

2014-2015

ANNUAL REPORT





Division of Student Affairs

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CREDITS

Photography (students) University Student Commons and Activities

Back cover photo

VCU, University Relations

Message from the Vice Provost

It is a pleasure to be able to share a glimpse of the work accomplished by the Division of Student Affairs at VCU over the past year. This report provides a sample of the breadth and depth of the work of more than 200 faculty and staff in our division. Our accomplishments are a testament to our talented student affairs professionals, who each day commit themselves to student support and success through programs, activities and services.

Our approach to working with students is holistic. We subscribe to a head, heart and hands approach to leadership. Through our heads, we strive to be a learning organization committed to the personal and professional growth of our staff so they might inspire students to gain knowledge inside and outside of the classroom. Through our hearts, we aspire to serve students with our whole hearts helping them in building character, empathy and passion. Through our hands, we devote ourselves to the service of others through the alignment of our values and actions to encourage students answering what Martin Luther King, Jr. posed: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"

As a division, we are continually indebted to our students. Students constantly provide us with interesting challenges, fantastic learning opportunities, delightful surprises, and inspiration to be better individually and collectively.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Klink, Ph.D.

Interim Vice Provost for Student Affairs



Mission Statement

The division seeks to create a student-centered culture promoting community, encouraging engagement and developing students to be contributing citizens in a global and diverse society through its programs, services, facilities, and activities.



Our Values

Collaboration

We develop purposeful and effective relationships with internal and external partners utilizing open communication and effective listening.

Excellence

We demonstrate professionalism and integrity in our programs, services and interactions.

Diversity and Inclusion

We respect the uniqueness of cultures, people, beliefs, talents and abilities and strive to create an environment that is open and welcoming.

Student-Centered

We partner with students to develop, facilitate and foster meaningful student experiences.

Learning

We commit to the holistic development of students, faculty and staff through engagement, participation and experiential education to prepare them for success at VCU and beyond.

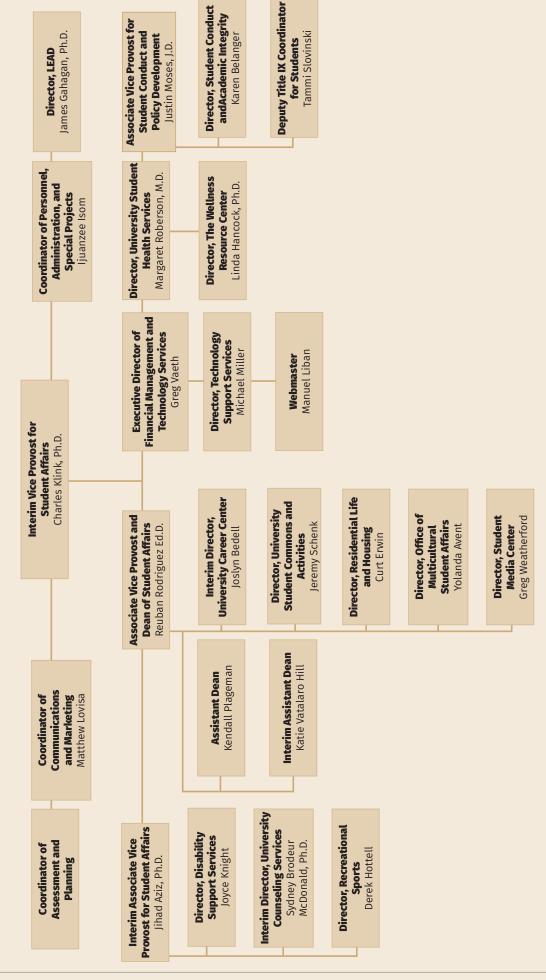


Division Diversity Statement

We, the Division of Student Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University, actively create a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for students, staff and faculty to explore their own identities. Through our programs, policies and services we seek to empower the members of our community to advocate for social justice and equity among all people.

