

Admission criteria and application requirements

Please read the following instructions carefully in order to ensure that you understand the application requirements for your intended major.

The VCU Office of Undergraduate Admissions strongly encourages all students to apply to the university using the electronic application, available at www.egrad.vcu.edu/apply. Students who apply electronically will be able to check their application status online to be sure we have received all required materials (admissions decisions are **not** provided online). The application fee for applying online is \$40; the application fee for applying using the paper version of the application is \$50.

Please determine the e-mail address that you will use for VCU correspondence and be sure that this e-mail address stays active for at least one year from the date that you apply to the university as we will communicate with you via e-mail throughout the application process.

Why we ask for your Social Security number?

While VCU does not require your Social Security number for admission consideration, it is necessary for applicants who wish to be considered for financial aid and Hope Scholarship/Lifetime Learning tax credit to provide a Social Security number to the university. To protect your privacy, your Social Security number will not be used as your VCU student identification number.

Freshman applicants

Candidates for admission to VCU are reviewed based on their academic performance (e.g., GPA, class rank) in an accredited high school or on GED scores and either ACT or SAT scores. The college preparatory curriculum is highly preferred, and a minimum of 20 units is required for admission to all programs on the Monroe Park Campus.

Applicants should present a minimum of:

- 4 units of English.
- 3 units of mathematics (including algebra I and either geometry or algebra II).
- 3 units of science (including at least one laboratory).
- 3 units of history, social studies or government.
- Additionally, 3 units of one foreign language or 2 units of two foreign languages are recommended.

Additional information and recommendations

While admission to VCU programs is based on the strength of a student's academic profile, extracurricular and leadership activities as well as employment experience may be considered during the application review process. Please note that recommendations are generally not required, although a letter and high school profile sent along with the student's high school transcript by a guidance counselor may be useful during the application review.

VCU generally does not require students applying to undergraduate programs on its Monroe Park Campus (with the exception of those in the School of the Arts) to provide recommendations. School of the Arts applicants should have their recommender(s) submit the online reference form at <http://app.art.vcu.edu/reference>. Students applying to programs other than those in the School of the Arts, but who wish to have recommendations sent to VCU on their behalf, may request that their recommenders submit such forms online at www.egrad.vcu.edu/recommendation. The applicant information (e.g., full name, date of birth and address) contained in the recommendation form must correspond exactly to the information submitted on the student's application. Please note that recommendations received via postal mail may not be processed in time to be reviewed with the application.

Admissions decisions

Freshman applicants who submit completed materials by Jan. 15 will be notified of an admissions decision by April 1. Freshmen may wish to apply earlier than the recommended deadline of Jan. 15. Those earlier applicants will be notified of an admissions decision as soon as possible, but will not be required to respond until May 1. Those applying after Jan. 15 will be notified on a rolling basis until enrollment capacity is met.

School of the Arts

In addition to submitting the university Application for Undergraduate Admission, all applicants to the School of the Arts must submit supplemental materials as described online at www.vcu.edu/arts/apply. The School of the Arts application review committee reviews all applications to programs in the School of the Arts.

For additional information, contact the School of the Arts at (804) 828-2787 or toll-free at (866) 534-3201 or visit www.vcu.edu/arts/apply.

School of Engineering

To be competitive for admission to the School of Engineering, freshman applicants should present a minimum GPA of 3.3 (on a 4.0 scale) and a combined SAT score of 1120 or higher on the critical reading and math sections of the test. Freshman applicants to the School of Engineering who are not accepted directly into the school will automatically be considered for the undeclared major in the College of Humanities and Sciences.

For additional information, call the School of Engineering at (804) 827-7028 or toll-free (800) 863-0359, e-mail askengineering@vcu.edu or visit the Web at www.egr.vcu.edu.

Transfer applicants

Monroe Park Campus undergraduate programs

Transfer applicants must be in good standing at the last institution attended and to be competitive should present a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 (2.5 preferred) from all accredited institutions to be considered for admission to VCU. Priority application review will be given to applicants who have completed at least 30 credits at their former institution(s).

Candidates with fewer than 30 semester (45 quarter) hours also will be reviewed on the basis of their high school performance and SAT/ACT scores (if younger than the age of 22). The undeclared major is not open to students with 60 or more college credits.

