

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE FOR GENERAL EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 1, 2023

VIA ZOOM: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/84229621673>

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Present: Angela Anderson, Aaron Ansell, Stephen Biscotte, Briana Ermanni, Aaron Goldstein, Corinne Guimont, Molly Hall, Janet Hilder, Earl Kline, Victoria Lael, Jason Malone, Nicole Pitterson, Annie Ronan, Hannah Shinault, Jeremy Sudweeks, Khanh Ngoc Tran, Sparkle Williams

Absent: Zack Underwood

Guests: Jenni Gallagher, Jennifer Maguire

Call to order by Hannah Shinault at 2:32 pm

Announcements:

- Proposals for Pathways Annual Grants are due Mar 1. Details can be found at <https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/professional-development/grants/annual-grants.html>
- Save the date for the 2023 Summer Institute: May 17-18.

1. Study Abroad Review

The committee unanimously approved ART 3954: Experiential Learning with Creative Technologies: Visualizing the First World War in Europe for Pathways concept 2 (Critical Thinking in the Humanities).

2. Pathways Student Survey

J. Maguire, graduate assistant for the Office of Undergraduate Education, shared a draft of a Pathways student survey for the committee's feedback (see Appendix). The survey is intended to evaluate students' experience in the Pathways program, providing data that the committee and the Office of General Education can use to improve the program.

After revisions have been made based on the feedback from today's meeting, select committee members will pilot the survey with students in their own Pathways courses.

3. Pathways Program Revision

The committee reviewed and approved a letter updating the university community on last semester's efforts to revise the program. The letter will communicate that, based on the feedback they received, the committee will not pursue streamlining the student learning outcomes. Rather, they will explore other options for simplifying the assessment process.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- Advising
 - V. Lael shared that the advising subcommittee has drafted language for a survey to be sent to academic advisors, which the subcommittee will review that at their next meeting.
 - Z. Underwood will be the advising subcommittee chair for the Spring 2023 semester.
- Pathways Program Review

- M. Hall provided an update on Fall 2022 assessment data. The deadline for submitting data was Jan. 31, and while some reports will continue to trickle in over the next weeks, it appears that participation is on par with last semester's numbers. As is typically the case, participation varies widely by department, with some departments submitting data for zero percent of their sections, others submitting for 100%, and most falling somewhere in between.

Meeting adjourned by Hannah Shinault at 3:11 pm

Minutes compiled by Jenni Gallagher



Thank you for taking this survey related to your experiences with Pathways. Before beginning the survey, please log in to Hokie SPA and find your DARS. Look at ALL of the classes you have taken to meet Pathways requirements.

- 1) While answering questions on this survey, please focus on Pathways courses that you took here at VT (not that you transferred in or got credit for from AP, etc.)
- 2) If you took any courses that met Pathways requirements but also met major requirements, please consider those on this survey as well, as long as you took those courses here at VT.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Jenni Gallagher, jennigal@vt.edu

Please complete the survey before Thursday, December 15, 2022.

Thank you for your input, we appreciate it.

What is your primary major?

- Accounting and Information Systems
- Advertising
- Aerospace Engineering
- Agribusiness
- Agricultural Sciences

- Agricultural Technology
- Animal and Poultry Sciences
- Applied Economic Management
- Arabic
- Architecture
- Art
- Automotive Engineering
- Biochemistry
- Biological Sciences
- Biological Systems Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Building Construction
- Business Information Technology
- Career and Technical Education
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Childhood Pre-Education
- Chip Scale Integration
- Cinema
- Civil Engineering
- Classical Studies
- Clinical Neuroscience
- Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience

- Commercial Development and Investment
- Communication
- Communication Science and Social Inquiry
- Community Economic Development
- Communications and Networking
- Computational and Systems Neuroscience
- Computational Modeling and Data Analytics
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Construction Engineering and Management
- Consumer Studies
- Controls, Robotics, and Autonomy
- Criminology
- Creative Technologies
- Creative Writing
- Crop and Soil Sciences
- Cybersecurity Management and Analytics
- Dairy Science
- Data-Centric Computing
- Economics
- Electrical Engineering
- Elementary Education

- Energy and Power Electronics Systems
- Engineering Science and Mechanics
- English
- English Language Arts Education
- Environmental Conservation and Society
- Environmental Data Science
- Environmental Economics, Management, and Policy
- Environmental Horticulture
- Environmental Informatics
- Environmental Policy and Planning
- Environmental Resources Management
- Environmental Science
- Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Technology Management
- European and Transatlantic Studies
- Experimental Neuroscience
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Fashion Merchandising and Design
- Finance
- Financial Planning and Wealth Management
- FinTech and Big Data Analytics
- Fish Conservation
- Food and Health Systems Economics
- Food Science and Technology

