

2011-2012 Senior Survey results

Summary for Virginia Tech

Prepared by
The Office of Academic Assessment
June 2012

Undergraduate students intending to graduate in December 2011, May 2012 or summer 2012, 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 and a follow-up from a departmental representative and another follow-up from the Office of Academic Assessment, 2055 students (of 4870) across the University returned completed surveys, resulting in a response rate of 42.2%.

As you review the attached information, just a reminder that the quality of these data are dependent 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 probing that would lead to explanations behind those perceptions. Results, however, may indicate where to take a closer look in your department.

1. The course work in my major department...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
1. was intellectually challenging	0%	1%	2%	12%	45%	40%	5.18 (0.85)
2. required me to think critically	0%	1%	2%	11%	40%	46%	5.29 (0.81)
3. increased my understanding of my field	0%	1%	1%	5%	32%	61%	5.51 (0.73)
4. helped me become a better writer	2%	6%	11%	31%	28%	22%	4.44 (1.22)
5. helped me synthesize information from different sources	0%	2%	3%	18%	44%	32%	5.02 (0.90)
6. presented me with alternate points of view	1%	1%	4%	23%	40%	31%	4.95 (0.95)

Note. n = 1925

1. The course work in my major department...(Continued)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
7. applied concepts learned in class to new situations	0%	1%	2%	15%	45%	36%	5.12 (0.86)
8. increased my understanding of ethical behavior	0%	3%	5%	25%	41%	27%	4.83 (0.99)
9. incorporated technology that enhanced my learning	1%	2%	8%	23%	36%	30%	4.81 (1.08)
10. increased my knowledge of technology	1%	5%	9%	23%	33%	29%	4.68 (1.20)

Note. n = 1925

1. The faculty in my major department...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
11. set high standards for my learning	1%	1%	3%	13%	39%	43%	5.16 (0.96)
12. encouraged active learning	1%	1%	3%	14%	39%	41%	5.13 (0.95)
13. encouraged student-faculty interaction outside the classroom	2%	6%	10%	27%	31%	25%	4.54 (1.21)
14. provided opportunities for students to learn cooperatively	0%	1%	3%	18%	42%	36%	5.05 (0.93)
15. were concerned about student learning and development	1%	2%	4%	19%	43%	32%	4.97 (0.97)
16. were accessible outside of class	0%	1%	3%	17%	45%	33%	5.06 (0.86)
17. knew me as a person	2%	6%	10%	27%	29%	25%	4.48 (1.27)

Note. n = 1925

2. When you had a question or needed clarification regarding an academic problem (e.g., what courses to take, graduation requirements, etc.) from which of the following resources were you more likely to seek an answer? (check all that apply)

	<i>University Percentage</i>
My official academic advisor	66%
College or department professional advisor	37%
College Academic Programs office	4%
A faculty member in my major department	44%
A faculty member outside of my major department	8%
A staff member	14%
University catalog	29%
Departmental materials	35%
Other students	61%

Note. n= 1875

3. Which of the following best describes your official academic advisor?

	<i>University Percentage</i>
A departmental undergraduate academic advisor	35%
A faculty member in my major department	52%
A faculty member outside my major department	1%
A staff member	2%
I don't know	10%

Note. n= 1875

4. In the last year, how many times did you meet with your OFFICIAL academic advisor?

	<i>University Percentage</i>
None	28%
One time	20%
Two times	22%
Three times	12%
Four times	7%
Five or more times	11%

Note. n= 1875

5. In the last year, how many times did you have telephone or email contact with your OFICIAL academic advisor?

	<i>University Percentage</i>
None	30%
One time	16%
Two times	15%
Three times	12%
Four times	6%
Five or more times	21%

Note. n= 1875

6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement regarding your OFFICIAL academic advisor.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
1. I had adequate access to my academic advisor	4%	4%	6%	16%	34%	36%	4.80 (1.31)
2. My academic advisor was available when I needed help	4%	4%	7%	17%	33%	35%	4.78 (1.31)
3. I was given sufficient time with my academic advisor	4%	5%	7%	16%	32%	36%	4.74 (1.36)
4. My academic advisor provided me with accurate information about degree requirements and course sequencing	6%	4%	7%	17%	28%	38%	4.70 (1.44)

