# Points of pride

*Updated 2/26/24*

Dedicated to its motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), Virginia Tech pushes the boundaries of knowledge by taking a hands-on, transdisciplinary approach to preparing scholars to be leaders and people who solve problems. In 2023, Virginia Tech emerged from its sesquicentennial year with a focus on creating, implementing, and executing bold plans for the university’s next 150 years. What follows are our shared points of pride as we make that journey.

## Aspirations

The university is pursuing two aspirations:

* Virginia Tech Advantage is a universitywide commitment to offer a broad educational experience to undergraduate students from Virginia who have financial need.
* Virginia Tech Global Distinction is a commitment to institutional excellence across research, teaching, and engagement that makes the university a destination for the best faculty, students, and partners from the commonwealth, the nation, and the world.

## Priorities

In addition to the university aspirations, key programs and initiatives for President Tim Sands include:

* Diversity and inclusion through InclusiveVT
* Global reputation
* Graduate strategic enrollment / Tech Talent Investment Program
* Greater Washington, D.C., metro area presence
* Health Sciences and Technology
* Innovation Campus
* Research
* Student experience

## Global rankings

Virginia Tech was ranked among the top 26 percent of the world’s elite institutions in the 2023 QS World University Ratings by Subject.

The 2024 Times Higher Education World University Rankings list Virginia Tech in the 251-300 range out of 1,904 universities. The university also ranked tied for 17th among public Carnegie Class-Very High Research land-grant universities, one of the key performance indicators in the pursuit of becoming a top 100 global school.

In the Times Higher Education 2023 Impact Rankings, the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals, Virginia Tech received an overall score of 89 and an impact ranking of No. 92 out of nearly 1,600 universities in 2023.

In U.S. News & World Report’s Best Global Universities rankings, the university is tied for No. 265 out of 2,000 universities in 95 countries listed.

Additionally in U.S. News & World Report’s Best Global Universities rankings, three of Virginia Tech’s subject areas ranked in the top 100 — electrical and electronic engineering (tie No. 50); water resources (No. 94), and general engineering (tie No. 97). In addition, four other subject areas ranked in the top 150: computer science (tie No. 114); plant and animal science (No. 124); mechanical engineering (tie No. 134); and geosciences (tie No. 141).

Virginia Tech saw substantial gains in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QA) World University Rankings 2024, which were released in July. The university ranked No. 302 globally out of 1,497 institutions ranked, which placed the university among the top 21 percent of world institutions. Notably, Virginia Tech scored well in the international research network, an indicator of the global engagement category. This indicator assesses the diversity of an institution’s international research partnerships and how these partnerships help to solve the most pressing global challenges. Virginia Tech ranked No. 197 in this indicator and No. 35 out of the 199 United States institutions evaluated.

## Universitywide rankings

U.S. News’ rankings of undergraduate programs for 2023-24 ranked Virginia Tech tied for No. 20 in the National Universities class for Top Public Schools and 47th among all national universities. Forbes ranked the university 26th among the top 30 public institutions in the nation.

In 2023, Princeton Review ranked Virginia Tech No. 22 for Best Value College among public schools as well as No. 5 for Best Alumni Networks, No. 9 for Best Student Support and Counseling Services, No. 9 for Best Career Placement, No. 10 for Most Engaged in Community Service and Their Students Love These Colleges, No. 11 for Best Campus Food, No. 12 for Happiest Students.

Virginia Tech ranked 22nd among more than 600 universities in Money Magazine’s “Best Colleges for Your Money” rankings in spring 2022. The publication based the university’s overall score on an estimated full price of attendance, the acceptance rate, the percentage of students receiving grants, the percentage of students who graduate, and the average early career earnings for graduates.

## Research

For a second straight year, Virginia Tech’s research awards and expenditures have grown by more than 10 percent. Based on fiscal year 2023 data estimates, federal, state, local, and private research awards grew a combined 17 percent, while research expenditures rose 12 percent in a single year. Over a two-year period, awards have seen a 31 percent increase and expenditures a 28 percent increase.

The National Science Foundation ranks Virginia Tech 54th in research expenditures.