- Forestry
- French
- Geography
- Geosciences
- German
- Graphic Design
- History
- History and Social Sciences Education
- Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Human Development
- Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise
- Human Resource Management
- Humanities for Public Service
- Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Industrial Design
- Interior Design
- Integrated Agricultural Technologies
- International Public Policy
- International Relations
- International Studies
- International Trade and Development
- Landscape Architecture

- Landscape Design and Turfgrass Science
- Landscape Horticulture and Design
- Machine Learning
- Management
- Management Consulting and Analytics
- Marketing Management
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Mathematics
- Mathematics Education
- Mechanical Engineering
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Meteorology
- Microbiology
- Micro/Nano Systems
- Mining Engineering
- Multimedia Journalism
- Music
- Nanomedicine
- Nanoscience
- National Security and Foreign Affairs
- Natural Resources Conservation
- Networking and Cybersecurity
- Ocean Engineering

- Packaging Systems and Design
- Philosophy
- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- Photonics
- Physics
- Plant Science
- Political Science
- Polymer Chemistry
- Professional and Technical Writing
- Property Management
- Psychology
- Public Health
- Public Relations
- Radio Frequency and Microwave
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Finance
- Religion and Culture
- Residential Development and Investment
- Residential Environments and Design
- Robotics and Mechatronics
- Russian
- Secure Computing

- Smart and Sustainable Cities
 - Sociology
 - Software Systems
 - Space Systems
 - Spanish
 - Sports Media and Analytics
 - Statistics
 - Studio Art
 - Sustainable Biomaterials
 - Systems Biology
 - Theatre Arts
 - Water: Resources, Policy, and Management
 - Wildlife Conservation
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What is your secondary major? (if applicable)

- Accounting and Information Systems
- Advertising
- Aerospace Engineering
- Agribusiness
- Agricultural Sciences
- Agricultural Technology
- Animal and Poultry Sciences
- Applied Economic Management

- Arabic
- Architecture
- Art
- Automotive Engineering
- Biochemistry
- Biological Sciences
- Biological Systems Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Building Construction
- Business Information Technology
- Career and Technical Education
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Childhood Pre-Education
- Chip Scale Integration
- Cinema
- Civil Engineering
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- Clinical Neuroscience
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- Polymer Chemistry
- Professional and Technical Writing
- Property Management
- Psychology
- Public Health
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- Real Estate Finance
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- Space Systems
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- Statistics
- Studio Art
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- Systems Biology
- Theatre Arts
- Water: Resources, Policy, and Management
- Wildlife Conservation

How many courses did you take here at VT that have met a Pathways requirement? (enter a whole number only) Concentrate on your experience in only these courses for the remainder of this survey.

How many Pathways courses do you expect to still take from VT? Enter a whole number only.

Keeping all of your Pathways courses in mind, answer the following questions:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
My learning needs were addressed.	<input type="radio"/>					
My courses involved making real-world connections.	<input type="radio"/>					

My courses supported making connections across a variety of different perspectives.

I experienced bias or exclusion in my courses.

My courses encouraged integrating content from multiple courses.

My courses encouraged me to identify and consider ethical issues related to the content.

These questions are about course choice and access. Remember to concentrate on the Pathways courses that you have taken at VT.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Agree Agree Strongly Agree

I was able to enroll in Pathways Courses that aligned with my interests, goals, etc.

I was satisfied with the availability of Pathways courses being offered in the semester I wanted to take them.

Rate the following. Keep all of your Pathways courses in mind.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Agree Agree Strongly Agree

Pathways gave me a different perspective on my major/field of study.

Pathways makes me more marketable for my future career.

Pathways helped me decide what field of study/future career I am interested in.

Pathways helped make me more aware of multiculturalism, diversity, and inclusion at VT.

Pathways helped me consider issues, ideas, and problems in new or interdisciplinary ways.

Pathways encouraged me to get involved as an active citizen of my community.

Who/what did you consult with regarding which courses to take to meet your Pathways requirements? Select all that apply.

- Advisor
- Professor in my major
- Professor not in my major
- Classmate/friend
- Pathways Website
- VT Timetable
- Popular advice websites (ex. reddit, etc.)

Did you change your major or minor, or add a new major or minor, due to an experience in a Pathways course?

- Yes
- No

Please describe how your experience in Pathways influenced your change of major or minor.

What are 2-3 positive takeaways from your experience in Pathways? (e.g. a new skill or experience, content knowledge, awareness of a global issue, etc.)

What suggestions for improvement do you have for Pathways?

A list of the Pathways Minors can be found here. <https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors.html>

At any time, were you interested in pursuing one of these thirty Pathways Minors?

Yes

No

Did you declare one or more of the Pathways Minor you were interested in?

Yes

No

Why did you not pursue the Pathways Minor you were interested in?

The following section consists of demographic questions. Please select "prefer not to answer" for any questions you are not comfortable answering for any reason. Answering demographic questions helps us improve the student experience in Pathways.

How would you describe the sex you were assigned at birth?

- Male
- Female
- Intersex
- Prefer not to answer
- Prefer to self-identify:

Prefer to self-identify:_comment

How would you describe your gender identity?

