



# VCU

## Board of Visitors

### ACADEMIC AND HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 21, 2025

The Honorable Benjamin Lambert III Board Room

1213 East Clay Street

Richmond, VA

### MINUTES

**DRAFT**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. V. Dale Jones, *Chair*

Mr. Gurpreet "P2" Sandhu, *Vice Chair*

Hon. Siobhan Dunnivant, M.D.

Dr. Kenneth Lipstock

Dr. Clifton Peay

Mr. Randolph Reynolds, Jr.

Mr. C. J. Sailor

Hon. Todd Haymore, *Rector*

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Rooz Dadabhoy

#### **OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Anthony Bedell

Mr. Steven DeLuca

Hon. Peter Farrell

Ms. Ellen Fitzsimmons

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Michael Rao, *President*

Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos, *Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Marlon Levy, *Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and CEO VCU Health*

Dr. Aaron Hart, *Vice President for Student Affairs*

Ms. Jamie Stillman, *Executive Director of Academic Operations, Office of the Provost*

Presidential Cabinet of VCU

Members of the media

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. V. Dale Jones, Chair of the Academic and Health Affairs Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. The public was able to view the open session of the meeting via livestream at <https://mssvideo.vcu.edu/BOV>.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Dr. Jones asked the committee to consider approving ten items that were provided in advance for review: the committee meeting minutes for December 12, 2024; two academic program proposals; and seven organizational changes. On a motion duly made and seconded, each of the items were approved. The meeting minutes are posted at <https://bov.vcu.edu/meetings/minutes/>. The proposal briefs for the two academic programs and seven organizational changes are attached hereto as ***Attachment A*** and is made a part hereof.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Ms. Chelsea Gray, assistant secretary and board liaison, moved that the Academic and Health Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University convene a closed session under Section 2.2-3711(A)(2) and (11) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for the discussion of matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in scholastic records of students and for the discussion or consideration of special awards, specifically regarding the selection of the Board of Visitors Student Scholarship recipient. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

Following the closed session, the public was invited to return to the meeting. Dr. Jones called the meeting to order. On a motion duly made and seconded the following resolution of certification was approved by a roll call vote:

### **Resolution of Certification**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Academic and Health Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Committee.

<b><u>Vote</u></b>	<b><u>Ayes</u></b>	<b><u>Nays</u></b>
Dr. V. Dale Jones, <i>Chair</i>	X	
Mr. Gurpreet “P2” Sandhu, <i>Vice Chair</i>	X	
Hon. Siobhan Dunnavant, M.D.	X	
Dr. Kenneth Lipstock	X	
Mr. Randolph Reynolds, Jr.	X	
Mr. C. J. Sailor	X	
Hon. Todd Haymore, Rector	X	

Dr. Clifton Peay was absent from the vote. All members present responding affirmatively, the resolution of certification was adopted.

### **OPEN SESSION**

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Fotis Sotiropoulos provided an update on the university's academic enterprise and was joined by Dr. Garret Westlake, vice provost for innovation and strategic design, and Dr. Aaron Hart, vice president for student affairs. Dr. Westlake introduced the new Office of Economic Innovation. Under his leadership, the new office will design strategic partnerships and research-driven training programs that bridge higher education and industry, enhancing student experiential learning and internship experiences, developing leaders who can bring about transformative change, and driving sustainable economic impact. Dr. Hart then provided an overview of VCU's Division of Student Affairs (DSA). DSA serves all VCU students at all levels and ensures they have the resources they need within an environment that is conducive with skill development, well-being, belonging and success - in academics and their careers. A copy of this presentation is attached hereto as ***Attachment B*** and is made a part hereof.

Senior vice president for health sciences and CEO of VCU Health Marlon Levy provided an overview of Health Sciences notables that demonstrate strong enrollment and student success. He also discussed the School of Nursing's new Mobile Health & Wellness program and provided an overview of the potential for the Altria building. Dr. Levy was joined by Kevin Best, associate vice president, VCU Brand Marketing, who provided an update on an initiative to invigorate the branding and marketing of the health sciences schools and campus. A copy of this presentation is attached hereto as ***Attachment C*** and is made a part hereof.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Dr. V. Dale Jones, *Chair*, adjourned the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

**Virginia Commonwealth University Proposed Program Brief  
Proposal to create a Master of Science in Cardiovascular Perfusion**

**Overview**

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) seeks approval to establish a Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Cardiovascular Perfusion, to be offered at the MCV Campus in Richmond, Virginia. The program will be administered by the Department of Nurse Anesthesia within the College of Health Professions.

The purpose of the proposed M.S. in Cardiovascular Perfusion program is to educate and train students in the principles and science of cardiovascular support systems. The curriculum will address the physiological and technical aspects of extracorporeal circulation, emphasizing the operation of heart-lung machines and related equipment used during cardiac and pulmonary surgeries and other medical procedures. Students will gain expertise in hemodynamics, pharmacology, and the body's response to mechanical support. The program will provide students with the knowledge and skills to monitor and maintain cardiopulmonary stability during heart and lung surgeries, manage vital signs, administer medications, and ensure patient safety during surgical procedures. Additionally, students will be trained to make critical, informed decisions in high-stakes surgical environments. Graduates of the program will be well-prepared to sit for the certification examination administered by the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion, equipping them with the qualifications necessary to excel as cardiovascular perfusionists.

**Delivery Format**

The proposed program will be offered in a face-to-face delivery format.

**Target Implementation Date**

Spring 2026

**Demand and Workforce Development**

No data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) or the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) is available for cardiovascular perfusionists. To address this gap, VCU reviewed data for the closest related occupation: cardiovascular technician/technologist (Classification of Instructional Programs [CIP] code 51.0901). Although this occupation differs significantly in scope and training from that of a cardiovascular perfusionist, it serves as a useful proxy. According to Lightcast, this field is projected to experience a 5% growth rate over six years.

**External Competition**

A similar or related degree program does not exist at a public or private institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Target Population**

The target audience for the MS in Cardiovascular Perfusion program includes young professionals with a bachelor's degree in health sciences or a related field, provided they have completed the required prerequisite courses before applying. This program is also designed for



experienced professionals or recent graduates from allied health fields such as nursing, respiratory therapy, exercise physiology, or biology.

### **Impact on Existing Programs**

The proposed M.S. in Cardiovascular Perfusion will not compromise any existing degree programs at Virginia Commonwealth University. No degree programs will close as a result of the initiation and operation of the proposed degree program.

### **Impact on Faculty**

The Department of Nurse Anesthesia includes two full-time faculty members and one adjunct faculty member who will teach courses in advanced anatomy and physiology, foundational pharmacology, clinical topics, and all research/thesis courses in the proposed degree program. Additionally, core faculty from the Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care will teach two required courses.

### **Funding**

The proposed program will require the addition of three faculty members to teach the ten perfusion-focused courses. These positions include two full-time and one part-time faculty appointment within the College of Health Professions. One full-time faculty member with a doctoral degree will serve as the Program Director, while the second full-time faculty member, holding at least a master's degree, will act as the Director of Clinical Education. The part-time adjunct faculty member, a practicing clinical cardiovascular perfusionist, will teach core and required courses. Instructional effort is projected at 1.4 full-time equivalent (FTE) in the 2025–2026 academic year, increasing to 1.7 FTE by 2027–2028.

Approximately \$1 million in funding support, will ensure the recruitment of qualified faculty and the provision of essential resources. Existing institutional resources—including enrollment services, library access, career services, and faculty support services—will further contribute to the program's successful implementation.

