

V I R G I N I A U N I O N U N I V E R S I T Y



A C A D E M I C P R O G R A M S

## VIRGINIA UNION MISSION STATEMENT

Virginia Union University, nourished by the African American heritage and energized by a commitment to excellence, provides a nurturing, intellectually challenging and spiritually enriching environment. Virginia Union University develops scholars, leaders, and lifelong learners who attain their maximum potential to become contributing members of a global society.

Seeking to empower students, the University provides dynamic academic and support programs that help students develop strong moral values to build a foundation for success. The University offers a broad range of educational opportunities while advancing its focus on teaching, research, science, and technology, as well as adult continuing education, civic engagement, and distance education.

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## THE SCHOOL OF BASIC, APPLIED SCIENCES, AND TECHNOLOGY

The School of Basic, Applied Sciences, and Technology houses some of the most popular majors at Virginia Union University, including Criminology and Criminal Justice, Psychology, Biology, and Chemistry. The School's mission is to provide advanced knowledge in technology and the sciences, thereby making students highly competitive whether they choose to enter graduate school or pursue one of the many career opportunities that await them.

The School is composed of creative and enthusiastic educators with doctorates in their areas of specializations, as well as real world experiences. Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice faculty serve on the boards of local, regional, and state criminal justice commissions and organizations.

Students also benefit from a cooperative agreement with the Richmond, Virginia Police Academy, located on the Virginia Union campus. Most of the required criminal justice courses are taught in the Police Academy Building and students have many internship opportunities with local and regional law enforcement agencies.

The Department of Mathematics, also housed in the School, recently opened a new computer laboratory featuring Maple software. Maple is an advanced mathematics and computer algebra software package for solving mathematical problems and creating interactive technical applications. In addition, a grant funded by the Keck Foundation has allowed the Department of Psychology to revise its curriculum and to develop three new classrooms equipped with cutting edge technological resources.

Research plays a major role in the Department of Natural and Physical Sciences. The Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) program enables Virginia Union students to conduct summer research at some of the top research centers in the country. The goal of the program is to increase the number of minority students completing Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degrees in the biomedical sciences. The MBRS RISE program also provides student research experiences, as well as supplemental instruction, which includes structured group study sessions, study strategies, questioning techniques, and test preparation.





## MAJORS

Biology

Chemistry

Criminology/Criminal Justice

Mathematics

Psychology

## SYDNEY LEWIS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Combining the best of liberal arts and business administration, the Sydney Lewis School of Business offers diverse faculty strengths, allowing students a variety of specialties from accounting to computer information systems, finance and banking to entrepreneurial management, and marketing. The high caliber of the graduates of the Sydney Lewis School of Business reflects the success of the School's highly trained faculty who are committed to maintaining academic excellence through rigorous preparation.

With an average class size of 25, students receive individualized attention and a variety of knowledge delivery methods, including lectures, discussions, case studies, and group projects. Faculty members encourage students to participate in the Accounting Club, the Computer Information Systems Club, Phi Beta Lambda, the Marketing Club, and the Honda All Star Program. The school's central location in Richmond, the state capital of Virginia, allows for unparalleled interaction and cooperation with local businesses and government entities.

The School's Management Resource Advisory Council (MRAC) includes civic and business leaders from the Greater Richmond community. An articulation agreement with the Graduate College of Union University in Schenectady, New York allows Virginia Union business graduates to complete their MBA in one additional year. In addition, an agreement with Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia allows students who wish to sit for the Uniform Certified Public Accountant's (CPA) Exam to be admitted to the Master of Accountancy degree program.

The Sydney Lewis School of Business is accredited by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs.





## MAJORS

Accounting

Computer Information Systems

Entrepreneurial Management

Finance and Banking

Marketing

# SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

With 95% of its faculty possessing doctoral degrees and considerable teaching experience, the School of Education and Interdisciplinary Studies has received national recognition for its programs. The School seeks to develop educators who embrace student learning as their primary commitment. The School encourages scholarly inquiry based on reflective analysis in a search for excellence, stable values, and a sense of personal wealth in multicultural educational settings. The exceptional group of faculty and cooperating teachers from area Richmond schools provide the optimal mix of challenging academic coursework and guided classroom experience.

