New Student and Family Programs

Latinx Resource Guide
Welcome to Virginia Tech! We are so excited to have you joining us here this upcoming year and hope that your time at Virginia Tech is fruitful and full of amazing opportunities. Blacksburg, VA is the home of Virginia Tech and offers an amazing atmosphere for students to learn, grow, and excel as both a student and a person. At Virginia Tech, we want our students to have the opportunity to pursue their greatest desires and our over 800+ student clubs and organizations will aid you in this. We hope that you time here at Virginia Tech allows you to seek opportunities that interest you and to prepare you to be a global and successful citizen. Our strong academic programs will aide you in your preparation for your future careers.

We hope this resource guide is helpful in providing you insight into what your experience at Virginia Tech could look like.

- New Student and Family Programs
Student Opportunities and Achievement Resources (SOAR) is a holistic support program dedicated to welcoming and retaining underrepresented minority students at Virginia Tech and promoting their success through campus collaborations.

SOAR’s programming includes:
- Holistic Coaching
- Advocacy
- Academic Support
- Financial Assistance

To learn more about SOAR and the resources it provides, check out their website at [https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/Programs/SOAR.html](https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/Programs/SOAR.html)

Latinx Library

The Latinx Library is a collection of books and resources that covers a wide variety of topics such as history, culture, biographies and many others.

Check out the listings at [https://www.librarything.com/catalog/VT_IEC/elcentro](https://www.librarything.com/catalog/VT_IEC/elcentro)
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Being a student at Virginia Tech is an amazing experience. You are surrounded by fellow Hokies that are striving for greatness and have grand aspirations.

El Centro is an important component of Virginia Tech’s efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive campus. It is utilized by the campus community for educational programs, exhibits, meetings, and receptions.

Virginia Tech students have access to a multitude of events including: concerts, socials, volunteering, and trips. One of student's favorite's is Comida y Comunidad.
Getting Involved

Latinx Student Organizations
Virginia Tech has over 800 student organization including academic, cultural, faith-based, Greek, political, service-based, social and more. For a complete list of campus organizations, visit gobblerconnect.vt.edu.

- Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Incorporada
- Lambda Sigma Upsilon, Latino Fraternity Inc.
- Latin American and Iberic Graduate Student Association
- Latin Link
- Sigma Delta Pi, National Collegiate Spanish Honor Society
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

Latinx Symposium
The Latinx Symposium is an event with the purpose of increasing visibility, providing a forum for conversation and scholarship, and sharing experiences and strategies that benefit Latinx and Hispanic faculty and students.

To learn more about the symposium, check out:
https://ccc.vt.edu/index/el_centro/latinx-symposium.html
Cultural and Community Centers
The Cultural and Community Centers are here to advocate for a safe, inclusive environment and to advise students as they navigate life at VT. Through programming and events, they raise cultural awareness and invite the community to learn about and develop an appreciation for cultural differences.

- Black Cultural Center
- El Centro
- American Indian and Indigenous Community Center
- LGBTQ+ Resource Center
- Asian Cultural Engagement Center
- Intercultural Engagement Center

https://ccc.vt.edu/

El Centro- Hispanic/Latinx Cultural and Community Center
El Centro—Hispanic/Latinx Cultural and Community Center, located in Squires Student Center, offers a space for students to study, meet, and network. El Centro focuses on raising awareness of the Latinx experience and invites the community learn more and grow in its appreciation of the Latinx community at Virginia Tech.

https://ccc.vt.edu/index/bcc.html

Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program
Multicultural Academic Opportunities Programs (MAOP) assist both undergraduate and graduate students in their transition to Virginia Tech. They provide academic guidance, emotional, social, and financial support until students graduate. Their programming includes:

- MAOP Undergraduate Scholars Program
- MAOP Undergraduate Summer Research Internship
- Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation
- Global Change Scholars Program

https://www.maop.vt.edu/

Employment Opportunities
Virginia Tech students have many options for campus jobs and internships. Handshake is the official site for jobs, internships and on-campus interviews. Student positions on campus are also offered through: Student Affairs, academic colleges, Career and Professional Development, and more.

https://career.vt.edu/STUDENTS.html
Faculty and Staff Support

Virginia Tech’s faculty and staff are an excellent resource for you during your time as a student and into your alumni years. Faculty and staff are here to support, guide, and connect you to resources across campus that will help better your overall experience. If you are curious about what Black faculty and staff are at Virginia Tech, check out the Diverse Staff Directory at [https://vt.edu/admissions/undergraduate/diversity/staff-directory.html](https://vt.edu/admissions/undergraduate/diversity/staff-directory.html). Here you will find full list of diverse faculty and staff that you can reach out to and connect with in you would like.

Faculty and Staff Caucuses

Virginia Tech has ten faculty/staff caucuses representing a variety of communities at the university. Each caucus has its own mission and goals that involve supporting and retaining identifying faulty and staff and/or supporting identifying students.

- American Indian and Indigenous People’s Alliance
- Appalachian Caucus
- Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Caucus
- Black Caucus of Virginia Tech
- Disability Caucus
- Hispanic/Latinx Faculty and Staff Caucus
- International Caucus
- LGBTQ+ Caucus
- Virginia Tech Veterans Caucus
- Women’s Alliance and Caucus

[https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/Initiatives/FS-Caucuses.html](https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/Initiatives/FS-Caucuses.html)

Hispanic and Latino Faculty Staff Caucus

Established in 2002, the Hispanic and Latino Faculty Staff Caucus exists to provide support to Hispanic/Latinx faculty, staff, students, and the university community. The caucus organizes, in collaboration with El Centro, the Virginia Tech Gesta Latina, a Hispanic-Latinx achievement ceremony that celebrates the accomplishment of undergraduate and graduate Hispanic/Latinx students. The Hispanic and Latino Faculty and Staff Caucus is dedicated to enhancing the quality of education and life for Hispanic/Latinx students, faculty, and staff at Virginia Tech.

Off-Campus Resources

Comunidad Book Club

Comunidad Book Club is a Spanish book club created in collaboration between Blacksburg Public Library, Virginia Tech Libraries, El Centro–Hispanic/Latinx Cultural and Community Center, Latino Association of Student Organizations (LASO) and REFORMA (The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking).

Community Book Club provides a place where the Spanish-speaking community from Franklin, Montgomery, and Roanoke counties can come together and discuss reading in Spanish.

https://guides.lib.vt.edu/c.php?g=991392&p=7172384

Local Latinx Establishments

Food

El Mariachi – 3703 S Main St Blacksburg, VA 24060
El Bronco- 6 Radford Street Christiansburg, VA 24073
Gaucho Brazilian Grille- 880 University City Blvd #201 Blacksburg, VA 24060
El Charro Mexican Grill- 302 S Locust St, Floyd, VA 24091
La Cabaña Mexican Grill- 310 E. Main St. East Radford, VA 24141

Grocery Stores

Tienda Latina Emily’s- 510 Peppers Ferry Rd NW Christiansburg, VA 24073
Camarena’s Mexican Store- 3135 N Franklin St. Christiansburg, VA 24073