**New and Updated Academic Programs/Curriculum**

* In the College of Arts and Sciences:
  + The BA with a Major in Criminal Justice has been changed to a BS with a Major in Criminal Justice (Fall 2016)
  + In Fall 2016, the Department of Political Science begins offering a new track in International Studies
  + Effective July 1, 2016, the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science separated into two departments. The Computer Science Department Office is located in Nevins Hall Room 2070.
* In the College of the Arts:
* Beginning in Fall 2016, the Department of Communication Arts is offering a new minor in Health Communication
* Beginning in Summer 2017, the college will begin accepting students into the new MAT in Music Education.
* In Fall 2017, the college will offer a new BFA with a major in Emergent Media and Communication
* In the College of Business Administration:
* Beginning in Fall 2016, the college is offering the following new minors: Business Analytics, Business Law, and Operations Management.
* In the College of Education and Human Services:
* Beginning in Fall 2016, the Department of Psychology and Counseling has been approved to offer a Minor in Addiction Studies
* In VSU’s Core Curriculum:
* Beginning in Fall 2016, ECON 2105 has been approved by the USG General Education for addition to Area E of VSU’s core curriculum.
* In March 2016, the Board of Regents removed the requirement that USG institutions were required to identify or track overlay requirements related to US Perspectives, Global Perspectives, and Critical Thinking.

**Location Changes**

* The Student Services Center-One Stop Offices (Centralized Advising, Financial Aid, the Office of Career Opportunities, 1 Card, and the Bursary) are now located in the south University Center. Access through Entrance 6 or 7.
* Departments displaced by the HVAC renovation project in West Hall have returned to their original locations (the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and the Department of Political Science).
* Women’s and Gender Studies is now located in Ashley Hall in the History Department.
* The Public Administration and Organizational Leadership programs have relocated to West Hall 229
* VSU has relocated its satellite campus from Kings Bay Submarine Base to the Camden Center in Kingsland, GA. This Center is operated by Coastal Georgia College.

**Revised or Updated Policies and Procedures**

• **Learning Support Updates**: There will be two areas of remediation: English and mathematics.

There will be two levels of Learning Support: Foundations (stand-alone) and corequisite (taken alongside a collegiate course). The majority of students requiring Learning Support should be placed into corequisite remediation. At VSU, those co-req courses are **ENGL 0999** – Support for English Composition (ENGL 1101) and **MATH 0999** – Support for College Algebra (MATH 1111). Students in corequisite remediation who withdraw from either the gateway (collegiate) course or the corequisite (support) course must withdraw from both courses. Students will no longer be required to withdraw from unrelated collegiate courses when they withdraw from Learning Support courses. COMPASS exams will soon be replaced by ACCUPLACER exams.

* **Faculty Evaluation Model Taskforce:** Beginning in Spring 2016, a faculty taskforce, under the leadership of Dr. Byron Brown, has been at work on revisions and updates to the current Faculty Evaluation Model (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/documents/FEMfinal.pdf>). This group will begin sharing is recommendations and seek faculty and administrative feedback over the course of Fall 2016.
* **Title IX Update:** VSU’s Title IX policy was updated as of July 1, 2016. “This policy prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Valdosta State University will not tolerate sexual misconduct, which is prohibited, and which includes, but is not limited to, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, and stalking. Valdosta State University further strongly encourages members of the Valdosta State University community to report instances of sexual misconduct promptly. These policies and procedures are intended to ensure that all parties involved receive appropriate support and fair treatment, and that allegations of sexual misconduct are handled in a prompt, thorough and equitable manner.” Faculty members and administrators are defined in this policy as “Responsible Employees” and must report any incidents to the Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Maggie Viverette. <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/social-equity/sexual-misconduct-.php>. You can read more about the policy at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/legal/documents/titleix.pdf>.
* **Two statements that must appear on every syllabus** (Complete course syllabi template available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/syllabi.php>) **:**
* **Title IX Statement:** Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy status, sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: Maggie Viverette, Director of the Office of Social Equity, [titleix@valdosta.edu](mailto:titleix@valdosta.edu), 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.
* **Access Statement**: Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farbar Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V) and 229-375-5871 (VP). For more information, please visit VSU’s Access Office or email: [access@valdosta.edu](mailto:access@valdosta.edu)

A complete course syllabi template is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/syllabi.php>

