

GRADUATE EDUCATION



The
CAMPAIGN
for VIRGINIA TECH
Invent the Future

 VirginiaTech



The Graduate School is responsible for the development, administration, and evaluation of graduate education throughout the university, and serves approximately 6,100 graduate students like Tim Lockridge and Rolanda Findlay (above). Classes take place at campuses in Blacksburg, Abingdon, Roanoke, Richmond, Hampton Roads, and the National Capital Region. We offer 78 master's and 62 doctoral programs and award 40 percent of all Ph.D.s in the commonwealth. Working in partnership with faculty members, program chairs, and department heads, the Graduate School seeks to maintain and advance the high quality of graduate education at Virginia Tech.

GRADUATE EDUCATION

GRADUATE EDUCATION IS A RAPIDLY CHANGING FIELD. TODAY, BACHELOR'S DEGREES ARE MORE COMMON THAN THEY USED TO BE, AND MORE PROFESSIONS REQUIRE MASTER'S DEGREES OR DOCTORATES. AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL, GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE TAKING ON MORE CENTRAL ROLES IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH. ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY SPECIALIZED AND MORE INTERDISCIPLINARY; AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS STRUGGLE TO PROVIDE THE PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND SPECIALIZED STUDY NECESSARY. GRADUATE EDUCATION MUST ADAPT TO THE SHIFTING FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY ACCOMMODATING GREATER NUMBERS OF STUDENTS AND EDUCATING THEM NOT ONLY IN THEIR ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES BUT ALSO IN THE SKILLS THEY WILL NEED IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL LIVES.

Virginia Tech's Graduate School is re-envisioning graduate education by embracing and encouraging interdisciplinary and citizen-minded scholarship through Transformative Graduate Education (TGE), the philosophical basis for all graduate education at Virginia Tech.

TGE is a university-wide initiative that draws on Virginia Tech's strengths in graduate education and its expertise in new and original technology. This signature program provides opportunities for doctoral and master's students to explore the connections between their roles and responsibilities as faculty members and professional practitioners, their pedagogical approaches and construction of teaching and learning paradigms, and their development of research in practice as citizen scholars. The concept is used to foster changes in the ways graduate students are prepared for becoming engaged contributors in modern universities and contributing professionals in their communities. TGE integrates a critically engaged understanding and use of technology throughout the process. Through workshops, for-credit courses, service projects, and internships, TGE involves graduate students in the issues of the day and equips them with the skills they will need to survive in the workplace and in an increasingly globalized society.





KAREN P. DEPAUW
Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School

Dean Karen P. DePauw's vision of the future of graduate education at Virginia Tech is about more than simply preparing graduate students for their professional lives. It's about finding new and innovative ways to integrate them more closely into the university community during their time here, enhancing both the lives of the students and the richness of the community. Her vision led to the creation of the Graduate Life Center — a place where our graduate students live, work, and learn together. That our graduates are more sought after than ever before is a testament to the strength of her leadership.

The physical embodiment of TGE is the new Graduate Life Center (GLC). The GLC provides an intellectually stimulating and rich learning environment that builds a strong graduate community. It is the physical space and institutional place for 21st-century graduate education. The GLC is the only facility of its kind in the country where all functions of graduate education — academic, administrative, social, and residential — are housed under one roof and where graduate students can come to study, relax, intermingle, and live.

Whether studying our nation's obesity epidemic, investigating landscape change in the Amazon, or working with a team to develop the next supercomputer, Virginia Tech's graduate students are engaged in vital, challenging research and preparing themselves for productive, responsible careers as scientists, educators, scholars, engineers, artists, and professionals. Advanced study in specific disciplines gives our students the knowledge they will need for work. The Graduate School gives them the broader social and ethical skills necessary to become good leaders and citizens.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The university's strategic plan calls for an expansion of graduate education. Graduate students will play an increasingly important role in the university as Virginia Tech moves toward the future. They will work closely with faculty and assume increasing responsibility for educating undergraduate students. Their contributions to new discoveries, technologies, products, and processes will yield significant benefits to the university and to society. The Graduate School must prepare for the future, with the help of donors to The Campaign for Virginia Tech.

