



Academic Affairs Updates Fall 2014

Academic Reorganization and New Programs

- The Library and Information Science Program is now part of the Dewar College of Education and Human Services.
- The Langdale College of Business Administration has reorganized into four departments:
 - Accounting,
 - Management and Health Care Administration,
 - Marketing and International Business,
 - Economics and Finance.
- New academic programs approved since last fall: Doctor of Speech Language Pathology (SLPD) and BBA in Healthcare Administration.

Location Changes:

The following departments are now located in the Health Sciences and Business Administration Building (HSBA):

- Nursing,
- Athletic Training,
- Exercise Physiology,
- Social Work,
- Communication Sciences and Disorders,
- Accounting, and
- Management and Healthcare Administration.

Revised or Updated Policies, Procedures, and Courses

- Beginning in Fall 2014, all students must earn a **C or better in ENGL 1101 and 1102**. (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/documents/c-or-better-in-engl-1101-and-1102-fall-2014.pdf>)
- **PSYC 2500 is now PSYC 1101 (Introduction to General Psychology) and PSYC 2700 is now PSYC 2103 (Introduction to Human Development)**. These changes were to align both courses with University System of Georgia common course numbering and titles.
- **The Behavior Intervention Team (BIT)** helps investigate individuals and situations that could be potential threats to individuals or to the safety/security of the VSU campus community. The team evaluates these individuals and situations using appropriate intervention guidelines to minimize the likelihood of serious problems. To learn more about the team or to report any concerning incidents or behavior, visit the BIT website at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/police/b.i.t.-behavioral-intervention-team.php>
- **University System of Georgia Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus Policy:** The University System of Georgia has adopted this policy effective October 1, 2014. The policy is available in the BOR Handbook 9.1.7 (http://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section9/policy/C503/#p9.1.7_tobacco_and_smoke_free_campus_policy).

Information Technology and eLearning Updates

- **Online Orientation:** Launching August 2014, the Online Orientation is designed to assist entering online learners as they transition from applicant to student in the enrollment process.

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The Orientation will be available to VSU students via the MyVSU portal and covers critical topics including financial aid, registration, how to get support, advising, and much more.

- **Online Student Support Team.** In Spring 2014, the Office of Extended Learning and Center for eLearning introduced the Online Student Support Team. Providing support to prospective online students through the enrolled online student, the OSST is designed to help support VSU learners at a distance as they navigate administrative or technical questions by serving as an on-going point of contact and resource. Over the next year, additional infrastructure and support services will be added to more effectively serve our online learning population.
- IT will be performing **monthly security updates** to all faculty and staff computers. These updates will occur once or twice on Monday nights every month. Please be sure you are saving your work before leaving each day as a good practice. Due to the increase in security and data breaches at universities, we are being proactive to minimize exposure to threats.
- **Technical Response Unit (TRU):** IT is creating a new team of staff and students who will provide rapid service to classrooms and departments. Technicians will be located throughout campus each day and will stop by your department weekly to assist with any small or large issue. This team was created to improve our response time while reducing our overall staffing cost.
- **Data Warehouse redesign** will begin this fall. The old system will be rebuilt from scratch to support more advanced analytics. The new model builds on the success of the current model and is aimed at predictive modeling at the major, course, and individual student levels. We are also implementing advanced analytics for optimization models to show the best path to success for every student. This will also coincide with the Complete College Georgia – Guided Pathways to Success initiative. IT will partner with academic departments and enrollment management in developing advanced models.
- In order to provide rapid service and updates, **Information Technology will utilize remote services to resolve many common issues.** This will include services such as software installations, configurations, or printer installations. Remote service will only be utilized if you submit a ticket for service through the IT HelpDesk. Remote sessions will login as a different *_IT user (e.g. bahaugab_it) and not cause loss of data or a PC reboot. IT technicians will not be able to view your desktop. If you are working at your desktop during the session you can deny the installation and reschedule.

Announcements and Information

- **Extended Withdrawal Period:** As a result of several last minute adjustments to the Fall 2014 calendar, the starting date for the semester was moved later, but the midterm date was not similarly adjusted. Subsequently, midterm now falls at the end of the seventh week of the term rather than at the end of the eighth week. Since these dates are already published and VSU cannot officially alter the midterm, VSU has instead extended the withdrawal period from October 2 at 11:59 pm until October 9 at 11:59 pm.
- **Centralized Advising Center:** The new Centralized Advising Center is now open to advise all first-year students. Students will continue to be advised by the Center until they have earned 30 semester hours and are in good academic standing. The Center is located in the University Center (<http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/emc/centralized-advising/>)
- **Blazer Creed.** VSU has developed a Blazer Creed for all First-Year Students which advocates Civility, Integrity, and Citizenship.
- **Surviving and Thriving Website:** The IDEA Center, Mr. Talley Mulligan, Assistant Professor of Mass Media, the Office of Centralized Advising, and the VSU Web Services team are pleased to announce the launch of the “Surviving and Thriving” website for new first semester, first year

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students. This website will provide week by week inspiration, advice, tips, and referrals to student services across campus. The seventeen week timeline starts with the Week of Welcome and spans the term, through finals week. First time, first year students will have a new ad each week in MyVSU which will take them to the current week's content. Faculty and staff will be able to access the website through the links listed in MyVSU. Please encourage your new first semester first year students to access this for helpful hints about succeeding at VSU.