### **Alignment with the VCU Mission**

The proposed degree program aligns with the university's mission of excellence in health sciences by preparing a skilled health workforce to address the primary healthcare needs of Virginians. It emphasizes evidence-based practices to enhance healthcare quality and improve lives in diverse communities. The program also highlights interprofessional practices, supporting the university's commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and community partnerships to address complex health challenges. As the only perfusion program in Virginia and the mid-Atlantic region, it represents a significant academic innovation.

### **Next Steps**

- ~~December 10—University Graduate Curriculum Committee (UGC)~~ **Approved**
- ~~January 30—University Committee on Academic Affairs (UC AA)~~ **Approved**
- ~~February 6—University Council (UC)~~ **Approved**
- ~~March 3—President's Cabinet~~ **Approved**
- March 21 - Board of Visitor's Meeting (BOV)
- May 1/July 1 – Submission to SCHEV and SACSCOC respectively

## **Virginia Commonwealth University Proposed Program Discontinuance Brief Proposal to close the Master of Education in Adult Learning**

### **Overview**

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) seeks approval to discontinue the Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree program in Adult Learning (Classification of Instructional Programs [CIP] code 13.1201). The degree is located in the School of Education.

### **Delivery Format**

The program is offered in the traditional, face-to-face format.

### **Target Implementation Date**

The program is scheduled for discontinuation in fall 2025. Following the implementation of a teach-out plan, the program will be fully closed by the end of the fall 2025 semester.

### **Demand and Workforce Development**

Recent enrollment trends and demand for the M.Ed. in Adult Learning have been insufficient to sustain the program. Additionally, most employment opportunities in the field do not require a master's degree. The department believes that the Bachelor of Arts in Human and Organizational Development, approved in 2021, offers broader appeal and aligns more effectively with market demands.

### **External Competition**

Currently, James Madison University is the only other public institution in the Commonwealth offering a similar program, the Master of Science in Education (M.S.Ed.) in Adult Education/Human Resource Development (CIP code 13.1201).

### **Target Population**

A teach-out plan is in place for the 7 students currently enrolled in the M.Ed. in Adult Learning degree program. All students are expected to graduate no later than spring 2025. The last term that students will be able to complete the M.Ed is fall 2025. There are no "stopped out" students.

### **Impact on Existing Programs**

The closure of the M.Ed. in Adult Learning will not disrupt opportunities for students. Those interested in graduate studies in the field can enroll in the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership with a concentration in leadership studies, which allows for 15 credits of concentration-level coursework in Adult Learning.

### **Impact on Faculty**

The closure will not adversely affect faculty or staff. Faculty teaching efforts in the M.Ed. in Adult Learning program will be redirected to other programs, such as the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership or the B.A. in Human and Organizational Development.

### **Funding**

No funding is needed or requested for the discontinuance of the M.Ed. degree program in Adult Learning

### Next Steps

- ~~Oct 23, 2023 – University Graduate Curriculum committee meeting~~ - **APPROVED**
- ~~January 30 – University Committee on Academic Affairs (UC-AA) Meeting~~ - **APPROVED**
- ~~February 6 – University Council (UC) Meeting~~ - **APPROVED**
- ~~March 3 – President's Cabinet~~ - **APPROVED**
- March 21 - Board of Visitor's Meeting (BOV)
- April 15 – Submission for SCHEV and SACSCOC approval

## **Proposed Organizational Change Brief**

Organizational Change: Reorganize the Department of Endodontics and Oral Diagnostic Sciences to establish two departments - the Department of Endodontics and the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences in the School of Dentistry

### **Overview**

Virginia Commonwealth University requests approval to reorganize the Department of Endodontics and Oral Diagnostic Sciences to establish two new departments: 1) the Department of Endodontics and 2) the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences. The departments will be located in the School of Dentistry.

### **Proposed Effective Date**

The proposed effective date is July 1, 2025.

### **Rationale for the Proposed Change**

The purpose of the proposed change is to establish two separate, discipline-specific departments to clarify the distinctiveness of the academic units and support the administrative vision of the departments.

### **Impact on Academic Programs**

Establishment of the Department of Endodontics and the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences will not alter the university's curricular offerings. No academic programs will be changed as a result of the proposed organizational change. The university is committed to maintaining existing curricular offerings and resources to support the needs of the proposed new departments.

### **Impact on Resources**

The university has reviewed existing resources, personnel needs, and academic programs needed to establish the proposed departments. The Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Dentistry have evaluated the resources and determined that the organizational change to establish the proposed departments will not negatively impact the existing resources or academic units in the School of Dentistry.

### **Alignment with the University's Mission**

The reorganization of the Department of Endodontics and Oral Diagnostic Sciences will not alter the university's mission. The proposed organizational change supports the institution's mission. The proposed two new departments will align with the institution's commitment to "Health sciences that preserve and restore health for all people" in each of the disciplinary areas. The proposed two departments will provide "safe, trusting and supportive environment[s]" for faculty and students in the discipline of Endodontics and in the discipline of Oral Diagnostic Sciences.

### **Resources and Funding Plans to Support the Proposed Change**

The proposed organizational change is executable within the currently authorized funds of Virginia Commonwealth University and the School of Dentistry. All current resources

supporting the existing Department of Endodontics and Oral Diagnostic Sciences will be reallocated and used to support the proposed two new departments. No new resources will be requested from the state to establish or operate the proposed two new departments or implement this organizational change.

#### **Next Steps**

- February 27, 2025 University Council Academic Affairs Committee (UCAA)  
**APPROVED**
- March 6, 2025 University Council
- President's Cabinet will vote electronically
- March 21, 2025 Board of Visitors
- April 1, 2025 Submission to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

## **Proposed Organizational Change Brief**

Organizational Change: Rename the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology to the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience in the School of Medicine

### **Overview**

Virginia Commonwealth University requests permission to change the name of the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology to the Department of Neuroscience and Anatomy. The department is located in the School of Medicine. The proposed change will be in name only and will not impact the organizational structure of the university or the School of Medicine.

### **Proposed Effective Date**

The proposed effective date is July 1, 2025.

### **Rationale for the Proposed Change**

The proposed change is intended to reflect the department's academic activities and programs more accurately. The new nomenclature will more accurately reflect that a significant part of the department's academic focus, and the entirety of its research activity, is related to neuroscience. The name change will also assist in aligning with national trends that acknowledge the changes in the scientific field.

### **Impact on Academic Programs**

The proposed organizational change will not impact or alter existing academic programs in the department. No academic programs will be changed as a result of the proposed organizational change to rename the department.

### **Impact on Resources**

The university has reviewed existing resources, personnel needs, and academic programs needed to change the name of the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology. The dean of the School of Medicine has evaluated the resources and determined that the organizational change to rename the department will not negatively impact the existing resources or academic units in the School of Medicine.

### **Alignment with the University's Mission**

The proposed organizational change will not alter the university's mission. The proposed new department name will align with the mission of Virginia Commonwealth University. The proposed name corresponds to the "research that expands boundaries" and "health sciences that preserve and restore health for all people" that embodies VCU and is an integral part of the department.

### **Resources and Funding Plans to Support the Proposed Change**

The proposed name change is executable within the department's currently authorized funds. There will be no changes regarding the department's faculty or support resources. Costs for expenses such as signage (internal to the building), paper products, and marketing are anticipated at \$7,500 and will be accommodated by the

department's funds. No resources will be requested from the state for the proposed name change.

**Next Steps**

- February 27, 2025 University Council Academic Affairs Committee (UCAA)  
**APPROVED**
- March 6, 2025 University Council
- President's Cabinet will vote electronically
- March 21, 2025 Board of Visitors
- April 1, 2025 Submission to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

## **Proposed Organizational Change Brief**

Organizational Change: Reorganize the three DePillars departments into one department in the School of the Arts

### **Overview**

Virginia Commonwealth University requests approval to reorganize the Department of Craft and Material Studies, the Department of Painting and Printmaking, and the Department of Sculpture and Extended Media to establish the Department of Fine Arts.

