

PATHWAYS

TO GENERAL EDUCATION



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.

Structure

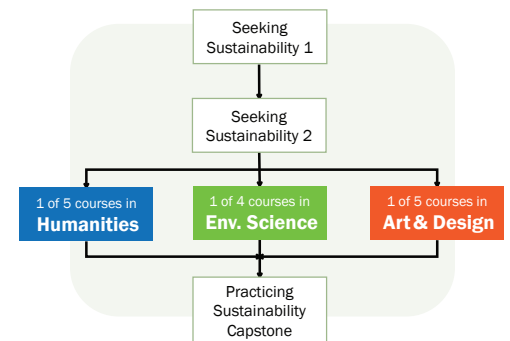
The Pathways Curriculum includes a total of 45 credits over 7 core concepts and 2 integrative concepts. Students choose courses from the different concept categories to fulfill the credit hour requirements. Many AP, IB, dual enrollment, and transfer courses may count for credit.

Some students might pursue a Pathways Minor or an Alternative Pathway as means of completing a portion of the requirements.

Pathways Minor

Some students might complete a Pathways Minor to experience the breadth of learning in general education as well as depth and integration through a cross-disciplinary minor program.

- Include at least 3 core concepts and both integrative concepts
- Include at least 18 credits with a minimum of 6 at the 3000-4000 level
- Include a foundational and capstone experience
- 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



Example: Pathways to Sustainability Minor

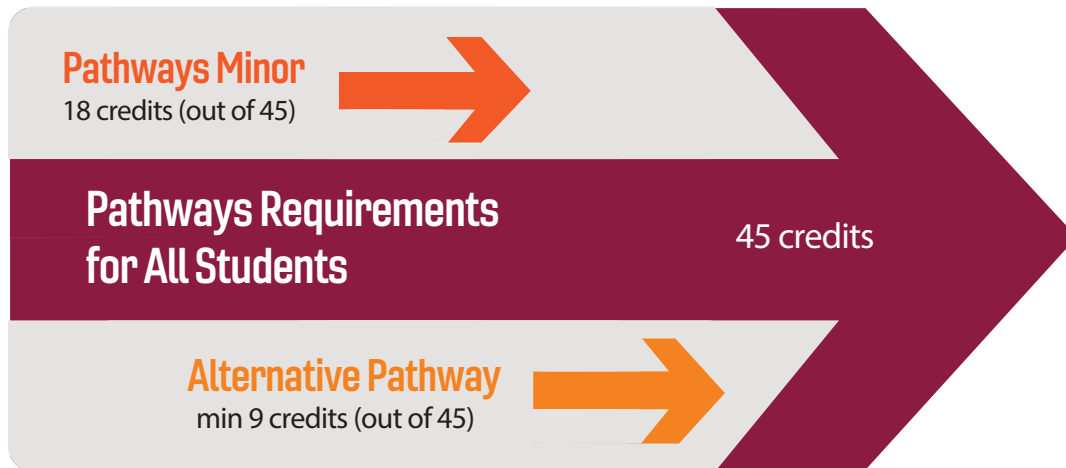
Alternative Pathway

Some students might participate in high impact learning experiences offered in order to meet portions of the Pathways concepts with more flexibility. This Pathway could include: Study Abroad, Co-Curricular experiences, Undergraduate Research, Presidential Global Scholars, and other opportunities.

- Meet 3 core concepts and both integrative concepts
- Must be overseen by a faculty advisor
- Must be submitted and approved by UCCGE prior to being offered
- All students undertaking Alternative Pathways must still complete the remainder of the Pathways credit hours and concepts not covered by the Alternative Pathway

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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.

Core Concepts

1 - Discourse
9 credits

**2 - Critical Thinking
in the Humanities**
6 credits

**3 - Reasoning in the
Social Sciences**
6 credits

**4 - Reasoning in the
Natural Sciences**
6 credits

**5 - Quantitative and
Computational Thinking**
9 credits

**6 - Critique and Practice in
Design and the Arts**
6 credits

**7 - Critical Analysis of Identity and
Equity in the United States**
3 credits (may be double-counted
with another core concept)

Integrative Concepts

Ethical Reasoning
Throughout

Intercultural and Global Awareness
Throughout