- **The IDEA Center** (102 Georgia Avenue) will be busy this fall:
 - 17 groups/circles will begin the week of Labor Day (descriptions can be found here: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/idea-center/our-services.php>) and the registration for the groups/circles is via this webpage (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/idea-center/forms/register.php>).
 - It will host 10 workshops throughout the semester (descriptions here <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/idea-center/documents/fall-2014-idea-center-workshops-rev.pdf>)
 - The back door now has a card swipe installed, which is easier than needing the key.
 - Want to reserve a room at The IDEA Center? That's easy to do with this online form: <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/idea-center/forms/room-request.php>
- Please come on over – do some research, some writing, or grading. Coffee and tea are waiting.
- **SOI Timeline for Fall 2014** is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/documents/fall-2014-soi-timeline.pdf>
 - **Textbook Sales:** Remember that USG policy does not permit faculty to sell complimentary copies of texts.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

- August 12, 1:30-3:00: Core Curriculum Meeting, UC Cypress Room.
- Week of Welcome website for new students at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/emc/centralized-advising/week-of-welcome.php>
 - August 8, 2014: First Year Student Convocation, PE Complex. Guest speaker Arel Moodie will help prepare our new students for the demands of college. Faculty members are also invited; if you can, please wear your robes—let's give students a glimpse of what graduation will look like.
 - August 9, 2014: College Orientations for New First-Year Students, 9-11 am, multiple locations.
- February 18-20, 2015: The Core Matters and Online Lifeline Conference have combined to form the Conference on Instructional Technologies, Innovations, and Educational Strategies (TIES). In combining two important educational conferences, the new format is designed to enhance opportunities for partnerships and connections to improve core instruction and the corresponding use of technological tools, techniques, and expertise <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/ties/welcome.php>
- April 2015: Undergraduate Research Symposium
- April 2015: Graduate Research Symposium

Important Dates Fall 2014

August 1, 2014: Center for International Programs begins accepting Institutional 2015 Summer Study Abroad proposals. Contact the Center for International Programs for further information (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/international-programs/>)

August 18, 2014: First Day of Class

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August 21, 2014: First meeting of the Graduate School Executive Committee (subsequent meetings on September 25, October 23, and November 20 <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/graduate-executive-committee-information.php>)

August 28, 2014: The Happening

September 6, 2014: Academic Expo for Parents' Weekend

September 8, 2014: First meeting of the Academic Committee (subsequent meetings on October 20, November 10, and December 8 <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php>)

September 12, 2014: Graduate Faculty Application Deadline
(<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/graduate-faculty-application.php>)

October 2, 2014: Official Midterm Date (withdrawal deadline extended until **October 9 at 11:59 pm**)

October 15, 2014: Textbook/Materials orders due for Spring 2015
(<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/documents/textbook-ordering-instructions.pdf>)

October 25, 2014: Homecoming

November 3-21, 2014: Early registration for Spring 2015

November 21, 2014: Thesis and Dissertation Deadline (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/thesis-and-dissertation-information.php>)

November 24-28, 2014: Thanksgiving Break (no classes). University offices closed November 26-28.

December 8, 2014: Last Day of Class

December 9, 2014: Exam Preparation Day

December 10-12, 2014: Final Examinations
(<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/documents/fall-2014-final-exam.pdf>)

December 13, 2014: Graduation Ceremonies

10am	Dewar College of Education & Human Services
1pm	College of Arts, Langdale College of Business Administration
4pm	College of Arts & Sciences, College of Nursing & Health Sciences

December 15, 2014: Final Grades Due by 9 am

December 18, 2014: SOI results available

January 12, 2015: First Class Day for Spring 2015

New Faculty and Administrators

- VSU welcomes over 30 new full-time faculty members to campus; see the complete list at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/welcome-new-faculty.php>
- VSU welcomes the following new academic administrators:
 - Dr. Hudson Rogers, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
 - Dr. Lai Orenduff, Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs
 - Dr. Sheri Noviello, Interim Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences
 - Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Associate Dean of the Langdale College of Business
 - Dr. Mark Borzi, Department Head of Communication Arts
 - Dr. Lynn Jones, Department Head of Accounting
 - Dr. Aubrey Fowler, Department Head of Marketing and International Business
 - Dr. Edward Walker, Department Head of Management and Healthcare Administration
 - Mr. Michael Schmidt, Department Head of Art
 - Dr. Doug Farwell, Department Head of Music
 - Dr. Linda Most, Interim Department Head of Library and Information Studies