Note. n = 1820

6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement regarding your OFFICIAL academic advisor. (Continued)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
5. My academic advisor was knowledgeable about the requirements needed to complete my degree	5%	4%	7%	15%	28%	41%	4.83 (1.37)
6. My academic advisor provided me with assistance selecting appropriate elective courses.	8%	6%	10%	18%	25%	32%	4.45 (1.55)

Note. n = 1820

7. The course work in my second major department...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
1. was intellectually challenging	1%	1%	3%	15%	44%	37%	5.10 (0.90)
2. required me to think critically	0%	1%	3%	13%	38%	44%	5.21 (0.89)
3. increased my understanding of my field	0%	1%	2%	6%	39%	51%	5.38 (0.78)
4. helped me become a better writer	1%	4%	10%	27%	29%	29%	4.65 (1.19)
5. helped me synthesize information from different sources	0%	2%	4%	19%	42%	33%	4.99 (0.95)
6. presented me with alternate points of view	0%	1%	5%	19%	37%	37%	5.02 (0.98)

Note. n = 294

7. The course work in my second major department...(Continued)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
7. applied concepts learned in class to new situations	0%	2%	5%	14%	43%	36%	5.06 (0.95)
8. increased my understanding of ethical behavior	1%	4%	7%	23%	35%	29%	4.77 (1.11)
9. incorporated technology that enhanced my learning	3%	6%	16%	26%	28%	21%	4.34 (1.30)
10. increased my knowledge of technology	5%	6%	19%	25%	25%	21%	4.21 (1.37)

Note. n = 294

7. The faculty in my second major department...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
11. set high standards for my learning	1%	1%	4%	17%	42%	34%	5.00 (0.99)
12. encouraged active learning	0%	2%	4%	17%	36%	40%	5.07 (0.99)
13. encouraged student-faculty interaction outside the classroom	2%	4%	6%	23%	37%	28%	4.72 (1.17)
14. provided opportunities for students to learn cooperatively	0%	4%	5%	17%	39%	35%	4.96 (1.06)
15. were concerned about student learning and development	1%	3%	4%	17%	39%	35%	4.97 (1.04)
16. were accessible outside of class	0%	2%	6%	13%	39%	39%	5.06 (1.01)
17. knew me as a person	4%	5%	9%	22%	32%	28%	4.56 (1.34)

Note. n = 294

8. From my experiences at Virginia Tech, I have improved my...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
1. writing skills	1%	3%	4%	22%	41%	29%	4.84 (1.07)
2. oral communication skills	0%	1%	3%	15%	41%	40%	5.15 (0.90)
3. critical thinking skills	0%	0%	1%	10%	41%	48%	5.34 (0.76)
4. computer skills	1%	2%	7%	22%	37%	31%	4.85 (1.07)
5. understanding of ethical behavior	0%	1%	4%	20%	45%	29%	4.96 (0.91)
6. ability to retrieve information and resources to help solve a problem	0%	1%	1%	10%	45%	43%	5.27 (0.78)

Note. n = 1743

8. From my experiences at Virginia Tech, I have improved my...(Continued)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
7. understanding of the cultural traditions that have shaped Western experience	2%	6%	11%	27%	36%	18%	4.43 (1.18)
8. knowledge of the interaction between tradition and innovation	1%	4%	9%	27%	39%	20%	4.56 (1.11)
9. ability to compare alternative theories about human society, culture, and behavior	1%	3%	8%	25%	40%	23%	4.69 (1.09)
10. understanding of patterns and processes that affect the relationship between the individual and society	1%	3%	7%	25%	39%	24%	4.71 (1.07)
11. ability to evaluate the credibility of, use and misuse of scientific information	1%	2%	5%	21%	41%	30%	4.89 (1.01)