In fall 2022, more than 400 sponsored projects at Virginia Tech paid undergraduates to work, serving as both an example of undergraduates engaging in potentially world-changing research and an illustration of research and work-based learning’s role as a pillar of the university experience.

Virginia Tech is the anchor institution for the Virginia Alliance for Semiconductor Technology, as well as a founding member of both the 21-institution, Micron-formed Northeast University Semiconductor Network and the 11-university network that spans the U.S. and Japan.

Virginia Tech continues to lead the way in helmet safety research. In its ninth helmet ratings since 2011, the Helmet Lab grade equestrian helmets.

Virginia Tech is one of four universities selected by the Department of Defense's Acquisition Innovation Research Center to participate in the pilot interdisciplinary scholarship and talent development program called the Defense Civilian Training Corps.

Virginia tech is not only excelling in the field of quantum research, we’re leading the way in the creation of a diverse quantum workforce through collaborations with historically Black colleges and universities.

## Students and enrollment

Virginia Tech’s total student population, determined by the fall 2023 census, is 38,294, which includes 35,734 taking classes on the Blacksburg campus. The student population includes 30,504 undergraduate students, 7,100 graduate students, 497 Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine students, and 193 Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine students.

The Class of 2027, which entered the university in fall 2023, came from a record 47,208 applicants. The university extended offers to 26,923 first-year applicants. The first-year students came from 69 countries and entered Virginia Tech with an average GPA of 4.09, which represents the highest ever for an incoming group at the university. The average GPA for last year’s group was 4.05.

Of Virginia Tech’s 30,504 undergraduates, 36.8 percent are underrepresented minorities or underserved — a percentage that includes international students and is a 1.2 percent increase from 2022, according to the 2023 fall census. The university’s underrepresented minority population alone increased nearly 1 percent from 17.99 percent in 2022 to 18.86 percent this year.

A record 52,365 first-year applications were submitted for fall 2024 admission, 11 percent more than a year ago. The pool includes: 8,059 applicants identified as first-generation college students, a 3.5 percent increase from last year; 20,610 in-state applicants, up 4.5 percent; 26,696 out-of-state applicants, a 12 percent increase; and 5,059 international applicants, up from 3,591 last year.

## Philanthropy and engagement

Supporters gave nearly $224.7 million in new gifts and commitments to the university in FY23, and Virginia Tech is on pace to achieve its $1.872 billion goal for Boundless Impact: The Campaign for Virginia Tech, which is expected to run through 2027. It was the third consecutive year of more than $200 million in new gifts and commitments and the second straight year of over $200 million in cash.

Virginia Tech’s sustained success in fundraising was recognized in 2023 with CASE 50 membership by the Council on Advancement and Support of Education, reserved for the top 75 advancement institutions globally.

More than 18,900 Hokies raised more than $13 million for Giving Day 2024. The event broke records and crushed the 2023 totals.

## In Virginia and beyond

Across Virginia, the university maintains a presence in every corner of the commonwealth with 11 Agricultural Research and Extension Centers, Virginia Cooperative Extension offices, the Tech Center Research Park in Newport News, and much more. Around the world, the university operates sites such as the Steger Center for International Scholarship in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland.

Virginia Tech is one of two institutions in the nation to have a corps of cadets embedded in a large civilian student body. The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets boasts the highest commissioning rate among the senior military college. Plus, 82 percent of cadets from its Citizen-Leader Track, who graduate without a military obligation, are offered employment upon graduation or accepted to graduate schools. Enrollment exceeds 1,200 cadets, with plans to grow to 1,400.

The Virginia Tech Innovation Campus is a bold, new vision for graduate education in computer science and computer engineering. Located in Alexandria, Virginia, the 3.5-acre Innovation Campus will unite the private and public sectors with faculty and students to drive a new era for the greater Washington, D.C., area’s tech ecosystem. Its first academic building, a 300,000-square-foot, 11-story structure, will open in fall 2024.

The Virginia Tech Carilion public-private partnership and the emerging Health Sciences and Technology campus in Roanoke, Virginia, includes the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, the Virginia Tech Animal Cancer Care and Research Center.

