



## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES FALL 2023

### Academic Affairs Reorganizations

- The Honors College, the Center for International Programs, the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), and the General Education Coordinator and Council are now all part of the **new University College** under the leadership of Dean Mike Savoie.
- **College of Science and Mathematics** now consists of four departments: Applied Mathematics and Physics (Dr. Andreas Lazari, Interim Head); Biology (Dr. Robert Gannon, Head); Chemistry and Geosciences (Dr. Kurt Winkelmann, Head); and Computer Science and Engineering Technology (Dr. Krishnendu Roy, Head). Air Force ROTC also reports to this college.

### Relocations and Reorganizations

- **Undergraduate Advising** is available in advising centers for students with 60 hours or fewer at two locations, sorted by major:
  - **The North Campus Advising Team (located on the third floor of Thaxton Hall):** The College of Business Administration, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and Communication Disorders
  - **The Main Campus Advising Team (located in Ashley Hall 1001):** The College of the Arts, the College of Education and Human Services, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the College of Science and Mathematics.

Faculty advisors will have a hand-off from these advising centers when students reach a designated number of hours. First hand-offs are not scheduled to begin until September or later.

**OCCA (Online College for Career Advancement) advising** is available through the OCCA Advising/Coaching Center located in the Oak Street parking deck. These advisors will be in place throughout the student's academic career in OCCA.

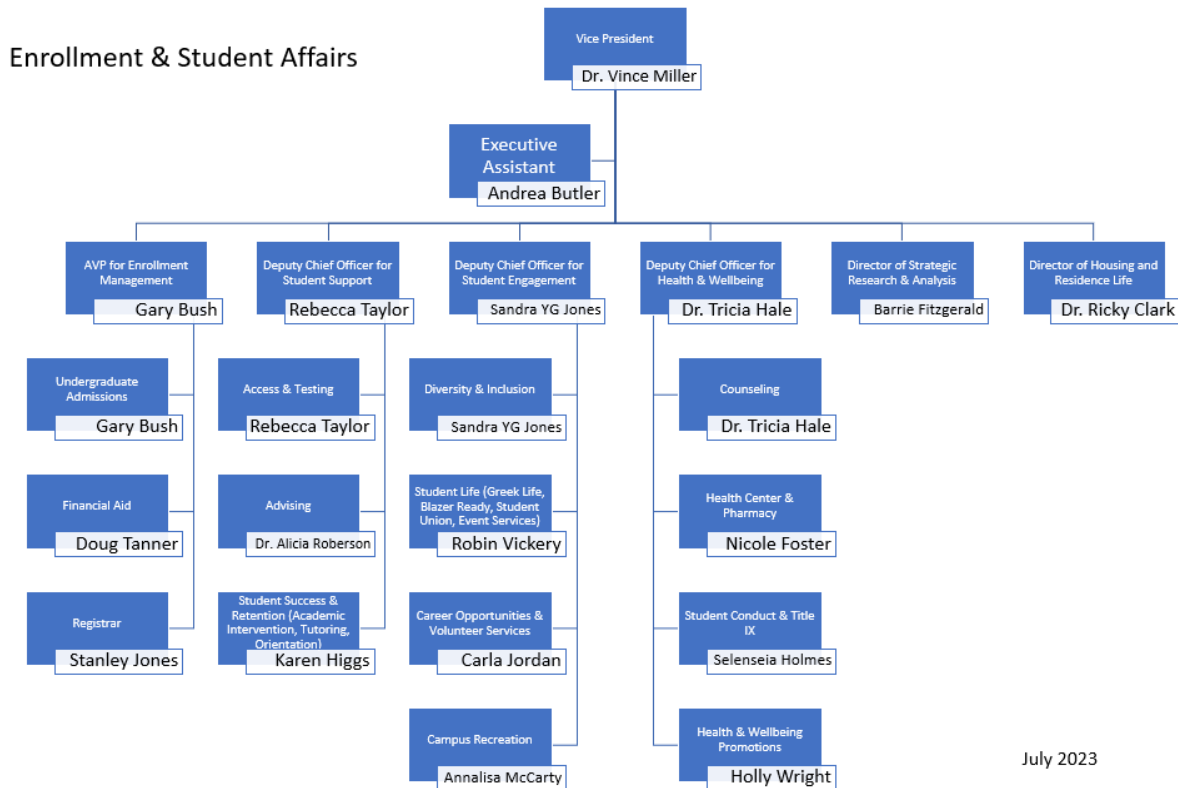
- **Student Success and Retention** is located on the second floor of Odum in the space formerly occupied by the Center for eLearning. This office is led by the Director of Student Success and Retention (Karen Higgs) with the Manager of Academic Intervention (Frank Mervin), Coordinator of Tutoring (Terence Sullivan) and the Manager of Orientation and Parent Services (Brenda Beasley). The Office of Student Success and Retention provides comprehensive, inclusive, student-centered services focused on orientation, academic support, and engagement from acceptance through graduation. The office serves as a resource hub empowering students and increasing the quality of educational experiences leading to academic and personal achievement.
  - Tutoring includes both in-person and online options for students in selected core curriculum classes as well as writing support for a variety of disciplines.
  - AI (Academic Intervention) includes providing workshop for students throughout the academic term as well as serving as the initial triage point for any early alerts.
  - Orientation will continue to provide onboarding information to new students as well as a variety of resources to help students' families.
- **The Center for eLearning** is now located on the third floor of Converse Hall, Room 3200.
- **The Office of Strategic Research and Analysis** is now located in Odum Library Room 2609.
- **The Office of Testing** is now at University Center Entrance 5, Room 4167.



