SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

VSU GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

HEADING TOWARD MIDTERM: FALL 2025!

Blazers! Can you believe we're almost at midterms?
Fall semester is flying by! Now's the time to review your notes, meet with professors, and make sure you're on track. Remember, campus resources like the library, tutoring center, and study groups are here to support you. Take a deep breath, plan your schedule, and finish this first half of the semester strong!

Our Greatest Assets? Our Students and award winning Faculty!

Congrats!

We are proud to recognize the outstanding faculty members of Valdosta State University who have earned 2025 Presidential Excellence Awards for their remarkable contributions to teaching, research, service, and scholarship.

🏆 Dr. Jamie Workman
Presidential Excellence Award for Teaching Associate Professor, Department of Leadership, Technology, and Workforce Development
Joined VSU in 2016

🏆 Dr. Daniel Baracskay
Presidential Excellence Award for Online Teaching
Professor, Department of Political Science
Joined VSU in 2005

🏆 Dr. Ansul Lokdarshi
Presidential Excellence Award for Research
Associate Professor, Department of Biology
Joined VSU in 2021

🏆 Dr. Jennifer Beal
Presidential Excellence Award for The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
Professor, Department of Teacher Education
Joined VSU in 2013

🏆 Emily Rogers
Presidential Excellence Award for Service
Professor and Research Librarian, Odum Library
Joined VSU in 2006

Graduate Conversations with Christene Randle

Marriage & Family Therapy Grad Program
1st semester

What led you to start your master's (or specialist or doctoral journey at Valdosta State University?
My decision to begin my master's journey at Valdosta State University stems from a deep commitment to helping individuals and families navigate relational and personal challenges and from a desire to foster growth toward them becoming the best version of themselves.

Thus far, what is the biggest difference between undergraduate and graduate classes?
In my undergraduate experience, learning often emphasized short-term memorization and recitation rather than durable understanding. In graduate study, I'm recognizing that the topics we're covering will directly inform my clinical work and form the foundation of my professional practice.

Although you are in your first term, can you share any strategies on how you manage your time between course workload and other commitments?
I'm still refining my approach. Balancing coursework, my graduate assistant role, and family life is a juggling act that requires focus, flexibility, and a measure of self-compassion. I'm grateful for my family's steady support and encouragement throughout this journey.

What myths did you have about Graduate School/your program, and have you found them to be correct or incorrect?
I am not personally aware of any myths about graduate school. I expected it to be demanding, of course, but I initially assumed it would largely mirror my undergraduate experience.

What is one piece of advice that you would give to a perspective student looking to pursue a graduate degree?
Approach graduate school with an open mind, even when it's challenging. What worked in undergrad may not translate directly. Be willing to relearn how to learn—adopt new strategies, seek feedback, and embrace uncertainty. Invest in relationships with your cohort; the mutual support and shared problem-solving will be among the most valuable parts of the experience. Learn not only from your professors but also with—and from—the peers walking this journey alongside you.

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

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!

All Majors Career Fair

9/24/25

10 a.m. - Noon

Explore career paths, network with professionals, and discover full-time, jobs, part-time positions, and internships. Whether you're graduating or just exploring options, this Career Fair offers valuable insigts and connections accross various industries. Also, come say hi as the Graduate School will be in attendance!

For more info on Career Week and Additional Career Services
Follow VSU Career Services @vstatecareer

Upcoming Schedule

VSU TailGate - September 27, 2025, 1-4 p.m.
University Center

AGS - Association of Graduate Students Meetings
September 30, 2025, October 28, 2025 at 6 PM

Grad Finale in the Student Union
October 7-8 2025

Fall Break
October 13-14 2025

Fall 2025 Dissertation and Thesis Deadline
November 1, 2025

We're on Social Media!
Please follow us on
Facebook:
Valdosta State University Graduate School
Instagram: @vsugraduateschool