Master's degrees, certificates, education specialist, and doctoral degrees will be conferred at the Graduate School ceremony. The ceremony is expected to last approximately two hours.

Diplomas
Doctoral diplomas are presented during the Graduate Ceremony. Master's degree diplomas and education specialist certificates are mailed to the address that candidates are asked to provide to the Graduate School through Hokie Spa.

Participation
All graduate degree candidates must confirm their plans to attend Commencement by May 1, 2017. Participants should report to Cassell Coliseum on the Beamer Way side of the building. Signage will be posted to direct candidates to their specific staging area. Check-in at Cassell Coliseum begins at 1:15 p.m. and all candidates should be on site by 2:15 p.m.

Doctoral candidates who will have met all requirements for graduation by May 5, 2017, are eligible to participate in Commencement.

Questions pertaining to eligibility to participate should be directed to the Graduate School at 540-231-8636. For complete details, visit the Graduate School website at http://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/what-you-need-to-graduate/commencement.html.

Guest Seating and Parking
All university parking lots will be open to the public. However, parking in the immediate vicinity of Cassell Coliseum is limited. Families and guests are urged to arrive in time to be seated by 2:15 p.m. The procession will begin promptly at 2:30 p.m.

Virginia Tech Commencement - Spring 2017
**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

*Sunday, May 14, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., Center for the Arts, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA*

(There are no guest limits or ticket requirements for this ceremony.)

**Diplomas**

Doctoral diplomas are presented during the Graduate Ceremony. Master's degree diplomas and education specialist certificates are mailed to the address that candidates are asked to provide to the Graduate School through Hokie Spa.

**Participation**

All candidates must confirm their plans to attend Commencement by May 1, 2017. Please confirm your attendance through Hokie Spa. Refer to the following website for information: [www.nvc.vt.edu/current-students/graduation](http://www.nvc.vt.edu/current-students/graduation). You may also contact the Graduate Student Services Office at 703-538-8327 or email your inquiry to gssoncr@vt.edu.

**General Information**

Commencement Phone Line: 540-231-3208 | Commencement Website: [www.vt.edu/commencement](http://www.vt.edu/commencement)

To assist you in locating the section where your degree candidate is seated during the University Ceremony, the following plan for seating is provided:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Worsham Field West</th>
<th>Worsham Field East</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 2017 Class Officers</td>
<td>• Faculty, Ph.D., Ed.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Honors Students</td>
<td>• D.V.M., Master's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Engineering</td>
<td>• Agriculture &amp; Life Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Liberal Arts &amp; Human Sciences</td>
<td>• Architecture &amp; Urban Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Natural Resources &amp; Environment</td>
<td>• Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Programs**

Undergraduate candidates will be provided one complete Commencement program with a full listing of student names. Each college or department that holds a separate ceremony will receive programs for distribution to their respective students. Full programs will be distributed at the Graduate School and National Capital Region Commencement ceremonies. The final program, complete with student names, will be available online for anyone wishing to print additional copies.

**Graduate and University Ceremonies Broadcast Live**

Virginia Tech will offer live streaming video of the Graduate and University Commencement ceremonies. Links to the streams for both events will be accessible from [www.vt.edu](http://www.vt.edu) approximately one hour before each ceremony begins. At the conclusion of each ceremony, the video will be archived and accessible from the Commencement website at [www.vt.edu/commencement](http://www.vt.edu/commencement).

**Graduation Degree Requirements**

In order to receive a degree, a student must have satisfied all academic requirements, must have fulfilled all financial obligations to the university, and must not have any pending charges, active suspensions, or dismissals by the Honor or Student Conduct systems.

**Academic Apparel: Caps, Gowns, Hoods, Tassels, and Sashes**

Academic apparel is required for all graduation ceremonies. Caps, gowns, hoods, and tassels may be purchased from University Bookstore on-campus (540-231-5991), Volume Two Bookstore off-campus (540-231-9674) and at [www.bookstore.vt.edu](http://www.bookstore.vt.edu). Faculty wishing to rent regalia may do so at the University Bookstore by April 28, 2017. Students who have a 3.40 GPA or above may also purchase an honor sash and pin packet to wear on their gowns. At the end of March a list of undergraduate students with a 3.40 GPA or above is provided to each bookstore location. Periodic updates are made to this list.