Division Diversity Statement 9

Organizational Chart



10 Organizational Chart



Disability Support Services

Mission

The mission of the VCU Disability Support Services (DSS) Office is to assist Virginia Commonwealth University in creating a learning environment where all students have equal access to every aspect of the University's programs, services and activities. We do this through partnerships with students, faculty and staff to promote students' independence and to ensure the recognition of students' abilities, not disabilities.

Highlights

DSS established a faculty advisory board to offer a forum for teaching/research faculty members to communicate their opinions, share their expertise and contribute to the overall successful operation of disability support services. The advisory board faculty members act as a link between DSS and academic departments/schools.

DSS added an assistive technology specialist to its staff. The assistive technology specialist evaluates students with disabilities in order to help them maximize their independence in the college classroom. The specialist provides technical support and instruction to students, faculty and staff in the use of effective technology that helps students access the classroom and course materials.

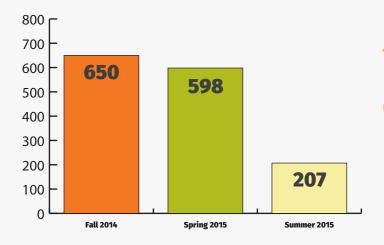
Services

DSS supports and serves any student with a currently documented disability. Below are some of the services we provide in order to support student success:

- · Provide testing in alternative format
- · Provide textbooks in alternative format
- · Coordinate interpreter services
- · Coordinate note taking
- Provide faculty/staff training
- · Provide accessible furniture
- · Coordinate course substitutions
- Assist in determining classroom and practicum/ internship accommodations
- · Assist in determining housing accommodations
- · Liaison with Department for the Blind
- Liaison with Department for Aging and Rehabilitation Services
- Evaluating the need for assistive technology

About Our Students

Student who registered with DSS, by semester



293

students utilized the DSS computer Lab

693

students received testing through the DSS office

Disability Support Services

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

Mission

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) is a resource for Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) students, faculty and staff. The primary mission of OMSA is to assist traditionally underserved and/or underrepresented student populations (i.e. race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender) through advising, support, program development, retention, mentoring and by promoting an appreciation of diversity throughout the campus community.

Signature Programs

Courageous Conversations

This monthly forum provides a structured environment for stimulating discussions about topics of racial, ethnic and cultural diversity. These sessions are led by faculty members or our community engagement partners.

Cultural Excursion Series

These field trips to museums, plays and other cultural events offer students opportunities to learn about a wide variety of cultures.

Diversity Film Series

The Diversity Film Series is designed to offer films that reflect the full spectrum of issues related to multiculturalism, i.e. racism, sexism, culture, LGBT issues, etc.

Hump Day Intercultural Dialogue Series

Intercultural dialogue is a process that comprises an open and respectful exchange or interaction between individuals, groups and organizations with different cultural backgrounds or world views.

LGBT Social Network Group

This group will offer lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning students a place to discuss gender and sexual identity exploration within a safe and supportive atmosphere.

Men and Women of Color Discussion Groups

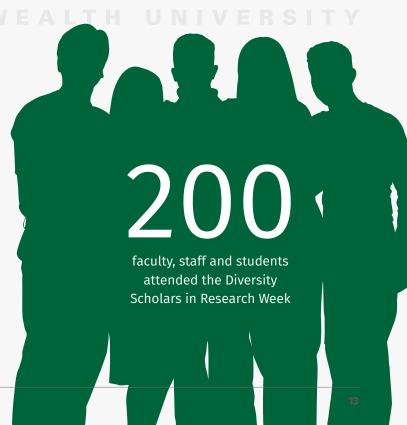
Discussions groups are designed to inspire, encourage and support self-identified students of color by providing a platform for engaging dialogue.

Highlights

OMSA sponsored The Diversity Scholars in Research Week. This program celebrates the diversity of scholarship among our undergraduate, graduate and professional students as well as showcasing the passion and intensity they invest in their scholarship/research. The week of activities included an exhibition, panel discussion, workshops, luncheon, keynote speaker and networking opportunities.

OMSA hosted noted anti-racist educator Tim Wise, author of six books, including his highly-acclaimed memoir, White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son, as well as Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority and Colorblind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity.

