award process through the identification of customer's need, solicitation planning, proposal development, source selection processes, negotiation strategies and contract award. Students will be exposed to best practices in negotiation including strategies and tactics,

### **MBA 648: Contracting in the Global Marketplace (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 644*

*Internship Qualified*

In this course, students will learn current issues on how to procure and develop international contracts. The course will examine and review relevant issues in global trade and the complex legal and cultural environments of international trade will be explored. Students will be exposed to various international bodies and conventions that apply to international contracting.

### **MBA 653: Nations, Politics, & Markets: A Cost Benefit Analysis (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 511*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is designed to introduce students to the role of risk assessment, risk perception, and risk management in non-traditional markets by studying the tools for policy evaluations in the public sector. Cost benefit analysis is the principal tool for measuring government "products" that are rarely sold. The valuation of costs and benefits by alternative means to market prices is necessary to provide guidance in avoiding wasteful projects and undertaking those that are worthwhile.

### **MBA 654: Accounting Information Systems (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the analysis and design of systems that facilitate the accounting process. The students will learn how to evaluate, develop, implement and apply accounting models, processes, and internal controls used in the accounting processes. The course introduces the use of simple to complex data flow diagrams for evaluation and decision-making.

### **MBA 656: Consulting Skills (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 513*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is focused on the growing need for management consultants by providing students with the necessary and practical skills to be a consultant. Management consulting is the practice of helping organizations to improve their performance, operating primarily through the analysis of existing organizational problems and the development of plans for improvement. As a result of their exposure to, and relationships with numerous organizations, consulting firms are typically aware of industry "best practices".

### **MBA 657: Mergers and Acquisitions (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 513*

*Internship Qualified*

This course helps students to understand the complexities surrounding mergers and acquisitions process from a consultant's point of view. Students will learn about the strategic rationales as to why two companies either merge as equals or why one company fully acquires another. Additional focus will be placed on the following topics: the searching, screening, and evaluation process for targeting potential acquisition targets; why mergers and acquisitions often fail; synergy potential

and realization; analysis of company culture differences; the negotiation process; human capital (people) issues; and leadership in mergers and acquisitions transactions.

**MBA 658: Strategic Human Capital Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 513*

*Internship Qualified*

The purpose of this course is to enhance students' understanding of human capital in organizations in order to assist in their development as effective organizational leaders. Students' "people skills" will ultimately have the most impact on their ability to succeed in the workplace. This course focuses on the essential practices of human capital and how those practices impact organizational performance.

**MBA 659: Leadership and Change Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 516*

*Internship Qualified*

This course aims to help students acquire new skills and competencies for understanding, managing, and leading change in organizations. In the real world, the most carefully developed plans for change can and, often do, disintegrate during implementation. This causes disruption in the flow of revenues and other negative economic results, and the lives of people working in them. This is due to uncertainty: management often cannot recognize change, predict how change can be deployed, or what impact it has on employees. Students will learn to understand how to approach and lead a change management process in an organization in order to control its dynamics and effects, as well as leading people to change.

**MBA 660: Graduate Project Internship II (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides work exposure to qualified graduate students in the area of interest for their advanced research project. The objective of the course is to give students access to information and individuals that would help in the concept and/or development of their area of interest for their graduate research project. Students in this three credit hour project internship are expected to work a minimum of 135 hours during the semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

**MBA 661: Public Relations (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course surveys the practice of public relations in business, nonprofit organizations, and governmental institutions. It also examines the major forms of media used in public relations: news releases, broadcast publicity, public service announcements, and institutional advertising.

**MBA 662: Business and Society (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course explores the role of primary and secondary stakeholders, both within and outside organizations. Ethics and social responsibility will be investigated and where organizational activities fall within different continuums will be reviewed. The broad forces in business, society, and globalization will be examined as well as how stakeholders can influence the destiny of both business and society.

**MBA 663: Business Strategies and Proposals (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 516*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides a framework for formulating business strategies to be competitive in the federal acquisition market. It also examines the approaches for business development and effective proposal preparation. This course reviews the request for proposal (RFP) process in federal acquisition, analysis of RFPs, preparation of proposals, reviews and follow-up actions.

