

2012-2013 Senior Survey results

Summary for Virginia Tech

Prepared by
The Office of Academic Assessment
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Undergraduate students intending to graduate in December 2012, May 2013 or summer 2013, as identified by their departments, were asked to complete a web-based survey soliciting their opinions regarding aspects of their experience at Virginia Tech. After an initial contact, a follow-up from a departmental representative, and another follow-up from the Office of Academic Assessment, 1852 students across the University returned completed surveys, resulting in a response rate of 43.9%. As you review the attached information, please note the quality of these data depend on the number of students responding, the response rate for your area, and the particular wording of each question. The survey provides only an overview of student perceptions and does not allow for in-depth analysis that would lead to explanations behind those perceptions.

Table 1:**Please rate each of the following for your primary major:**

	Not Applicable	Unacceptable	Slightly Unacceptable	Slightly Acceptable	Acceptable	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
Clarity of degree requirements	0%	1%	3%	16%	80%	3.8 (0.58)
Relationship of courses to each other	0%	1%	3%	29%	68%	3.6 (0.61)
Quality of internship/practicum	19%	4%	9%	26%	42%	3.3 (0.72)
Quality of in-class student/faculty interaction	0%	1%	6%	33%	60%	3.5 (0.63)
Quality of out-of class student/faculty interaction	1%	2%	8%	35%	54%	3.4 (0.65)
Instructors' concern for students	0%	1%	6%	30%	63%	3.5 (0.63)
Faculty accessibility outside class	0%	1%	6%	30%	63%	3.6 (0.80)
Opportunities to learn from other students	1%	1%	7%	31%	61%	3.5 (0.64)
Opportunities for class discussion of diverse perspectives (political, racial/ethnic, religious, gender)	7%	3%	8%	29%	52%	3.4 (0.65)
Preparation for employment after graduation	1%	7%	16%	32%	44%	3.2 (0.63)
Preparation for graduate study after graduation	10%	4%	10%	31%	44%	3.3 (0.81)

Note. Mean is calculated on 4-point scale where Unacceptable = 1 and Acceptable = 4 (n = 1838 to 1845, depending on item)

Table 2:

Below are skills and abilities that a graduating senior at Virginia Tech (VT), regardless of major, might possess. Please indicate the level of proficiency you believe you had when you entered VT and your current level of proficiency.

	Your proficiency when you entered VT					Your Current level of proficiency				
	Very low	Low	Ave.	Above Ave.	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>	Very low	Low	Ave.	Above Ave.	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
Written communication skills	2%	9%	55%	34%	3.2 (0.67)	0%	1%	38%	61%	3.6 (0.52)
Oral communication skills	3%	24%	53%	20%	2.9 (0.74)	0%	2%	41%	56%	3.5 (0.55)
Critical thinking/analysis skills	1%	12%	59%	27%	3.1 (0.65)	0%	1%	24%	75%	3.7 (0.46)
Computer/technology skills	3%	21%	59%	18%	2.9 (0.70)	0%	4%	46%	50%	3.5 (0.59)
Interpersonal (social) skills	2%	15%	52%	31%	3.1 (0.72)	0%	3%	36%	61%	3.6 (0.56)
Leadership skills	3%	19%	54%	24%	3.0 (0.75)	0%	3%	39%	57%	3.5 (0.58)
Organizational ability	4%	19%	46%	31%	3.1 (0.80)	0%	5%	35%	60%	3.6 (0.60)
Ability to work in teams to solve problems	1%	13%	62%	23%	3.1 (0.64)	0%	1%	33%	65%	3.6 (0.52)
Ethical reasoning	1%	11%	57%	32%	3.2 (0.65)	0%	1%	38%	61%	3.6 (0.53)
Ability to work across disciplines	1%	16%	63%	20%	3.0 (0.63)	0%	2%	44%	55%	3.5 (0.54)
Knowledge of global issues	9%	41%	39%	11%	2.5 (0.81)	1%	10%	45%	43%	3.3 (0.70)
Ability to communicate with people different from yourself	2%	14%	56%	28%	3.1 (0.69)	0%	1%	34%	65%	3.6 (0.51)

Note. Mean is calculated on 4-point scale where Very Low = 1 and Above Average = 4 (n = 1747 to 1752, depending on item)

Table 3:

In the last year, how many contacts (in person, email, telephone) did you have with your academic advisor?