About Our Students



Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

Mission

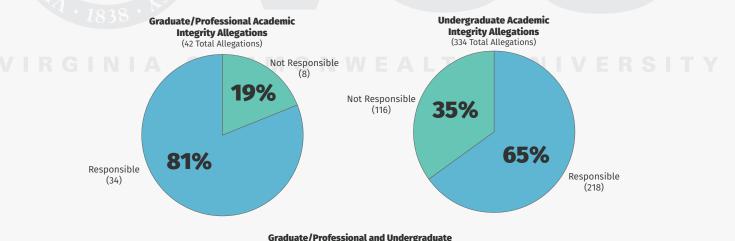
The Office of Student Conduct & Academic Integrity is responsible for administration of the Student Code of Conduct, the VCU Honor System, and other related polices – including policy creation, regular assessment and compliance with federal reporting. We focus our efforts and energy on developing relationships with faculty, staff and students from the various VCU Campuses through education & outreach, investigation & adjudication, and community participation on the various conduct related Boards. We strive to assure that the Boards are reflective of the diversity of the University community and that they reflect the community's commitment to civility, honor and integrity. We demonstrate professionalism and integrity in all that we do to develop and educate students, faculty and staff through their engagement with and participation in the conduct process – including their critical thinking, ethical decision making, empathy and social justice.

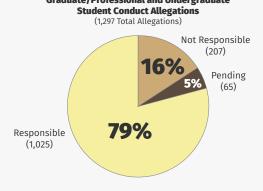
Highlights

The Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity established the Learning Ethics and Decision Making (LEAD) program. LEAD is comprised of two 1-hour long classes with homework assignments, designed to help students improve their decision-making skills and to focus on their goals to be a successful student at VCU. In its second year, participation in the RAMS LEAD program doubled.

About Our Students

OSCAI adjudicated 376 academic integrity allegations during the 2014-2015 academic year.





Recreational Sports



Mission

Recreational Sports

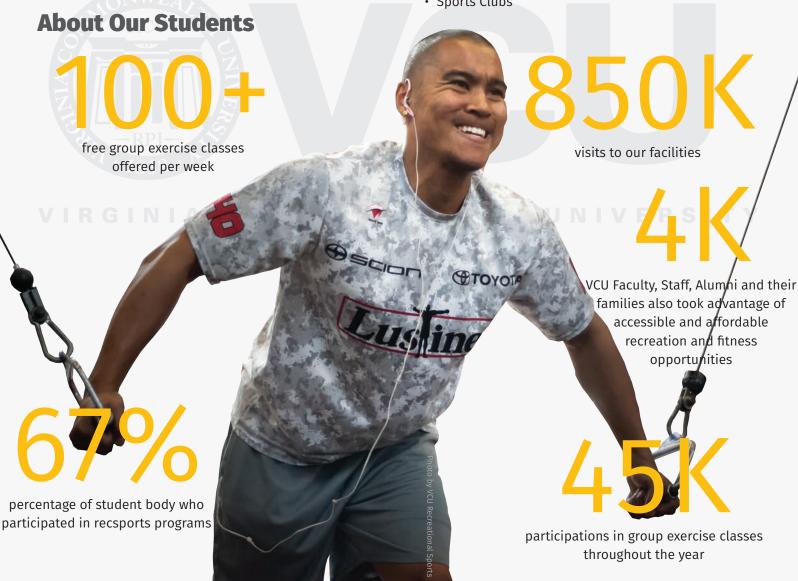
The Department of Recreational Sports (Rec Sports) enhances the University mission by supporting the personal development and well-being of the members of the University community through the provision of diverse recreational, social, educational and leisure-oriented programs. These programs enhance the quality of life on campus, foster the worthy use of leisure time through the development of lifetime sports skills and promote the value of recreation and wellness in creating and maintaining a healthy and productive life.

Highlights

Rec Sports' Outdoor Adventure Program (OAP) continues to be very popular with students. The program offered over 240 trips this year and collaborated with faculty and staff from Art Foundation, Communication Arts, Biology, VCU Police Department and Sculpture to offers 15 trips to enhance the student experience at VCU.

