What Do Virginia Tech Freshmen Expect From Their College Experience?

Results from Virginia Tech’s 2014 Survey of Incoming Freshmen

What students hope to gain

Many incoming students are looking to improve their communication skills

Question: Which one skill or ability do you feel you need to improve upon the most to be successful? (Top 5 listed below)

- Oral communication skills: 18%
- Critical thinking/analysis skills: 13%
- Computer/technology skills: 12%
- Organizational ability: 9%
- Written communication skills: 9%

TOP 3 Reasons for Pursuing an Undergraduate Degree at Virginia Tech
1. Help get a job: 43%
2. Foundation for graduate or professional school: 42%
3. Broaden my knowledge base / strengthen skills: 11%

Incoming freshmen expect to be challenged and change

44% of incoming freshmen believe they will graduate with a major in engineering, but only about one half of these students will likely graduate with an engineering degree.

94% expect to be challenged intellectually often or all of the time, and

48% expect to be challenged socially often or all of the time.

62% expect to change significantly while at Virginia Tech

- Same person: 1%
- Mostly the same: 7%
- More the same than different: 30%
- More different than the same: 39%
- Mostly different: 12%
- Different person: 11%

How Are We Challenging Students at Virginia Tech?

For more information contact Virginia Tech’s Office of Assessment & Evaluation at oae@vt.edu