### **Proposed Effective Date**

The proposed effective date is July 1, 2025.

### **Rationale for the Proposed Change**

This proposed reorganization creates a single academic unit to administer three existing programs. This consolidation will improve budget management, scheduling, research opportunities, student services, and technical facilities, ultimately benefiting both students and faculty. The advantages include increased administrative efficiency, unified resources, and cost savings.

### **Alignment with the University's Mission**

This proposed reorganization supports the university's mission by fostering creative endeavors and interdisciplinary research and cultural production. Aligning with VCU's mission, it will create a Department of Fine Arts, enhancing existing partnerships and collaborations. A shared administrative structure will strengthen the School of the Arts' engagement with the city and region, building on existing interdisciplinary courses. This streamlined department will advance VCU's strategic plan, *Quest 2028*, by supporting student and faculty research and facilitating experiential learning in the arts. The consolidation will enable interdisciplinary research, teaching, and civic engagement by eliminating the duplication of effort.

### **Impact on Academic Programs**

The proposed organizational change will not alter or change any existing degree programs in the School of the Arts. No changes will be made to the other departments in the school as a result of the reorganization of the three existing departments to establish one department. The proposed change will impact existing units only in an administrative capacity with reporting to a single Fine Arts Chair. The existing Senior Director, Academic Advisor, Administrative Affairs Coordinator, Academic Affairs Coordinator, and a building manager will be part of the team which supports this new position. Faculty will see limited change in this realignment as the chair will continue to meet with them, convene student and faculty events and meetings, and run the administrative side of the three programs. Students will be able to meet with the Chair of Fine Arts and the chair will continue to work on behalf of the students in the Department of Fine Arts.



### **Impact on Resources**

The university has reviewed existing resources, personnel needs, and academic programs, and the dean of the School of the Arts has evaluated the resources and determined that the organizational change to reorganize three departments into one will not negatively impact the existing resources or academic units in the School of the Arts.

### **Resources and Funding Plans to Support the Proposed Change**

This proposal establishes a 10-month Chair of Fine Arts, eliminating individual chairs for the three existing departments. The resulting cost savings will fund additional support positions, potentially including area heads or coordinators, with minimal financial impact. While a new Academic Affairs Coordinator for the consolidated department has been considered, the position is not yet finalized.

### **Next Steps**

- February 27, 2025 University Council Academic Affairs Committee (UCAA)  
**APPROVED**
- March 6, 2025 University Council
- President's Cabinet will vote electronically
- March 21, 2025 Board of Visitors
- April 1, 2025 Submission to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

## **Proposed Organizational Change Brief**

Organizational Change: Reorganize the Department of Theatre and the Department of Dance and Choreography into one department in the School of the Arts

### **Overview**

Virginia Commonwealth University requests approval to reorganize the Department of Theatre and the Department of Dance and Choreography to establish the Department of Theater and Dance.

### **Proposed Effective Date**

The proposed effective date is July 1, 2025.

### **Rationale for the Proposed Change**

This proposed reorganization creates a single academic unit to administer four existing academic degree programs and three minors. A merger of the Department of Theatre and the Department of Dance and Choreography into a single department is a logical step, reflecting a common trend in higher education. Both disciplines are collaborative art forms centered on movement, a key element for emotional expression, character development, and audience engagement. Combining the programs will create richer interdisciplinary learning opportunities for students, expanding their career prospects by allowing them to explore diverse production roles. This consolidation will also facilitate cross-programmatic faculty appointments and collaborative research initiatives. Many current faculty and staff are already qualified to teach courses across both disciplines, particularly in technical theater, choreography, and musical theater. Furthermore, a single department requires only one chair, streamlining leadership. Finally, with both programs slated to reside in the new CCIA building in 2027, physical co-location makes administrative unification both feasible and efficient. The advantages include increased administrative efficiency, unified resources, and cost savings.

### **Alignment with the University's Mission**

This proposed reorganization supports the university's mission. VCU's commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement, as articulated in its *Quest 2028* plan, aligns perfectly with the creation of the new Department of Theater and Dance. This combined department will foster innovation and creative expression by offering expanded interdisciplinary and inter-programmatic courses, allowing students to explore diverse cultural and community-based works through various performance mediums. Students will benefit from access to a wider range of courses within the department, enriching their learning experience beyond the limitations of the previous two separate departments. The unified faculty will deliver a robust curriculum, enabling cross-programmatic study and preparing students for future careers. Critically, a single department will empower students to develop critical thinking and communication skills across verbal, visual, spatial, and kinesthetic languages, fulfilling Quest 2028's goal of curriculum transformation. This expanded training will open up new career opportunities in the performing arts that blend theatrical and dance expertise.

### **Impact on Academic Programs**

The proposed organizational change would not alter or change any existing degree programs in the School of the Arts. The Department of Theatre currently offers three degree programs: (1) the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, (2) the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, and (3) the Master of Fine Arts in Theatre. The department also offers two minors: (1) minor in Theatre and (2) minor in Musical Theatre. The Department of Dance and Choreography currently offers one degree program: the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and Choreography and one minor: the minor in Dance and Choreography. The program would remain in the proposed new Department of Theater and Dance.

The proposed change will impact existing units only in an administrative capacity with reporting to a single Theater and Dance Chair. Faculty will see limited change in this realignment as the chair will continue to meet with them, convene student and faculty events and meetings, and run the administrative side of the three programs. Students will be able to meet with the Chair of Theater and Dance, and the chair will continue to work on behalf of the students in the Department of Theater and Dance.

### **Impact on Resources**

The university has reviewed existing resources, personnel needs, and academic programs, and the dean of the School of the Arts has evaluated the resources and determined that the organizational change to reorganize two departments into one will not negatively impact the existing resources or academic units in the School of the Arts.

### **Resources and Funding Plans to Support the Proposed Change**

This proposal establishes a Chair of the Department of Theater and Dance, eliminating individual chairs for the two existing departments.

### **Next Steps**

- February 27, 2025 University Council Academic Affairs Committee (UCAA)  
**APPROVED**
- March 6, 2025 University Council
- President's Cabinet will vote electronically
- March 21, 2025 Board of Visitors
- May 1, 2025 Submission to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

## Proposed Organizational Change Brief

Organizational Change: Rename the Department of Chemical and Life Science Engineering to the Department of Chemical, Biomolecular, and Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering

### Overview

Virginia Commonwealth University requests permission to change the name of the Department of Chemical and Life Science Engineering to the Department of Chemical, Biomolecular, and Environmental Engineering. The department is located in the College of Engineering. The proposed change will be in name only and will not impact the organizational structure of the university or the College of Engineering.

### Proposed Effective Date

The proposed effective date is July 1, 2025.

### Rationale for the Proposed Change

The proposed change is intended to reflect the department's academic activities and programs more accurately. The new nomenclature will more accurately reflect the department's academic focus and its faculty's research activity. The name change will also assist in aligning with national trends that acknowledge the changes in the engineering field.

### Impact on Academic Programs

The proposed organizational change will not impact or alter existing academic programs in the department. No academic programs will be changed as a result of the proposed organizational change to rename the department.

### Impact on Resources

The university has reviewed the name change's impact on resources, personnel, and academic programs. The Engineering dean has determined that the renaming of the department will not negatively affect existing resources or academic units within the college. The proposed name change requires no additional expenses or new positions. It will not affect department administration, support staff, or space. It is anticipated that the name change will have a positive impact on undergraduate and graduate recruitment for both the department and the College of Engineering. Website updates and other minor changes will be handled by existing staff as part of their regular duties, with costs covered by the department and college. VCU and the College of Engineering have sufficient resources to implement the name change.