A unique feature of the school is its Praxis Support Program, which is designed to prepare students for state-required assessments. Many student education associations are also available, including the Student Education Association, Kappa Delta Pi, Council on Exceptional Children, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The School also offers a Weekend College Program of Professional Studies leading to licensure endorsements approved by the Virginia Department of Education. The areas which the program endorses are: elementary grades Pk-6; secondary education grades 6-12 (English, history/social studies, mathematics, biology, chemistry, business); and Exceptional education K-12 (LD, ED, MR). Several hundred students, including teachers and individuals wanting to become teachers, enroll in various courses in the program on a yearly basis.

The School of Education and Interdisciplinary Studies is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. The School's job placement rate for students completing all requirements of the Teacher Education Program is nearly 100%.





## MAJORS

- Interdisciplinary Studies: Elementary Education
- Interdisciplinary Studies: Exceptional Education
- Secondary Education:
  - Biology
  - Business
  - Chemistry
  - English
  - History
  - Mathematics

## SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences is an extraordinary center of creativity, inquiry, and discovery. Dedicated and experienced faculty teach courses that explore the world's cultural and social foundation. A vibrant literary and performing arts tradition enriches the minds and hearts of the entire Virginia Union community. Study in the arts and humanities provides a solid foundation for a wide spectrum of career opportunities, including law, mass communications, academia, industry, government, and social services.

The School is home to the University's state-of-the-art television studio, television production laboratory, and campus radio station. In addition, the Department of Media Arts works with students on the production of a student newspaper, providing Media Arts majors with valuable practical experience both on and off campus. The University's Richmond, Virginia location provides excellent internship experiences at a wide variety of media outlets, as well as creates excellent field placement opportunities for Social Work and Public Administration majors.

As the oldest undergraduate school in the University, it has always been the mission of the School of Humanities and Social Services to "build in men and women" by treating each student as a unique and distinct individual. Faculty in the School feel their commitments to students extend far beyond graduation day.

The Virginia Union University Museum originated in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Museum has an extensive collection of African, African American, and Oceanic art. The Virginia Union University Concert Choir and the University Players are also proud to be a part of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, each year providing cultural programming to the Greater Richmond community.





## MAJORS

English

Media Arts

Political Science and Public Administration

Religious Studies

Social Work

## SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES

Virginia Union University's total commitment to the academic success of each of its students recently led to the formation of the School of General Studies (SGS). Through a comprehensive and sustained academic experience, the School provides freshmen and sophomores with a solid General Education Core and targeted academic and advising services.

The School's Academic Empowerment Center (AEC) provides a myriad of support services to enhance the academic experience. Students progress through the School's Transition Points Requirements which map the necessary steps for achieving their desired academic goals. Support services include college survival skills, at-risk intervention, and advising and course scheduling via the Freshman Institute and the Sophomore Experience.

The Office of Academic Support Services for Student Athletes (ASSSA) is also located in the School of General Studies, providing academic advising, at-risk intervention, mentoring, and tutoring for athletes and transfer students.

Additional enrichment programs, workshops, tutorials, disability services, and required testing for freshmen and sophomores can be found in the Center for the Advancement of Academic Excellence (CAAE). The Honda All-Star Program, a national academic scholarship competition, is also housed in this Center.





## S E R V I C E S

Advising  
College Orientation  
Course Scheduling  
Enrichment Program  
Freshman Institute  
General Education Core Courses  
Probationary Students  
Sophomore Experience  
Tutoring  
Supplemental Instruction  
Transfer Students

## SAMUEL DEWITT PROCTOR SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Virginia Union University's two graduate degree programs are located in the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology. The School is a center of convergence where things come together: head and heart, preparation and praise, church and academy, pulpit and pen, scholarship and spirituality, reflection and action. In this place of intersection, minds are stretched, excellence is pursued, gifts are cultivated and people are transformed.

The School of Theology offers the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees with flexible learning alternatives for professional adult students that include class offerings on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, as well as Saturday mornings. Students may also study in a more traditional program with daytime classes.

The graduate faculty members are highly competent, well published, and knowledgeable in their diverse theological disciplines. Their research degrees, scholarly publications, and leadership roles in scholarly associations indicate a high level of proficiency in teaching and scholarship.

Students at the School reflect a cross-section of larger church denominational bodies, including nearly a dozen denominations. Some students are second-career learners with previous graduate degrees in other disciplines, such as medicine, law, education, business, and politics.

Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology graduates are making their mark both nationally and internationally as they lead churches, provide vision for denominations, initiate community-based organizations to affect change in grass root communities and serve in diverse ministry contexts.

The School is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.





## COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

Washington Theological Consortium  
Richmond Theological Consortium

## CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Evans-Smith Leadership Program  
Church Leadership Conferences  
Annual John Malcus Ellison Convocation

# VIRGINIA UNION PROFILE

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Virginia Union University was founded in 1865 to give newly emancipated slaves an opportunity for education and advancement. The University is the result of the merger of four institutions: Richmond Theological Seminary, Wayland Seminary, Hartshorn Memorial College, and Storer College.

Richmond Theological Seminary held classes in Richmond, Virginia at Lumpkin's Jail, a former holding cell for runaway slaves. During the same time, Wayland Seminary was founded by the American Baptist Home Mission Society in Washington, D.C.

Two years later, in 1867, Storer College was founded in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, and in 1883, Hartshorn Memorial College opened its doors in Richmond as the first college for African American women.

After three decades of operating independently, Richmond Theological Seminary and Wayland Seminary merged on February 11, 1899 to form Virginia Union University. Later, in 1932 and 1964, respectively, Hartshorn Memorial College and Storer College became a part of this union.

Today, Virginia Union University has the distinction of being one of the oldest historically black universities in the South.

## UNIVERSITY ACCREDITATION

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

## PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATIONS

Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs

Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada

Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

## STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO

17 to 1

## LIBRARY

The L. Douglas Wilder Library and Learning Resource Center houses a composite of materials, including 171,156 volumes of books and documents. The library also includes 46,691 e-books, 75,573 microforms, and 3,081 audiovisual materials. The Virginia Union University Museum, the L. Douglas Wilder Collection, and historical documents from previous presidents of the university are also found in the library.



COBURN HALL  
Virginia Union University

### **Administrative Offices**

Academic Affairs (804) 257-5606  
Admissions - Graduate (804) 257-5724  
Admissions - Undergraduate (804) 342-3570  
Athletic Department (804) 342-1484  
Financial Aid - Graduate (804) 354-5924  
Financial Aid - Undergraduate (804) 257-5882  
Registrar's Office -Graduate (804) 278-4134  
Registrar's Office -Undergraduate (804) 257-5845  
Residence Life – (804) 257-5608  
Student Accounts – (804) 257-5775  
Student Activities – (804) 257-5879  
Student Affairs – (804) 257-5875

### **School Of Basic, Applied Sciences & Technology**

Main Number - (804) 257-5681  
Biology (804) 257-5610  
Chemistry (804) 257-5610  
Psychology (804) 342-5942  
Natural & Physical Sciences (804) 257-5610  
Mathematics (804) 257-5662  
Criminology & Criminal Justice (804) 257-4550

### **Sydney Lewis School Of Business**

Main Office - (804) 257-5710  
Accounting - (804) 257-5704  
Business Management – (804) 257-5801  
Computer Information Systems - (804) 257-5801  
Entrepreneurial Management - (804) 257-5801  
Financial & Banking - (804) 257-5801  
Marketing - (804) 257-5801

### **School Of Education And Interdisciplinary Studies**

Main Office - (804) 257-5742  
Exceptional Education – (804) 257-5738  
Secondary Education – (804) 257-5683  
Elementary Education - (804) 257-5683

### **School Of Humanities And Social Sciences**

Main Office - (804) 342-5942  
English (804) 257-5635  
Social Work (804) 342-5942  
Religious Studies (804) 342-5942  
Communication & Media Arts (804) 257-5635  
Political Science & Public Administration (804) 342-5942

### **School Of General Studies**

Main Office - (804) 342-3885  
Academic Empowerment Center (804) 342-3885

### **Samuel Dewitt Proctor School Of Theology**

Main Office - (804) 257-5715

# Proud Heritage. Bright Future.



At Virginia Union University, history comes alive everyday.  
You can see it in the architecture in our buildings,  
learn about it in our classes and see it in the success of our alumni.  
But Union also is about looking toward the future.  
Our small classes, personal attention and nurturing environment  
give our students the foundation to succeed.  
It's what makes Virginia Union different.



**Virginia Union University**  
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