

Dear Hokies,

Thank you all so much for your cooperation and flexibility as together we venture into the virtual environment during these challenging times. We recognize that this is a stressful time and that many of you may be taking on additional family obligations as a result of the pandemic and may have a variety of financial and food-security concerns. The [Office of Undergraduate Academic Integrity](#), the [Office of Student Conduct](#), and [the Office of the Dean of Students](#) are here to assist and support you in any ongoing issues related to academic integrity and student behavior, as well as to assist you in locating other necessary support. Please review the following information to learn more about how we can help and to recommit yourself to demonstrating the highest levels of academic and personal integrity as we navigate this crisis together as Hokies.

Academic Integrity

The Office of Undergraduate Academic Integrity remains fully committed to protecting the value of the Virginia Tech degree and to protecting the hard work of every Hokie working to earn that degree. Regarding your online learning environment and upcoming assignments, we would like to offer a few guidelines for being successful in your coursework and mitigating any academic integrity issues:

- Review the directions to each assignment carefully in your syllabus. Be sure you understand the expectations of your faculty member related to collaboration. If you are unclear (especially about how class policies apply in this new learning environment), please e-mail your faculty member directly and allow them up to 48 business hours respond. Remember they are navigating this new learning environment and balancing commitments too.
- If you need additional time on an assignment, please e-mail your faculty before the assignment is due with your request. Faculty members have the ability to review such requests, and while it is not guaranteed that a request will be granted, it may be taken under advisement.
- If your faculty member or TA is offering virtual office hours, attend them. Take the time to connect with your instructor and ask any questions about material and assignments. They miss the time together with their students.
- Take advantage of any online materials offered by your faculty.
- Set aside time to study in each course, write any papers, and take any exams – plan your week ahead of time, including allowing time for the unexpected to occur.
- Take time to review the university policies related to [Academic Integrity](#). You may contact our office at 540-231-9876 or e-mail HonorSys@vt.edu with any questions between 9 am and 4 pm Monday – Friday.

Personal and Community Integrity

As Hokies, we would like to remind you of and emphasize the need for respect within our community, whether it be with those with whom you are residing, following the CDC guidelines in our communities in Blacksburg or your hometown, or in your online learning environment with your faculty members. We would like to emphasize that the policies and community expectations outlined in the *Hokie Handbook* and the Principles of Community apply to you wherever you go: once a Hokie, always a Hokie—in person or online. To continue being

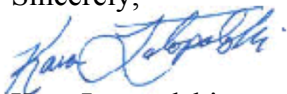
successful in your academic courses, please consider the following guidelines regarding behavior:

- Be respectful of your fellow students and faculty members in your classes. If you would not engage in certain behaviors while attending an in-person class, you should not engage in those behaviors in an online environment. In particular, consider how you communicate in online forums for your courses: if you are used to posting on social-media sites or forums like Reddit, you may need to recalibrate your approach and language for a more academic audience. Additionally, elaborate on your thoughts while posting to discussion posts – context is not easily understood online.
- Do not provide Zoom information to other students who are not taking the class. Showing up or posting within a Zoom session that is not your own could be referred for potential violations of policy.
- Demonstrate empathy for your fellow Hokies and community members – this is a difficult time for everyone, and we are all in this together.
- Follow the directions of faculty members and university administrators.
- Review [the Student Code of Conduct in the Hokie Handbook](#).

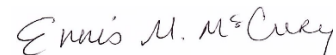
If you have concerns about another student’s behavior and believe that it may violate the *Student Code of Conduct*, please contact [Student Conduct](#) at studentconduct@vt.edu or 540-231-3790. You may also contact the [Dean of Students](#) with concerns about [bias-related incidents](#) or to receive support or resources to help you navigate your academic and personal challenges during this public-health crisis. You can reach the Dean of Students at dean.students@vt.edu or 540-231-3787.

In conclusion, please show us how you Hokie! Being a Hokie is about demonstrating that you act with integrity and kindness both in and outside of the classroom. We expect the very best from our community – we know that you do too! Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Kara Latopolski
Director, Office of Undergraduate Academic Integrity



Ennis McCrery
Director, Office of Student Conduct



Byron Hughes, Ph.D.
Dean of Students