

# NEW FACULTY AND RETURNING FACULTY (RE) ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

## FALL 2025

This year's New and Returning Faculty (Re)Orientation is designed to provide full-time VSU faculty members with the following:

- (1) The opportunity to meet and build community with faculty from across the university.
- (2) An introduction—or reintroduction—to Valdosta State University—its mission and plans as well as your role as faculty member.
- (3) An overview with the resources, materials, and modalities available for teaching and advising.

All activities will be held face-to-face; returning faculty should register for the “All Faculty” sessions they plan to attend through VSU's [Employee Training Portal](#). Materials and hand-outs from sessions will be available to new faculty in their BlazeVIEW course titled, “New Full-Time Faculty ACYR 25-26.” This course should be available by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Monday, August 4 and Tuesday, August 5 for New Faculty

**By appointment** Our Human Resources Team will be available to meet with new faculty in the HR office to complete any necessary paperwork and to answer questions.

### Tuesday, August 5

**5-7 pm**

**For New Faculty: Getting to Know VSU and Each Other**

**Cypress Room - UC**  
(1203 N. Patterson St.)

You and a guest are invited to join us for this reception where you will have the opportunity to meet each other and learn about how to gain the most from orientation. Our President, members of the VSU cabinet, our Interim Provost and members of the Deans' Council will be there to greet you.

### Wednesday, August 6

**Beverage service will be provided in both the morning and afternoon.**

**Morning Sessions**

**Cypress Room - UC**  
(1203 N. Patterson St.)

**9:00-9:15 am**

**For New Faculty: “Class” Photo. Come prepared to have your photo made with this year's class of new faculty**

**9:30-11:00 am**      **For All Faculty: A Faculty Member's Role in a Comprehensive Public University**  
Meet VSU's Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Sheri Noviello who will be leading an interactive discussion about the role faculty play in a comprehensive university and VSU's and Academic Affairs' strategic goals and initiatives, and how you can get involved.

**11:15-12:15**      **For All Faculty: "Rules of the Road"**  
Dr. Sheri Gravett, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Services, will share guidelines and resources useful for designing courses and preparing syllabi, including learner-centered approaches to course policies such as attendance, academic honesty, and more.

**BREAK (12:15-1:45)**

**Afternoon Sessions**

**1:45-2:45 pm**      **For All Faculty: Strategies for Success for Students (and Faculty)**  
**Cypress Room - UC**      New and experienced faculty members face the same challenges: engaging students in course content, meeting students where they are, helping students manage time productively, promoting effective study habits, and encouraging the use of campus resources, among others. Join us to participate in a lively discussion about strategies to help students (and faculty) succeed.

**3:00-4:30pm**      **For All Faculty: Developing a Campus Culture of Wellness**  
**Cypress Room - UC**      As faculty members, you have a role in being part of a campus environment that fosters well-being for student success. Join our panel to learn more about campus resources as we discuss how to promote safety, well-being, and student success.

**Thursday, August 7**

**Beverage service available in the morning and afternoon.**

**Morning Sessions**  
**Cypress Room - UC**  
(1203 N. Patterson St.)

**9:00-11:00 am**      **For All Faculty: Tips for Effective Teaching the First Day F2F or Online**  
Dr. Jamie Landau will introduce you to VSU's CELT (Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching) and explore evidence-based strategies to get your class off to a successful start, whether you are teaching face-to-face or online.

- 11:15 am-12:15 pm    For All Faculty: Introduction to Banner**  
Our registrar, Mr. Stanley Jones, will introduce you to VSU's computer system as well as to important policies and procedures.
- 12:15-1:45                On Your Own Lunch with a VSU Faculty Colleague**  
Sign up to have lunch at a local restaurant with a VSU faculty member—meet a faculty colleague and learn a bit about the town at the same time!

### **Afternoon Sessions**

- 2:00-3:00 pm                For New Faculty: Systems Orientation/Technology Support**  
**Odum Library 3270** Information Technology (IT) will provide you with information regarding the various technology systems, technology training resources, Solution Center services, and computer security.
- 3:15-4:15 pm                For All Faculty: Intro to Online Teaching at VSU, including BlazeVIEW**  
**Odum Library 3270** CELT-eLearning's Training Specialist, Bryan FitzGerald, will provide an overview of educational technologies available at VSU, including BlazeVIEW (VSU's learning management system). Additionally, he will cover requirements for CELT-eLearning's Online Teaching Certificate, the growth in online learning, VSU policies related to online teaching, the Online College for Career Advancement (OCCA) at VSU, as well as special considerations for FERPA in an online course.
- 4:30-5:30 pm                For All Faculty: Learn BlazeVIEW**  
**Odum Library 3270** Complete *Learn BlazeVIEW* in-person in a computer lab with CELT-eLearning's Training Specialist. Usually offered as an asynchronous online course, this interactive training during new faculty orientation introduces all faculty to VSU's learning management system and counts as 1-credit hour toward CELT-eLearning's Online Teaching Certificate. This course covers the basic functionality of BlazeVIEW and helps learners navigate the landing page and their course pages.

### **Friday, August 8**

- 9:00-10:30 am                For New Faculty: Benefits? Retirement? Tell me more!**  
**New Media Center** This drop-by session is designed for anyone wanting more information on how to gain the most from their USG benefits and retirement options.  
(Room 1240  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Odum Library)

**10:30-11:15 am**  
**New Media Center**

**For New Faculty: Welcome to Odum Library**

Members of our reference faculty will introduce you to the many resources available to faculty and their students through Odum Library and the University of Georgia System.

**12:30-2:00 pm**  
**CELT**  
(102 Georgia Ave.)  
Light refreshments

**For New Faculty: New Faculty Learning Community**

CELT's Director will facilitate a community-building activity for new faculty to socialize and support one another as a cohort, whether you're a limited term faculty, lecturer, or tenure-track. Then, if you're interested in continuing throughout the academic year as a New Faculty Learning Community to address needs related to this similar stage of your career, sign up to gather every 2-3 weeks during the fall semester. Sample areas of focus include preparing for your annual faculty review, best pedagogical practices for face-to-face classes or teaching online, strategizing service, time-management skills, and engaging in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

**First Day of Class, Monday, August 18**