

COMMENCEMENT GUIDE

FALL 2020 VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020

10:00 AM

MAY 2020 & DECEMBER 2020 GRADUATES

ADDITIONAL VIRTUAL REQUIREMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR EACH GRADUATING CLASS.



Commencement Program

The appearance of a name on any list in the Commencement program must not be considered as conclusive evidence of graduation. The official transcript of the

University signed and sealed by its proper officers, is the official testimony of the possession of the degree.

December 2020 -Graduation Preparation Checklist

Complete Academic Requirements

- Senior Audit / Degree Works

Complete Administrative & Financial Requirements

- Apply for Graduation
- Pay Graduation Fee
- Financial Aid Exit Interviews
- Ensure you have no Holds on your Banner account (financial, judicial, academic, etc.)

Approved List of Students for Commencement

For your name to appear on the approved list, you must be academically cleared by the Registrar and the Department Chairperson. Senior grades are due in the system by Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

Graduates who are cleared and certified will receive their diplomas by way of US mail following successful completion of the Fall 2020 semester.

May 2020 graduates should have received diplomas in the mail. If not, please contact the University Registrar at registrar@vsu.edu.

Commencement Financial Requirements

The \$60.00 Graduation Fee is due by Monday, November, 30 2020.

The deadline to clear all account balances and student fees (telephone balances, parking fines, university loans, and unpaid tuition and fee balances) Monday, November 30, 2020

If you have not cleared your account balance, you will not receive your diploma or official transcripts until your balance has been paid.

All payments can be made:

- Online via the web at www.vsu.edu, click on Trojan Link, and select Banner.
- Cashiers Office, visit Gandy Hall in person

- Mail to Cashiers Office, VSU, PO Box 9125, Petersburg, VA 23806)
- Telephone (804-524-5150).

Payments must include the student's name and V-number.

Instructions for Paying Graduation Fee online:

1. Go to vsu.afford.com
2. Scroll down to Make a Payment and select the drop down arrow under Make a One Time Payment
3. Select Tuition and Fee Payments and click Make a One-Time Payment
4. Select Continue
5. Provide your Student Information, select Fall 2020 from drop down menu and select Graduation Fee \$60.00 +add from Item Information
6. Follow instructions to process check or credit card payment

Exit Interviews – Stafford Loans

FALL 2020 EXIT COUNSELING SESSIONS

REQUIRED

FOR ALL FALL 2020 GRADUATES

If you have been awarded a subsidized or unsubsidized loan, you must complete exit counseling!

Step 1

- Step 1:** Log on to <https://studentaid.gov>
Step 2: Select "Log In"
(Use your FSA User Name or Email address and FSA ID Password)
Step 3: Select Manage Loans at the top of the page
Step 4: Select the topic "Complete Exit Counseling"
Step 5: Read the next screen then select "Start **EXIT** Counseling"
Step 6: Proceed until process is complete
Step 7: Final screen will display Exit Counseling Summary
VSU will be notified within 24 hours after submission



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE...



Step 2

Attend One of the Loan Counseling Zoom Sessions Listed Below:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Thursday, October 29, 2020 | 10am, 2pm & 4pm |
| Friday, October 30, 2020 | 10am, 2pm & 4pm |
| Saturday, October 31, 2020 | 9am, 10am & 11am |
| Monday, November 2, 2020 | 10am, 2pm & 4pm |
| Wednesday, November 4, 2020 | 10am, 2pm & 4pm |
| Thursday, November 5, 2020 | 10am, 2pm & 4pm |

To reserve your loan counseling slot, send an email with your name, V# and date & time of zoom session to kjenkins@vsu.edu

The U.S. Department of Education requires that all recipients of a Federal Stafford Loan complete mandatory exit interview with the Office of Financial Aid. Failure to complete the mandatory exit interview will result in you not receiving your diploma. To complete the exit interview, student must do the following:

Complete the on-line Exit Counseling at www.studentloans.gov
Deadline please contact Financial Aid Office (804) 524-5990

We will be notified within 24 hours after submission and Banner is updated weekly once completed.