- Man
- Woman
- Non-Binary
- Prefer not to answer
- Prefer to self-identify:

Prefer to self-identify:_comment

How would you describe your race and/or ethnicity?

- Black
- Latino/a

- Indigenous American/Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White
- Biracial or Multiracial
- Unknown
- Prefer not to answer
- Prefer to self-identify

Prefer to self-identify

Have you ever been diagnosed with a disability/disabilities?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure
- Prefer not to answer

Are you an international student?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

Are you a transfer student?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

Do you consider yourself a first-generation college student? (For example, your parent(s) did not complete a four-year college degree).

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

What is your age?

- Younger than 18
- 18-22
- 23-27
- 28 or older
- Prefer not to answer

Which of the following describes you?

- Live on campus
- Live off campus, with family
- Live off campus, not with family
- Prefer not to answer

Which of the following describes you?

- First-year student
- Second-year student
- Third-year student
- Fourth-year student or beyond
- Prefer not to answer

Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Prefer not to answer

How would you describe your financial well-being or the financial well-being of your family?

- Never stressful
- Sometimes stressful
- Often stressful
- Always stressful
- Prefer not to answer

Would you be interested in participating in a focus group that would meet sometime next semester? A focus group is a small group of students who would meet together and tell us more about their Pathways experiences. If yes, please enter your email address so we may contact you.

- No
- Yes (please enter email)



February 1, 2023

Dear Pathways Constituents,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a restful and restorative winter break. As we begin a new semester, we wanted to reach out to share an update about the Pathways program revision.

First, thank you all so much for providing feedback on the proposed changes. We received questions and comments from folks across the university, from graduate students and instructors of Pathways courses to unit chairs and deans of colleges. Your feedback represents governance in action, which provides valuable guidance to the work we do. Your responses indicated general support for our effort to reduce the administrative burden Pathways places on faculty. At the same time, however, many responses indicated that reducing the number of concept outcomes may not be the way to pursue that goal.

Next, based on that feedback, the committee has decided not to move forward with streamlining the Pathways outcomes at this time. The current outcomes for each concept will stay the same. Instead, will we explore other changes to the program that will decrease the burden of assessment on faculty, provide faculty with valuable information about their students' learning, and produce data that meets SACSCOC and SCHEV requirements for general education assessment.

As this work moves ahead, we will communicate new proposals with the Pathways community through the committee representatives (see attached roster to find your rep) and look forward to working with the broader Pathways community to strengthen students' general education experience here at Virginia Tech.

Please feel free to reach out to your committee representative with any questions or concerns, and we hope your spring semester has begun well!

Respectfully,
The University Curriculum Committee for General Education

University Curriculum Committee for General Education 2022-2023 Members

CHARGE: To give leadership to the Pathways General Education curriculum through program evaluation, advising support, dissemination of information, alignment of transfer credit, and other actions, including curricular proposal review, as needed. Reports to Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies.

Chair - Faculty member of the committee, elected by the committee and having previously served as vice-chair of the committee

Hannah Shinault	Chair	2023
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Ex Officio

Stephen Biscotte	Executive Vice President and Provost or designee	ex officio
Bethany Bodo	Director of Institutional Effectiveness	ex officio

Division of Student Affairs Representative selected by the Vice President for Student Affairs

Janet Hilder	Office of Learning Partnerships	2025
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Two faculty members selected by the Executive Vice President and Provost

Aaron Ansell	Religion and Culture	2024
Victoria Lael	Human Development and Family Life Science	2024

One AP faculty representative from the University Libraries elected by the Library Faculty Association

Corinne Guimont	University Libraries	2025
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One faculty representative selected by each undergraduate college curriculum committee

Hannah Shinault	Liberal Arts and Human Sciences	2023
Annie Ronan	Architecture, Arts, and Design	2023
Laurel Travis	Business	2025
Aaron Goldstein	Engineering	2025
Sparkle Williams	Science	2024
Earl Kline	Natural Resources and Environment	2024
Angela Anderson	Agriculture and Life Sciences	2024

Two faculty representatives elected by the Faculty Senate

Jason Malone	Finance, Insurance, and Business Law	2025
Nicole Pitterson	Engineering Education	2024

One faculty representative from Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies elected annually by the Commission

Khan Ngoc Tran	Finance, Insurance, and Business Law	2023
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One faculty representative from Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity elected annually by the Commission

Vacant		2023
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One representative from University Studies who is a professional academic advisor appointed by the Director of Academic Advising Initiatives

Zack Underwood	University Studies and Scholarship Support	2025
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Two undergraduate student senators elected by the Undergraduate Student Senate

Joshae Gordon	Computer Engineering	2023
Mollie Coogan	Environmental Conservation and Society	2023

Two graduate or professional student teaching assistants or instructors of record elected by the Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Briana Ermanni	Psychology	2023
Vacant		2023