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- **Professional and Continuing Education (PACE)** is now in the University Center North.
- **Student Conduct and Title IX** is relocating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Health Center building to provide more opportunity for confidentiality and more closely align with the support resources available in that building. **Selenseia Holmes** is the Director of Student Conduct and Title IX Coordinator.

**Division of Enrollment and Student Affairs Organizational Structure** – provided for reference after the reorganization and consolidation of Student Affairs and Student Success in Academic Year 2023.



July 2023

## NEW AND UPDATED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS/CURRICULUM

### NEW COURSE IN CORE CURRICULUM

- GEOG 1105 approved for Areas D1 and D2b

### NEW TRACKS/OPTIONS IN EXISTING MAJORS

- Public History Track for the BA in History
- Non-thesis option for MS in Biology

### NEW ACCELERATED PROGRAMS

- Undergraduate (BS in Organizational Leadership and BA in Political Science) to Graduate in Public Administration
- Undergraduate to Graduate in Criminal Justice



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### NEW CERTIFICATES

- Public History
- Healthcare Administration
- Business Fundamentals
- Financial Management
- Business Analytics
- Marketing Decision Making
- Strategic Leadership
- Substance Use

### NEW MINORS

- Russian
- International Business

### DEACTIVATIONS

- Mathematics Endorsement for K-5 Teachers
- Science Endorsement for K-5 Teachers
- Health Communication Minor
- BSED in Secondary Education – Earth-Space Science
- BBA in Healthcare Administration for Spring 2024
- BBA in International Business for Spring 2024
- BA in Philosophy and Religious Studies

## Revised or Updated Policies and Procedures

- **Updated VSU Tenure and Promotion Policies and Procedures** were approved by the Faculty Senate in April 2023. The updated document is posted at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/documents/tenure-and-promotion-policies-and-procedures.pdf>.
- **Updates to required syllabus statements for the Non-Discrimination and Title IX Policy and the Accommodations Statement** are available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/syllabi.php> under #9. Please be sure to update these policies on your syllabus. Remember that faculty must work with the Access Office to provide reasonable accommodations as defined by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Additionally, as part of Title IX, students may also request accommodations for pregnancy-related issues (see <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/pregnant-and-parenting-students.php>).
- **Additional Faculty Resources for Preparing Syllabi** are also now available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/syllabi.php>.
- **Comprehensive Academic Administrator Evaluation**, a companion process to post-tenure review for faculty members, began in 2022-2023. The description of this process is available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/comprehensive-academic-administrator-evaluation.php>. In the first round of evaluations, the following academic



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administrators were evaluated: Associate Dean Theresa Grove (COSM), Associate Dean Mark Smith (COHSS), and Department Head Darrell Ross (SACJ). Rotations are being set up in the required 5 year schedule in all academic colleges/divisions.

