

148th Year of the University

Fall 2019 | Dec. 20, 2019





UNIVERSITY CEREMONY

Friday, Dec. 20, 2019

10:30 a.m. in Cassell Coliseum

(There are no guest limits or ticket requirements for this ceremony.)

Associate and bachelor's degrees will be conferred at the university ceremony. The ceremony is expected to last approximately two hours. There are no individual college ceremonies scheduled.

DIPLOMAS

Undergraduate diplomas will be mailed to the address provided by the student on Hokie Spa. Be sure to update your diploma address by clicking on Degree Menu, and then Add/Update Diploma Address.

Diplomas are mailed approximately 12 weeks after the ceremony. For additional details, contact the Registrar's Office at 540-231-6252 or visit the website at registrar.vt.edu/graduation-multi-brief.

PARTICIPATION

Associate and bachelor's candidates planning to participate in the procession should report to Cassell Coliseum on the Beamer Way side of the building. Signs will be posted to direct candidates to their college's staging area. Check-in will begin at 9:15 a.m. and all candidates should be on site by 10 a.m.

Candidates will be given a card on which to print his or her name as he/she wants it announced while crossing the stage. Just prior to crossing the stage, the candidate will hand it to the person reading names. The card will also be used by the photographer to identify each candidate so that proofs may be mailed or emailed to the correct address.

Faculty participation is encouraged. Please report to Cassell Coliseum by 10 a.m. and follow the signs to the staging area.

GUEST PARKING AND SEATING

All university parking lots will be open to the public, and visitor passes will not be required. However, parking in the immediate vicinity of Cassell Coliseum will be limited. Doors open at 9 a.m. Families and guests are urged to arrive in time to be seated by 10:30 a.m. Please be sure to review the Clear Bag Policy and the prohibited/permitted list, which can be found at: vt.edu/commencement.

GRADUATE SCHOOL CEREMONY

Friday, Dec. 20, 2019

2:30 p.m. in Cassell Coliseum

(There are no guest limits or ticket requirements for this ceremony.)

Master's degrees, certificates, education specialist, and doctoral degrees will be conferred at the Graduate School ceremony. The ceremony is expected to last approximately two-and-a-half hours.

DIPLOMAS

Doctoral diplomas are presented at the fall ceremony. Master's degree, certificate, and education specialist diplomas are mailed in February to the address candidates are asked to provide to the Graduate School.

PARTICIPATION

All graduate degree candidates must confirm their plans to attend Commencement by Dec. 1, 2019. Questions pertaining to eligibility to participate should be directed to the Graduate School at 540-231-6691. For complete details, you may visit the Graduate School's website at graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/what-you-need-to-graduate.

All graduate degree candidates should report to Cassell Coliseum on the Beamer Way side of the building. Signs will be posted to direct candidates to their specific staging area. Check-in begins at 1:15 a.m. and all candidates should be on site by 2 p.m. Doctoral candidates who will have met

all requirements for graduation by Nov. 15, 2019, are eligible to participate in Commencement.

Major professors who will be participating in the hooding ceremony should report to the ground level of Cassell Coliseum by 2 p.m. Please check in upon arrival so that your name may be read as you hood your student.

Faculty participation is encouraged. Please report to Cassell Coliseum by 2 p.m. and follow the signs to the staging area.

GUEST SEATING AND PARKING

All university parking lots will be open to the public, and visitor passes will not be required. However, parking in the immediate vicinity of Cassell Coliseum will be limited. Doors open at 1 p.m. Families and guests are urged to arrive in time to be seated by 2:30 p.m. Please be sure to review the Clear Bag Policy and the prohibited/permitted list, which can be found at: vt.edu/commencement.





GENERAL INFORMATION

For questions call the Office of Special Events at 540-231-5027
vt.edu/commencement

GRADUATION DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

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

ACADEMIC APPAREL REQUIRED

Academic apparel is required for all graduation ceremonies. Caps, gowns, hoods, and tassels may be purchased from the University Bookstore on campus (540-231-5991), Volume Two Bookstore off campus (540-231-9674), and at [bookstore vt.edu](http://bookstore.vt.edu). For academic regalia colors by college, see vt.edu/commencement/tassel-colors.

DISABILITY ACCESS

Accessible seating for persons with impaired mobility is available at Cassell Coliseum in multiple locations. Accessible and Preferred parking is available in the Cassell Coliseum parking lot on Beamer Way located directly across the street from the Merryman Center.

Individuals with mobility impairment are advised to enter Cassell Coliseum through the Merryman Center entrance. Signs will be posted for your convenience.

Requests for disability accommodations for student participants must be made to the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at least two weeks

before a specific ceremony. Requests for accommodations for guests attending the University-wide Graduate or Undergraduate Commencement ceremony must be made to the Office of Equity and Accessibility at least two weeks before the ceremony.

For accommodations for guests attending individual departmental ceremonies, please contact the individual departmental representative at least two weeks prior to the ceremony.

For additional information concerning accessibility and disability accommodations, contact:

Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)
ssd.vt.edu/physical_access/commencement_information
540-231-3788 or TTY 711

Office of Equity and Accessibility
oea.vt.edu/ada-accessibility-services/commencement-accessibility
540-231-2010

Two weeks prior to the Commencement ceremony, "Preferred Parking" parking passes will be available for pickup at 310 Lavery Hall above the Turner Place dining facility. Please contact SSD for preferred parking passes.

Individuals with DMV issued accessible hang tags or license plates do not need a preferred parking pass to park in the Cassell Coliseum lot during Commencement.

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For questions call the Office of Special Events at 540-231-5027
vt.edu/commencement

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

GradImages will be the official photographer for fall 2019 Commencement ceremonies on the Virginia Tech campus. The photographers will capture photos of graduates as they cross the stage. They will be the only persons with clear access to the stages. For participants, proofs will be sent by mail or email approximately one week after the ceremony if an address is provided. If you have any questions about your order, please contact GradImages at 800-261-2576 or gradimages.com/virginiatech.

GRADUATE AND UNIVERSITY CEREMONIES BROADCAST LIVE

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

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, ceremonies at Lane Stadium and/or Cassell Coliseum may be modified, rescheduled, or canceled.

As decisions are made, the university will communicate them to students, faculty, staff, and others immediately using email, the university homepage, the university status page, and on official social media channels. Information will be shared with area news media outlets. The university may use VT Alerts depending on conditions.

PRINTED PROGRAMS

Commencement programs will be distributed at the University and Graduate School ceremonies. A full listing of graduates can be found online at vt.edu/commencement.

Due to security procedures, wrapped packages will not be allowed in Cassell Coliseum. Clear bags are required. Please review the Clear Bag Policy, including the prohibited/permitted list, at vt.edu/commencement.

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status; or otherwise discriminate against employees or applicants who inquire about, discuss, or disclose their compensation or the compensation of other employees, or applicants; or any other basis protected by law.

