ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REORGANIZATIONS/RENAMINGS

- In the College of Education and Human Services, the EDS program in Teacher Leadership has moved from the Department of Teacher Education to the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Workforce Development.
- The Office of Adult and Military Programs (AMP) has been dissolved with its responsibilities distributed to other units in both Academic Affairs and Enrollment and Student Affairs. Monica Close, AMP's Administrator Coordinator, has relocated to the Office of Academic Affairs.
- As of August 1, the Department of Applied Mathematics and Physics is now the Department of Data Science.

UNIVERSITY RELOCATIONS AND REORGANIZATIONS

- The Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) program has moved to Farbar Hall on VSU's main campus.
- Effective July 1st, Web Services moved from University Marketing & Communications over to Information Technology. At that time, Web Services relocated to Room 2303 on Level 2 of the Oak Street Parking Deck.

NEW AND UPDATED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS/CURRICULUM

NEW DEGREE PROGRAM
BS in Data Science

DEGREE NAME CHANGES
MAT Foreign Language Education to MAT World Languages

DEGREE CHANGES
BFA in Communication to BA in Communication

NEW DEGREE CONCENTRATIONS
Mathematics in the BSED in Secondary Education
Elementary Education and Art Education in the MAT in Education

NEW DUAL ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATES
Fundamentals of Political Science
Fundamentals of Sociology
Fundamentals of History
Fundamentals of English
Fundamentals of Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures or French Languages and Francophone Cultures
Fundamentals of Psychology
Fundamentals of Engineering Technology

NEW CERTIFICATES
Ethnic and Global Literature
Georgia Film Academy
Gender and Women's Studies

DEACTIVATIONS
Science Core (dual enrollment)
Professional Writing Minor
Literature and Language Minor
Creative Writing and Contemporary Literature Minor

CORE IMPACTS
The designated learning outcome for the Arts, Humanities, and Ethics domain (the "A" in IMPACTS) has been updated as follows: "Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts **in English or other languages**, or of works in the visual/performing arts.

ADDITIONAL COURSES ALLOWED IN TRANSFER FROM TCSG (TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM OF GEORGIA) INSTITUTIONS
The BOR has added 10 more courses to the 28 that USG institutions accept in transfer:

COMM 1100	Human Communications
ENGL 2110	World Literature
MUSC 1101	Music Appreciation
POLS 2401	Global Issues
RELG 1101	World Religions
SPAN 1101	Intro Spanish Language & Culture I
SPAN 1102	Intro Spanish Language & Culture II
THEA 1101	Theater Appreciation
ENGL 2130	English Lit—Beginnings to 1700
PSYC 2103	Human Development

NEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Effective August 1, all University offices including academic departments will be open Monday-Friday from 8 am-5 pm.
- At its May 15, 2025, meeting, the Board of Regents (BOR) approved a request from the Board's Committee on Academic Affairs for all institutions within the University System of Georgia to post course syllabi on their public websites. This action aims to ensure that all students have access to the critical information necessary for informed course selection and successful academic planning. This syllabus requirement outlines essential "front matter" visibility before registration.

  There will be a phase-in period for this new requirement, as described in the table below. Templates and instructions were provided to deans and department heads to distribute to impacted instructors. Each program should develop protocols for posting and ensuring that syllabi are posted in the Success Portal.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Term	Courses Included	Posting Deadline
Phase 1 **Fall 2025**	All Core IMPACTS courses and teacher education courses within the Dewar College of Education and Human Services	At least one week before the start of Fall 2025. Classes start August 19, so syllabi must be posted by **August 11**.
Phase 2 **Spring 2026 and** **Summer 2026**	All Core IMPACTS courses and teacher education courses within the Dewar College of Education and Human Services	At least one week before the start of Spring 2026. Spring courses begin on January 13, so syllabi must be posted by **January 6, 2026.** At least one week before the start of Summer 2026. Although there are various parts of term, summer classes begin on May 15, so syllabi must be posted by **May 8, 2026.**
Phase 3 **Fall 2026** **forward**	All courses, all levels	Available and accessible to students before the course registration period opens. Fall 2026 course registration opens March 31, so syllabi must be posted by **March 24, 2026**.

