2014 Survey of Incoming Freshmen

Congratulations on your acceptance to Virginia Tech! To help us prepare for your arrival on campus, we ask you to complete this brief survey. The information you provide will guide faculty, administrators, and staff as they develop curricula and programs to facilitate your success. While the survey is not anonymous, be assured that your responses are confidential. Your name will not be associated with any of your responses. If you have questions or concerns about this survey or its use on our campus, contact Dr. Steve Culver, sculver@vt.edu (540-231-4581), Interim Director, Office of Assessment & Evaluation.

Welcome to Virginia Tech!

Sincerely, The Office of Assessment & Evaluation

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Consent Information

All information that you provide in this survey will be kept confidential. Participation in this survey is voluntary. By checking one or more of the boxes below, you give your consent to participate in the survey.

□ I agree for my survey responses to be shared with faculty, administrators, and staff at Virginia Tech to improve experiences for students both inside and outside of the classroom.

□ I agree for my survey responses to be shared with other researchers at Virginia Tech who are working on related projects.

□ I agree for my survey responses to be shared with researchers outside of Virginia Tech who are working on related projects.

_____

□ I do not wish to participate in this survey. [If this box is checked, the survey will end.]

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Please enter your VT PID. Your PID is typically the first letter of your first name followed by your last name (Ex. John Doe's PID is jdoe). Your PID lets us know you have responded and you won't get any further follow-up reminders from us to complete the survey.

Please select your birth month from the drop down menu. [An individual's birth month will trigger a specific block of questions related to how students perceive community so that each student will be asked to complete fewer questions than in the 2013 Survey of Incoming Freshmen. Students who completed the 2013 Survey of Incoming Freshmen were asked to complete all four question blocks.]

During your time at Virginia Tech, how often do you think you will be challenged intellectually?

- ○ Not at all
- ○ Rarely
- ○ Occasionally
- ○ Often
- ○ All of the time

How often do you think you will be challenged socially?

- ○ Not at all
- ○ Rarely
- ○ Occasionally
- ○ Often
- ○ All of the time

What do you see as your <u>primary</u> reason for pursuing an undergraduate degree at Virginia Tech?

- ○ To help me get a job
- ○ To help me develop a strong foundation for success in graduate school, law school, or medical school
- ○ To broaden my knowledge base and strengthen skills such as writing and critical thinking
- ○ To take classes to transfer to another institution
- ○ My parents made me attend
- ○ At this point, I am not really sure

Do you think you will be the same person or a different person by the time you complete your degree?

- ○ The same
- ○ Mostly the same
- ○ More the same than different
- ○ More different than the same
- ○ Mostly different
- ○ Different

Which <u>one</u> of the following skills and abilities do you feel you need to improve upon the most to be successful?

- ○ Written communication skills
- ○ Oral communication skills
- ○ Critical thinking/analysis skills
- ○ Computer/technology skills
- ○ Interpersonal (social) skills
- ○ Leadership skills
- ○ Organizational ability
- ○ Ethical reasoning
- ○ Scientific reasoning
- ○ Quantitative reasoning
- ○ Information literacy/library skills
- ○ Knowledge of global issues
- ○ Ability to communicate with people different from myself

What do you think your primary major will be <u>when you graduate</u>?

- ○ Accounting and Information Systems
- ○ Aerospace Engineering
- ○ Agribusiness
- ○ Agricultural Sciences
- ○ Agricultural Technology
- ○ Animal and Poultry Sciences
- ○ Apparel and Housing Resource Management
- ○ Applied Economic Management
- ○ Architecture
- ○ Art
- ○ Biochemistry
- ○ Biological Sciences
- ○ Biological Systems Engineering
- ○ Building Construction
- ○ Business Information Technology
- ○ Chemical Engineering
- ○ Chemistry
- ○ Civil Engineering
- ○ Classical Studies
- ○ Communication
- ○ Computer Engineering
- ○ Computer Science
- ○ Construction Engineering and Management
- ○ Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences
- ○ Dairy Science
- ○ Economics
- ○ Electrical Engineering
- ○ Engineering Science and Mechanics
- ○ English
- ○ Environmental Horticulture
- ○ Environmental Policy and Planning
- ○ Environmental Resource Management
- ○ Environmental Science
- ○ Finance
- ○ Fisheries Science
- ○ Food Science and Technology
- ○ Forestry
- ○ French
- ○ Geography
- ○ Geosciences

