A vibrant, flexible, and innovative general education program, that provides a coherent and meaningful learning experience and allows students to integrate the learning for use throughout their lifetimes.

**Mission**

As a central component of the undergraduate experience at Virginia Tech, the Pathways curriculum will guide students to examine the world from multiple perspectives and integrate their knowledge across disciplines and domains of learning through a hands-on, minds-on approach.

## Principles

### Integration

Allowing students engage in Ethical Reasoning and Intercultural and Global Awareness across the entire curriculum.

### Inclusivity

Addressing the needs and challenges of diverse populations of students in inclusive classroom experiences.

### Relevance

Supporting learning theory and best practices to deliver a curriculum steeped in real-world application and connections among a variety of perspectives and ways of knowing.

## Options

Pathways Curriculum requires a total of 45 credits to fulfill the 7 core concepts and both integrative concepts. Students might pursue a minor or an alternative Pathway as means of completing a portion of the requirements.

### Distributive Pathway

- Traditional model, similar to Virginia Tech’s Curriculum for Liberal Education
- Students choose courses to fulfill requirements
- Many transfer courses may be equivalent to the Pathways Concepts

### Pathways Minor

Cross-disciplinary minors will be offered to provide students the chance to broaden their academic scope.

- At least three core concepts and both integrative concepts
- At least 18 credits with a minimum of 6 at the 3000-4000 level. Note: not all courses in the minor need to be approved as Pathways courses.
- Include a capstone course
- Students completing minor will earn 9 pathways credits or more
- All students undertaking Pathways Minors must still complete the remainder of the Pathways credit hours and concepts not covered by the minor.

### Alternative Pathway

High impact learning experiences offered in order to meet general education concepts with more flexibility. All Alternative Pathways must:

- Meet three core concepts and both integrative concepts
- Be overseen by a faculty advisor
- Be submitted and approved by UCCGE prior to being offered
- This Pathway could include: Study Abroad, Co-Curricular experiences, Undergraduate Research, Presidential Global Scholars, and others.
- All students undertaking Alternative Pathways must still complete the remainder of the Pathways credit hours and concepts not covered by the Alternative Pathway.

[www.pathways.prov.vt.edu](http://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu)
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**Core Concepts**
- Discourse: 9 credits
- Reasoning in the Social Sciences: 6 credits
- Reasoning in the Natural Sciences: 6 credits
- Quantitative and Computational Thinking: 9 credits

**Integrative Concepts**
- Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States: 3 credits (may be double-counted with another core concept)
- Ethical Reasoning: Throughout
- Intercultural and Global Awareness: Throughout

**Adoption Timeline**
- Pathways Plan Draft: Summer 2014 - Summer 2015
- Curriculum Plan Approval: Spring 2015
- Institute and sessions: Summer 2015
- Implementation Plan Approval: Spring 2016
- Ongoing Implementation: Spring 2016 - Summer 2018
- Pathways Rolls Out: Fall 2018