### Alignment with the University's Mission

The proposed name change to the **Department of Chemical, Biomolecular, and Environmental Engineering (CBE)** can strongly support the mission and the strategic goals of *Quest 2028* through its focus on innovative, interdisciplinary research and its commitment to addressing real-world challenges. By aligning with the goals of *Quest*

2028, the department can significantly contribute to VCU's broader mission of transformation and societal impact.

### **Resources and Funding Plans to Support the Proposed Change**

There will be an initial one-time expenditure of \$5,000 for the purchase of stationary, business cards, signage (internal to the building), and other supplies associated with the proposed name change. This cost will be accommodated by departmental operating funds. The costs for publicity and promotion will be accommodated by the existing marketing budget of the Office of the Dean in the College of Engineering. No new resources will be requested from the state to initiate or sustain the organizational change to rename the Department of Chemical, Biomolecular, and Environmental Engineering.

### **Next Steps**

- February 27, 2025 University Council Academic Affairs Committee (UCAA)  
**APPROVED**
- March 6, 2025 University Council
- President's Cabinet will vote electronically
- March 21, 2025 Board of Visitors
- April 1, 2025 Submission to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

## **Proposed Organizational Change Brief**

Organizational Change: Reorganize VCU Life Sciences and the Department of Biology into the School of Life Sciences and Sustainability within the College of Humanities and Sciences

### **Overview**

Virginia Commonwealth University requests approval to establish the School of Life Sciences and Sustainability within the College of Humanities and Sciences. The new school will be populated with faculty and staff who currently reside in the College of Humanities and Sciences' Department of Biology and VCU Life Sciences. All existing academic programs in these two units will be moved to the new school, as is, and the Department of Biology and VCU Life Sciences will both be closed.

### **Proposed Effective Date**

The proposed effective date is February 1, 2025.

Note. This submission was approved by SCHEV on January 13, 2025. SCHEV updated its guidelines in January 2025 to require that all organizational changes be approved by the institution's governing board. To remain in compliance with SCHEV guidelines, the Board of Visitors must approve the change by July 1, 2025.

### **Rationale for the Proposed Change**

The purpose of the proposed organizational change is to establish an academic unit responsible for administering and overseeing biological, environmental, life, and sustainability sciences academic programming, research, and other relevant initiatives at Virginia Commonwealth University. The establishment of the School of Life Sciences and Sustainability will enhance the student experience by providing complementary disciplines in one school while strengthening the collaborative efforts among faculty and staff. The proposed school will maintain curricula offerings while increasing fiscal and administrative efficiency. Establishing the proposed school will create a learning environment that better contributes to the education and workforce needs of the Commonwealth.

### **Alignment with the University's Mission**

The establishment of the School of Life Sciences and Sustainability will not alter the university's mission. The proposed new school will align with the mission of Virginia Commonwealth University. The establishment of the school provides an academic unit that will allow for greater "interdisciplinary collaboration" among faculty and staff that integrate social sciences, earth sciences, and quantitative and computational data sciences with molecular and cellular biology, evolution, and ecology. The proposed school will expand "boundaries of new knowledge" in multiple areas of life science and sustainability. The proposed school will serve as a focal point for teaching and research involving diverse aspects of life sciences that focus on improving the quality of human life.

### **Impact on Academic Programs**

The proposed organizational change will not alter or impact the existing degree programs offered by the College of Humanities and Sciences or the university. VCU Life Sciences offers six degree programs, and the Department of Biology offers two degree programs. The eight degree programs would be relocated to the proposed School of Life Sciences and Sustainability. No academic programs will be changed as a result of the proposed organizational change. The university is committed to maintaining existing curricular offerings and resources to support the needs of the proposed new school.

### **Impact on Resources**

The university has reviewed existing resources, personnel needs, and academic programs needed to implement the change. The Office of the Provost and the Office of the Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences have evaluated the resources and determined that the organizational change to establish the proposed School of Life Sciences and Sustainability will not negatively impact the existing resources or academic units in the College of Humanities and Sciences or at the university.

### **Resources and Funding Plans to Support the Proposed Change**

Resources needed for new faculty positions will be covered by a reallocation of funds in the existing budget of the Office of the Provost and the Office of the Dean in the College of Humanities and Sciences. Projected costs are anticipated at \$900,805 for three new faculty. Resources for two new administrative hires are estimated at \$167,640 and will be covered by a reallocation of funds in the existing budget of the Office of the Dean in the College of Humanities and Sciences. Costs for expenses such as signage (internal and external to the building) will be accommodated by the Office of the Dean in the College of Humanities and Sciences' existing budget for campus facilities. The College of Humanities and Sciences will cover costs for marketing, anticipated at \$6,000 and all other costs totaling \$240,000 associated with the establishment and maintenance of the proposed department. Resources needed for all other costs will come from existing funds in the budget of the Office of the Dean. No new resources will be requested from the state to establish or operate the proposed School of Life Sciences and Sustainability or implement this organizational change.

### **Next Steps**

- February 27, 2025 University Council Academic Affairs Committee (UCAA)  
**APPROVED**
- March 6, 2025 University Council **APPROVED**
- President's Cabinet will vote electronically
- March 21, 2025 Board of Visitors
- April 1, 2025 Submission to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
  - This submission was approved by SCHEV on January 13, 2025. SCHEV updated its guidelines in January 2025 to require that all organizational changes be approved by the institution's governing board. To remain in compliance with SCHEV guidelines, the Board of Visitors must approve the change by July 1, 2025.



## **Proposed Organizational Change Brief**

Organizational Change: Reorganize the Division of Urology in the Department of Surgery into the Department of Urology in the School of Medicine

### **Overview**

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) requests approval to establish the Department of Urology. The department will be located in the School of Medicine.

### **Proposed Effective Date**

The proposed effective date is February 1, 2025.

Note. This submission was approved by SCHEV on January 13, 2025. SCHEV updated its guidelines in January 2025 to require that all organizational changes be approved by the institution's governing board. To remain in compliance with SCHEV guidelines, the Board of Visitors must approve the change by July 1, 2025.

### **Rationale for the Proposed Change**

The purpose of the proposed organizational change is to establish an academic unit that is directly responsible for the administration and oversight of clinical urology operations, education, research and resources at VCU. The proposed Department of Urology will align the unit with guidelines from the American Urological Association, as well as Virginia Commonwealth University's State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) peer institutions. The proposed new department will provide visibility and support to urology programming at the institution. The proposed Department of Urology will establish a standalone unit separate from the Department of Surgery and will demonstrate the university's commitment to urology studies.

### **Alignment with the University's Mission**

The establishment of the Department of Urology will not alter the university's mission. The proposed department will align with Virginia Commonwealth University's mission. The proposed new department will address the "challenges" that the current unit faces regarding the distinction between a division and a department. The proposed organizational change will improve the unit's ability to "seek the cause and cure" of urological diseases.

### **Impact on Academic Programs**

Establishment of the proposed Department of Urology will not alter the curricular offerings of the university or the School of Medicine. There are no degree programs administered by the Division of Urology located in the Department of Surgery. No academic programs will be changed as a result of the proposed organizational change. The university is committed to maintaining existing curricular offerings and resources to support the needs of the proposed new department.



### **Impact on Resources**

The Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and the Dean of the School of Medicine, have evaluated the resources and determined that the organizational change to establish the proposed department will not negatively impact the existing resources or academic units in the School of Medicine.

