



Virginia Tech earns Military Friendly School designation for 2020-21

Virginia Tech has once again been named a Military Friendly School by VIQTORY – a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business that connects the military community to civilian employment and educational and entrepreneurial opportunities.

The university achieved a Silver rating for 2020-21, moving up from its Bronze level rating earned through last year's evaluation. The Silver rating is reserved for schools who meet certain survey requirements and score within 20 percent of the 10th-ranked school in the peer category.

"Our new designation as a Silver-level military friendly school underscores and validates Virginia Tech's commitment to our veterans and military dependents," said Jerry Headley, director of the Office of Veterans Services. "I'm thrilled by our new recognition and confident that our continued commitment to veteran and military dependent students will only continue to grow."

Under Headley's leadership, the Office of Veterans Services works closely with Virginia Tech's Bursar's Office, Registrar's Office, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Services to receive and process all documentation related to veteran and military student educational benefits. The office also collaborates with university and community partners to ensure that veterans and military dependents are connected to the financial, academic, and social resources necessary for a successful transition to and through their course of study at Virginia Tech.

Students served by Virginia Tech's Office of Veterans Services have access to a variety of tutoring and mentoring and assistance in navigating the U.S. Veterans Affairs system.

Virginia Tech and the other institutions earning the Military Friendly School designation were evaluated using public data sources, input from student veterans, and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,000 schools participated in the 2020-21 survey with 695 earning the designation.

Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer), and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

"Our ability to apply a clear, consistent standard

to colleges creates a competitive atmosphere that encourages colleges to invest in programs to provide educational outcomes that are better for the military community as a whole," said Josh Rosen, Military Friendly's national director.

The survey is administered for free and is open to all postsecondary schools that choose to participate. The complete list of 2020-21 Military Friendly School can be viewed at www.militaryfriendly.com.

Over the past few years, Virginia Tech's Office of Veterans Services has worked to enhance many of its programs, including increasing its Yellow Ribbon Program awards that help out-of-state veterans and dependents cover the cost of tuition, and creating a new "VetZone" lounge and study center in the Johnson Student Center. They have also established a new support services area in Hillcrest Hall that features private consultation rooms; space for support programming, such as veteran, dependent, freshman, and transfer orientation sessions; and administrative space to support VA benefit certification services for students.

To learn more about Virginia Tech's Office of Veterans Services, visit www.veterans.vt.edu or contact them at veteran@vt.edu.

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For more information or to enroll in one of our Office Software courses, visit www.hr.vt.edu/talent-development/office-software-courses.html!

For questions, contact the HR Service Center at hr@vt.edu or 540-231-9331.

University officials monitoring 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Across the globe, there is an ongoing outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) that originated in Wuhan, China. The health and safety of Hokies is of the utmost priority and we are closely monitoring the situation.

The U.S. Department of State and the CDC issued advisories for mainland China because of the 2019-nCoV outbreak on Jan. 27, 2020. In accordance with Virginia Tech Policy 1070, Global Travel Policy, because of the CDC advisory, no university-supported travel is authorized to China, and no university-supported travel is authorized from China. In extraordinary circumstances, departments can petition the Global Travel Oversight Committee (GTOC) for a waiver for essential travel by contact VTGlobalSafety@vt.edu.

For Hokies on-campus that have recently arrived from China, there is no requirement to self-quarantine. If a community member wishes to self-quarantine, they have the full support of the university and are asked to share that decision with appropriate individuals in their department to coordinate.

If a recent traveler from China experiences a fever, they should seek medical attention immediately either from the Schiffert Health Center (www.healthcenter.vt.edu) or their personal health care provider.

More information: <https://vt.edu/status.html>.

Sign up to be a #VTGivingDay Ambassador

Giving Day, a 24-hour giving event that brings together students, employees, alumni, families, and friends from all around the world to build support for Virginia Tech, starts at noon EST on March 18. We have an ambitious goal: 8,000 Hokies giving to their favorite department, program, or team. With your help, we can make it happen.

We know you love Virginia Tech. We need the most dedicated Hokies to help build excitement for Giving Day by signing up as an Ambassador. Learn more about being an Ambassador and sign up today: <https://givingday.vt.edu/giving-day/19789/signup>

Flu prevention tips from Schiffert Health Center

As colleges and universities across the nation are in the midst of a busy flu season, Schiffert Health Center at Virginia Tech would like to remind community members of steps they can take to combat flu. Peak flu activity most commonly occurs from December to February, with substantial activity through May. We encourage everyone in the Virginia Tech community – students, faculty, staff, and visitors – to get a flu vaccine. It takes one to two weeks to develop immunity once vaccinated. We also recommend frequent handwashing (especially before touching the face), avoiding contact with ill people, and getting enough sleep to minimize risk.

If you are ill with symptoms of flu (sudden onset of fever, muscle aches, headache, dry cough, congestion, sore throat, weakness), we recommend that you isolate yourself until you are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Flu is highly contagious, and self-isolation is important to help control its spread.

Unless you are experiencing severe symptoms or have underlying medical conditions such as diabetes or asthma, you may not need to visit the health center. Instead, please call Schiffert Health Center at 540-231-6444 if you have concerns about symptoms or questions about managing your illness.

More information about flu is available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/flu.

Remember: The best way to combat flu is through prevention. **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU TO GET A FLU VACCINE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO.**