**MBA 664: Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 513*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines conflict negotiation in organizations. It provides a background in negotiation, mediation, ombudsmen, and investigator systems, peer review boards, arbitration, and dispute resolution. It also presents specialized concepts in managerial negotiations such as cross culturally, making effective group decisions, negotiating mergers and acquisitions, and managing business integration teams.

**MBA 665: Managing Organizational Change (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 513*

*Internship Qualified*

This course evaluates the organizational change process related to the principles and practices of various types of organizations. Change processes and techniques used to facilitate change will be examined and applied to systems such as information technology, communication, policy and procedures, corporate culture, and leadership.

### **MBA 666: Leadership Strategies (3)**

*Prerequisite: MBA 516*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will examine and analyze leadership theories and practices in today's organizational environment to include challenges of management in organizations. Emphasis will be placed on present leadership strategies to enhance both individual and corporate productivity that foster a cohesive work environment through improved employee relations.

### **PHIL 101: Philosophy (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces the study of philosophy through the history of philosophical thought and texts. It also introduces a broad spectrum of philosophical problems and perspectives with an emphasis on the systematic questioning of basic assumptions about knowledge, meaning, reality, and values.

### **PHYS 101: College Physics (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course covers the principles of mechanics, heat, electricity, magnetism, optics, and atomic and nuclear physics.

### **PMP 605: Project Management Systems (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course emphasizes planning and introduces project management fundamentals and principles from the standpoint of the manager who must organize, plan, implement, and control non-routine activities to achieve schedule, budget and performance objectives. Topics include project life cycles, project organization, project charters, work breakdown structures, responsibility matrixes, as well as basic planning, budgeting and scheduling systems. Planning and control methods such as PERT/CPM, Gantt charts, earned value systems, project management software applications, and project audits are introduced.

### **PMP 610: Quality Project Management Practices (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course focuses on the quality function, its implementation, and cost as well as management in both the manufacturing and service industries. The course provides students with a set of quality concepts and tools and the knowledge required for their application in quality planning, quality improvement, and quality control.

### **PMP 615: Risk Project Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course exposes students to a variety of ways to identify, analyze, and mitigate the full range of project risks. The course also explores the six risk-management processes as outlined in the PMBOK® Guide: risk management planning, risk identification, qualitative risk analysis, quantitative risk analysis, risk-response planning, and risk monitoring and control. Using a practitioner approach, students learn risk-management techniques by applying them to problems raised in case studies.

### **PMP 620: Contract and Procurement Management (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines processes through which goods and services are acquired in the project management environment. Topics include contract and procurement strategies; legal issues; contract pricing alternatives; technical, management and commercial requirements; RFP development; source selection; invitations to bid; bid evaluation; risk assessment; and contract negotiation and administration. By the end of the course, students will have a broad overview and understanding of the procurement cycle and how it relates to contracts, projects and management.

### **PMP 623: Leading Projects Across Cultural, Corporate, and Global Boundaries (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

Emerging and evolving economies, world circumstances, and global competition require that project managers be able to lead and manage project in this challenging arena. Project Managers must operate within environments that contain diverse cultures and projects including multiple corporations crossing international boundaries. Sensitive issues surrounding multinational and multicultural environments will be addressed and discussed as factors that shape project outcomes.

### **PMP 625: Advanced Project Management Practices (3)**

*Prerequisite: PMP 605*

### *Internship Qualified*

This course examines current topics in the project management field and provides a comprehensive review of the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide). Topics may include global project management, leadership, virtual teams, and project information systems. In addition, the general overview of principles and practices of the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification exam, administered by the Project Management Institute (PMI) will be introduced.

### **PMP 650: PMP Exam Preparation (3)**

*Prerequisite: PMP 605, PMP 610, and PMP 615*

The focus of this course is to familiarize students with both the CAPM (Certified Associate in Project Management) and PMP (Project Management Professional) exams, as administered by the Project Management Institute (PMI). The overall exam administration processes will be reviewed and each of the knowledge areas (Integration Management, Scope Management, Time Management, Cost Management, Quality Management, Risk Management, Human Resource Management, Communication Management and Procurement & Contract Management) as aligned with the process groups (Initiating, Planning, Executing, Controlling & Monitoring and Closing phases) will also be reviewed to help students understand both the application and implication concepts tested in the exams. Additionally, students will participate in practice exam sessions for CAPM and PMP aimed at providing for self – assessment of exam readiness.