It is important that you are aware of and understand the various repayment options available to you in managing your student loan debt. Specifically, the Exit Interview will cover the following:

- A repayment plan that will fit your circumstances;
- Make repaying your loans as simple as possible;
- Develop a workable budget for your new life out of school;

Review your rights and responsibilities as a Federal Direct Loan Borrower.

For more information, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at (800) 823-7214 or (804) 524-5990.

Exit Interviews – Perkin Loans

The U.S. Department of Education requires that all recipients of a Federal Perkins Loan must complete mandatory exit interviews with the Office of Student Accounts. Failure to complete the mandatory exit interviews will result in you not receiving your diploma.

Federal Perkins Loan Exit Interviews will be done through Heartland (ECSI), our loan servicer. If an exit interview is needed for a Federal Perkins Loan, you will receive notification from Heartland (ECSI), and the VSU Collections Office, along with instructions on how to complete the exit. If you were awarded a Federal Perkins Loan and you do not receive notification or if you have any questions/concerns, please feel free to contact the Office of Student Accounts at (804) 524-5506.

Graduation Honors

Candidates for the bachelor's degree who have earned more than half of their academic credits at Virginia State University are recognized for academic achievement using the following standards:

Cum Laude - Awarded for a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 to 3.49.

Magna Cum Laude - Awarded for a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 to 3.79.

Summa Cum Laude - Awarded for a cumulative grade point average of 3.80 to 4.00.

Candidates for the bachelor's degrees who have earned forty or more academic hours but less than half of their academic credits at Virginia State University are recognized for academic achievement using the following standard:

With Distinction - Awarded for a cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or higher.

Please note: Graduate Students are not eligible for honor cords.

Cap and Gown

Cap and Gown Prices (prices before tax)

Bachelor package: \$79.25 (black tassel with gold year)

Master Package: \$103.55 (plain black tassel, no year)

*Doctoral Package: \$165.75 (plain gold tassel, no year)

Gowns (if only needing a gown)

Bachelor: \$50

Master: \$67

*Doctoral: \$84

Hoods (if need of a replacement or single purchase)

Bachelor: \$30

Master: \$37

*Doctoral: \$49

Add-ons/Souvenirs

Sized Cap: \$11

One Size Fits All Cap: \$11

*Tam: \$48.50

Regular Tassel Replacement (price is for bachelor, master, or doctoral) \$6

Deluxe Tassel (blue and orange w/ gold year) \$6

Key Chain Tassel w/ Year: \$6

Bling Tassel (orange and blue tassel with a silver blinged out year) \$11

First Gen Stole: \$26

Kente Stole: \$41

Rainbow Stole: \$41

*Doctoral cap, gown, hood, and tam listed are all souvenir products. Higher quality material and customizable doctoral gowns available for purchase or rent. Contact the Oak Hall representative if interested. Special gown cost more – not the price listed here for the doctoral package.



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C.B. Grad Announcements:

Mike Foltz | Regional Sales Manager - Virginia | Balfour College Division | 804-938-6253

Regalia –Oak Hill Cap and Gown

Please use the link below to order your regalia.

The 12/1/2020 date is for ordering purposes only.

<https://vsu.shopoakhalli.com/>

Herff Jones (Class Rings):

Michelle Kuhn

P: 703.368.9550 // 4257 Aiken Drive, Suite A // Warrenton, VA 20187

mkuhn@herffjones.com // www.herffjones.com

All items may be ordered and purchased online.

Any issues please contact the bookstore manager Mr. Daniel Ayala at 1616MGR@Follett.com



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[SHOP FRAMES »](#)

Questions / Updates

If you have any questions regarding the Commencement Ceremony, please contact the following individuals:

- Ms. Anita Wynn: Provost Office (804) 524-3269 (General Commencement questions)
- Registrar's Office: Transcripts and grades (804) 524-5275

For updated information, visit <http://www.vsu.edu/graduation/>