Services

- · Informal Recreation
- · Outdoor Adventure Program
- · Aquatics
- · Intramural Sports
- Fitness Programs
- Sports Clubs



Residential Life and Housing

Mission

Residential Life and Housing (RLH) at VCU provides safe, inclusive and well-maintained facilities where we build intentional communities to empower residents in their academic excellence, citizenship and personal growth.

Highlights

Residential Life and Housing, in collaboration with VCU and Student Affairs faculty and staff, co-developed two new Living and Learning Programs (LLPs), VCU Innovate and VCU Lead:

VCU INNOVATE promotes understanding of innovation and entrepreneurship through academic coursework and co-curricular activities. To accomplish this, INNOVATE focuses on a multidisciplinary approach to create a culture that inspires true creative thinking. This creative atmosphere, along with access to emerging technologies, gives students a unique opportunity to learn and interact.

VCU LEAD is dedicated to the development of current and future leaders through academic and co-curricular engagement. LEAD's vision is to be the most distinctive living-learning community through which students develop into world-ready leaders. To accomplish this, LEAD develops graduates who can successfully manage professional and civic organizations at a local, national and global level.

250 students employed by RLH

About Our Students

2,891

beds held for upperclass students for Fall 2015 (this includes beds for special programs, international students, etc.)

3,139

or 50% of students living on-campus re-applied to live on campus for the following year

On-campus students continue to have higher GPAs:

Fall 2014

Academic Class	On-campus Housing		Off-campu	s Housing
	Count	GPA	Count	GPA
Freshmen	2,676	2.77	951	2.52
Sophomore	1,360	2.99	3,422	2.75
Junior	878	3.00	5,072	2.87
Senior	609	3.14	6,951	3.01

Spring 2015

Academic Class	On-campus Housing		Off-campus Housing		
	Count	GPA	Count	GPA	
Freshmen	1,684	2.67	611	2.55	
Sophomore	1,702	3.02	2,534	2.71	
Junior	1,028	3.03	4,933	2.87	
Senior	835	3.14	7,356	3.01	

Student Media Center

Mission

The VCU Student Media is dedicated to the support and encouragement of responsible, independent student media to connect, explore and enrich the lives of the University's many constituencies. It operates on a model of individual responsibility and professional standards rather than one of censorship and administrative control. It encourages the values of integrity, tenacity, creativity and honesty in the pursuit of excellence.

Services

- · Amendment Literary Journal
- The Commonwealth Times
- · Ink Magazine
- · Mesh Media
- · Poictesme Literary Journal
- · Potboiler Podcast Network
- · WVCW Radio

Highlights

The Commonwealth Times was named by the Society of Professional Journalists to be Best All-Around Student Newspaper in the mid-Atlantic, as well as a Best in Show (Illustrations) and other awards from the Virginia Press Association; Poictesme literary journal received two awards for excellence from Plain China, the national anthology of the best American undergraduate literary journals; WVCW radio received five awards for excellence from the National Association of Broadcasters.

About Our Students

hours of original programming

Student Media





97

original video reports and features









582

pages of original reportage and creative expression



Student Media Center 17

University Counseling Services

Mission

The mission of University Counseling Services (UCS) is to create an environment that fosters student growth, development and psychological well-being through direct clinical service, education and prevention. UCS achieves excellence through a multidisciplinary approach to comprehensive psychological services and mental health training. UCS is committed to human rights and equality, promoting respect for individual and cultural differences.

Highlights

UCS, in collaboration with the Center for Human-Animal Interaction, hosted the PAWS for Stress program. At least twice a semester, therapy dogs are made available for students to interact with during stressful times of the academic year. This year, over 1,200 students attended PAWS for Stress outreach programs.

UCS, in collaboration with Residential Life and Housing, sponsored the ALIVE fair program during Suicide Prevention Month. The program included a memorial walk, tabling events and training in Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR) a nationally recognized suicide prevention training.

