

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2025

## VSU GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



### HEADING TOWARD FINALS & GRADUATION 2025!

**Blazers!** As we head into finals and graduation season, take a moment to reflect on how far you've come this semester. Whether you're wrapping up your first term or preparing to walk the stage, you've put in the work and it shows!

This time of year is all about celebrating progress and persistence. Remember to take care of yourself, lean on your support system, and keep your goals in focus. You're not just finishing a semester, you're building your future. Let's finish strong and celebrate every win along the way!

### Semester Events in Review



### Thank You

to our graduate school community for your continued support, participation in events, and dedication to building a strong and connected campus community.

We appreciate all that you do!  
And don't forget to come see us! Just follow the sign to your future!

📸 Take a selfie with our new sign and send it to [gradschool@valdosta.edu](mailto:gradschool@valdosta.edu) for a chance to be featured!



Hi, Dr. Boddie.  
Thanks for  
stopping by to see us!



## Graduate Conversations with Tyreen Maddox

**MAT - ESOL  
2nd semester**

### What led you to start your master's (or specialist or doctoral journey at Valdosta State University?

My journey began with some deep soul-searching and a desire to find purpose. I've always thrived in environments where impact is at the core, which led me to seek ways to give back. As I learned more about the growing field of ESOL, I felt called to be part of it to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

### Thus far, what is the biggest difference between undergraduate and graduate classes?

As an undergraduate, everything felt new and exciting. As a business major, I was learning to be a jack of all trades but hadn't yet focused on building a meaningful career path. This master's journey feels different. It's personal. It's a second chance to align my personality and passions with work that is both worthwhile and deeply rewarding.

### Although you are in your third term, can you share any strategies on how you manage your time between course workload and other commitments?

Organization is key! Dedicating specific days and time blocks to separate coursework from other commitments has made all the difference. Calendar reminders are my best friend and getting a good night's sleep gives me the energy to do it all!

### What myths did you have about Graduate School/your program, and have you found them to be correct or incorrect?

Since this is my second master's degree, I can say this experience feels very different. Graduate school now is more tailored and definitely more challenging in terms of workload. My first program was fully online, with limited interaction beyond discussion posts, which made the journey feel isolated. At VSU, my current master's has completely changed that. With a mix of synchronous classes, engaging assignments, and incredible support right at my fingertips, this experience feels connected and fulfilling.

### What is one piece of advice that you would give to a perspective student looking to pursue a graduate degree?

Make sure you choose a Master's path that is personal to you. In the process, don't let finances be an obstacle. Press forward and I promise, doors will open. Don't wait, Now is the time!

### What emoji would you use to describe your current graduate experience and why?

🤖.....Because 2025 has been extremely busy. Looking back, I see the hard work and the dedication which has made it all worthwhile. To think, this time next year, I will be graduating with my second Masters!

## Looking for Graduate Student Resources? 📝

Check out the [Grad School website](#) for information on General Student and Writing Resources for Graduate Students including the Academic Support Center.

Writing a Thesis or Dissertation? Please be sure to check here on the [Grad School website](#) to ensure you have the information you need to complete your study!



## The Graduate School Fall Commencement

5 p.m.

Friday, December 12, 2025 @ 5 p.m.

The Complex  
401 Baytree Road

Tickets are not required for either ceremony and graduates can invite as many guests as they like. Seating is first come first serve

## Upcoming Schedule

Final, Defended Theses and Dissertations Due by  
November 21, 2025

Thanksgiving Break  
November 26 - 28, 2025

Last Day of Classes  
December 8, 2025

Final Exams  
December 9 - 12, 2025

Commencement:  
December 12, 2025



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Graduate School

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