### Updated Resources

- The 2023-24 Academic Catalog is live and posted at <http://catalog.valdosta.edu/>
- The Academic Affairs Strategic Plan for 2022-2027 is posted at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/documents/academic-affairs-sp.pdf>
- VSU is transitioning to one tool for video conferencing: Microsoft Teams. By December 2023, Blackboard Collaborate Ultra will no longer be available. See the information from CELT and eLearning below about resources to assist with this transition.
- **Updated Academic Honesty webpage:** "The Academic Honesty at VSU" webpage (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsuhp>) has been updated with additional Academic Honesty resources (including some options for ways to discuss AI use in the classroom) and with some sample Academic Integrity Statements that faculty could adapt for their own use.

### Announcements and Information

#### Academic Affairs

- **CELT and eLearning:**
  - CELT-eLearning continue to offer training to faculty for the transition from teaching with Blackboard Collaborate Ultra to Teams video conferencing in BlazeVIEW. Recall that the end date for VSU faculty to use Blackboard Collaborate Ultra is December 15, 2023. Register now for related CELT-eLearning webinars in VSU's employee training portal, keep an eye out for a special fall series of faculty TechBites Workshops about Teaching with Teams, or all faculty have 24/7 access to job aids and can watch recordings of previous webinars in BlazeVIEW 101's module for "Pedagogical Training and Resources."
  - Congratulations again to the first six VSU faculty who completed CELT-eLearning's Online Teaching Certificate! Since they graduated in May (see: <https://www.valdosta.edu/about/news/releases/2023/05/vsu-recognizes-faculty-online-teaching-certificate-graduates.php>), two more faculty have finished: Angela Felkins (Lecturer of Nursing) and Dr. Kristin Kirschner (Assistant Professor of Psychology).
- **Faculty Success Council Virtual Suggestion Box:** This virtual suggestion box, designed to solicit strategies that will enhance faculty professional success is now available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/faculty-success-council/suggestions.php>. Suggestions and comments will be forwarded to the Faculty Success Council for review.



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- **Comprehensive Program Review (CPR) for 2023-24:** These programs (Cohort 1) are scheduled for review this year: BA Art; BA Music; BA Political Science; BA Sociology and Anthropology; BFA Art; BFA Art Teacher Education; BFA Interior Design; BM Music Performance; BS Chemistry; MS Sociology; MA Communication; BSED Communication Disorders; MED Communication Disorders; EDS Coaching Pedagogy in Physical Education; EDS Teacher Leadership; EDS Educational Leadership; EDS Special Education; EDD Adult and Career Education; EDD Curriculum and Instruction; EDD Leadership. Information available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/program-review.php> Program Review orientation will be Friday, September 8, 2023 in West Hall 1002 from 9:00-10:00.
- **General Education:** The General Education at VSU meeting will be held on Monday, August 7, 2023, 2p-3:30p in the STEAM Center. The meeting will include updates related to various interconnected VSU and USG initiatives and an overview of what's next for General Education at VSU. The General Education meeting is open to all VSU faculty, staff, and students. Remember everyone at VSU has ownership of general education. Thus, we invite you to be actively engaged in shaping what general education looks like at VSU. We look forward to seeing you at the General Education at VSU meeting. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the VSU community will have the opportunity to engage in several general education projects:
  - Branding general education at VSU
  - FYSE 1101 and FYSE 1102 course pilots
  - FYSE learning communities
  - General education assessment