Number of Contacts	University Percentage
None	12%
1-2	31%
3-5	29%
6-10	12%
11-20	6%
More than 20	10%

Note. n = 1771

Table 4:

What is your preferred way of receiving advising in your program?

Response	University Percentage
Face to face meetings	75%
Email contacts	21%
Telephone conversations	0%
Social media contacts	0%
Printed Materials	1%
Other	2%

Note. n = 1768

Table 5:

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding advising you received in your major.

	Not Applicable	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
I was given assistance in thinking through my university related choices (e.g., what classes should I take?)	3%	7%	17%	44%	29%	3.0 (0.93)
I was given assistance in exploring and clarifying my educational goals	4%	7%	22%	42%	25%	2.9 (0.96)
I was given assistance in exploring and clarifying my career-related goals	5%	9%	27%	36%	23%	2.8 (1.03)
I was given assistance in finding out about academic support available at Virginia Tech	9%	7%	20%	43%	21%	2.9 (1.02)
I was given accurate information about academic requirements and choices	3%	5%	9%	39%	44%	3.3 (0.85)
I was treated with respect throughout the advising process	5%	4%	5%	30%	57%	3.5 (0.81)

*Note. Mean is calculated on 4-point scale where Strongly Disagree = 1 and Strongly Agree = 4
n = 1761 to 1763, depending on item*

Table 6:**Which of the following have you participated in while at Virginia Tech? (Check all that apply)**

Response	University Percentage
Internship, field experience, co-op, or practicum	65%
Community service or volunteer work AS PART OF A COURSE	28%
Community service or volunteer work OUTSIDE OF ANY COURSE REQUIREMENTS	75%
University learning community (e.g., Galileo, Hypatia, Da Vinci, REACH, Residential Leadership, SERVE)	13%
Research project with a faculty member AS PART OF A COURSE/PROGRAM REQUIREMENT	24%
Research project with a faculty member OUTSIDE OF A COURSE/PROGRAM REQUIREMENT	20%
Study abroad- break week or short-term	14%
Study abroad- at least a semester	8%
Attended a professional or scholarly meeting or conference	51%
Gave a talk or exhibited your work at a professional, scholarly, cultural, or artistic conference or meeting	27%
Intramural sports	52%
Intercollegiate sports	11%
Organizations or clubs designed for people in my primary major	46%
Social fraternity or sorority	22%
Student government	3%
Attended one or more performing arts events	68%
Other student organizations	53%

Note. n = 1731

Table 7:

How many classes have you taken for VT credit at other institutions (not counting AP and Dual Enrollment courses taken during high school)?

Response	University Percentage
0	45%
1-3	23%
4-6	7%
7-10	4%
11-13	3%
14-16	2%
More than 16	15%

Note. n = 1684

Table 8:

Which of the following best describes your current GPA?

GPA	University Percentage
Less than 2.00	0%
2.01 - 2.25	2%
2.26 - 2.50	5%
2.51 - 2.75	7%
2.76 - 3.00	14%
3.01 - 3.25	19%
3.26 - 3.50	22%
3.51 - 3.75	18%
3.76 - 4.00	14%

Note. n = 1683

Table 9:

What is your racial or ethnic background?

Type	University Percentage
African American	2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%
Hispanic/Latino	3%
Native American	0%
White (non-Hispanic)	82%
Multi-racial	3%
None of the above	0%
Prefer not to answer	4%

Note. n = 1683

Table 10:

What is your gender?

Gender	University Percentage
Female	51%
Male	49%

Note. n = 1687

Table 11:

If you were to do it all over, would you attend Virginia Tech again?

Response	University Percentage
Definitely no	1%
Probably no	5%
Probably yes	24%
Definitely yes	70%

Note. n = 1683

Table 11:

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

Response	University Percentage
Employment, full-time paid	59%
Employment, part-time paid	7%
Graduate or Professional School, full-time	24%
Graduate or Professional School, part-time	1%
Additional undergraduate coursework	1%
Military Service	2%
Volunteer Activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	2%
Starting or raising a family	0%
Other	4%

Note. n = 1681