- ○ German
- ○ History
- ○ Hospitality and Tourism Management
- ○ Human Development
- ○ Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise
- ○ Humanities, Science, and Environment
- ○ Industrial Design
- ○ Industrial and Systems Engineering
- ○ Interior Design
- ○ International Studies
- ○ Landscape Architecture
- ○ Landscape Contracting
- ○ Management
- ○ Marketing
- ○ Materials Science and Engineering
- ○ Mathematics
- ○ Mechanical Engineering
- ○ Meteorology
- ○ Mining Engineering
- ○ Music
- ○ Natural Resources Conservation
- ○ Ocean Engineering
- ○ Philosophy
- ○ Physics
- ○ Political Science
- ○ Psychology
- ○ Public and Urban Affairs
- ○ Real Estate
- ○ Religion and Culture
- ○ Sociology
- ○ Spanish
- ○ Statistics
- ○ Theatre Arts
- ○ Wildlife Science
- ○ Wood Science and Forest Products

Do you personally know any professionals who have completed this type of major? (check all that apply)

- ❑ Yes, one or both of my parents completed this major
- ❑ Yes, at least one of my relatives, other than my parents, completed this major
- ❑ Yes, at least one good friend or mentor has completed this major
- ❑ Yes, a friend of a friend
- ❑ No, I don't personally know any one

Name one interesting book you have read in the last year.

What excites you about coming to Virginia Tech?

When you were working at a challenging task in a high school class, how confident were you that you would succeed?

- ◯ I never had a challenging task in high school
- ◯ Not at all confident
- ◯ Somewhat confident
- ◯ Confident
- ◯ Extremely confident

What percent of time were the following instructional methods used in your high school classes?

	less than 10%	10 – 25%	26 – 50%	51 – 75%	76-90%	more than 90%
Discussion and debate	○	○	○	○	○	○
Student presentations	○	○	○	○	○	○
Teacher lecture	○	○	○	○	○	○
Role plays	○	○	○	○	○	○
Art and drama activities	○	○	○	○	○	○
Projects using technology	○	○	○	○	○	○
Group projects	○	○	○	○	○	○
Research projects	○	○	○	○	○	○

In which of the following do you think you will participate while at VT?

	Definitely Not	Probably not	Likely sometime while at VT	During my first year
Internship, field experience, co-op, or practicum	○	○	○	○
Community service/volunteer work as part of a course	○	○	○	○
Community service/volunteer work outside of course requirements	○	○	○	○
University learning community (e.g., Galileo, Hypatia, Da Vinci, REACH, Residential Leadership)	○	○	○	○
Research project with a faculty member	○	○	○	○
Study abroad - break week or short-term	○	○	○	○
Study abroad - at least a semester	○	○	○	○
Attend a professional or scholarly meeting or conference	○	○	○	○

In which of the following do you think will you participate while at VT?

	Definitely Not	Probably not	Likely sometime while at VT	During my first year
Give a talk or exhibit work at a professional, scholarly, cultural, or artistic conference or meeting	○	○	○	○
Play intramural sports	○	○	○	○
Play intercollegiate sports	○	○	○	○
Organizations or clubs designed for people in my primary major	○	○	○	○
Social fraternity or sorority	○	○	○	○
Student government	○	○	○	○
Attend one or more performing arts events	○	○	○	○

Please answer the following items about your abilities and expectations.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I am comfortable using computer technology for learning purposes.	○	○	○	○	○
I expect college professors to use the latest computer technology to enhance my learning.	○	○	○	○	○
I expect my college learning experiences to prepare me for a multicultural and global work environment.	○	○	○	○	○

[Question Blocks 1 -4)]

[Students will receive one of the following four question blocks based on their birth month.]