Note. n = 1743

8. From my experiences at Virginia Tech, I have improved my...(Continued)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
12. ability to describe methods of inquiry that lead to scientific knowledge	1%	2%	6%	22%	40%	28%	4.84 (1.02)
13. quantitative reasoning and problem solving skills	1%	1%	4%	16%	41%	38%	5.09 (0.93)
14. understanding of fundamental principles of reasoning involved in mathematics or logic	2%	3%	7%	20%	38%	31%	4.81 (1.13)
15. understanding of the relationship between art and society	3%	8%	17%	29%	28%	15%	4.17 (1.27)
16. knowledge of classic works of fine and applied arts	5%	11%	17%	29%	25%	14%	4.01 (1.36)

Note. n = 1743

From my experiences at Virginia Tech, I have improved my...(Continued)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
17. knowledge of different cultures and lifestyles	2%	4%	8%	27%	35%	24%	4.60 (1.16)
18. knowledge of environmental issues	2%	4%	7%	23%	35%	29%	4.74 (1.15)
19. ability to solve problems creatively	0%	1%	2%	14%	44%	38%	5.16 (0.84)
20. ability to lead people effectively	0%	1%	3%	13%	40%	42%	5.18 (0.89)
21. knowledge of global issues	1%	3%	7%	21%	40%	28%	4.81 (1.07)

Note. n = 1743

9. Which of the following have you participated in while at Virginia Tech? (check all that apply)

	<i>University Percentage</i>
Internship, field experience, co-op, or practicum	64%
Community service or volunteer work AS PART OF A COURSE	32%
Community service or volunteer work OUTSIDE OF ANY COURSE REQUIREMENTS	75%
University learning community	10%

Note. n= 1720

9. Which of the following have you participated in while at Virginia Tech? (Continued)

	<i>University Percentage</i>
Research project with a faculty member AS PART OF A COURSE/PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	25%
Research project with a faculty member	20%
Study abroad	17%
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	21%

Note. n= 1720

9. Which of the following have you participated in while at Virginia Tech? (Continued)

	<i>University Percentage</i>
Intramural sports	52%
Intercollegiate sports	10%
Organizations or clubs designed for people in your primary major	51%
Attended one or more performing arts events	73%
Other student organizations	66%

Note. n= 1720

10. What is your graduation date?

	<i>University Percentage</i>
December 2011	18%
May 2012	80%
Summer 2012	2%
Other	0%

Note. n= 1725

11. What year did you first enter Virginia Tech?

	<i>University Percentage</i>
2010 or later	5%
2009	10%
2008	66%
2007	15%
2006	2%
2005 or before	2%

Note. n= 1725

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

	<i>University Percentage</i>
0	46%
1-3	22%
4-6	9%
7-10	5%
11-13	3%
14-16	2%
More than 16	13%

Note. n= 1725

13. Which of the following best describes your current GPA?

	<i>University Percentage</i>
Less than 2.00	0%
2.01 - 2.25	2%
2.26 - 2.50	4%
2.51 - 2.75	7%
2.76 - 3.00	15%
3.01 - 3.25	17%
3.26 - 3.50	21%
3.51 - 3.75	19%
3.76 - 4.00	14%

Note. n= 1725

14. Your current age?

	<i>University Percentage</i>
22 or younger	83%
23-24	14%
25-27	2%
28-30	1%
31-35	1%
36 or older	0%

Note. n= 1725

15. What is your racial or ethnic background?

	<i>University Percentage</i>
African American	2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%
Hispanic/Latino	2%
Native American	0%
White (non-Hispanic)	83%
Multi-racial	3%
None of the above categories	1%
Prefer not to answer	2%

Note. n= 1725

16. Your gender?

	<i>University Percentage</i>
Female	56%
Male	44%

Note. n= 1725

17. What is most likely to be your principal activity upon graduation? (check all that apply)

	<i>University Percentage</i>
Employment, full-time paid	55%
Employment, part-time paid	7%
Graduate or Professional School, full-time	29%
Graduate or Professional School, part-time	1%
Additional undergraduate coursework	1%
Military Service	2%
Volunteer Activity (e.g., Peace Corps)	1%
Starting or raising a family	1%
Other	4%

Note. n= 1725

18. If you were to do it all over again...

	Definitely no	Probably no	Probably yes	Definitely yes	<i>University Mean (SD)</i>
would you attend Virginia Tech again?	1%	4%	21%	75%	3.68 (0.62)

Note. n = 1849