As one of the nation’s fastest-growing research enterprises, the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC is a destination for world-class biomedical and health sciences researchers. The institute’s researchers also provide training and mentorship for Virginia Tech graduate students conducting research in biomedical and translational health science.

The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, founded in 2010, is building a national reputation for attracting top students to its M.D. program. It attracted more than 6,000 applications for 49 spots in 2023.

The Virginia Tech Animal Cancer Care and Research Center is a comprehensive cancer care and clinical research center offering integrated services and frontline cancer diagnostics and treatment for dogs and cats.

## Program rankings

Virginia Tech’s College of Engineering made a splash in the 2024 undergraduate rankings from U.S. News & World Report. The college tied for the No. 13 spot nationally among universities that offer a Ph.D. option, a three-spot jump from 2023. In addition, three programs ranked in the top-ten including civil engineering (No. 6), environmental engineering (tied No. 9), and biological/agricultural engineering (tied No. 10). Aerospace engineering (No. 13), mechanical engineering (No. 13), computer engineering (No. 15) and electrical engineering (No. 16) ranked in the top 20 programs in the country.

In its 2023 graduate school rankings, U.S. News & World Report ranked Virginia Tech’s Evening MBA program tied for No. 21 nationally out of 299 schools. The magazine also ranked the College of Engineering at No. 30 out of 200 schools nationwide. Nine of the college’s specialty engineering programs landed in the top 20.

Virginia Tech’s Master of Information Technology program was named the No. 3 Best Online Program, in the U.S. News & World Report 2024 Best Online Programs rankings. The program ranked as the No. 1 choice for veterans.

The Pamplin College of Business’ online MBA programs ranked No. 13 in the nation for general management and No. 14 for business analytics, in the U.S. News & World Report 2024 Best Online Programs rankings.

The College of Engineering was ranked No. 17 for Best Online Graduate Engineering, No. 8 for Best Online Master of Industrial Engineering Programs, and No. 11 for Best Online Master of Electrical Engineering Programs in the U.S. News & World Report 2024 Best Online Programs rankings.

Several programs in the College of Natural Resources and Environment have received top rankings: No. 1 School in Natural Resources Management (College Factual, 2023), No. 1 Best College for Forestry (College Raptor, 2023), No. 2 Best College for Meteorology (College Raptor, 2023), and No. 5 Best College for Packaging Science (College Raptor, 2023).

The undergraduate degree in building construction received a U.S. Department of Energy Zero Energy Design Designation becoming one of only 26 colleges and universities to receive this designation. As one of the few construction schools on the list, the recognition celebrates the program’s commitment to teaching students about the impact of their design choices with the built and natural environment.

## Campuses and buildings

Blacksburg construction: Capital projects underway or recently completed include the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, Data and Decision Sciences Building, Dietrick Hall first floor renovation and Quillen Spirit Plaza, Hitt Hall, Livestock and Poultry Research Facilities, Multi-Modal Transit Facility, New Upper Quad Residence Hall, the Undergraduate Science Laboratory Building, and student wellness improvements. The Chiller Plant Phase II, Creativity and Innovation District living-learning community, teaching and research facilities at Kentland Farm, and the natural gas boiler capital construction project have been completed.

A $35 million gift from Norris ’58 and Wendy Mitchell — the largest gift ever by an alumnus — will lead to the replacement of Randolph Hall, currently the home of most of Virginia Tech’s engineering courses. Plans for the new building, to be named Mitchell Hall, call for classrooms, instructional labs, space for student team projects, research labs and office spaces for faculty, staff, and students. With budget approval from the General Assembly in hand, construction is scheduled to begin in fall 2023 with substantial completion of the building expected in 2027.

Hitt Hall, scheduled for completion in spring 2024, will double the footprint of the Myers-Lawson School of Construction and offers a new dining hall and expanded classroom area for students. The 100,000-square-foot facility will include a two-story Innovation Lab to allow for experiential learning and world-class research.

