



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES FALL 2026

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REORGANIZATIONS

- The Mary Virginia Terry Center for Experiential Learning launched June 1 with Anne Price as the Executive Director. The Center for International Programs (including the English Language Institute) has been moved from University College to the Terry Center.
- The Honors College remains an institutional priority. The University College has been dissolved as of August 1, 2026. The Honors College will move to the bottom floor of the Communication Arts/Curriculum, Leadership & Technology Building soon.
- The Communications Program has moved from the College of the Arts and merged with the English Department in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to form the Department of Communication and English in West Hall.
- In the College of the Arts, Communication Arts has been renamed Theatre, Dance, and Media.
- The Department of Human Services has moved from the Dewar College of Education to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and merged with the School of Health Sciences.
- Industrial/Organizational Psychology has returned to the Department of Psychological Sciences, which is located in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- VState Online (formerly known as OCCA) has moved into Academic Affairs.

NEW AND REORGANIZED LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY

- 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>
- Lois Bellflowers, Interim Department Head, Nursing
- Kelly F. Davidson, Interim Department Head, History and Interdisciplinary Studies
- Venkat Gudivada, Department Head, Data Science
- Wendy Hoofnagle, Department Head, Communication and English
- Heather Kelley, Department Head, Health Sciences
- Paige Krispin, Interim Associate Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences
- Donna N. Sewell, Interim Associate Provost of Academic Programs and Services
- Kate Warner, Interim Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences
- Patty Williams, Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Services

IMPORTANT DATES FALL 2026

Aug. 10, 2026	General Faculty Meeting (Whitehead Auditorium, 1:30 p.m.)
Aug. 13, 2026	New Graduate Student Fall 2026 Kickoff 6-7:30 p.m.
Aug. 17, 2026	First class day for full-term classes and Short Session I



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Aug. 20, 2026	Graduate Executive Committee meets (Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 25, Apr. 22)
Aug. 20, 2026	Fall Registration ends and Fee Payment Deadline (11:59 p.m.) for full-term classes and Short Session I
Aug. 24-28, 2026	Attendance verification for VSU classes that began on Aug. 17. All attendance verifications are due by 9 a.m. on Aug. 28.
Aug. 26, 2026	Faculty submit P and T dossiers to departmental promotion and tenure committees (http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/documents/tenure-promotion-timeline.pdf)
Aug. 27, 2026	The Happening https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-life/special-events/the-happening/
Sept. 7, 2026	Labor Day Holiday (university closed; no classes meet)
Sept. 9, 2026	Departmental P and T Committees submit recommendations to Department Heads and candidates.
Sept. 10, 2026	Midterm grades due for Short Session I (11:00 am)
Sept. 14, 2026	Academic Committee meets (October 5, November 9, January 11, February 8, March 8). Materials due to Registrar's Office one week before the scheduled meeting. More information available at https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php
Sept. 17, 2026	Graduate Executive Committee meets (Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 25, Apr. 22). Materials due to Graduate School one week before the scheduled meeting. More information available at https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/graduate-executive-committee-information.php
Sept. 24, 2026	Midterm and withdrawal deadline for Short Session I
Sept. 28-Oct. 7, 2026	Midterm grade entry for full-term classes; midterm grades due Oct. 7 (5:00 pm)
Sept. 30, 2026	IERs and IEPs due to University Assessment Committee. Administrative IERs/IEPs are also due at this time. (https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/program-review.php)
Oct. 2-4, 2026	Family Weekend
Oct. 7, 2026	Department Heads provide P and T recommendations to College P and T Committees and candidates
Oct. 8, 2026	Official midterm; students view midterm grades
Oct. 8, 2026	Last class day for Short Session I
Oct. 8-14, 2026	Grades may be entered for Short Session I (not available to students)



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Oct. 12-13, 2026	Fall Break (university open; no classes meet)
Oct. 14, 2026	First class day for Short Session II
Oct. 15, 2026	Textbook orders due for spring and summer
Oct. 16, 2026	Registration ends for Short Session II
Oct. 19-22, 2026	Attendance verification for Short Session II. All attendance verifications are due Oct. 22 (11:00 am).
Oct. 19-25, 2026	Homecoming Week
Oct. 26, 2026	All syllabi for spring and summer 2027 courses must be uploaded to the Success Portal (directions at https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/sacs/documents/course-syllabi-upload.pdf).
Oct. 28, 2026	College P and T Committees provide recommendations to Deans and candidates
Oct. 29, 2026	Withdrawal deadline for all full-term classes
Nov. 2, 2026	Registration begins
Nov. 6, 2026	Midterm grades due for Short Session II (11:00 am)
Nov. 20, 2026	Midterm and withdrawal deadline for Short Session II
Nov. 20, 2026	Dissertation and thesis deadline
Nov. 25, 2026	No classes (Student Thanksgiving Holiday Break begins)
Nov. 26-27, 2026	Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes meet; university closed)
Nov. 30, 2026	Deans forward P and T recommendations to Academic Affairs
Dec. 7, 2026	Last class day for regular term and Short Session II; final grade entry begins
Dec. 8-11, 2026	Final Exams administered by this schedule: https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/final-exam-schedules.php
Dec. 9, 2026	P and T dossiers uploaded for university committee
Dec. 11, 2026	Graduate School Commencement Ceremony
Dec. 12, 2026	Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony
Dec. 14, 2026	Final grades due (11:00 am); students view grades after 6:00 pm
Dec. 18, 2026-Jan. 1, 2027	University closed



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UNIVERSITY RELOCATIONS

- While the building for the Dewar College of Education and Human Services is undergoing renovations, the building has been evacuated with faculty and staff in a variety of different locations.
- The Mary Virginia Terry Center for Experiential Learning is temporarily located in the University Center entrance 1 while Martin Hall is renovated in Fall 2026.

NEW AND UPDATED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS/CURRICULUM

NEW DEGREE CONCENTRATIONS

- Artificial Intelligence in the BS in Computer Science and in Computer Information Systems
- Forensics in the BS in Criminal Justice

NEW ACCELERATED PROGRAMS

- BA in Communication to the Master of Arts in Communication
- BA/BS in Psychology to MS in Psychology

NEW MINOR

- Internal Auditing

NEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 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). Beginning with summer term, students and advisors received notification if a student registered for a course not within their program of study. Further information about this process and FAQs are available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/admissions/financial-aid/process/cpos.php>.

UPDATED RESOURCES

- The Academic Affairs Guidance for Syllabi (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/syllabi.php#policies>). Please ensure that you are using the most current master syllabus template.
- **The 2026-27 Academic Catalog** is live and posted at <http://catalog.valdosta.edu/>. VSU's new catalog editor is Ms. Monica Close.
- **The VSU 2030 Strategic Plan** with its Goals and Strategies is available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/strategicplan/>.



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- **Academic Program Wellness Reports** were emailed to department heads on July 8, 2026 to be completed by department heads and program faculty during fall semester.
- **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 page.