XT: Explore Technology

Launching Students into Technology-Based Majors at Virginia Tech
THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY

One absolute is the power of technology and its role in fueling the jobs of today and tomorrow. For self-proclaimed techies, as well as those of you who enjoy learning about technology, but unsure of the career path possibilities...

Allow us to introduce Virginia Tech’s XT: Explore Technology Program.

True to its name, for the first two years, you will take several courses that will help you find the technology-based majors/careers that match your skills, value, and goals before declaring your major.
WHAT XT CAN DO FOR YOU?

Be bold, curious, and never stop answering the question, “What is next?” You will have a distinct edge to getting a job that grows with you. There are job titles that don’t even exist today that you can be the first in the company to hold.

We have designed a program that will allow you to do all this, while also deepening your skillset in the sought-after areas of computer programming and software, data analysis, information management, and design creativity.

TECHNOLOGY-BASED MAJORS

Here is a little taste of the technology-based majors, focused on looking outside the realm of engineering, awaiting you: environmental informatics, meteorology, sustainable biomaterials, multimedia journalism, computer modeling, and music technology. There are many more to explore!

PREDICTED TECH JOB GROWTH

12%

Ride the technology wave! The Labor Department predicts that technology jobs will grow at a 12-percent rate, which is faster than the average for all jobs this decade. These jobs also boast the lowest unemployment rates.
The XT path: get going.

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS WITH DISCOVERING YOUR INTEREST AND STRENGTHS IN THREE PRIMARY AREAS, COUPLED WITH AN ACADEMIC ADVISING SUPPORT SYSTEM, TO SET YOU UP FOR THE BEST SUCCESS.

1 COMPUTATIONAL FOUNDATION:
Two courses in programming and/or use of productivity software

2 COMPUTATION AND DATA ANALYTICS:
Two courses in statistics and data management

3 CREATIVE APPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY:
One course focused on design creativity and another on the use of technology and data analysis in majors and career fields

THE XT FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE
You will also enroll in a First-Year Experience course to introduce you and set the foundation for technological majors.

Higher-than-average graduation rate

83%

Money Magazine noted Virginia Tech as “a leader in using technology to teach—and have fun,” and lauded the university’s “unusually high graduation rate of 83 percent. This is 12-percent higher than the average for its peers.”
HOW IT WORKS

The XT Program is a portal to many of Virginia Tech’s four year degree programs. During the first one-to-two years, you will explore a range of courses to learn about technology-based majors and careers. You will be also exposed to unparalleled field experiences in the university’s premiere high technology environments—including the Biocomplexity Institute and Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology, offered through the First-Year Experience course.

Upon completion of the first one-to-two XT Program years, you will be ready to choose your major to complete your four-year degree.

SALARY PREMIUM

Show me the money! Research has shown that graduates with a liberal arts degree, coupled with advanced skills in computer programming and data analysis and management, will be eligible for 20-percent more jobs and a salary premium of more than $10,000.

XT
(1–2 years)

39
Majors
Welcome to your majors.

YOUR FUTURE AWAITS. THE WORLD NEEDS YOUR DRIVE, YOUR IDEAS, AND YOUR SOUND SOLUTIONS TO CHAMPION THE DIGITAL WORLD.

WORLD'S POPULATION WILL LIVE IN CITIES

60%

One of the next big targets of the digital age is the city. The combination of technology paired with physical infrastructure and services can simplify the lives of residents. This is the ideal time for such technology, since more than 60 percent of the world's population will live in cities by 2050, according to a report from Cisco Systems.
INTEGRATED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MAJORS:
- Biochemistry
- Computer Modeling and Data Analytics
- Dairy Science
- Food Science and Technology
- Geography
- Geosciences
- Meteorology
- Microbiology
- Nanoscience
- Neuroscience
- Statistics
- Sustainable Biomaterials
- Systems Biology
- Water: Resources, Policy, and Management

CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES MAJORS:
- Creative Technology in Art
- Fashion Merchandising and Design
- Industrial Design
- Interior Design
- Multimedia Journalism
- Music Technology Emphasis
- Professional and Technical Writing
- Residential Environments and Design
- Theatre Arts
- Visual Communications Design (Graphic Design)
- Urban Affairs/Smart Cities

INFORMATION SCIENCE AND SYSTEMS MAJORS:
- Accounting and Information Systems
- Business Information Technology
- Environmental Informatics
- Geography
- Management
- Meteorology
- Packaging Systems and Design

DETECTION SCIENCE AND DATA ANALYTICS MAJORS:
- Agribusiness
- Agricultural Sciences
- Applied Economic Management
- Computer Modeling and Data Analytics
- Economics
- Environmental Informatics
- Finance
- Mathematics
- Management
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Statistics
- Sociology

GRADUATE MEDIAN SALARY

Virginia Tech’s Career and Professional Development tracks students’ employment and pay in the six months following graduation. Students graduating in 2014–15 reported a median salary of $58,000.
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