Overview of Higher Education System in Virginia

Virginia Colleges & Universities

Public institutions

Four-Year Public Institutions
- Christopher Newport University
- College of William and Mary
- George Mason University
- James Madison University
- Longwood University
- Norfolk State University
- Old Dominion University
- Radford University
- University of Mary Washington
- University of Virginia
- UVa’s College at Wise
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Military Institute
- Virginia State University
- Virginia Tech

Two-Year Public Institutions
- 1 junior/transfer-oriented public college
- 23 public community colleges on 40 campuses

Other Virginia Institutions
- 1 hybrid (public-private) freestanding medical school
- 5 regional higher-education centers/institutes
- 105 private, non-profit institutions operate in Virginia
- 107 private, for-profit institutions operate in Virginia
- 19 out-of-state public institutions operate in Virginia
- 144 vocational institutions operate in Virginia

Students at VA Public Institutions
- About 86% of the students at public institutions are from Virginia
  - At four-year institutions, it’s about 78%
  - At the community colleges, it’s about 95%
- About 58% of students attend school full-time
  - At the four-year institutions, it’s about 77%
  - At the community colleges, it’s about 32%
- About 86% of the students are undergraduates
  - At the four years, it’s about 75%
- About 74% of students starting at four-year institutions in 2006-07 have completed a degree in the Commonwealth.
  - At the two-year institutions, about 30% have a completed a degree in the Commonwealth.
Virginia Degrees

- 13,100 Associate’s degrees
- 31,000 Bachelor's degrees
- 11,000 Master's degrees
- 1,400 Doctoral degrees
- 1,400 Professional degrees

Virginia Higher Education Budget

In Virginia, nearly $7 billion is spent per year in higher education (including both general and nongeneral funds).

- About $4 billion is spent within Educational and General programs
- Nearly $275 million is provided for Student Financial Aid
- $1.4 billion is spent on Auxiliary Enterprise activities
- Nearly $1.3 billion is spent on Sponsored Research efforts

Key Players in Virginia Higher Education

- Governor
- General Assembly
- Attorney General
- Secretary of Education
- Boards of Visitors (14)
- State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV)
- State Board for Community Colleges

Governor's Role

- Appoints all voting members of the 14 Boards of Visitors, the State Board for Community Colleges, and 12 of the 13 members of SCHEV (and some members of the boards of the hybrid medical school and the regional centers/institutes);
- Prepares and submits a biennial budget;
- Signs or vetoes all legislation, including the budget bill;
- Issues Executive Orders.

General Assembly’s Role

- Adopts a biennial budget;
- Introduces, debates, and votes on legislation;
- Establishes joint subcommittees and commissions to study issues;
- Requests studies and reports.

Attorney General’s Role

- Serves as general counsel to the educational institutions and SCHEV;
- Reviews all contracts;
- Approves all real estate transactions;
- Provides training on a host of legal issues (FOIA, conflict of interest, proper use of state equipment, etc.)
Secretary of Education’s Role

- Appointed by Governor and approved by the General Assembly;
- Advises the Governor on education policy issues;
- Oversees all education and cultural-related executive branch agencies, including the DoE, SCHEV, VCCS, public colleges and universities, state museums, and Library of Virginia;
- Receives and reviews operating and capital budget requests from the institutions and agencies.

SCHEV’s Role

- Maintain a comprehensive data system of student enrollment at Virginia colleges and universities;
- Coordinate state policy on new degree programs, instructional sites, mission statements, and a range of other academic issues;
- Make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly for state higher education appropriations;
- Administer state financial aid programs for students at Virginia public and private higher education institutions;
- Coordinate strategic higher education planning and review institutional performance relative to state priorities;
- Authorize new and out of state postsecondary institutions to operate in Virginia;
- Administer federal grants to support student access and success in higher education.
- Develop educational programs for governing boards.

Board of Visitors/State Board for Community Colleges’ Role

- Provide oversight of and leadership to their respective institutions;
- Set broad policy goals and priorities for their institutions;
- Select a President/Chancellor/Superintendent to manage the day-to-day operations;
- Evaluate the President/Chancellor/Superintendent to ensure compliance with statutory mandates and board goals, priorities, and directives;
- Establish rules and regulations for the admission of students and graduation requirements;
- Establish rules and regulations for the conduct of students;
- Establish rules and regulations for the employment of professors, teachers, instructors, and all other employees and provide for their dismissal for failure to abide by such rules and regulations;
- Review and approve budget requests to the Governor and General Assembly for state appropriations;
- Ensure academic integrity at the institution, including, reviewing the curriculum and faculty productivity;
- Set tuition and fee charges;
- Lease, sell, or convey any and all real estate with the approval of the Governor;
- Provide oversight of institutionally affiliated foundations;
- Ensure institution is accountable for the effective and efficient use of Virginia taxpayer dollars provided to it.