Services

- Individual Therapy
- Group Therapy
- Outreach Programs
- Consultation
- Crisis Services
- Safe Zone
- American Psychological Association (APA) Accredited Psychology Internship

About Our Students

2,377

students, or 7.42% of VCU's total student body, received group, individual or couples therapy

156

after-hours calls managed from students in distress

886

students who presented to UCS in distress and who were seen immediately as a crisis walk-in appointment



Associate Vice Provost and Dean of Student Affairs

The mission of the Associate Vice Provost and Dean of Student Affairs (AVP/DOSA) is to enhance student life at VCU through helping VCU students learn and develop from their educational experiences, giving thorough attention to the campus environment, providing quality services that are responsive to student needs and to communicate and collaborate effectively and efficiently with students, faculty, alumni, families and the community.

The Associate Vice Provost and Dean of Student Affairs serves as an advocate for all VCU students. This is accomplished mainly through the programs and services of the units reporting to this position, which include Residential Life and Housing, University Student Commons and Activities, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, VCU Career Services and the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

The AVP/DOSA met with both the Monroe Park Campus and MCV Campus Student Government Association (SGA) on a regular basis. The AVP/DOSA also met with the Graduate Student Association leadership. The Joint Student Government Council has been in existence for the past two years, with representatives from all of the bodies listed above as well as the two Board of Visitors student representatives.

University Safety Case Manager (now the Assistant Dean of Students)

The office of the University Safety Case Manager created a new website: the Faculty and Staff Guide to Assisting Students in Distress (http://www.students.vcu.edu/safety/). The goal of this guide is to help faculty and staff recognize the signs of distress in a student and create a way to express concerns and reach out for support. To make this information convenient and accessible, a black and gold "lifebuoy" icon was developed. The icon shortcut was installed on all University-owned computer desktops. Clicking the icon takes users directly to the website. Faculty, staff and students can report a concern online through the site and there is an option for anonymous reporting.

The safety case manager also promotes student success by providing case management services to create a sense of care, build resiliency and support academic success. As chair of the Student Assistance and Support Team, the safety case manager provided oversight to 354 student cases during the 2014-2015 academic year.

About Our Students

An unsafe environment compromises student learning, success and satisfaction and can negatively impact VCU's capacity to attract and retain students, faculty and staff. The safety case manager provided assistance to 130 victims of crime and managed 90 threat assessment cases during the 2013-14 academic year. The safety case manager's goal is not only to increase security for the VCU community, but also to foster a greater sense of safety on campus, thereby contributing to the high-quality living, learning and work environment necessary to recruit and retain students, faculty and staff in our VCU community.

13

victims of crime the safety case manager provided assistance to during the 2014-2015 academic year

University Student Commons and Activities



Mission

The facilities, services and programs of the University Student Commons and Activities (USC&A) department are designed and implemented to bring together all members of the Virginia Commonwealth University community—students, faculty, staff, alumni and guests—thereby contributing to intellectual, emotional and social growth through informal interaction.

Highlights

USC&A hosted the 2015 College Union Poetry Slam Invitational with 68 colleges and universities from across the U.S. and Canada, with over 500 poets participating.

USC&A created the Qatar Leadership Exchange Program, a partnership between VCU Qatar and the VCU Richmond Student Government Association. USC&A hosted 20 students from Qatar for a week and brought 7 students from VCU Richmond to Doha, Qatar to explore the intersection of leadership and cultural competence.

The USC&A opened up the Student Leadership and Involvement Center - a unit that offers intentional and experiential programs and services designed to enhance the out-of-classroom experience while engaging students in leadership, volunteerism and programmatic opportunities.

RamPantry, a student-run food pantry helping address food insecurity for VCU students, moved into the University Student Commons in January of 2015. Since the move, the Pantry has served 843 students.

The Activities Programming Board hosted 90 events on Monroe Park for VCU students and USC&A established the first student-run program board on the MCV campus.

About Our Students

For the fall semester, the fraternity and sorority life community achieved an All-Greek GPA of 3.0, which was above the All-Student GPA of 2.8. 83% of fraternities scored above the VCU all-men's average and 93% of sororities scored above the all-women's average.