### **Resources and Funding Plans to Support the Proposed Change**

The organizational change to establish the Department of Urology is executable within the currently authorized funds of Virginia Commonwealth University and the School of Medicine. All existing resources in the Division of Urology in the Department of Surgery will be reallocated and used to establish and support operations of the proposed department. Resources will be needed in the first three years of operation to hire 11 new positions.

The organizational change to establish the Department of Urology is executable within the currently authorized funds of Virginia Commonwealth University and the School of Medicine. All existing resources in the Division of Urology in the Department of Surgery will be reallocated and used to establish and support operations of the proposed department. Resources will be needed in the first three years of operation to hire 11 new positions. Resources for six new administrative hires are estimated at \$933,764 and will be accommodated by funds reallocated from the Dean's Office in the School of Medicine. Resources for one new faculty hire are estimated at \$543,560 and will be accommodated by funds reallocated from the Dean's Office in the School of Medicine. Resources for four additional positions are estimated at \$480,435 and will be accommodated by funds reallocated from the Dean's Office in the School of Medicine. The Office of the Senior Vice President of Health Sciences and funds reallocated from the School of Medicine will cover all other costs associated with the establishment of the proposed department. Costs for expenses such as print materials and marketing are anticipated at \$7,500 and will be accommodated by the Office of the Dean in the School of Medicine. No new resources will be requested from the state to establish or operate the proposed new department or implement this organizational change.

### **Next Steps**

- February 27, 2025 University Council Academic Affairs Committee (UCAA)  
**APPROVED**
- March 6, 2025 University Council
- President's Cabinet will vote electronically
- March 21, 2025 Board of Visitors
- April 1, 2025 Submission to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
  - Note. This submission was approved by SCHEV on January 13, 2025. SCHEV updated its guidelines in January 2025 to require that all organizational changes be approved by the institution's governing board. To remain in compliance with SCHEV guidelines, the Board of Visitors must approve the change by July 1, 2025.

# Provost's Report

Fotis Sotiropoulos, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

VCU Board of Visitors

Academic and Health Affairs Committee

March 21, 2025



# Garret Westlake, Ph.D.

Associate Vice Provost for Innovation and Strategic Design

<https://vcuinnovation.my.canva.site/>





# The VCU Student Experience

VCU Board of Visitors

Academic and Health Affairs Committee

March 21, 2025

**Aaron Hart, Ed.D.**

Vice President for Student Affairs



# VCU Division of Student Affairs

250 full-time employees in 15 departments serving ALL VCU students

undergraduates  
**21,563**



first  
professionals  
**1,468**

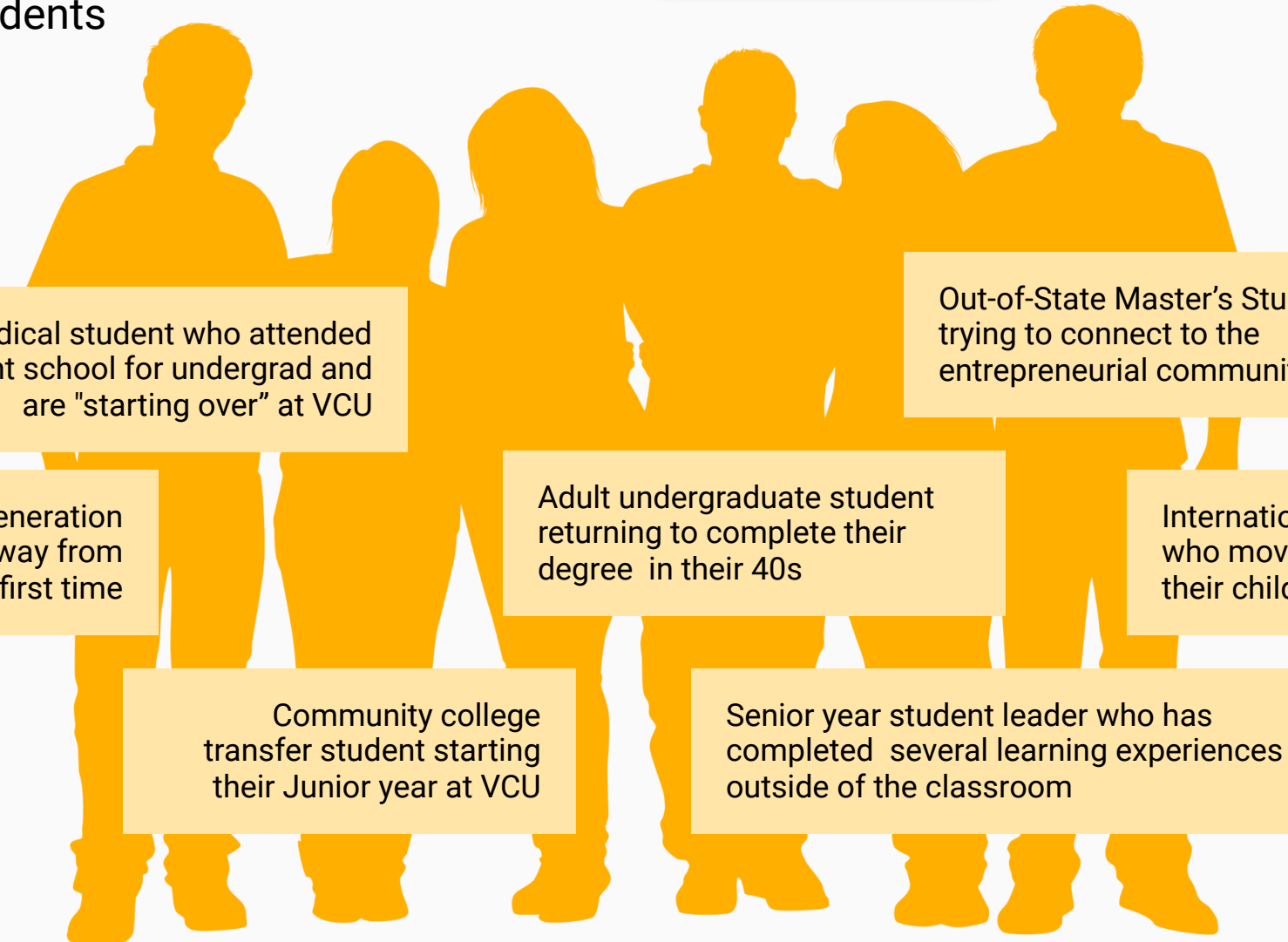
graduate  
students  
**5,800**

- Full-time and part-time undergraduate
- Graduate and first professional
- On-campus and off-campus residents
- In-person and remote learners



# VCU Division of Student Affairs

Serving ALL VCU students



1st year medical student who attended a different school for undergrad and are "starting over" at VCU

Out-of-State Master's Student who is trying to connect to the entrepreneurial community in RVA

Freshman and first-generation college student living away from home for the first time