Transfer applicants will be notified of an admissions decision on a rolling basis until the class is filled. Priority application review will be given to students who apply and submit all required documentation by the recommended application deadline.

School of the Arts

In addition to submitting the university Application for Undergraduate Admission, all applicants to the School of the Arts must submit supplemental materials as described online at www.vcu.edu/arts/apply. The School of the Arts application review committee reviews all applications to programs in the School of the Arts.

For additional information, including program deadlines, contact the School of the Arts at (804) 828-2787 or toll-free at (866) 534-3201 or visit www.vcu.edu/arts/apply.

VCU students – MCV Campus undergraduate programs

Transfer students and current VCU students who wish to apply to undergraduate programs in clinical laboratory sciences, clinical radiation sciences, dental hygiene and nursing on the MCV Campus should be aware that courses and credit requirements for admission vary for each program. Applicants to any of these programs must submit supplemental admissions materials, which are available on the Web at www.ugrad.vcu.edu/apply. Please note that all supplemental materials are available online only.

The selection process for admission into these undergraduate health sciences programs is based on a number of factors including academic records, experience, communication skills, personal characteristics and test results. Each program utilizes a self-managed application process and faculty committees to evaluate criteria appropriate to the profession.

Returning applicants

VCU students must reapply for admission and submit an application fee if they have:

1. Not attended VCU in a degree program for three or more successive fall and spring semesters (excluding summer sessions)
2. Been suspended from VCU
3. Attended another college or university since attending VCU and wish to return after the allowable absence period as stated in No. 1 above

All applicants are required to complete the Application for Undergraduate Admission. Read all application requirements carefully. Applications will be reviewed when all required materials have been received by the VCU Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

International applicants

Nonimmigrant, temporary visa applicants for undergraduate admission must complete the International Application for Admission, which may be obtained by calling the VCU Office of International Admissions at (804) 828-6016 or on the Web at www.vcu.edu/oie.

Required fees and documentation

Application fee

The VCU Office of Undergraduate Admissions strongly encourages all students to apply to the university using the electronic application, available at www.ugrad.vcu.edu/apply. Students who apply electronically will be able to check their application status online to be sure we have received all required materials (admissions decisions are not provided online). The application fee for applying online is \$40; the application fee for applying using the paper version of the application is \$50.

The application fee is nonrefundable and must be submitted with the Application for Undergraduate Admission. Applicants who apply online may choose to submit their application fee online using a credit card or by submitting a check or money order made payable to VCU. Applicants who apply using the paper application may submit a check or money order made payable to VCU. All payments in the form of a check or money order must include the applicant's name and date of birth. Do not submit cash. Applications may not be processed if submitted without a fee or the applicant will be billed.

VCU students who currently are enrolled in a degree program on the Monroe Park Campus may apply to undergraduate health sciences programs on the MCV Campus without submitting an application fee.

Transcripts

Freshman applicants are required to submit an up-to-date high school transcript (including senior-year curriculum and grades, if available) and a completed and signed High School Transcript Request form. GED holders must submit their official GED scores.

Transfer applicants must submit an official transcript from each accredited college or university attended, including summer schools. If less than 30 semester (45 quarter) hours have been completed, applicants also must submit high school transcripts.

Applicants to programs on the MCV Campus must submit official transcripts from each college, university, school and program attended. These transcripts should be included with the application.

Note: Monroe Park Campus students applying to MCV Campus programs must have transcripts sent to VCU Office of Undergraduate Admissions, P.O. Box 980632, Richmond, VA 23298-0632.

All foreign transcripts must be official and submitted in the original language. If the original language is not English, an official translation must be submitted along with the transcript. Alternatively, an official World Educational Services (WES) evaluation may be submitted along with all official transcripts.

Official transcripts must be sent directly by all previously and currently attended schools.

Test scores

Freshman applicants younger than 22 years of age must submit official SAT or ACT scores. GED holders must submit their official GED scores.

Transfer applicants younger than 22 years of age who have earned fewer than 30 semester (45 quarter) hours of college credit must submit SAT or ACT scores.

All traditional and accelerated undergraduate program applicants to the School of Nursing must submit SAT, ACT or GRE scores for all undergraduate programs.