### **PMP 698: Master Thesis I (3)**

*Prerequisite: Completion of at least five Core courses and academic advisor's approval*

The thesis work can comprise basic research or a practical project. Students are encouraged to start their thesis work as early as possible. Usually after completing two semesters of course work, the student will be asked to work with a faculty advisor to choose a suitable master's thesis topic and prepare a thesis proposal. Thereafter, the student completes the project and writes a thesis. The master's thesis will project will be conducted over a period of two semesters.

### **PMP 699: Master Thesis II (3)**

*Prerequisite: PMP 698*

The thesis work can comprise basic research or a practical project. Students are encouraged to start their thesis work as early as possible. Usually after completing two semesters of course work, the student will be asked to work with a faculty advisor to choose a suitable master's thesis topic and prepare a thesis proposal. Thereafter, the student completes the project and writes a thesis. The master's thesis will project will be conducted over a period of two semesters.

### **PSYC 101: Psychology (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course examines human and animal behavior, relating experimental studies to practical problems. It includes topics such as learning, memory, motivation, stress, emotion, intelligence, development, personality, therapy, psychopathology, and social psychology.

### **PUAD 505: Research Methods (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides knowledge of research methodologies used in management information systems, information systems, information technology, computer science, and other disciplines. The course includes experimental design, surveys, case studies, and fieldwork. It introduces students to applied research methodologies. The use of analytical tools, literature searches, and the application of VIU documentation style will result in a formal written proposal that may serve as the basis for each student's special project.

### **PUAD 511: Managerial Accounting & Finance (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 511)*

*Prerequisite: ACCT 201& BUSS 303*

This course focuses on companies' sources and uses of financial resources. Students will focus on capital/debt structure decision and capital budgeting techniques, with particular emphasis on the impact of long-end short-term uses and sources of funds on the firm's value.

### **PUAD 512: Project & Cost Management (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 512)*

*Prerequisite: STAT 200*

This course focuses on the planning, organizing, and managing of resources to bring about the successful completion of specific project goals and objectives, especially within specific start and completion dates. In addition, students will learn how to adhere to classic project constraints of scope, quality, time and budget while learning the tools and techniques necessary to minimize the risk of failure in achieving the organization's goal and objectives.

### **PUAD 513: Organizational Behavior & HR Management (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 513)*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course focuses on how people behave in organizations and groups. Topics include leadership, motivation, organizational culture, and roles within groups.

**PUAD 514: Public Policy Analysis & Implementation (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This class introduces students to the basic theories, principles and processes of public policymaking. It examines the public and private environments that influence the formation of public policy, the tools and techniques utilized in public policymaking and the principal actors in the process. The primary course objective is to provide students interested in political science, public administration and public service with an understanding of the significant issues, actors and behaviors in the development of public policy at the federal level.

**PUAD 515: Administration in Public & Non-Profit Organizations (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This survey course will introduce students to the history, ideas and practices of public administration. This includes studies of organization, policy, law, management, public service and reform issues. Public administration study includes all three branches of government in addition to its focus on the operation of the bureaucracy including the functions and responsibilities between all branches of government. Its study includes all levels and types of governmental bodies and increasingly non-governmental organizations.

**PUAD 520: International Security (3)**

*(Also offered as GOVT 520)*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course will familiarize students with some of the major theoretical issues in the study of international security, and some of the central challenges shaping current debates about security and the use of force. War and conflict have been central to international politics. The study of security investigates causes of war, strategies for avoiding conflict, and the impact of new technologies, actors, and ideas on calculations about the use of force as well as a background on the methods of peacekeeping. This course will give students a solid grounding in current theoretical issues and security challenges in the international arena, and to encourage them to think about how an understanding of these issues can help them address existing security problems.

**PUAD 536: Labor Relations (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 536)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course will introduce students to the history of the labor movement and the collective bargaining process. Case studies will be used to understand the relationship between labor and management. Students will gain practical knowledge of balancing employee needs with organizational goals. Students will learn how to effectively evaluate employee relations programs to ensure productive and positive organizational environment. Students will participate in collective bargaining activities and understand the contract negotiation process.