1,400

clients served by Event and Meeting Services and who have held events in USC&A facilities

10K

number of events hosted by USC&A in the University Student Commons, Larrick Student Center and Hunton Student Center in 2014-2015

2.4M

number of visitors USC&A had from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

University Student Health Services and The Wellness Resource Center

Mission

The mission of the University Student Health Services (USHS) and The Wellness Resource Center (The Well) is to provide quality outpatient medical care and public health services, including health education programming that empowers students to become full participants in their health care. USHS accomplishes this mission by targeting services in the following areas: medical services, preventive medicine, public health, health education, teaching and research.

Highlights

USHS implemented university-wide public health measures in order to maintain a safe learning environment at the University. USHS provided guidance and worked with others in the community to prepare for a response to Ebola, norovirus and tuberculosis. Free flu vaccine was provided to 3,496 students. USHS made inroads into increasing tuberculosis screening in the most susceptible student groups on campus before they start classes.

The Well continued to administer the \$276,440 grant from the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking on campus. Over 11,000 students completed online sexual violence prevention training. The demand for sexual violence advocacy services doubled due to increased education and awareness of these issues. Through partnerships with VCU Spit for Science and University Counseling Services, The Well has improved prevention, intervention and support services related to substance use.

Services

USHS

- · Primary Care Services
- Nutrition Services
 - · Women's Health
 - · Psychiatric Services
 - Travel Clinic
 - · Laboratory Services
 - · Pharmacy Services
 - · Immunization Services
 - After Hours On-Call System

The Well

- Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking Advocacy Services and Prevention
- · LGBTQ Violence Prevention
- Substance Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Support
- · Stress Management
- · Nutrition Outreach

About Our Students

44%

of VCU students utilized USHS clinic services at some point during the 2014-2015 academic year 41K

clinic visits in 2014-2015

115

number of guest lectures provided by The Well 3,170

number of students the guest lectures reached

VCU Career Services

Mission

Through individualized career and professional development, VCU Career Services bridges VCU with industry by delivering relevant services and providing success strategies. VCU Career Services builds and maintains community relationships through strategic engagement including evaluation, intentional outreach and active collaboration.

Highlights

Career Services hosted over 3,500 individual career advising appointments in addition to nearly 500 in-class presentations, courses, workshops, career fairs and networking opportunities for over 6,000 student participants.

VCU Career Services' HireVCURams, the job and internship database for VCU students and alumni, saw a 90% growth in opportunity postings this academic year.

In 2014-2015, 14% of job and internship postings were posted by alumni looking to hire another Ram.

About Our Impact

Goal 1: Student Engagement

	Advising (Unique)		Programming (Total)		Touches (U)*	
	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2013- 2014	2014- 2015		
Fall Total	784	1,205	3,565	3,717	3,686	
Spring Total	1,090	1,555	2,476	3,721	4,047	
YTD	1,828	2,228	6,041	7,438	6,823	

^{*}Touches - Advising, Programming, OCI, Courses

Services

- Individual 30-minute Career Advising Appointments
- Mock Interview
- · Drop-in Career Advising
- · Workshops and In-class Presentations
- Career Courses
- Career fairs, Information Sessions, Tables in the University Student Commons, Employer Networking Events and Employer Site Visits
- · Web-based Resources

Goal 2: Employer Engagement - Number of employers seeking to hire Rams

	2013-2014	2014-2015
Networking	816	1,086
Coordinating	137	206
Cooperating	18	20
Collaborating	155	167
Total 1,126		1,479



Student Trends

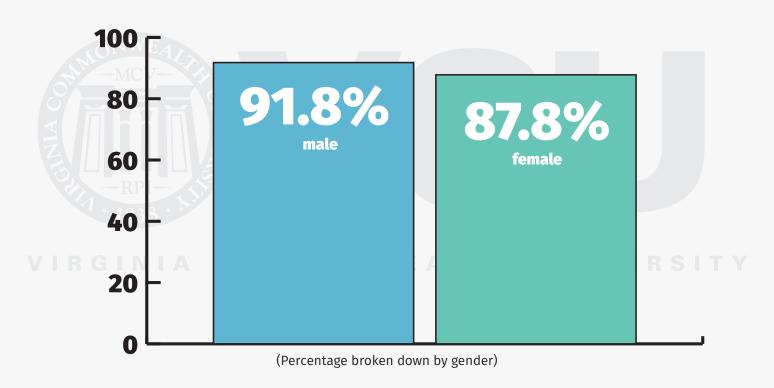
Impediments to Academic Success (American College Health Association National College Health Assessment II) Virginia Commonwealth University Executive Summary

