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.

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.

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Pathways Requirements for All Students

Pathways Minor (some students) 18 credits (out of 45)

Pathways Minor (some students) 18 credits (out of 45)

Alternative Pathway (some students) min 9 credits (out of 45)

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

Discourse 9 credits
Reasoning in the Social Sciences 6 credits
Quantitative and Computational Thinking 9 credits
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

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 Summer/Fall 2018

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