**PUAD 538: Compensation & Benefits (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 538)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the design and implementation of compensation and benefit strategies to retain talented and qualified staff in the organization. The course covers the importance of financial and non-financial benefits when developing a compensation package for employees. The course will review legally required benefits as well as voluntary benefits offered by the employer. Students will learn how to evaluate compensation plans and systems to ensure they are compliant with government regulations, equitable to all staff in the organization, competitive to attract qualified employees and align with organizational goals and values. Students will gain knowledge of federal compensation tax laws, job pricing, various pay programs, and international compensation plans.

**PUAD 551: Conflict Resolution (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 551)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course gives students practical experience in resolving workplace disagreements and discourse. Students will learn how to use different models and theories on resolving conflict in the organization. Students will develop skills in negotiations, dispute resolution, communications, reconciliations and mediations.

**PUAD 552: Information Systems (3)**

*(Also offered as CMP 552)*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course explores the management of information systems and related information technologies (IS/IT) as a part of a broader socio-technical system and their impacts on people and processes that extend well beyond organizational boundaries. In addition, subjective and debatable issues associated with IS/IT will be discussed. Accordingly, critical thinking is an important part of this course and is essential for an analysis and understanding of important issues associated with the management aspects of information systems.

**PUAD 556: Database Management Systems I (3)**

*(Also offered as CMP 556)*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces hierarchical and relational models, normalization, query facilities, transactions, indexing, security issues, relational algebra, Structured Query Language database design stages, distributed databases, data warehousing, data and database administration, and internet database environments. Students will learn various database management systems software products and multi-user database environments and how they are controlled.

**PUAD 557: Political Theory (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is an examination of central political concepts and practices with reading from the history of political philosophy and contemporary thinkers. The course treats concepts and practices such as freedom, citizenship, equality, the state, revolution, the Socratic question of how best to lead one's life, conservatism, and anarchism, using readings by thinkers such as Aristotle, Machiavelli, Locke, Mill, Gandhi, Arendt, Foucault, and current authors.

**PUAD 558: Network and Information Security (3)**

*(Also offered as CMP 558)*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides a broad review of the field of security of information systems. Topics include operating system models and mechanisms for mandatory and discretionary controls, data models, concepts and mechanisms for database security, basic cryptography and applications, security in computer networks and distributed systems, and control and prevention of viruses and rogue programs.

**PUAD 608: Financial Reporting & Decision Making (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 608)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course presents accounting reporting and decision-making tools used in various businesses. Students will understand basic to complex financial reporting and decision-making concepts and practices. Topics include the analysis of financial statements, ratio analysis, benchmarking, valuation concepts, risk, budgeting, investments, and taxes.

**PUAD 610: Managing Information System Development (3)**

*(Also offered as CMP 610)*

*Prerequisite: PUAD 552*

This course overviews the processes, methods, and techniques to plan, analyze, and design complex Information Systems, within selected existing frameworks. It involves planning, gathering requirements, modeling business needs, creating blueprints for building the system, and managing and organizing resources in these challenging, difficult, complex and expensive activities.

**PUAD 611: Business Ethics & Law (3)**

*(Also Offered as MBA 611)*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course examines the legal and ethical basis of decision-making in business organizations. Topics include torts, contracts, liability, and the Uniform Commercial Code.

**PUAD 612: International Management (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 612)*

*Prerequisite: PUAD 513*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the challenges inherent in managing a workforce comprised of employees from more than one country. Particular emphasis is placed on cultural and legal differences as well as the development of programs and processes, which select, motivate, train, and evaluate across national borders.

**PUAD 613: Enterprise Resource Planning (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 613)*

*Prerequisite: MBA 512 or PUAD 513*

*Internship Qualified*

Logistics involves the integration of information, transportation, inventory, warehousing, material handling, and purchasing. All of these areas provide a variety of stimulating jobs for students interested in operations management, marketing, and



information systems. Because of the strategic importance of logistical performance, any student interested in senior management will benefit from this course.