Block 1 Questions:

Scale: 1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:

- o I don't understand why some people are poor when there are boundless opportunities available to them.
- o People are poor because they choose to be poor.
- o Individuals are responsible for their own misfortunes.
- o We need to look no further than the individual in assessing his/her problems.
- o In order for problems to be solved, we need to change public policy.

- We need to institute reforms within the current system to change our communities.
- We need to change people's attitudes to solve social problems.

Block 2 Questions:

Scale: 1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:

- It is hard for a group to function effectively when the people involved come from very diverse backgrounds.
- I prefer the company of people who are very similar to me in background and expressions.
- I find it difficult to relate to people from a different race or culture.
- I enjoy meeting people who come from backgrounds very different from my own.
- Cultural diversity within a group makes the group more interesting and effective.

Block 3 Questions:

For each of the items below, please rate your level of confidence using the following scale, where 0 is "not confident at all" and 10 is "completely confident."

- If I choose to participate in community service in the future, I will be able to make a meaningful contribution.
- In the future, I will be able to find community service opportunities which are relevant to my interests and abilities.
- I can help individuals in need by participating in community service activities.
- In future community service activities, I will be able to interact with relevant professionals in ways that are meaningful and effective.
- By participating in community service, I can help people to help themselves.
- Through community service, I can help in promoting equal opportunity for citizens.
- Through community service, I can apply my knowledge in ways that solve "real-life" problems.
- Through community service, I can help in promoting social change.
- Through community service, I can make a difference in my community.
- I will participate in community service activities in the future.

Block 4 Questions:

Scale: 1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neither agree nor disagree; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:

- o   I often think about my role in my local community.
- o   I have an obligation to contribute financially to my local community.
- o   I often think about how my decisions affect my local community.
- o   I have an obligation to give of my time to my local community.
- o   I often think about my role in the world.
- o   I have an obligation to contribute financially to my global community.
- o   I often think about how my decisions affect my global community.
- o   I have an obligation to give of my time to my global community.

Which of the following is most likely to be your PRINCIPAL activity upon graduation?

- ○ Employment
- ○ Graduate or Professional School
- ○ Military Service
- ○ Volunteer Activity (e.g., Peace Corps)
- ○ Starting or raising a family
- ○ Other (Please Specify) _____

How many credits will you be transferring into Virginia Tech?

- ○ 0
- ○ 1-3
- ○ 4-6
- ○ 7-10
- ○ 11-13
- ○ 14-16
- ○ More than 16

When do you think you will graduate with your undergraduate degree from VT?

- ○ In 3 years
- ○ In 3.5 years
- ○ In 4 years
- ○ In 4.5 years
- ○ In 5 years
- ○ More than 5 years

Which of the following best describes your high school GPA?

- ○ Less than 2.50
- ○ 2.50 - 2.75
- ○ 2.76 - 3.00
- ○ 3.01 - 3.25
- ○ 3.26 - 3.50
- ○ 3.51 - 3.75
- ○ 3.76 - 4.00
- ○ greater than 4.00

What is your racial or ethnic background?

- ○ African American
- ○ Asian/Pacific Islander
- ○ Hispanic/Latino
- ○ Native American
- ○ White (non-Hispanic)
- ○ Multi-racial
- ○ None of the above categories
- ○ Prefer not to answer

Your gender?

- ○ Female
- ○ Male
- ○ Transgender
- ○ Not sure

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your expectations for living and learning at Virginia Tech?

Thank you for taking the time to provide information to improve teaching and learning at Virginia Tech. Please click "submit" to end the survey.