**Announcements, Diploma Frames, Gifts, Flowers, and Commencement T-shirts**

Personalized announcements may be ordered in advance at [www.bookstore.vt.edu](http://www.bookstore.vt.edu). Diploma frames, graduation gifts, non-personalized announcements, and Commencement T-Shirts that list the names of the graduating class may be purchased at the on-campus University Bookstore, Volume Two Bookstore off-campus, and at [www.bookstore.vt.edu](http://www.bookstore.vt.edu). On graduation day Commencement T-Shirts are available from on-site vendors. Graduation bouquets may be ordered in advance at [www.bookstore.vt.edu](http://www.bookstore.vt.edu), and on graduation day are available from on-site vendors.

**When To Arrive**

Due to multiple ceremonies being held in the same venue, it is recommended that guests not arrive more than one hour in advance of a scheduled ceremony to avoid traffic and parking delays or long wait times for building entry. Every effort will be made to have doors open approximately one hour prior to all college or departmental ceremonies.

**Tickets Are Not Required for Commencement Ceremonies**

Tickets are not required for Commencement ceremonies, and there is no limit to the number of guests you may bring. However, if attending a college or departmental ceremony in a smaller venue, please consider limiting your guests to immediate family. Overcrowding is not a concern in the larger venues, such as Lane Stadium, Cassell Coliseum, and Burruss Hall Auditorium.

**Class Rings**

All graduates may order class rings through the Alumni Association by calling them at 540-231-6285 or by visiting their website at [www.vt.edu/classring](http://www.vt.edu/classring).
Becoming Alumni of Virginia Tech
Graduation from Virginia Tech means you are continuing your VirginiaTechforlife relationship with the University. Update your contact information and stay in touch through alumni chapters, reunions, events, and special programs of the Alumni Association. For more information: www.alumni.vt.edu. Refer to www.alumni.vt.edu/young_alumni/seniortransition.html for graduating senior programs.

Accessibility Information for Individuals with Disabilities
Accessible seating for persons with impaired mobility is available at Cassell Coliseum and Lane Stadium. Accessible parking is available in the Cassell Coliseum parking lot on Beamer Way located directly across the street from the Merryman Center, and in the Lane Stadium parking lot for the University ceremony guests. Individuals with mobility impairment who are attending a ceremony in Cassell Coliseum are advised to enter through the Merryman Center entrance.

For additional information concerning accessibility and disability accommodations, visit the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) online at www.ssd.vt.edu, or call 540-231-3788. Two weeks prior to the Commencement ceremony, “Accessible (impaired mobility) Parking Passes”—which are not required if you have a DMV handicap tag—will be available for pickup at 310 Lavery Hall above the Turner Place dining facility.

Lodging and Dining on the Blacksburg Campus
The Division of Student Affairs’ Conference and Guest Services offers an alternative to hotel lodging. In an effort to provide convenient, low-cost accommodations, Conference and Guest Services is pleased to provide residence hall space for families and guests of graduates. Many of our Commencement guests find that staying in our residence halls during this weekend minimizes parking and dining difficulties and provides what is often a nostalgic experience. On-campus dining will be available at D2, Squires Food Court, and Deet’s Place coffee shop, as noted on the Calendar of Events on the following page.

Advance reservations for lodging are required, and full payment is due at the time that reservations are made. Online reservations and payment may be made at www.housing.vt.edu/conference/lodging.

For details and reservation information, contact Conference and Guest Services at 540-231-5721. You may also send an email inquiry to conferences@vt.edu.