* **Dissertation Review Process:** Following the best practices of other universities, VSU moved its dissertation review process in alignment with its thesis review process. After a dissertation has been approved by the committee, the document now moves to the Graduate School for a final review and approval. Dissertations no longer need to flow through the academic dean in the college. This has always been our practice for theses
* **Terra Dotta:** During the academic 2015/16 VSU introduced the Terra Dotta study abroad application management System (TD), allowing for web-based student enrollment and registration for study abroad. TD helps us to schedule in-person student advising and increased student participation trough a streamlined application process and program marketing possibilities.
* **Mandatory Fees Change:** Effective Fall semester 2016, mandatory fees will be charged for one or more credit hours on campus (as opposed to 4) as well as those students living in residence halls.
* **The Florida 2+2 program**: Under this program, VSU will treat the AA degree from approved Florida schools as if the degree had been awarded within the USG system. As a result, Core Areas A-E will be complete regardless of what courses were taken by the student (Although Core Areas A-E will show satisfied in Degree Works, no pre-requisite requirements for major courses or upper division courses are waived in the process). Area F will continue to be evaluated on a course-by-course equivalent basis. Since there are significant differences between the core requirements in the Florida system and VSU’s, there will be courses placed in core areas that would not be there for USG students. Students will still need to complete the legislative requirements for Georgia history and constitution. Please direct any questions to Ms. Lisa Long or Ms. Christy Croft in Admissions, or to Joe Weaver, Off-Campus Programs.

**Pilot Projects Underway**

* **Project BEST (Blazers Expect Success Timeline):** Centralized Advising piloted a program last spring and is continuing the pilot this fall for students under 30 credit hours on their first suspension. Advisors are working closely with these students and tracking remediation activities to try to get these students back on track.
* **Project CORE:** One of the funded Innovation grants was for Project CORE. Around 60 new students will enroll this fall in an introductory seminar to examine the multidisciplinary nature of VSU’s curriculum. They will follow up this one hour seminar with a capstone seminar during the beginning of their second year in which they apply their learning in their core courses to a hands-on project. If the pilot goes well, Academic Affairs will explore whether this model should be scaled up and revise Area B to accommodate it.
* **Online Promotion and Tenure Pilot Project:** The Langdale College of Business Administration has volunteered to become the first college to convert its promotion and tenure process to a fully online process. Results from this project will be used to begin the process of moving all colleges to an online process using Digital Measures.
* **Gateways to Completion (G2C)** is designed to create and implement an evidence-based plan for improving teaching, learning, and success in historically high-failure rate courses. Success in foundation level courses, such as accounting, math, chemistry, biology and writing and rhetoric is a direct predictor of retention. Gateways to Completion (G2C) provides institutions with assistance on the processes, guidance, and tools to support redesign of lower division and/or developmental level courses. Valdosta State University chose in its first phase of G2C to work with faculty in the following courses for the implementation of these innovations: HIST 2112, MATH 1111, ENGL 2113, CHEM 1211, and BIOL 1107.

**Information Technology and eLearning Updates**

* **IT Updates Available**: For a complete update on all important IT projects, visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/about/documents/annualreport.pdf>
* **SmartPath Core:** eLearning is working in partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences to develop and launch selected core classes in a totally online format. Phase 1 classes (ENGL 1101, POLS 1101, SPAN 1001 and 1002, MATH 1111) will begin this fall and development for Phase 2 courses is underway for a spring launch.
* **Online BA in Psychology:**  eLearning has partnered with the College of Education and Human Services and the Department of Psychology to develop and launch an online degree. Phase I courses are launching in Fall 2016 with 5 online PSYC courses. Phase II development launches this fall.

**Both SmartPath Core and the online PSYC degree students have registered for a total of 1,056 credit hours as of July 25, 2016.**

* **CBE Initiatives:** The College of Education and Human Services has partnered with eLearning to deliver two graduate endorsements for teachers through CBE (Competency-Based Education): the Science Endorsement (launched Spring 2016) and the Math Endorsement (launching in Fall 2016).
* **National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)**:VSU is first among the USG institutions to join this group which expanded VSU’s distance learning delivery to 39 US states.
* **“Introduction to Instructional Design and Online Instruction”:** This new online professional development option for VSU full-time and part-time faculty focuses on student engagement and online instruction.
* **Online Student Readiness Quiz:** This new quiz, which provides prospective online learners with an assessment of their individual preparation for learning in an online environments will launch in Fall 2016.
* **Enhanced Online Student Support Team services** are now available for prospective and current online students.
* **TurningPoint 6 Cloud Student Response System Software** is now implemented campus wide.