Registered nurses applying for the R.N.-B.S. completion program are not required to submit SAT, ACT or GRE scores, but should submit a copy of their R.N. licensure. Please see supplemental nursing requirements online at www.nursing.vcu.edu.

Applicants whose native language is one other than English should submit scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in addition to any other required test scores.

Essay and personal statement

VCU does not require an essay from applicants unless they are applying for scholarship consideration or to the Film (cinema) B.A. program in the School of the Arts.

Scholarship applicants must write a one- to two-page essay on one of the following topics: 1) Compose "Page 87" of your autobiography. In this essay, be creative, considering where your life story would be at this point. 2) "Education and Life: A Personal Statement." In this essay, discuss your educational goals, including why you wish to study your chosen major.

School of the Arts Film (cinema) B.A. program applicants must submit two essays in addition to the required personal statement. For additional information, visit www.vcu.edu/arts/apply.

All applicants are required to provide a personal statement telling us more about themselves and why they are considering VCU. A space is provided in the Application for Undergraduate Admission. Applicants should decide what VCU needs to know in order to accurately evaluate their application. Please do not repeat information that can be found in the application.

Additional application information

Eligibility for in-state tuition

All students applying to the university who wish to be considered for in-state tuition rates must complete and submit the Application for In-state Tuition form at the time of application. Failure to submit the Application for In-state Tuition will result in assignment of out-of-state tuition rates.

Eligibility for in-state tuition is governed by Section 23-7.4 of the Code of Virginia. In part, this section of the code states that to qualify for in-state tuition rates, a student must establish by clear and convincing evidence that for a period of at least one year prior to the date of alleged entitlement, he/she or the person through whom he/she claims eligibility was domiciled in Virginia and had abandoned any previous domicile, if such existed.

Domicile is defined as the present, fixed home of an individual to which he/she returns following temporary absences and at which he/she intends to stay indefinitely. No individual may have more than one domicile at a time.

Domicile, once established, shall not be affected by mere transient or temporary physical presence in another jurisdiction.

For more information about eligibility for Virginia in-state tuition rates, visit the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Web site at www.schev.edu/students/vadomicileinfo.asp.

Qualifying for academic scholarships

Freshman applicants (and transfer applicants from Virginia Community Colleges with at least 45 semester hours) with superior academic and extracurricular records who wish to be considered for the University Undergraduate Scholarship program, should submit the Application for Undergraduate Admission by Dec. 1. Scholarship applicants are strongly encouraged to apply using the online application, available at www.ugrad.vcu.edu/apply.

Scholarships are awarded to fall semester applicants only. In addition to required application materials, submit a one- to two-page essay (see “Essay and personal statement”). Qualified applicants with completed credentials will automatically be considered and notified if they are to receive an award. There is no additional application for scholarships.

Honors/Guaranteed Admission applicants

A separate application is required for admission into both The Honors College and the Guaranteed Admission programs and is available on The Honors College Web site. For more information, call (804) 828-1803, e-mail honors@vcu.edu or visit the Web at www.honors.vcu.edu.

Applicants with disabilities

VCU is committed to providing students with disabilities equal opportunities to benefit from all programs, services and activities offered. Students with disabilities are responsible for self-identification prior to requesting services and may do so at any time by presenting the appropriate documentation to the coordinator. For more information, call Disability Support Services at (804) 828-2253 or visit the Web at www.students.vcu.edu/dss.

Supplemental application materials

School of the Arts applicants, in addition to submitting the university Application for Undergraduate Admission, also must submit supplemental materials as described online at www.vcu.edu/arts/apply. The School of the Arts application

review committee reviews all applications to programs in the School of the Arts. For additional information, contact the School of the Arts at (804) 828-2787 or toll-free at (866) 534-3201 or visit www.vcu.edu/arts/apply.

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program applicants also must complete a supplemental application. For more information about the B.I.S. call (804) 827-8648.

MCV Campus undergraduate program applicants (clinical laboratory sciences, clinical radiation sciences, dental hygiene and nursing) must complete the departmental application packet for their program. Supplemental materials are available on the Web at www.ugrad.vcu.edu/apply. Please note that all supplemental materials are available online only. All documents should be returned to the addresses listed on the forms.