Inclement Weather Instructions
In the event of inclement weather, the University Ceremony at Lane Stadium may be delayed or possibly canceled. Once the decision has been made, details will be posted on the Virginia Tech homepage (www.vt.edu), the Virginia Tech News homepage (www.vtnews.vt.edu), and Virginia Tech Mobile. In addition, a broadcast email will be sent to all students, faculty, and staff; a recorded message will be placed on the University Weather Line (540-231-6668); and information will be shared with other local media outlets. The announcement will also be posted to the VT News page on Twitter (www.twitter.com/vtnews) and the Virginia Tech page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/virginiatech). The university may use VT Alerts, depending on conditions.

Official Photographer
GradImages® will be the official photographer for Spring 2017 Commencement ceremonies on the Virginia Tech campus. Photographers will be present for the Graduate School ceremony as well as the National Capital Region Commencement Ceremony and all major college ceremonies. The photographers will be the only persons with clear access to the stages.

On Wednesday, May 10, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., GradImages® will offer free portrait sittings in the Squires Student Center Cardinal Room. All graduating students, both undergraduate and graduate, should wear their own cap and gown. As many accoutrements as desired, such as stoles, honors cords, and sashes, may be worn for the portrait sitting. No appointment is necessary.

Although students are not obligated to make a purchase, by registering an email address online prior to graduation, graduating students are eligible for a $5 discount on any photo order of more than $25. GradImages® will send proofs by mail—and by email if an address is provided—approximately one week after the ceremony.

If you have any questions about your order, please contact GradImages® by phone at 800-261-2576 or online at www.gradimages.com/virginiatech.

Security Measures
Please follow the Lane Stadium clear bag policy as closely as possible: Frequently Asked Questions. Wrapped packages will not be allowed in ceremony venues. You may carry in one unopened bottle of water. Strollers and umbrellas will be allowed in Lane Stadium and Cassell Coliseum. However, all items are subject to search.

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. For inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies, contact the assistant vice president, Office for Equity and Accessibility at 540-231-8771 or Virginia Tech, North End Center, Suite 2300 (0318), 300 Turner St. NW, Blacksburg, VA 24061.
Thursday, May 11, 2017

GRADUATE SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Deet’s Place (gourmet coffee, ice cream, and pastry)
Au Bon Pain Cafe (soup, salad, and sandwich)

Friday, May 12, 2017

*Commencement Breakfast
*Commencement Brunch/Lunch
Deet’s Place (gourmet coffee, ice cream, and pastry)
Au Bon Pain Cafe (soup, salad, and sandwich)

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENTAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES
Agriculture and Life Sciences
Pamplin College of Business
Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
Apparel, Housing and Resource Management
Communication
Political Science and International Studies
Religion and Culture
Sociology
Theatre and Cinema
Science
Computational Modeling and Data Analytics
Nanoscience
Neuroscience

VA-MD REGIONAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
CORPS OF CADETS COMMENCEMENT & ROTC COMMISSIONING CEREMONY
Burruss Hall, Auditorium

Saturday, May 13, 2017

*Commencement Breakfast
Deet’s Place (gourmet coffee, ice cream, and pastry)
Au Bon Pain Cafe (soup, salad, and sandwich)

COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENTAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES
Architecture and Urban Studies
Engineering
Aerospace
Civil
Engineering Science and Mechanics
Materials Science
Mechanical
Ocean

Engineering
Biological Systems
Chemical
Computer
Computer Science
Construction Engineering and Management
Electrical
Industrial and Systems
Mining and Minerals
Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
English
Foreign Languages and Literatures
History
Human Development
Music
Philosophy
Science & Technology in Society
Natural Resources and Environment
Science
Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Economics
Geosciences
Mathematics
Physics
Psychology
Statistics

Sunday, May 14, 2017

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Center for the Arts, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 1:00 p.m.

*Meal tickets may be purchased at www.housing.vt.edu/conference/lodging or you may pay by cash, check, or credit card at the door. For the most up-to-date hours, please visit the Dining Center Operation Hour page at www.dining.vt.edu/hours.

Virginia Tech Commencement - Spring 2017