Academic Impediments at VCU, Spring 2014 (n=1,104)

Overall Rank (%)	Undergraduate (n=822)		Undergraduate		Graduate	
			822)	(n=247)		
1 (30.8%)	Stress	1	35.1%	1	15.8%	
2 (22.6%)	Sleep Difficulties	2	26.6%	2	9.7%	
3 (19.5%)	Anxiety	3	22.3%	3	9.3%	
4 (15.4%)	Work	4	17.5%	5	8.1%	
5 (14.5%)	Depression	5	16.7%	6	7.7%	
6 (13.7%)	Cold/Flu/Sore Throat	6	16.4%	10	5.7%	
7 (13.7%)	Internet Use/Computer Games	7	15.9%	7	6.5%	
8 (10.6%)	Concern for a Troubled Friend or Family Member	8	11.2%	4	8.6%	
9 (9.6%)	Relationship Difficulties	9	10.6%	8	6.5%	
10 (7.7%)	Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	10	8.1%	9	6.1%	
11 (6.9%)	Participation in Extracurricular Activities	11	8.1%	12	3.3%	
12 (6.7%)	Finances	12	8.0%	14	2.8%	
13 (5.7%)	Roommate Difficulties	13	6.8%	18	2.0%	
14 (4.8%)	Sinus Infection/Ear Infection/Bronchitis/Strep Throat	14	5.3%	13	2.9%	
15 (4.5%)	Death of Friend or Family Member	15	5.3%	21	1.2%	
16 (4.4%)	Chronic Health Problem or Serious Illness	18	4.0%	11	5.7%	
17 (4.0%)	Homesickness		4.2%	15	2.8%	
18 (3.7%)	Alcohol Use	16	4.6%	24	0.0%	
19 (2.8%)	Learning Disability	21	2.3%	16	2.8%	
20 (2.4%)	Drug Use	19	3.1%	25	0.0%	
21 (2.3%)	Chronic Pain	22	2.3%	19	2.0%	
22 (2.2%)	Allergies	23	2.2%	17	2.4%	
23 (2.1%)	Injury	20	2.6%	22	0.8%	
24 (1.8%)	Other	24	2.1%	23	0.8%	
25 (0.9%)	Eating Disorder/Problem	25	1.2%	26	0.0%	
26 (0.6%)	Discrimination	28	0.4%	20	1.6%	
27 (0.5%)	Assault (Sexual)	27	0.6%	27	0.0%	
28 (0.5%)	Assault (Physical)		0.6%	28	0.0%	
29 (0.2%)	Sexually Transmitted Disease/Infection (STD/I)	29	0.1%	29	0.0%	
30 (0.0%)	Gambling	30	0.0%	30	0.0%	

Student Trends 23

89.3% of college students surveyed described their health as **good, very good or excellent**



24 Student Trends

Departments

Department	Website		
Associate Vice Provost and Dean of Student Affairs	students.vcu.edu/about-us/administration/ reuban-rodriguez/		
Disability Support Services	students.vcu.edu/dss		
Office of Multicultural Student Affairs	omsa.vcu.edu		
Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity	students.vcu.edu/studentconduct		
Recreational Sports	recsports.vcu.edu		
Residential Life and Housing	housing.vcu.edu		
Student Media Center	wp.vcu.edu/studentmedia		
Technology Support Services	dsatech.vcu.edu		
University Counseling Services	students.vcu.edu/counseling		
University Student Commons and Activities	usca.vcu.edu		
University Student Health Services	students.vcu.edu/health		
VCU Career Services	careers.vcu.edu		
The Wellness Resource Center	thewell.vcu.edu		

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Virginia Commonwealth University Division of Student Affairs

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