**PUAD 614: Emergency Planning & Preparedness (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course introduces students to the process and practice of emergency/disaster planning. The goal is to create broad experience that includes the many elements of planning as the primary path to preparedness. Students will learn the relationship of emergency planning to the field of disaster management. Students are exposed to principles of social psychology, communication theory and approaches to public education. Students also learn the bases of incident management systems and emergency operations centers.

**PUAD 615: Topics in Public Administration (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students to the major issues affecting today's administration of cities and to focus on current trends and problems for urban administrators.

**PUAD 620: IT Governance (3)**

*(Also offered as CMP 620)*

*Prerequisite: PUAD 552*

This course presents an integrated approach to information technology (IT) governance. It discusses major roadmaps components and IT Governance strategies and frameworks. Topics include strategic alignment of IT with the business, use of assets and resources, delivering on plans and commitments, establishing and/or improving accountability of constituents, managing risk and contingencies, audits, compliance, performance measures and organizational maturity.

**PUAD 625: Effective Negotiations (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 625)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the theory and practice of negotiations, including strategies, legal issues, methods, and approaches.

**PUAD 628: Global Sourcing & Logistics (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 628)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is designed to examine the complex issues that corporate executives must address in the decision-making process when considering whether to outsource internationally. It also examines the equally complex issues that arise once the decision is made to outsource, including how to reduce risk, thereby minimizing exposure while maximizing the opportunities for favorable outcomes and more competitive landed costs.

**PUAD 630: Public & Private Partnerships (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

The provision of public services takes place through a variety of forms, direct government provision being only one of them. Increasingly, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, businesses, and government contractors deliver public services in partnership with government. This course will examine the role of partnerships with non-governmental organizations in carrying out important functions of public agencies. Students will get a chance to understand the advantages of such partnerships in terms of effectiveness and efficiency thanks to increased competition and administrative flexibility. The course will also highlight potential pitfalls and unintended consequences.

**PUAD 634: Operations Management (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 634)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course examines the use of mathematical models in managing the operations of organizations. Techniques examined include queuing, facility planning, distribution network, and transportation models.

**PUAD 640: The Health Services System (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 640)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course provides an overview of the evolution, structure and current issues in the health care system. It examines the unique features of health care as a product and the changing relationships between patients, physicians, hospitals, insurers, employers, communities, and government.

**PUAD 641: Economics of Healthcare Policy (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 641)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course applies basic economic concepts to analyze the health care market and evaluate health policies. The course begins with an analysis of the demand for health, the derived demand for medical care, and the demand for health insurance. The second part of the course examines the supply of medical care by physicians and hospitals, medical technology, and the role of managed care organizations.

**PUAD 642: Financial Management of Healthcare Institutions (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 642)*

*Prerequisite: PUAD 511*

*Internship Qualified*

This course focuses on the application of financial analysis to financial and operating decisions in the health care industry. Valuation methods covered include net present value of free cash flows, decision tree analysis, real options, and multiples.

**PUAD 643: Legal Aspects of Healthcare (3)**

*(Also offered as MBA 643)*

*Prerequisite: None*

*Internship Qualified*

This course offers a current and historical overview of the regulation of health care delivery in the US. It examines principles and practical applications of laws that affect the operational decisions of health care providers, health plans, and third party payers and managers that impact development of markets for health care products and services.

**PUAD 665: Graduate Internship I (3)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

The objective of the course is to provide hands-on and practical work experience in their business concentration that will give students a competitive advantage when they graduate. Students will have a chance to gain work experience in areas of their interest and gain exposure to the industry practices and key contacts for future employment opportunities. This three (3) credit hour internship is for students who are expected to work a minimum of 135 hours during the semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

**PUAD 666: Graduate Internship II (3 credits)**

*Prerequisite: Dean's approval*

The objective of the course is to provide hands-on and practical work experience in their business concentration that will give students a competitive advantage when they graduate. Students will have a chance to gain work experience in areas of their interest and gain exposure to the industry practices and key contacts for future employment opportunities. This three (3) credit hour internship is for students who are expected to work a minimum of 135 hours during the semester. Students are required to attend two meetings/seminars with their faculty advisor to determine learning objectives and assess how well learning objectives are being accomplished.