In order to fulfill our part in the university's mission, we must continue to improve the quality of our students. To attract and retain the best students, we will offer better fellowship packages to prospective students. By raising funds for these graduate fellowships, The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future will help us ease the costs of graduate education for our students.

In addition to graduate fellowships, funds are also necessary to attract and support quality faculty and to sustain existing programs. Thus, our campaign goals include funding for a senior faculty fellowship. The fellowship will be split between two faculty members so that each one can teach half-time in his or her department and half-time in the TGE program. These fellowships will help the Graduate School manage the TGE program and provide both the faculty members and their students with freedom and encouragement to pursue nontraditional education initiatives through TGE.





In the coming years, Virginia Tech will rely on the Graduate School to provide big-picture conceptual education to complement departments' field-specific training. The campaign will raise money for program support to enable the dean to enhance the school's successful programs, including programming at the GLC. This funding will also support students' research needs, travel expenses, and conference fees. Additional unrestricted funding will provide the dean with a fund to cover unexpected costs. As the Graduate School expands, unrestricted funding will allow the dean to capitalize on unforeseen opportunities.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Giving to the Graduate School offers donors like you a chance to affect students in all fields. Your support complements support for individual departments and enhances the entire university's ability to provide an extraordinary educational experience to its students.



As we move toward becoming a 21st-century university, the Graduate School will assume a leadership role in transforming graduate education at Virginia Tech. Your donation will help provide a rich learning environment that attracts the best and brightest graduate students and faculty members. Thus the Graduate School will contribute to new discoveries, technologies, and products that will enable us to address the complex issues of today's society and tomorrow's future. You can be a leader in that future by supporting the Graduate School today.



CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

Graduate Fellowships	\$2 million
Senior Faculty Fellowship	\$500,000
Ongoing and Future Support	\$500,000
Program Support	\$1 million
TOTAL	\$4 MILLION

PREPARING THE FUTURE PROFESSORiate/ PREPARING THE FUTURE PROFESSIONAL

The professoriate track of the graduate certificate program offers for-credit courses through which graduate students examine the kinds of knowledge and skills that future faculty members need in order to contribute to the shaping and changing of institutions of higher education. The professional track is for students who intend to enter business or industry and is designed to bridge theory and practice through real work experiences.



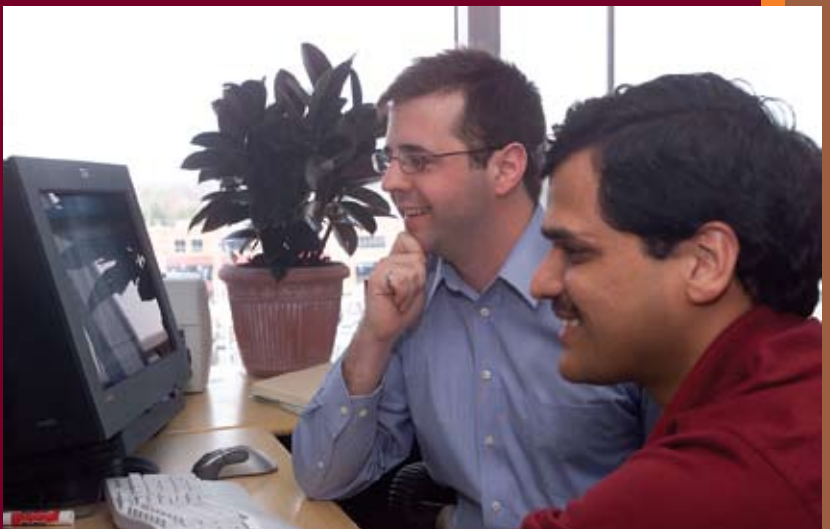
GRADUATE EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

The Graduate Education Development Institute (GEDI) creates opportunities for multidisciplinary groups of graduate students to explore and develop pedagogy skills that are inclusive and appropriate to the sites and disciplines in which they teach. GEDI is a collaborative effort of the Graduate School and the Learning Technologies Division at Virginia Tech. GEDI emphasizes developing pedagogical practices that use socially relevant problem-based learning methods and case studies applicable across disciplines that are relevant to both large lecture halls and small labs or seminars.



CITIZEN-SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The Citizen-Scholar Program works to create opportunities for graduate students to explore ways to use their research to discover and build connections between their scholarly expertise and communities outside of academe that would benefit from that expertise.





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