### Ongoing Pilot Projects:

- *First-Year Seminar Experience (FYSE):*

In Fall 2023 the FYSE 1101 predesigned course pilot will continue. As a reminder, this course is designed to assist first-year students in acquiring and/or enhancing applicable skills related to their academic and co-curricular goals. Students are guided through the application of those skills using a variety of activities including reflection activities and the completion of a signature assignment. In addition, the FYSE 1102 pilot will also continue. This course is designed to add additional opportunities for students to apply skills and engage in reflection. In the fall the course will be offered in a predesigned 3 credit format. There is the option of using the flexible credit hour format in subsequent semesters.
- *Faculty Learning Communities (FLC)*

The CELT - FYSE Course Design & Instruction Learning Community will also be offered in the fall to guide participants in the exploration of the design and instruction topics related to First-Year Seminar Experience (FYSE) courses. You can find additional information about the FYSE learning community at: <https://www.valdosta.edu/celt/faculty-learning-communities.php#fyse>
- *"Common Experience"*

During the 2023-2024 academic year, a common experience for students in the First Year Seminar Experience (FYSE) predesigned courses will be piloted. The common experience is based on the idea of "The Spirit of Inquiry." This experience is connected with the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference (GURC) that is being held at VSU this fall on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> (<https://www.valdosta.edu/urc/gurc/>) and the VSU Undergraduate Research Symposium (<https://www.valdosta.edu/urc/undergraduate-research-symposium/>) that is held on the VSU campus in the spring. The goal is to use



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what is learned from the pilots to identify specific courses and/or units willing to participate in the common experience in subsequent academic years.

- *High-Impact Practices (HIPs)*

Beginning in fall 2023, the General Education Council (GEC) will review the HIPs course endorsement spreadsheets submitted by departments. This will be the first step to piloting the endorsement of HIPs courses at VSU. There will be related opportunities for service and campus engagement as the GEC will be creating ad-hoc committees as needed.

- **Quality Enhancement Plan.** We had a successful 2022-23 year with the QEP Trailblazing: Shaping the Undergraduate Experience through Experiential Learning. A record number of students (1,440) participated in experiential learning endorsed course activities in 2022-23. Follow regular updates of activities on social media @vsutrailblazers (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter). Congratulations to the 2023-24 Experiential Learning Faculty Ambassadors (<https://qep.valdosta.edu/qep-team/>).
- **Update the Our Team/Faculty & Staff Listing webpage:** Please ensure that our new faculty are added and departed faculty are removed from your department’s our team/faculty & staff webpage.
- **OSPRA:** Grants and Sponsored Programs funding increased to \$7 million this year. Faculty and staff seeking external funding are strongly encouraged to notify OSPRA for guidance on budgets and assistance submitting the grants can be provided. OSPRA manages external funds on behalf of VSU. Please be sure to utilize their services.

### Important Dates Fall 2023

August 10, 2023:	<b>Graduate Student Fall 2023 Kickoff</b> 6-7:30pm
August 14, 2023:	Fall 2023 <b>first class day</b> for regular term classes and Short Session I
August 17, 2023	<b>Fall Registration</b> ends and <b>Fee Payment Deadline</b> (11:59 pm) <b>Graduate Executive Committee</b> meets (September 21, October 19, November 16)
August 17-September 1, 2023:	<b>Upload course syllabi</b> into Success Portal (directions at <a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/sacs/documents/course-syllabi-upload.pdf">https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/sacs/documents/course-syllabi-upload.pdf</a> ).
August 19-25, 2023:	<b>Attendance Verification</b> for VSU courses that began on August 14. All attendance verifications are due by 9 am on August 25
August 23, 2023:	<b>Faculty submit P and T</b> dossiers to departmental promotion and tenure committees ( <a href="http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/documents/tenure-promotion-timeline.pdf">http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/documents/tenure-promotion-timeline.pdf</a> )
August 24, 2023:	The Happening <a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-life/special-events/the-happening/">https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-life/special-events/the-happening/</a>
September 4, 2023:	<b>Labor Day Holiday;</b> university closed; no classes meet
September 7, 2023	<b>Short Session I Midterm Grades Due</b> by 11 am <b>Midterm for Short Session I and Withdrawal deadline</b>
September 11, 2023:	<b>Academic Committee</b> meets (October 2, November 13). Materials due to Registrar’s Office one week before meeting.



