



The **School of Humanities and Social Sciences** is the largest school at Virginia Union University, with seven departments and offering nine majors*. We also teach many of the general education core courses such as English, Humanities, Fine Arts, Geography, History, Political Science, Sociology, Religion, Philosophy, Spanish, French, and Speech/Vocal Diction.

The **Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice** is the largest department in the University and offers a B.A. in Criminology/Criminal Justice as well as two minors, including Criminology/Criminal Justice and Legal Studies. The department has a unique partnership with the City of Richmond Police Department whose training academy is on the grounds of Virginia Union. Many of the Department's courses are taught at the academy. The department has plans to offer an "Inside-Out" course in the near future, which affords college students an opportunity to participate in a college course with inmates in a jail and/or prison setting. The department also offers a wide variety of internship opportunities for its students and sponsors two organizations on campus, including Lambda Alpha Epsilon, a chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association, and Alpha Phi Sigma, a chapter of the National Criminal Justice Honor Society.

The **Department of Fine Arts*** is our newest department and degree program, offering a BFA in Fine Arts. Students will choose primary and secondary disciplines from among the following: (Music/Visual Arts); (Music/Theatre); (Theatre/Visual Arts); (Theatre/Music); (Visual Arts/Music), or (Visual Arts/Theatre). The Virginia Union University Choir performs two major concerts each year during the fall and spring semesters. Likewise there are two theatrical performances each year. Student art exhibits coincide with the theatre performances. We have a Pep Band that performs at most sports events, and students who choose a musical instrument(s) for their music studies perform in the band.

The **Department of History/Political Science** offers a B.A. degree in History/Political Science. Additionally, in cooperation with the School of Education, we offer a degree in History and Social Science with Secondary Education Certification for students who have chosen teaching as their profession. The department advises two organizations, The Model United Nations and the Pre-Law Society. The students in these organizations take excursions to Washington, D.C. and New York to witness firsthand the workings of our political system and the United Nations. On the Virginia Union campus, the Department of History/Political Science collaborates with John Marshall School of Law in Chicago, to give opportunities for students interested in the legal profession, to participate in mock trials on the Virginia Union campus. During Black History Month, students in this Department participate annually in programs related to the history of slavery and civil rights in the United States, and the role Virginia Union played, and continues to play, in the fight for justice in the United States and abroad.

The **Department of Languages and Literature** offers a B.A. degree in English as well as a degree in English with Secondary Education Certification for students who have chosen teaching as their profession. The Department has customized text books for the first year writing program.

To attract and retain students, the department has and is continuing to expand its course offerings. For example, this academic year we offer Black Science Fiction writers, Creative Writing, and Hip Hop and the Spoken Word. Each semester, the Department will host a major event to showcase the Humanities. Future plans include working with other departments within the University to include a certification in Black Studies.

The Department of Mass Communications offers a B.A. degree in mass communications. The Department offers courses in writing techniques for print journalism; copyediting; visual communications; communications law, the black press, public relations and ethics. We are currently establishing a specific sequence in Public Relations/Advertising. The department has state-of-the-art television cameras and editing equipment, as well as a television news anchor studio in Wilder Library. Students learn how to record and edit for television news broadcasts. Additionally our radio station WVUU 88.1 FM, is being reconfigured to broadcast through the university's internet website, for Union alumni and friends who will be able to listen to the station world-wide on the internet. The university's tabloid student newspaper, The Informer is written and edited in departmental classes. Students must take an internship prior to graduation and, recently, students have interned with CNN in Washington D.C, at CBS TV channel 6 in Richmond and with local and regional print publications and radio stations.

The Department of Religious Studies offers a B.A. degree in Religious Studies. We provide students with a full Religious Studies curriculum with an Africana-centered focus. Our biblical study courses present current, cutting edge biblical research. We also offer courses dealing with women, that cover the lives and culture of women in biblical times, womanist, feminist and mujerista writings. We also teach Contemporary Trends in Theology, using the work of prominent scholars. We are the only HBCU in the state that offers Biblical Hebrew on the undergraduate level. We also offer courses in Philosophy that prepare students to move forward into many careers that require the skills that training in Philosophy enables them to attain. We aim to open up our students to the reality that philosophy is not solely Euro-centric. We offer our majors exposure to Africana scholars who are gifted philosophers. Although we are a small department, once they complete our program, our students are able to go to Ivy League graduate schools and succeed because of the training we give them. We are the conduit through which many of our students go in order to enter into the graduate program at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology here at Virginia Union University. We work hand and hand with them to ensure that our students, when they enter are able to excel. The Department of Religious Studies began with the inception of the University and to this day it remains at the heart of the University.

The Department of Social Work offers the BSW professional degree that allows students, upon graduation, to use the title of Professional Social Worker. This program is accredited by the Counsel on Social Work Education. All students are required to complete a 400 hour field placement internship in their senior year. These internships provide students with hands-on experience working on-site at local agencies providing the front-line training necessary to enter the workforce immediately after graduation. The BSW degree also prepares students to further their education with graduate studies in order to receive a Master's Degree in Social Work

(MSW). Students participate in activities related to National Social Work month, "Rally in the Valley", an annual conference offered to BSW students in the Commonwealth of Virginia and participation with various community based activities sponsored and encouraged by the Social Work Club.

*The Department of Fine Arts and the BFA degree program are targeted to begin in the Fall 2011 semester, following approval by the University President and the Board of Directors.