What must be included in the new public syllabus?
- Course Prefix, Number, and Name
- Semester and Academic Year
- Catalog Course Description
- Course Learning Outcomes: These are the approved outcomes for the course.
- Required Course Materials: List of textbooks with ISBN, articles, lab supplies, equipment, course packs, etc. that students are required to read or reference as part of the course.
- Grading Policy: Specify how final grades will be determined, including weighting scales or points assigned to various course requirements.
- Attendance Policy
- Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement
- Core IMPACTS Statement (if applicable)

- The BOR has also approved a new policy on "Artificial Intelligence in Academic Contexts" (https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section6/C2896/). This policy requires the following:

    All institutions within the University System of Georgia shall develop and implement policies or procedures that govern the ethical, responsible, and secure use of artificial intelligence (AI) in academic contexts. This ensures consistent standards and best practices throughout the system while permitting institutional flexibility to meet specific needs and circumstances. Policies, procedures, or guidance should address, at minimum, the following areas:

    • Definition and scope of AI within the institution's context

    • Ethical principles and guidelines concerning the use of AI

    • Accountability and responsible use of AI-generated content

    • Professional development for faculty and staff, along with educational options for students regarding AI ethics, responsible use, and potential risks

    • Privacy and security of student information

    • Human oversight and control of AI in research processes

    • Responsible use of AI in scholarly communications

    • Point of contact for questions or concerns regarding the policy as well as for guidance on the use of AI

    Guidance on the use of artificial intelligence should be integrated into existing academic integrity policies and codes of conduct for all enrolled students, ensuring that clear procedures are established to address violations.

    Policies or procedures should align with the guidelines outlined in the Artificial Intelligence Guidelines: A USG IT Handbook Companion Guide and should be applied in accordance with the standards, procedures, and guidelines provided in the Academic & Student Affairs Handbook. Institutional policies should be submitted to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer for evaluation and approval before implementation.

A VSU taskforce is currently at work to develop an integrated policy and drafts will be circulating soon for feedback. In the meantime, VSU guidance is available at the following sites:

  - From IT, "Use AI Responsibly: https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/a.i-guidelines.php
  - Academic Honesty Resources (includes resources on the Use of AI): https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-resources.php
  - VSU Sample Academic Integrity Statements: https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-integrity-statements.php

- AI Literacy Guide from Odum Library: https://libguides.valdosta.edu/AI/artificial_intelligence.
- Coming soon: CPOS (Curriculum, Program of Study) is part of financial aid regulations stipulating that students may only receive federal financial aid in courses that count toward their credential (i.e., within their program of study). A VSU taskforce is currently at work to develop a process through BANNER and DegreeWorks to track that students are registered for courses that count within their program and thus eligible for Title IV funds. In the future, any course substitutions will need to be completed before a student enrolls in the course.

REVISED OR UPDATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- The VSU catalog's sections on GPA have been updated to parallel the language used in students' BANNER transcripts. Since the word "cumulative" only appears on transcripts for individual terms and refers solely to the cumulative institutional average, the catalog now uses the BANNER language below to describe a student's GPA:

  - **TOTAL INSTITUTION:** includes all grades/hours earned at VSU. This total is used to determine academic standing. Students must have a 2.0 institutional GPA in order to graduate.
  - **TOTAL TRANSFER:** includes all grades/hours earned at all other institutions.
  - **OVERALL:** includes all grades/hours earned at both VSU and all other institutions students have attended. This average is NOT used to calculate GPA needed for graduation. However, it is used to calculate honors for graduation (as long as the student has at least 60 hours in residence at VSU).
  - **REGENTS GPA:** includes all grades/hours earned at both VSU and all other institutions students have attended. This GPA is not affected by VSU's grade replacement policy.

- VSU's Academic Probation and Suspension Policy has been updated to allow summer semester to count as a "sit-out" semester for a student on academic suspension.
- The new Division of Academic Affairs 2030 Strategic Plan will be posted soon. Thank you to the following committee members who researched and developed this document: Becky da Cruz, Kate Warner, Emily Rogers, Lois Bellflowers, Kelly Davidson, Monika Meler, Attila Cseh, and Sudip Chakraborty.

UPDATED RESOURCES

- The Academic Affairs Guidance for Syllabi (https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/syllabi.php#policies). Please ensure that you have the most up-to-date versions of required syllabus statements, including the Accommodations Statement and the Title IX Statement.