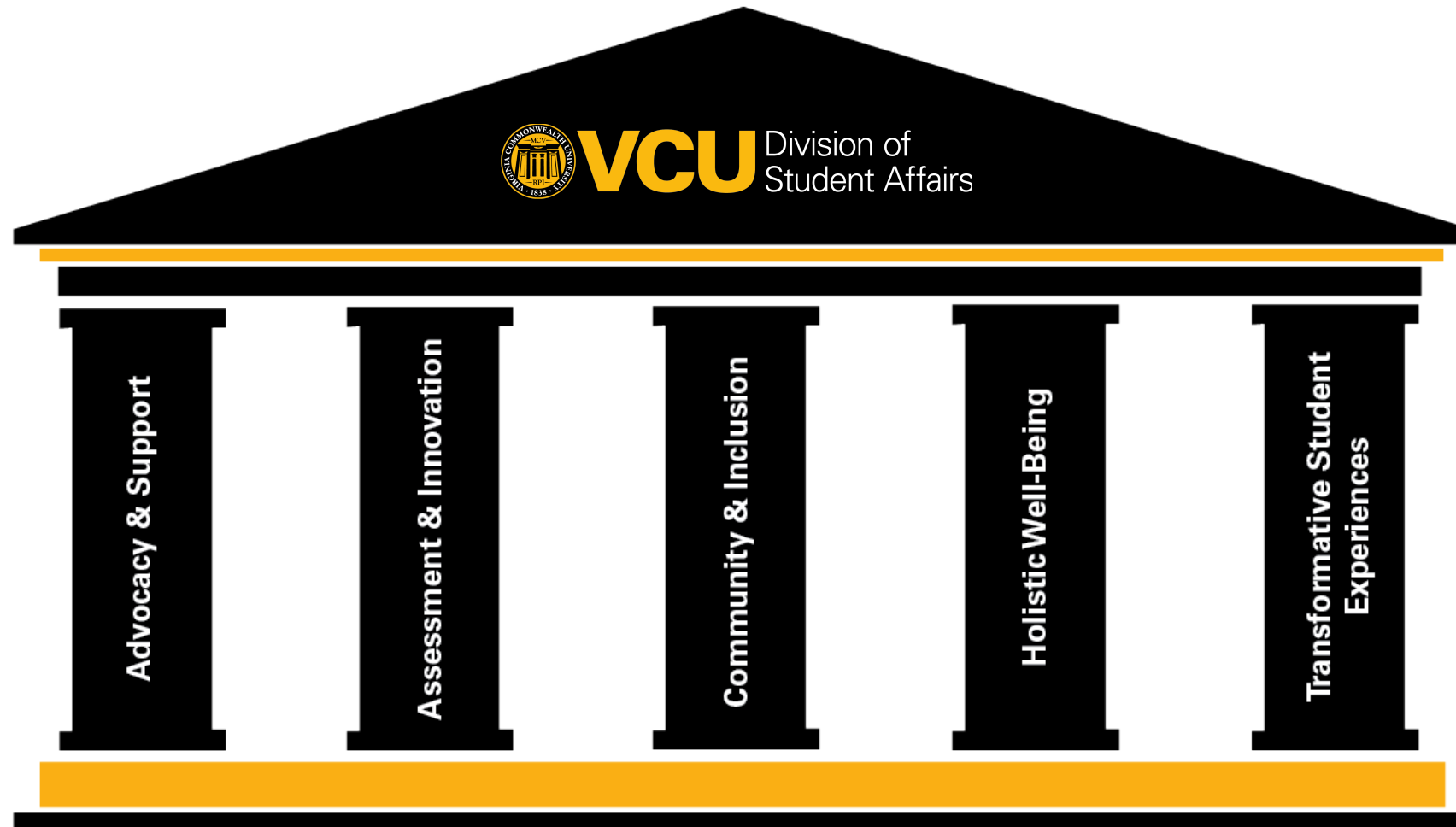
Adult undergraduate student returning to complete their degree in their 40s

International doctoral student who moved to the US with their children to attend VCU

Community college transfer student starting their Junior year at VCU

Senior year student leader who has completed several learning experiences outside of the classroom

# VCU Division of Student Affairs: Strategic Pillars



# Advocacy and Support

Dean of Student Advocacy & Office of Student Advocacy (OSA)

OSA responds to concerns directly connected to a student's ability to remain enrolled at VCU:



**Financial  
challenges**



**Basic needs  
insecurities**



**Academic  
support**



**Well-being  
concerns**



**Interpersonal  
conflicts**





# Advocacy and Support

OSA's impact by the numbers

Student concerns addressed

**4,356**

Student-staff interactions

**10,924**

Students served

**3,715**

Student emergency fund applicants

**392**

Ram Pantry visits

**6,446**

Ram Pantry users

**1,355**

Persistence rate for students served by OSA resources

**77%**

# Assessment and Innovation

Start, Stop, Continue annual process using data to tell our story and make informed budgetary decisions

## Student Surveys

- **New student experience survey**
- **Weeks of Welcome experience survey**
- **Student involvement and outcome survey**
- **RamsConnect user experience survey**
- **Student organization leader experience survey**
- **Student employee experience survey**

## RamsConnect

DSA database for engagement data

2023-2024 usage numbers:

- **511 events**
- **47,659 event registrants**
- **8,256 in captured attendance**



# Community & Inclusion

facilities by the numbers

Student activities, recreation and wellness facilities

1.5M

Total traffic

Residence Halls

11

Residents

6,000

Occupancy rate

99%

Fall 2023 census



# Community & Inclusion

We know that VCU students who live on-campus earn GPAs that are 10% higher than their peers. They are also four-to-five-percentage-points more likely to persist from their first to second years of study.

**On-Campus vs. Off-Campus GPA - Fall 2023**

Class Year	On-Campus	Off-Campus
First year	2.9	2.56
Sophomore	3.24	2.96
Junior	3.17	3.06
Senior	3.37	3.2
<b>Total Average</b>	<b>3.17</b>	<b>2.94</b>

**First-year to Sophomore Retention\***

Year	On-Campus	Off-Campus
2018-2019	84%	78.9%
2019-2020	84%	78.8%
2020-2021	83.7%	80.7%
2021-2022	84.8%	82.8%
2022-2023	85.7%	81.9%
2023-2024	86.3%	82.6%

\*Retention rates of on campus vs. off campus (past 6 years). This is the on-campus retention data for first-year to sophomore year for the last 6 years.

# Holistic Well-Being

**22,031** total visits at University Student Health Services

**9,852** total attended appointments at University Counseling Services

**3,926** total usage of Timely Care resources including individual therapy appointments, talk now, and health coaching

**3,098** students registered with the Office of Student Accessibility & Educational Opportunity (SAEO)





# Transformative Student Experiences

Unique Peer Leaders

599

Student organization leaders

1,247

Student employees

927

hours of work by student employees in DSA roles

267,000

average persistence rate of students involved in campus organizations

91%

hours of community and service engagement by VCU Transform & Emerging Leaders participants

8,935



**VCU** Division of  
Student Affairs

# Meet The Students

A LOOK AT STUDENT LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

View video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v35CFiwHG6fbMSMG4TjEZ-2CT-7cPYkw/view?usp=sharing>

# Discussion



# Academic and Health Affairs Committee Report

March 2025

Marlon F. Levy M.D. MBA  
SVP, VCU Health Sciences



# VCU Health Sciences Brand Update

Kevin Best

Associate Vice President, Brand Marketing  
Enterprise Marketing and Communications

# Health Science Strategic Brand Messaging Hierarchy

## Crystallizing the story

- conduct stakeholder conversations (deans, staff/faculty, communicators and students) to understand our most differentiating benefits to derive a single compelling 'UN' value proposition

## Articulating the story

- prioritizing target audiences and appropriate messaging strategies

## Mapping the experience

- provide a high-level marketing outline with a mix of strategies and tactics



VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

WE ARE THE **UN**COMMON.

