THE PATHFINDER
NEWS AND EVENTS FOR PATHWAYS SCHOLARS
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Click on the compass link in any story to be taken to a web page for more information.

PATHWAYS APPLICATIONS

The application for new applicants to the Pathways for Future Engineers Programs at Virginia Tech is now live. Participants in this program must be a Virginia resident and entering grades 10th, 11th, or 12th in the fall of 2023. Participation in this program is limited to potential first-generation college students meaning that neither parent graduated from a four-year higher education institution or equivalent institution in the United States or abroad.

ADMISSION’S ESSAY WRITING

Yes, admissions looks at one’s academic performance, extra-curricular activities, but when scanning through applications and reading applicants’ essays, admissions receive many exemplary applications in regards to academic performance and achievement. What makes an applicant stand out from another, is their responses to the application’s short-essay questions. At Virginia Tech, there are four short-answer question/prompts in which applicants are required to answer to submit their application.

Essay prompts are in-line with Virginia Tech’s motto Ut Prosim, that I may serve. Admissions wants to be able to understand who you are as a student within your writing, and you are an example of Ut Prosim.

2022-2023 Ut Prosim Prompts

Essay Writing Tips from Grace Blount

PATHWAYS PROFILE: JOHANN RUIZ

"Hello! My name is Johann Ruiz, and I’m a junior studying software systems in computer engineering with a minor in computer science. Born and raised in Midlothian, Virginia, I learned about Pathways during my junior year of high school. I was in an intro to programming and my friend, Chris Barfield. He brought up Virginia Tech and he started telling me about a pre-college program called RISE that allowed him to go to campus for the spring game and other events at Virginia Tech. He told me that I should apply for it since it targets people in minority groups, so I looked it up and applied. After applying, I saw on the website information about Pathways. After seeing that the requirement was being a first-generation student, I had to google search what this was to see if I qualified. Once I found out I was one, I applied that night."

"Pathways opened my eyes to what being in college looks like and its benefits. I learned more about the various engineering majors too. Pathways brought me so many connections to Hokies even before becoming a student. I got my undergraduate research opportunity from Pathways since I connected with the same professor from Pathways when I started on campus freshman year. Pathways continue to support their scholars once they become students, whether they go into engineering or not."

Johann Ruiz - Midlothian, Virginia Junior - Computer Engineering
**MAKER & MATH MONDAYS**

All Pathways Scholars are invited to join us on Monday evenings from 7 pm-8 pm over Zoom.

**Maker Mondays** is working on the building of "outlaw" Pinewood Derby Cars and later, SoLART - an art creation using solar power.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**
- November 7th
- November 28th

Additionally, we are offering homework help for math on Zoom as part of **Math Mondays** on select Mondays at 7 pm. If you are taking any type of math and would like help, join the Zoom for help from engineering students in our Galipatia program!

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**
- November 14th

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**VT SCHOLARSHIP CENTRAL**

Virginia Tech's Scholarship Central is available to current AND prospective students. Upon submitting your admission's application to Virginia Tech, you'll get an email with instructions on setting up your Admission's Portal credentials. Once complete, you may login to the Virginia Tech Scholarship Central system [link is embedded on the compass].

1. Complete the General Application.
2. Filter through the thousands of scholarships available and apply!

* Complete the FAFSA by January 22, 2023 and the Scholarship Central's General Application for more financial consideration [priority deadline].

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**FALL VISITATION INFO**

Seniors and family members in the Pathways Program may be eligible to attend Fall Visitation hosted by University Admissions on November 12th and 13th, 2022. **Students participating in Fall Visitation get an early decision from Undergraduate Admissions on their application.** Lodging is provided to all Pathways for Future Engineers families.

CEED will provide additional, optional programming on Saturday, November 12th prior to the 4PM check in. This includes campus/Hoge Hall tours at 11AM, a welcome reception and box lunches at 12PM an Outlaw Pinewood Derby competition from 1PM - 2PM for students who participate in the Maker Mondays program this fall.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

*Deadline for registration has passed

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**WHAT'S UP WEDNESDAYS!**

What's Up Wednesdays is an weekly Zoom meeting from 7pm to 8pm on Wednesdays to answer your questions on a variety of topics related to attending college at Virginia Tech. See below for the list of upcoming topics:

- **November 9th** - An overview of Graduate School
- **November 16th** - Community College Transfer Options

All sessions are on Zoom, zoom link is on the compass.