

Course Program of Study (CPoS) at Valdosta State University

IMPLEMENTATION SUMMER 2026



Why CPOS? (Federal Requirement)

Federal regulation requires financial aid to apply only to courses that count toward declared programs.

Aid programs impacted: Pell, Direct Loans, FSEOG, Work Study, TEACH.

Programs not impacted: HOPE, Zell, scholarships.



What CPOS Means for VSU

Implementation begins Summer 2026.

Courses flagged if not part of declared primary degree.

Final review after drop/add period.



The Student Experience

Students notified via email/text if courses don't apply.

DegreeWorks displays flagged courses.

Students may take out-of-program courses but must self-fund.

- 12 hours for an undergraduate student is full time. Students can be fully funded if they take the out-of-program course in addition to the 12 hours of in-program coursework.
- HOPE will pay for out-of-program courses.
- 9 hours for a graduate student is full time. Students can be fully funded if they take the out-of-program course/s in addition to 9 hours of in-program coursework.



DegreeWorks

Level Undergraduate-Semester **Classification** Sophomore **Major** Sociology & Anthropology **Minor** Psychology **Program** BA in Sociology & Anthropology
College Col of Humanities & Social Sci **Academic Standing** Dean's List **Campus** Main Campus **Catalog** Fall 2024 **VSU Earned Hours** 52
Overall Earned Hours 52 **VSU GPA** 3.80 **Overall GPA** 3.80 **Overall Earned Hours** 52 **Applied to Graduate** Not Applicable **Prior Degrees** Not Applicable
Academic Advisor Bell, Joseph M **Honors Advisor** Not Applicable **Faculty Mentor** Not Applicable **Matriculation Term** Fall 2024 **Student Type** Continuing
Current Courses Not Eligible for Financial Aid None

Important Reminder:

If you have courses listed as not eligible for financial aid, review the Course Program of Study (CPOS) information under the Additional Resources tab above. Additionally, you should contact your advisor for questions or concerns.

Level Undergraduate-Semester **Classification** Junior **Major** Exercise Physiology Undergrad **Program** BSEP - Bachelor of Science Exercise Physiology
College College of Nurs & Hlth Science **Academic Standing** Not Applicable **Campus** Main Campus **Catalog** Spring 2026 **VSU Earned Hours** Not Applicable
Overall Earned Hours 61.96 **VSU GPA** Not Applicable **Overall GPA** 2.98 **Overall Earned Hours** 61.96 **Applied to Graduate** Not Applicable
Prior Degrees Not Applicable **Academic Advisor** Hickman, Mary A **Honors Advisor** Not Applicable **Faculty Mentor** Not Applicable **Matriculation Term** Spring 2026
Student Type Transfer **Current Courses Not Eligible for Financial Aid** Summer 2026: AFAM 2020

Important Reminder:

If you have courses listed as not eligible for financial aid, review the Course Program of Study (CPOS) information under the Additional Resources tab above. Additionally, you should contact your advisor for questions or concerns.



Advisor & Faculty Role

Faculty and Staff: Always refer students to their academic advisor first.

Advisors: Review degree audit, explain flags, assist with substitutions.

- Course substitutions must be completed before drop/add
- Major Changes must be completed before drop/add

Registrar: Processes substitutions and major changes.

Financial Aid: Clarifies funding impacts.



Key Deadlines for Major Changes

Major changes take time to process, and students should allow 5 to 10 business days to be fully processed

Major changes processed after Drop/Add will be applied to the next term

To ensure timely processing, the dates below are the priority Major change deadlines:

Fall – July 1

Spring – December 1

Summer – April 1



Special Situations

Electives: Must count toward degree.

Learning support courses: Aid eligible up to 30 hours.

Double majors: Only declared/required one's count.

Repeated courses: Aid eligibility limited.

Full-Time Work Around: Students can be fully funded if they take out-of-program courses in addition to the full-time of in-program coursework.



What Faculty/Staff Should Say

Acknowledge concern: 'That's a great question...'

Refer students to their academic advisor as the first step.

Advisor for program changes and course substitutions.

Financial Aid for funding clarifications.

Reassure: 'You're not alone—this is new for everyone.'



Communication Workflow

Registration → nightly CPOS review → student notification.

- Summer CPOS reviews will start March 3rd
- Notifications will be emailed Weekly from the Financial Aid Office
- Last review will be right after Drop/Add

Advisor resolution → Registrar updates → aid adjusted.

- Adjustments, Substitutions, and Major Changes take time
- Students should allow 5 to 10 business days for changes to be reflected in Degreeworks and Banner



FAQs for Quick Reference

Will CPOS affect scholarships? (No)

Can students take extra classes? (Yes, but not federally funded. Taking more than 12 hours would help with minors not included in major coursework)

How are substitutions handled? (Advisor starts the process, timely processing required)

What about seniors in final semester? (Only required courses are eligible)

Will financial aid cover courses repeated for grade replacement? (Yes, but only for one repeat of a course)



FAQs for Quick Reference

Where do students find their primary major? (DegreeWorks)

Where can I get more information?

(<https://www.valdosta.edu/admissions/financial-aid/process/cpos.php>)

When will students start receiving notification of classes not in the program of study? (Summer notifications start going out in Early March)



Scenario 1

Undergraduate student has HOPE, Loans, and Pell. They are registered for 12 hours, and only 8 of the hours are in major

Result

Student will receive 12 hours of HOPE funding, Loans, and Pell will be reduced to 8 hours



Scenario 2

Undergraduate student has HOPE, Loans, and Pell. They are registered for 15 hours, and only 12 of the hours are in major

Result

Student will receive full financial aid



Scenario 3

Undergraduate student has HOPE, Loans, and Pell. They are registered for 6 hours, and only 3 of the hours are in major

Result

Student will receive HOPE for 6 hours, Pell for 3 hours and will not be eligible for loans



Scenario 4

Undergraduate student has loans only. They are registered for 6 hours, and only 3 of the hours are in major

Result

Student will not be eligible for loans



Scenario 5

Undergraduate student has loans and Pell. They are registered for 17 hours, and only 13 of the hours are in major

Result

Student will receive full Pell and full loans



Scenario 6

Graduate student has loans. They are registered for 6 hours, and only 3 of the hours are in major

Result

Student will not be eligible for loans



Scenario 7

Student with declared majors of Political Science and Computer Science with an African Studies minor – How will CPOS be applied?

Guidance

Courses in both majors will be covered under CPOS. Coursework from one major will count as electives in the other program of study.

Minors are different. The Department of Education does not consider a minor part of the program of study for financial aid purposes. As a result, minor coursework may not be covered if elective space has already been used by coursework from the second major.

Financial Aid eligibility maxes out at full-time status (12 hours for undergraduates). Because of this, I would recommend that students register for at least 12 hours within their program(s) of study first, and then take minor coursework if needed to get to the 15th or 18th hour.

If a student is already enrolled in 12 or more hours, adding an additional course would not negatively impact their financial aid award.



Resources & Contacts

DegreeWorks: Find Advisor and Majors

Financial Aid: finaid@valdosta.edu / 229-333-5935

Registrar: registrar@valdosta.edu / 229-333-5727



Closing & Next Steps

Implementation Summer 2026 – March 3rd.

Faculty & staff role = guidance, referral, reassurance.

Encourage proactive advising before deadlines.

CPoS is a federal financial aid regulation—only advisors can help students resolve issues by adjusting schedules, submitting course substitutions, submitting major changes, or confirming ineligible hours.