The Data and Decision Sciences Building opened in fall 2023. The space combines the disciplines of engineering, business, and science. Inside, the Department of Computer Science uses a high-resolution power wall with multi-touch features coupled with SAGE3 software that enables collaborative learning in the classroom and a display that enables the organization of large amounts of media, data analytics, and visualizations that students can interact with through their laptops.

## Athletics

In conjunction with President Tim Sands and other campus officials, the athletics department launched the Reach for Excellence Campaign, a $400 million fundraising campaign, in April 2021.

Women's basketball captured its first-ever ACC tournament title in 2023 en route to Tech's first Final Four in program history.

The Hokies celebrated two individual national champions in the 2022-23 academic year: Youssef Ramadan of men's swimming and diving captured the 100 butterfly national title, while Julia Fixsen of women's track and field claimed gold in the outdoor pole vault.

Academically, student-athletes set a department record with their 3.24 cumulative GPA.

## Across the university

LINK, the Center for Industry Partnerships, streamlines how companies engage with Virginia Tech, and has helped secure multimillion-dollar agreements with companies such as Boeing and Block.one. LICENSE, the Center for Technology Commercialization, and LAUNCH, the Center for New Ventures, help researchers move their inventions into the marketplace.

Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties with LINK + LICENSE + LAUNCH’s Proof-of-Concept Program provides a springboard for faculty to bring their research to market. Over the past four years, the program has funded 24 Virginia Tech research projects. In the 2023 cycle, the program funded 12 teams led by Virginia Tech researchers with a total of $600,000.

The Global Business and Analytics Complex will be a place for data scientists and students from multiple disciplines to thrive as they aim to solve the world’s most complex problems in analytical ways. Virginia Tech is building on its leading role in data analytics and decision-sciences by expanding programs, increasing enrollment, adding faculty members, and building new facilities. The complex, planned for a 2024 opening, will include four new buildings in Blacksburg — two academic structures and two living-learning residential communities housing about 700 students.

Center for Quantum Architecture and Software Development: Established in fall 2021, the center is part of Virginia Tech’s commitment to transforming multiple pillars of technology across computing, sensing, and communications. A $12.5 million gift from Northrop Grumman will help to support research and teaching in quantum information science and engineering. The center will be a part of the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus in Alexandria, Virginia.

Commonwealth Cyber Initiative: Virginia Tech has a lead role in the initiative, which calls on higher education institutions and industry to build an ecosystem of cyber-related research, education, and engagement.

Calhoun Discovery Program in Honors College: Exemplifies collaborative learning, allows students to form connections between their academic majors and other disciplines while engaging with partners in industry. Supported by a $20 million gift from alumnus David Calhoun.

Block.one: Global leader in blockchain made initial $3 million commitment to Department of Computer Science to help students build skills in blockchain. Inaugural Blockchain Challenge concluded with more than $28,000 awarded to students for blockchain projects.

Virginia Tech earned the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Impact Award at the 2022 Virginia Veterans and Military Affairs Conference. This is the second year in a row Virginia Tech has been recognized with one of V3’s annual awards. As a large-sized employer in the commonwealth, Virginia Tech received the Impact Award for demonstrating innovative support for Virginia veterans and promoting veteran employment.

A preeminent facility where performing arts, visual arts, and technology intersect, the Moss Arts Center is home to Virginia Tech’s professional presenting arts program. The center has a rich record of engagement both on campus and beyond, averaging more than 130 engagement activities or events each season for Virginia Tech students as well as activities for public, private, and home-schooled students of all ages and backgrounds.

As a member of Major University Presenters, the Moss Arts Center is part of an elite consortium of university-affiliated performing arts centers and programs created to support and advance the work of leading arts presenters at major research universities across the country.

The Open Education Initiative in the University Libraries offers services to encourage and support the Virginia Tech community in creating and adopting open educational resources. In FY23, the University Libraries partnered with faculty in six colleges to create 12 open educational resources, a 50 percent increase over the previous year. The team also encouraged Virginia Tech faculty to adopt open educational resources in their classes, saving students a total of $490,400 in textbook costs.

University Libraries at Virginia Tech is home to Virginia's only Patent and Trademark Resource Center.