[Give](#)

The Office of the Senior Vice President for  
Health Sciences

[About](#)

[Academic Operations](#)

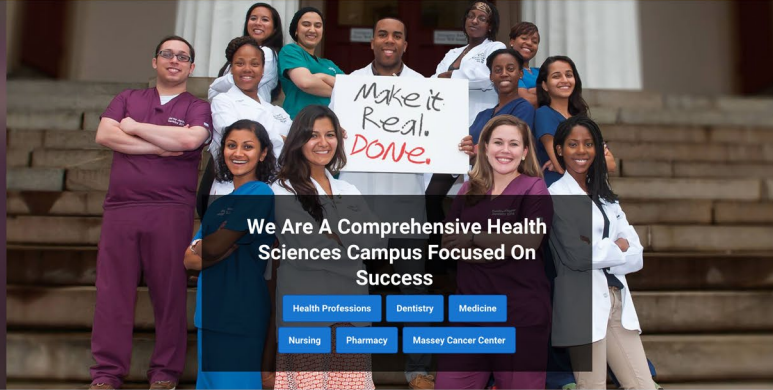
[Faculty Affairs](#)

[Finance and Admin](#)

[Interprofessionalism](#)

[Student Initiatives](#)

[A-Z](#)



## We Are A Comprehensive Health Sciences Campus Focused On Success

[Health Professions](#)

[Dentistry](#)

[Medicine](#)

[Nursing](#)

[Pharmacy](#)

[Massey Cancer Center](#)

### Health Sciences Academic Operations

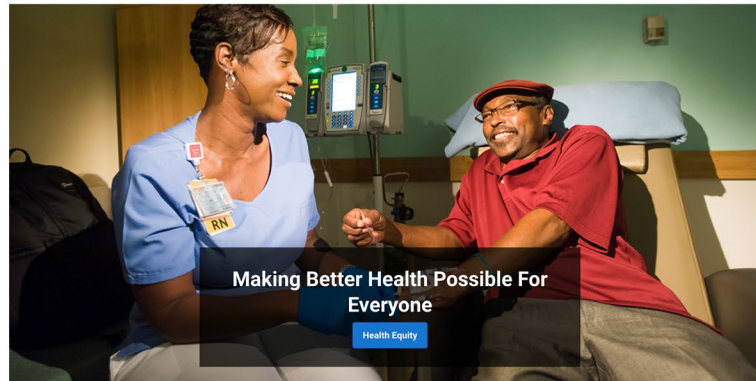
- [Instructional space reservation](#)
- [Clinical Coordinators Corner \(eID required\)](#)
- [Health professional learner responsibilities](#)

### Health Sciences Diversity Initiatives

- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Framework](#)
- [History and Health](#)
- [Student Initiatives](#)

### Health Sciences Resources

- [Budget and finance - database portal](#)
- [Faculty affairs](#)
- [Finance and administration](#)
- [Human resources](#)



## Making Better Health Possible For Everyone

[Health Equity](#)



[Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care](#)



[VCU Health](#)







VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

WE ARE THE UNCOMMON. [Give](#)

THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
Health Sciences

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Division for Academic  
Success

Diversity P.A.T.H.S.

Office of Student  
Engagement

FOCUSED ON  
SUCCESS

Health Professions Dentistry Medicine Nursing Pharmacy Public Health Massey Cancer Center

Academic Operations

- [Instructional space reservation](#)
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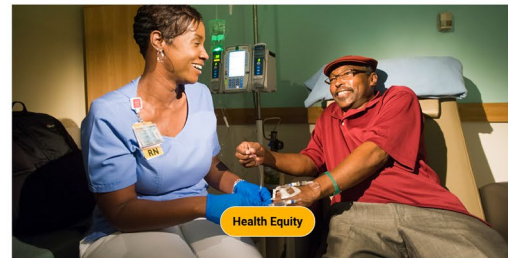
Diversity Initiatives

- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Framework](#)
- [History and Health](#)
- [Student Initiatives](#)

Resources

- [Budget and finance - database portal](#)
- [Faculty affairs](#)
- [Finance and administration](#)
- [Human resources](#)
- [Campus security](#)

MAKING  
better  
health possible  
FOR  
everyone



# Health Sciences Notables

# Strong Enrollment and Student Success



## School of Nursing

**100** Nursing Students  
Added this Spring  
First-time NLCEX (RN)  
pass rates in 2024: **95%**  
First-time Nurse  
Practitioner board  
certification pass rates:  
~ **95%**



## School of Pharmacy

Bachelor of Science in  
Pharmaceutical Sciences  
(BSPS) Program

- **27** current BSPS majors  
in first year of soft  
launch
- More than **200**  
applicants for Fall 2025
- Accelerated  
BSPS/PharmD program  
approved to increase  
efficiency while  
decreasing costs



## School of Dentistry

**98% and 97% pass  
rates** for national clinical  
board examinations in  
prosthodontics and  
endodontics (highest  
scores in the nation)



## School of Public Health

Since school's founding,  
MPH program has  
grown **more than 24%**

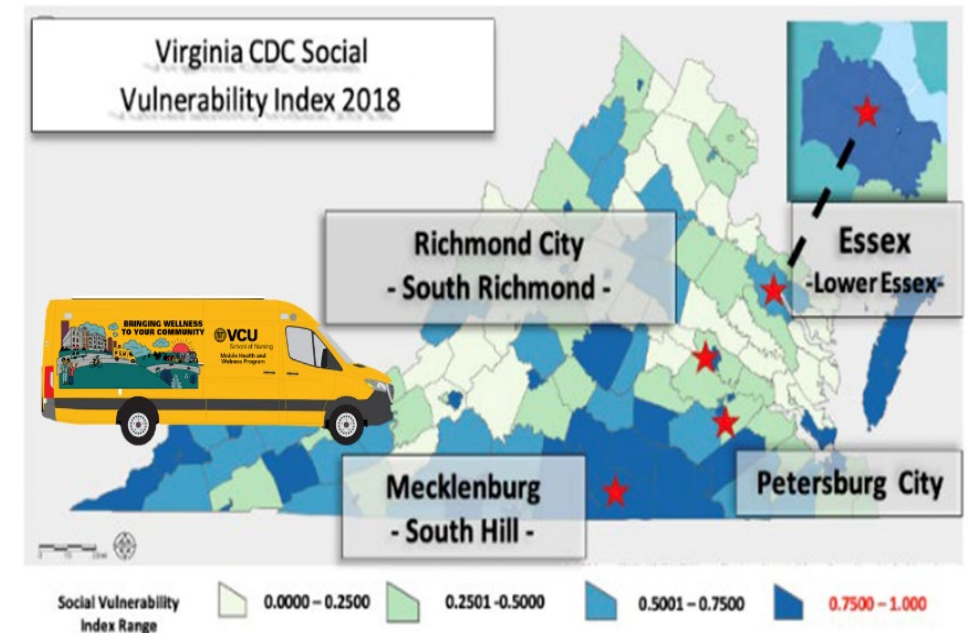
# VCU School of Nursing Mobile Health & Wellness Program





