

MARCH/APRIL 2026

VSU GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



# Spring

## Momentum Is in Full Bloom

*We Started Strong • We're Rising Higher • Graduation Is on the Horizon*



### Blazers! New Chapters are on the Horizon

With every class, every event, and every step toward commencement, remember that growth isn't just about the grind, it's also about balance. Give yourself permission to rest, reset, and lean into the support around you.

The finish line is on the horizon, and you're blooming right into it. Here's to momentum, meaningful moments, and a spring season filled with progress, purpose, and well-deserved downtime.

Valdosta State University  
18th Annual  
Graduate Student  
Research & Scholarship Symposium

*Friday, April 10th*

**Student Union Meeting Room 1 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)**

Oral Presentations 10 - 11:30 am

Break from 11:30 - Noon

Oral Presentations 12:00 - 1:30 pm

3MT Competition and GA of the Year Award  
2 - 3:00 pm

**Ballrooms A, B & C**

Poster Session, 3:00 - 6:00 pm Student Union

Musical Performances 4:30 - 5:15 pm

3MT and Poster Awards 5:30 pm

### What's Happening

#### Spring Dances: Pulse

A stunning mix of concert works and dance films created by VSU Dance faculty.

March 11-14 • Sawyer Theatre • PG

#### Love's Labour's Lost

A bold, witty musical adaptation of Shakespeare's classic.

April 23-29 • PG-13

More details and updates are available on the VSU Theatre & Dance [website](#).

#### Azalea Festival

Valdosta's annual Azalea Festival is a family festival showcasing the best of South Georgia

March 14-15

#### Valdosta Bluesberry Festival

The 4th Annual Valdosta Bluesberry Festival is accepting vendor applications! Enjoy a family-friendly weekend of live music, food, art, and blues in Historic Downtown Valdosta.

April 10-11

## Graduate Student Resources

### Odum Library Research Guides at Your Fingertips (Thanks to Reference Librarian, Samantha Paul)

Jumpstart your grad-level research with Odum Library's curated guides built to help you explore concepts, find reliable sources, and feel confident in your work.

#### Start here:

- Educational Research Guide for Graduate Students  
<https://libguides.valdosta.edu/EducationResearchGraduateStudents>

- Statistics Sources  
<https://libguides.valdosta.edu/statistics>

#### Need help?

VSU librarians are ready to support you! Connect through the Live Chat to ask questions or schedule an in-person/online research appointment:

<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/general/live-chat.php>



## Spring 2026 Graduation Info

**For Spring 2026 graduation**  
**DEADLINE to apply and ensure participation in the May ceremony is March 27, 2026.**  
Students are generally advised to submit applications at least two full semesters in advance.

## Grad Life Tips for Finishing Strong

- Keep your “why” front and center. Your grad degree is an investment. Let your purpose push you through the finish line.
- Fuel your body. Snack smart, drink water, and avoid the burnout crash.
- Use your campus resources. Writing Center, Tutoring, Career Opportunities, library study rooms — they're there for YOU.
- Stay organized! Keep notes, emails, and assignments in one place to avoid last-minute stress.
- Break big tasks into smaller wins. Celebrate the progress, not just the final submission.
- Reflect on your progress. Remind yourself how far you've come. That boost matters!

## Career Goals Start Here

### Blazing Careers: Your Hub for Jobs, Internships, and Career Events

Access Blazing Careers to explore on- and off-campus jobs, internship opportunities, and connect with employers across the nation who are excited to recruit our talented and innovative Blazers. Students can also register for in-person and virtual career fairs, workshops, events, and employer information sessions.

If you have not completed your Blazing Careers (Powered by Handshake) registration, be sure to finalize it using your MyVSU login username and password.  
careerops@valdosta.edu  
(229) 333-5942  
Student Union, 2nd Floor, Suite 2218  
(behind Starbucks)

## Upcoming Schedule

Grad Assistant Recruitment Day  
March 5 - March 6, 2026

Grad Finale - VSU Library  
March 10 - March 11, 2026

Spring Break  
March 16 - 20, 2026

Graduate Student Research Symposium  
April 10, 2026, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Dissertation and Thesis Deadline  
April 17, 2026

Final Exams  
May 5 - 8, 2026

Graduate School Commencement  
May 8, 2026

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@vsugraduateschool