**Announcements and Information**

* **VSU Solutions Center**: Valdosta State University has officially opened its new VSU Solutions Center, which combines telephone traffic from the Welcome Center, Admissions, and the Information Technology Helpdesk. The VSU Solutions Center was introduced to improve caller experience and better meet the needs of our current and future students through streamlined communication and shorter call wait times. The Solutions Center was established by leveraging existing staff and expertise in Enrollment Management and Information Technology. Improvements and new designs in automation, analytics, and telecommunications provide a data-driven environment to improve service to students. Callers will now be able to speak with one representative that can answer many common questions and only get transferred for issues requiring specialized expertise.
* **Blazer Creed**: For the past two years, all new students have signed VSU’s Blazer Creed, which promotes civility, integrity, and citizenship. If you wish to discuss the creed with your students, it is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/the-blazer-creed.php>.
* **AlcoholEdu and Haven training** now required for all students: All undergraduate students must complete these online courses to help them develop the critical skills to make more thoughtful and educated choices outside the classroom. The programming is provided by EverFi (<http://www.everfi.com/substance-abuse-prevention>).
* **SOI Timeline for Fall 2016** is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/welcome.php>
* **Textbook Sales:** Remember that USG policy does not permit faculty to sell complimentary copies of texts.
* **The IDEA Center:** Founding Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Kathleen Lowney has stepped down after leading the Center for three years. Please thank Dr. Lowney for her service and welcome Dr. Tim Henkel as the new Scholar-in-Residence.
* **International Studies Minor:** Dr. Robert Harding, Chair of the Department of Political Science, now serves as the coordinator of this minor. Please thank Dr. Charles Johnson from the Department of History for his service in this role.
* **Program Review:** Fifteen (15) programs are scheduled for academic program review during 2015-16 (see list at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/documents/cprcycle.pdf>). An orientation session will be held in early September for these programs.

**Upcoming Meetings and Conferences**

* February 22-24, 2017: **The Third Annual TIES Conference** (the conference on Instructional Technologies, Innovations, and Educational Strategies (TIES) is coming soon. This year’s topic is “Re-Envisioning the Academy: Explorations in Technology, Curriculum, and Pedagogy.” The call for proposals is open at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/ties/welcome.php>
* April 10-13, 2017: **Undergraduate Research Symposium**
* April 2017: **Graduate Research Symposium**

**Important Dates Fall 2016**

August 15, 2016: Fall 2016 **first class day**

August 15-September 7, 2016: **Upload course syllabi** into Digital Measures (<http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/sacs/faculty-credentials.php>)

August 24, 2016: **Faculty submit P and T** dossiers to departmental promotion and tenure committees (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/documents/tenure-promotion-timeline.pdf>)

September 5, 2016: **Labor Day Holiday**; university closed

September 12, 2016: **Academic Committee** meets (October 17, November 14, December 5, January 9, February 13, March 6, April 10). Materials due to Registrar’s Office one week before meeting.

September 14, 2016: **Departmental P and T Committees** submit report to Department Heads

September 21-October 5: Banner open for **faculty to post Midterm/In-progress grades**

September 23-24, 2016: **Parents’ Weekend**

September 30, 2016: **IERs and IEPs due** to college/division assessment committees (<http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/program-review.php>)

October 6, 2016: In-progress grades available and **midterm for full-term classes**

October 5, 2016: **Department Heads provide p and t recommendations** to College P and T Committees

October 10-11, 2016: **Fall Break**

October 13, 2016: **Last date for students to withdraw** from classes

October 15, 2016: **VSU Open House** for Prospective Students and Families (February 4 and April 1, 2017)

October 17-22, 2016: **Homecoming Week** activities <https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-life/our-services/special-events/homecoming.php>

October 26, 2016: **College P and T Committees** provide recommendations to Dean

November 28, 2016: **Deans forward P and T recommendations** to Academic Affairs

October 31, 2016: **IERs and IEPs due to University Assessment Committee**

**Early registration for Spring 2016** opens

November 24-25, 2016: **Thanksgiving Holiday**; university closed (No classes on November 23)

December 5, 2016: **Last class day**

December 6-9, 2016: **Final Exams** [**http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/documents/fall-2016-final-exam-schedule.pdf**](http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/documents/fall-2016-final-exam-schedule.pdf)

December 9, 2016: **Graduate School Commencement**

December 10, 2016: **Fall Commencement** Ceremony for undergraduates

December 12, 2016: **Final grades** must be posted in BANNER by 9 am

December 14, 2016: **P and T dossiers uploaded** for university committee

December 19, 2016-January 2, 2017: **University closed**

January 9, 2017: Spring 2017 **first class day**

**New Faculty and Administrators**

* VSU welcomes new full-time faculty members to campus; see the complete list at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/welcome-new-faculty.php>
* Dr. Kelli Brown, Interim President
* Mr. Hollis Barnett, Interim Department Head, Art
* Dr. John Dunn, Interim Department Head, History
* Dr. Jerry Merwin, Coordinator, Public Administration and Organizational Leadership Programs
* Dr. Ofelia Nikolova, Interim Department Head, Modern and Classical Languages
* Dr. Cathy Oglesby, Coordinator, Women’s and Gender Studies
* Dr. Karin Roland, Interim Department Head, Economics and Finance
* Dr. Krishnendu Roy, Interim Department Head, Computer Science
* Dr. Sonya Sanderson, Interim Department Head, Kinesiology and Physical Education
* Mr. Michael Schmidt, Associate Dean of the College of the Arts
* Dr. Donna Sewell, Interim Department Head, English
* Dr. Mark Smith, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
* Dr. Calvin Walker, Coordinator, African American Studies