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	To appear in the 2024-2025 catalog, all curriculum changes should be through Academic Committee by the February 2024 meeting. <a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php">https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php</a>
September 13, 2023:	<b>Departmental P and T Committees</b> submit recommendations to Department Heads and candidates.
September 20-October 4, 2023:	Banner open for <b>faculty to post Midterm grades</b> for full-term courses. Midterm grades are due by 5 pm on October 4.
September 22-23, 2023:	<b>Family Weekend</b>
October 2, 2023:	<b>IERs and IEPs due</b> to University Assessment Committee. Note: Administrative IERs/IEPs are also due at this time. <a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/program-review.php">https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/program-review.php</a>
October 4, 2023:	<b>Department Heads provide P and T recommendations</b> to College P and T Committees and candidates
October 5, 2023	<b>Midterm</b> (students able to view grades) <b>Short Session I Last Class Day</b>
October 5-13, 2023:	<b>Short Session I Grade Entry</b> (grades not available to students)
October 9-10, 2023	<b>Fall Break</b> (no classes meet; the university is open)
October 11, 2023:	<b>Short Session II First Class Day</b> (Registration ends October 13, at 11:59 pm)
October 12, 2023:	<b>Last date for students to withdraw</b> from full-term classes
October 15, 2023:	Textbook Ordering Deadline for Spring and Summer Classes <a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/textbooks-and-materials.php">https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/textbooks-and-materials.php</a>
October 16-19, 2023:	<b>Short Session II Attendance Verification (Due Oct. 19 by 9 am)</b>
October 20-21, 2023	<b>Homecoming Weekend</b>
October 25, 2023:	<b>College P and T Committees</b> provide recommendations to Deans and candidates
October 30, 2023:	<b>Registration</b> opens (by classification) for Spring and Summer 2024 classes
November 1-3, 2023:	<b>Short Session II Midterm Grades Due (Due Nov. 3 at 11 am)</b>
November 3, 2023:	<b>Short Session II Midterm and Withdrawal Deadline</b>
November 22-24, 2023:	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b> ; (no classes meet; university closed Nov. 23-24)
November 27, 2023:	<b>Deans forward P and T recommendations</b> to Academic Affairs
December 4, 2023	<b>Last Class Day</b> for full-term classes and Short Session II
December 5-8, 2023:	<b>Final Exams</b> , administered by this schedule: <a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/final-exam-schedules.php">https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/final-exam-schedules.php</a>
December 8, 2023	<b>Graduate School Commencement Ceremony</b>
December 9, 2023:	<b>Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony</b>
December 11, 2023:	<b>Final grades</b> must be posted in BANNER by 11 am
December 13, 2023:	<b>P and T dossiers uploaded</b> for university committee
December 18-29, 2023	University closed
January 1, 2024:	<b>University closed</b>



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January 2, 2024:

January 8, 2024:

**University opens for Spring 2024**

**Spring 2024 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>
- VSU welcomes the following new academic administrators:
  - Dr. Sheri Noviello, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
  - Dr. Constance Pocaro, Professor and Department Head, Communication Sciences and Disorders
  - Ms. Sarah Wildes Arnett, Interim Department Head, Department of Communication Arts
  - Dr. Nicole Cox, Interim Associate Dean, CoA and Interim Department Head of Music
  - Dr. Ellis Heath, Interim Department Head of Economics and Finance
  - Dr. Andreas Lazari, Interim Department Head, Department of Applied Mathematics and Physics
  - Dr. Anne Price, Interim QEP Coordinator