- **The 2025-26 Academic Catalog** is live and posted at http://catalog.valdosta.edu/. VSU's new catalog editor is Dr. Emma Kostopolus (ekostopolus@valdosta.edu).
- **The VSU 2030 Strategic Plan** with its Goals, and Strategies is available at https://www.valdosta.edu/strategicplan/.
- **Updated Academic Honesty webpage:** "The Academic Honesty at VSU" webpage (https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsu.php) has been updated with additional Academic Honesty resources (including some options for ways to discuss AI use in the classroom) and with some sample Academic Integrity Statements that faculty could adapt for their own use.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

- **Comprehensive Program Review (CPR) for 2025-26:** These programs (Cohort 3) are scheduled for review this year: BA Biology, BS Criminal Justice/MS Criminal Justice Administration, BA/MA English, BA History, BFA Mass Media, BFA Communication, BFA Theatre Arts, BS Organizational Leadership, BS Health Sciences, MED Elementary Education, MED Special Education: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Track; MED Adult and Career Education, MED Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching, MED Educational Leadership (P-12 School Leadership Track), MED Educational Leadership (Higher Education Track), MED Health and Physical Education. Information available at https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/program-review.php Program Review orientation will be Friday, September 5, 2025, 9:00am, West Hall 1002.
- **Update the Our Team/Faculty & Staff Listing webpage:** Please ensure that our new faculty are added and departed faculty are removed from your department's our team/faculty & staff webpage.

CELT/eLEARNING

- In May, seven VSU faculty graduated with the CELT-QEP Experiential Learning Certificate. Looking ahead to the Fall 2025 semester, four more faculty will graduate from the year-long professional development program and eight additional faculty joined the next cohort. The CELT-QEP Experiential Learning Certificate, launched last year, represents an essential step in implementing VSU's strategic goals of enhancing student success through teaching innovation. Each faculty who graduates completes an impressive 24 total course hours of training, earning continuing education units in just one year.
- BlazeVIEW's New Content Experience is coming January 2026. To prepare, throughout the summer and Fall 2025 semester, faculty can watch a 10-min video overview from CELT-eLearning to learn the benefits, as well as can see the changes to the navigation sidebar, organizing structure, and editing content in a BlazeVIEW test site. For assistance in person, register in VSU's Employee Training

Portal for CELT-eLearning's "Open Lab BlazeVIEW New Content Experience" scheduled on Aug. 5, 10-11 a.m. and Aug. 14, 2-3 p.m. in the eLab.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Updates from the Travel Office (https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/financial-services/travel/):
    - A travel authorization is needed even when the Foundation is paying (so that travelers are covered for insurance purposes)
    - Employees must attest to their own travel reimbursements - a proxy can no longer do so on someone's behalf
    - Complete travel reimbursements as soon as possible upon return - the IRS allows 60 days, if after that, the reimbursement becomes taxable through payroll taxable
- Dining has installed mobile ordering to all locations, including the omelet station in Palms. If you're in a hurry, you can order ahead. https://valdosta.campusdish.com/MobileOrdering
- The Print Shop has installed a new production software for easier ordering on campus: Presswise. https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/auxiliary-services/creative/

IMPORTANT DATES FALL 2025

August 11, 2025	All **public syllabi** for fall (Core IMPACTS and teacher education courses) must be posted in the Student Success Portal.
August 14, 2025	New **Graduate Student Fall 2025 Kickoff** 6-7:30pm
August 18, 2025	Fall 2025 **first class day** for regular term classes and Short Session I
August 21, 2025	**Fall Registration** ends and **Fee Payment Deadline** (11:59 pm)
	Graduate Executive Committee meets (September 18, October 16, November 13, January 16, February 27, March 27, April 17)
August 18-29, 2025	**Upload course syllabi** into Success Portal (directions at https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/sacs/documents/course-syllabi-upload.pdf).
August 25-29, 2025	**Attendance Verification** for VSU courses that began on August 18. All attendance verifications are due by 9 am on August 29