# VCU School of Nursing

## Mobile Health & Wellness Program

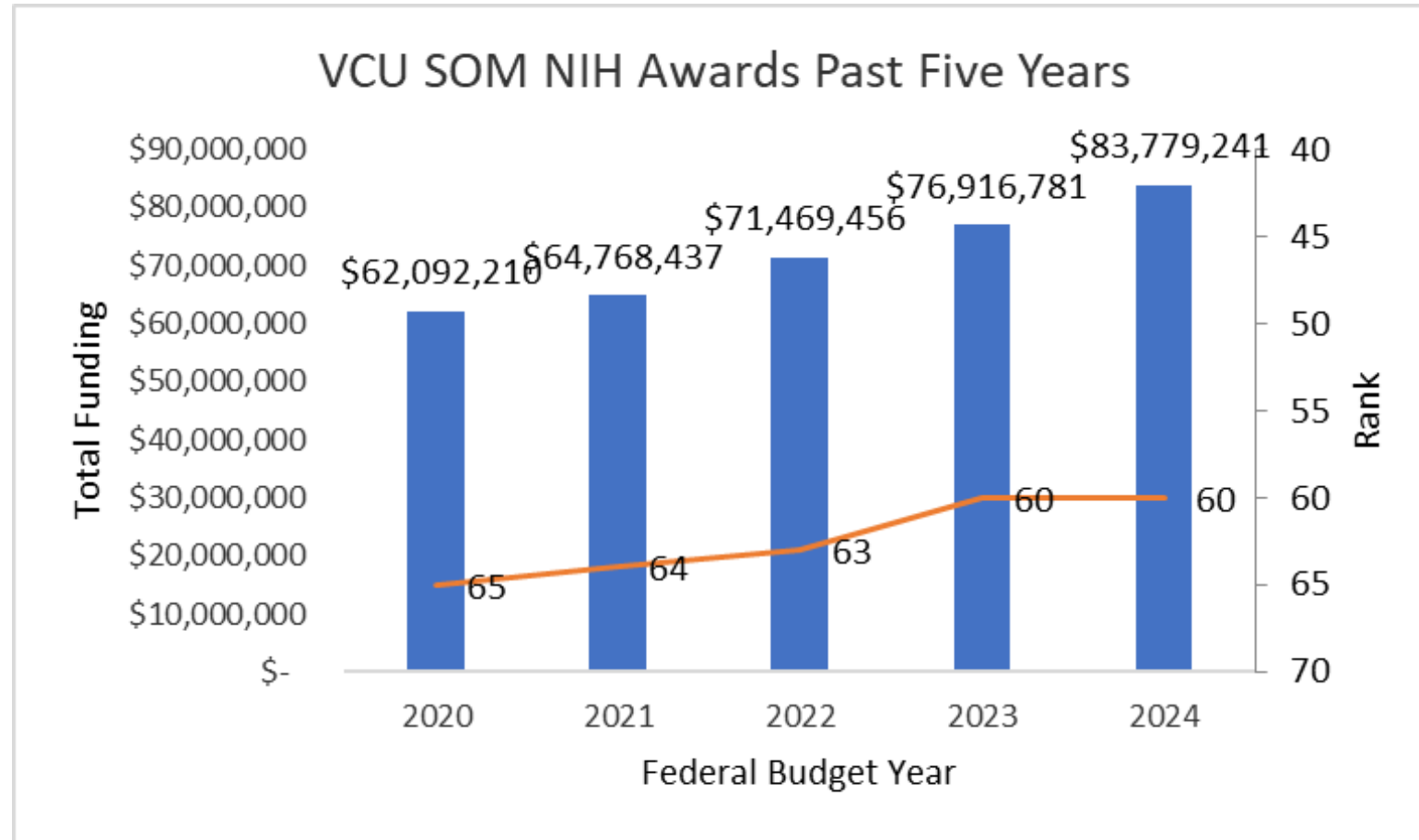


# Altria Research Building

- 450,000 SF, 9-story research facility;
- 350,000 SF, 9-level parking deck;
- 25,000 SF central utilities building
- Pedestrian bridge between the buildings.
- Buildings consist of research laboratories, kitchen, dining areas, work areas, fitness center, offices and support spaces



# Blue Ridge Ranking - School of Medicine



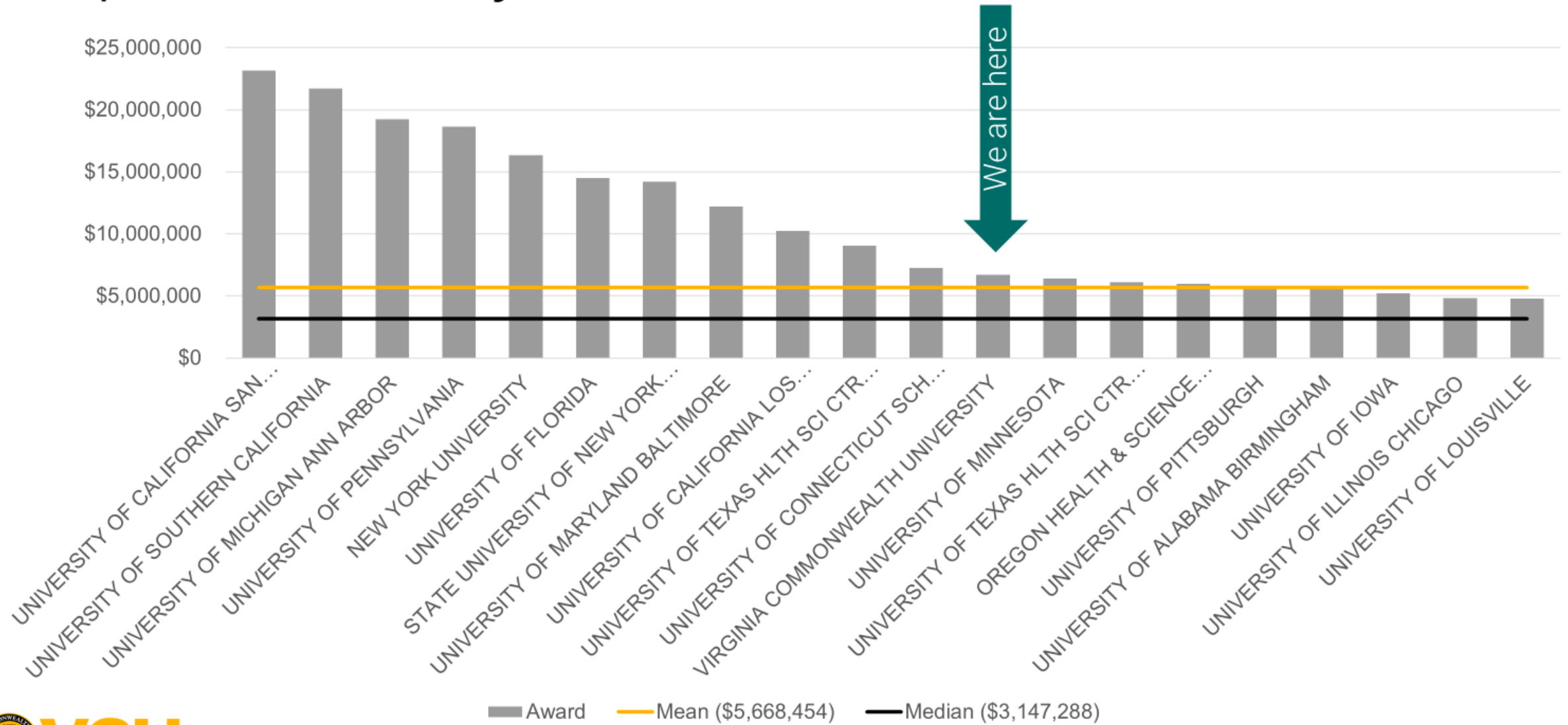
# Blue Ridge Ranking - School of Dentistry

From the BLUE RIDGE INSTITUTE for MEDICAL RESEARCH as  
compiled by Robert Roskoski Jr. and Tristram G Parslow

[BRIMR.ORG](http://BRIMR.ORG)

Rank	School of Dentistry	Award
1	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO	\$23,165,190
2	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	\$21,686,615
3	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ANN ARBOR	\$19,219,683
4	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	\$18,634,267
5	NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	\$16,344,130
6	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	\$14,521,323
7	STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK BUFFALO	\$14,203,405
8	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE	\$12,212,105
9	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES	\$10,248,034
10	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HLTH SCI CTR HOUSTON	\$9,057,748
11	UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SCH OF MED/DNT	\$7,262,538
12	VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY	\$6,680,166
13	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	\$6,405,826
14	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HLTH SCI CTR SAN ANTONIO	\$6,116,110
15	OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY	\$5,964,186
16	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH	\$5,736,385
17	UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA BIRMINGHAM	\$5,596,257
18	UNIVERSITY OF IOWA	\$5,212,191
19	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO	\$4,817,267
20	UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE	\$4,786,936

# Top 20 Dentistry Schools



# Discussion