**PUAD 790: Advanced Research Project (3)**

*Prerequisite: A minimum of 15 credits from PUAD 505, PUAD 513, PUAD 514, PUAD 515, PUAD 608, PUAD 611*

*Internship Qualified*

This course is designed for students to develop a project that will encompass the key elements of public administration, which have been studied throughout the MPA program, culminating in the submission of a final project paper and an oral presentation in front of a panel of experts in the field that includes defense of their project.

**RLGN 110: Comparative Religion (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This purpose of this course is to introduce students to the diversity in religions of the world and to provide an overview of select religious traditions from around the globe. Students will learn to compare and contrast the various religions to be covered including some of the following: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and new religious traditions. Students will be able to make cross-cultural connections through an understanding of historical facts, religious institutions, and an understanding of the basic tenets and texts surrounding the religious traditions covered in the course. The course will help students develop an understanding of the influence of religion on culture, social and political systems, and personal action.

**SOCI 101: Sociology (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course examines patterns in political institutions, public policy, and conflict within and between communities and interest groups.

**SPAN 100: Elementary Spanish I (3)**

*Prerequisite: Placement or no previous exposure to the language*

This course is an introduction to Spanish grammar, structure, and use. This course uses a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language.

### **SPAN 105: Elementary Spanish II (3)**

*Prerequisite: SPAN 100 or placement*

This course is an introduction to Spanish grammar, structure, and use. This course uses a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Elementary Spanish I while reinforcing production skills and vocabulary building.

### **SPAN 200: Intermediate Spanish I (3)**

*Prerequisite: SPAN 105 or placement*

This course is an intermediate Spanish course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Elementary Spanish II while reinforcing meaningful and purposeful production skills and vocabulary building to emphasize communicative competence. The target language is the primary language of instruction.

### **SPAN 205: Intermediate Spanish II (3)**

*Prerequisite: SPAN 200 or placement*

This course is an intermediate Spanish course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in Intermediate Spanish I while reinforcing meaningful and purposeful production skills and vocabulary building to emphasize communicative competence. The target language is the primary language of instruction.

### **SPAN 250: Conversational Spanish I (3)**

*Prerequisite: SPAN 105 or placement*

This course is an intermediate Spanish course and builds upon skills learned in the elementary level. This course provides students with the basic skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language. This course expands on basic grammatical structures learned in elementary and intermediate Spanish with a focus on oral communication in the target language. The target language is the primary language of instruction.

### **SPAN 300: Advanced Spanish I (3)**

*Prerequisite: SPAN 205 or placement*

This course is an advanced Spanish course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language at an advanced level. Students will apply their knowledge of grammar, structure, and use to communicate fluidly and clearly in the target language in meaningful and purposeful activities designed to simulate real-world scenarios. Students will expand their communicative competence skills to be able to apply course content to a final project exemplifying their abilities. The target language is the language of instruction.

### **SPAN 305: Advanced Spanish II (3)**

*Prerequisite: SPAN 300 or placement*

This course is an advanced Spanish course using a communicative approach to language learning integrating speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All four skills are embedded in an integrated framework that emphasizes meaningful and purposeful use of language as well as communicative competence. Besides the four language skills, practice will also be provided for higher order thinking skills, such as problem solving, and critical thinking. This course provides students with the skills and vocabulary required to communicate in a foreign language at an advanced level. Students will apply their

knowledge of grammar, structure, and use to communicate fluidly and clearly in the target language in meaningful and purposeful activities designed to simulate real-world scenarios. Students will expand their communicative competence skills to be able to apply course content to a final project exemplifying their abilities. The target language is the language of instruction.

**STAT 200: Introduction to Statistics (3)**

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides an introduction to data analysis, least-squares regression, data collection, sampling distributions and strategies, probability, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing.

**VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

4401 Village Drive. Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Phone: +1-703-591-7042

Toll Free: +1-800-514-6848

[www.viu.edu](http://www.viu.edu) [info@viu.edu](mailto:info@viu.edu)

Stay connected with VIU



GoVIU



VIUEDU



VirginiaIU



VIUEDU



# 2019 - 2020 ACADEMIC CATALOG 1st Edition

VIU is certified to operate in Virginia by SCHEV. Accredited Member, ACICS.