August 27, 2025	**Faculty submit P and T** dossiers to departmental promotion and tenure committees (http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/documents/tenure-promotion-timeline.pdf)
August 28, 2025	The Happening https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-life/special-events/the-happening/
September 1, 2025	**Labor Day Holiday**; university closed; no classes meet
September 10, 2025	**Departmental P and T Committees** submit recommendations to Department Heads and candidates.
September 11, 2025	**Short Session I Midterm Grades Due** by 11 am
September 8, 2025	**Academic Committee** meets (October 6, November 10, January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13). Materials due to Registrar's Office one week before the scheduled meeting. To guarantee new curriculum appears in the 2026-2027 catalog, all curriculum changes should be through Academic Committee by the February 2026 meeting. https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php
September 25, 2025	**Midterm and Withdrawal Deadline for Short Session I**
September 26-30, 2025	**Family Weekend**
September 29-October 8, 2025	Banner open for **faculty to post Midterm grades** for full-term courses. **Midterm grades are due by 5 pm on October 8.**
September 30, 2025	**IERs and IEPs due** to University Assessment Committee. Note: Administrative IERs/IEPs are also due at this time. (https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/program-review.php)
October 1, 2025	**Department Heads provide P and T recommendations** to College P and T Committees and candidates
October 9, 2025	**Midterm** (students able to view grades) **Short Session I Last Class Day**
October 9-15, 2025	**Short Session I Grade Entry** (grades not officially available to students)
October 13-14, 2025	**Fall Break** (no classes meet; the university is open)
October 15, 2025	**Short Session II First Class Day (**Registration ends October 17, at 11:59 pm) **Textbook Ordering Deadline** for Spring and Summer Classes

https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/textbooks-and-materials.php

October 20-23, 2025	**Short Session II Attendance Verification (Due Oct. 23 by 11 am)**
October 22, 2025	**College P and T Committees** provide recommendations to Deans and candidates
October 24-16, 2025	**Homecoming**
October 30, 2025	**Last date for students to withdraw** from full-term classes
November 3, 2025	**Registration** opens (by classification) for Spring and Summer 2026 classes
November 7, 2025	**Short Session II Midterm Grades Due (11 am)**
November 21, 2025	**Midterm and Short Session II Withdrawal Deadline**
November 22, 2025	**University Open House** (in 2026 on February 7 and March 28)
November 26-28, 2025	**Thanksgiving Holiday**; (no classes meet; university closed)
December 1, 2025	**Deans forward P and T recommendations** to Academic Affairs
December 8, 2025	**Last Class Day** for full-term classes and Short Session II
December 9-12, 2025	**Final Exams,** administered by this schedule: **https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/final-exam-schedules.php**
December 11, 2025	**P and T dossiers uploaded** for university committee
December 12, 2025	**Graduate School Commencement Ceremony**
December 13, 2025	**Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony**
December 15, 2025	**Final grades** must be posted in BANNER by 11 am
December 18, 2025-Jan.1, 2026	University closed
January 2, 2026	**University opens for Spring 2026**
January 6, 2026	All **public syllabi** for spring 2026 (Core IMPACTS and teacher education courses) must be posted in the Student Success Portal.
January 13, 2026	Spring 2026 **first class day**
March 24, 2026	**All syllabi must be posted** publicly for Fall 2026
May 8, 2026	All **public syllabi** for summer 2026 (Core IMPACTS and teacher education courses) must be posted in the Student Success Portal.

New Faculty and Administrators

- VSU welcomes new full-time faculty members to campus; see the complete list at https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/welcome-new-faculty.php
- VSU welcomes the following new academic administrators:
    - Dr. Guclu Atinc, Dean, Langdale College of Business Administration
    - Dr. Nicole Cox, Dean, College of the Arts
    - Dr. Laura Wright, Dean of the Library
    - Dr. Beibei Lin, Interim Associate Dean, College of the Arts
    - Professor Ian Andersen, Interim Department Head, Department of Communication Arts
    - Dr. Laurel Yu, Interim Department Head, Department of Music
    - Dr. Cristina Calestani, Interim Associate Dean, College of Science and Mathematics
    - Dr. Shaun Ault, Interim Department Head, Department of Data Science
    - Dr. Theresa Grove, Department Head of Biology
    - Dr. Tolulope Salami, Interim Department Head, Department of Chemistry and Geosciences
    - Dr. Mark Smith, Interim Department Head of English (and continuing as Associate Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences)
    - Dr. Joseph Jones, Department Head, Teacher Education