



Academic Life
at **VCU**

A student wearing safety goggles and a lab coat is working in a laboratory. They are using a laser that emits a bright green beam. The background shows various lab equipment and a blue wall.

Academic Life

at

VCU

Academic Life at VCU

Arrive Ready Series | VCU Engineering



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Today's Session

- **Academic and Student Supports**
 - VCU Libraries, Career Services, RecWell
 - International student housing information
 - University and campus resources
- **Academic Information**
 - Academic calendar, schedule of classes, VCU Bulletin
- **Reminders**
- **Question and Answer**



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VCU Engineering Career Services

(Computer Science & Engineering Students)

Engineering Career Services

Team Members:



Laura Lemza
Director



Manika Avasthi
Senior Instructor
Career Courses



Tonia Sharpe
Assistant Director
Career Advising



Rebecca Kurihine
Employer Relations



Liz Allums
Events Coord & Admin

- See us by appointment: Use Handshake. Go to Career Center/Appointments
- Visit us in the Engineering Research Building, room 1308
- Email us at: engrcareers@vcu.edu

Take Action!

1. Create your Handshake account (48 hours after you enroll in class).
2. ENGR 691 – 001 Special topics course: **Career Readiness**
 - Resumes, Interviewing, Career Plans, Job Search Process
3. Attend the Engineering Internship & Career Fair - **Wed, Feb 11, 2026**
4. Attend Employer Events (watch for emails from Engr Career Services)



We look forward to seeing you here!



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Career Services



VCU Libraries and Engineering

Julie Arendt
Science & Engineering
Research Librarian
jaarendt@vcu.edu



Be ready for a librarian for you, plus a team at the library to make things work.



Collections



Late night help



Engineering



Research Data



Makerspace

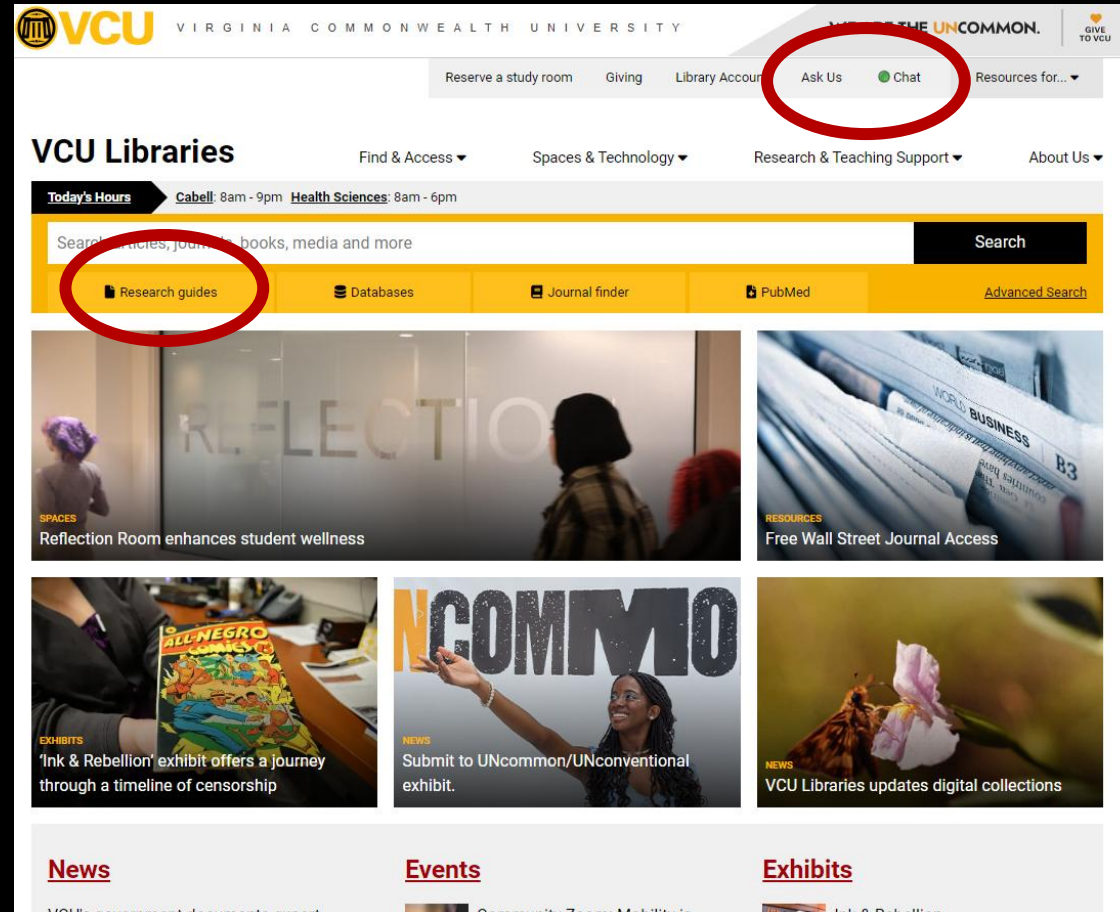


Publishing

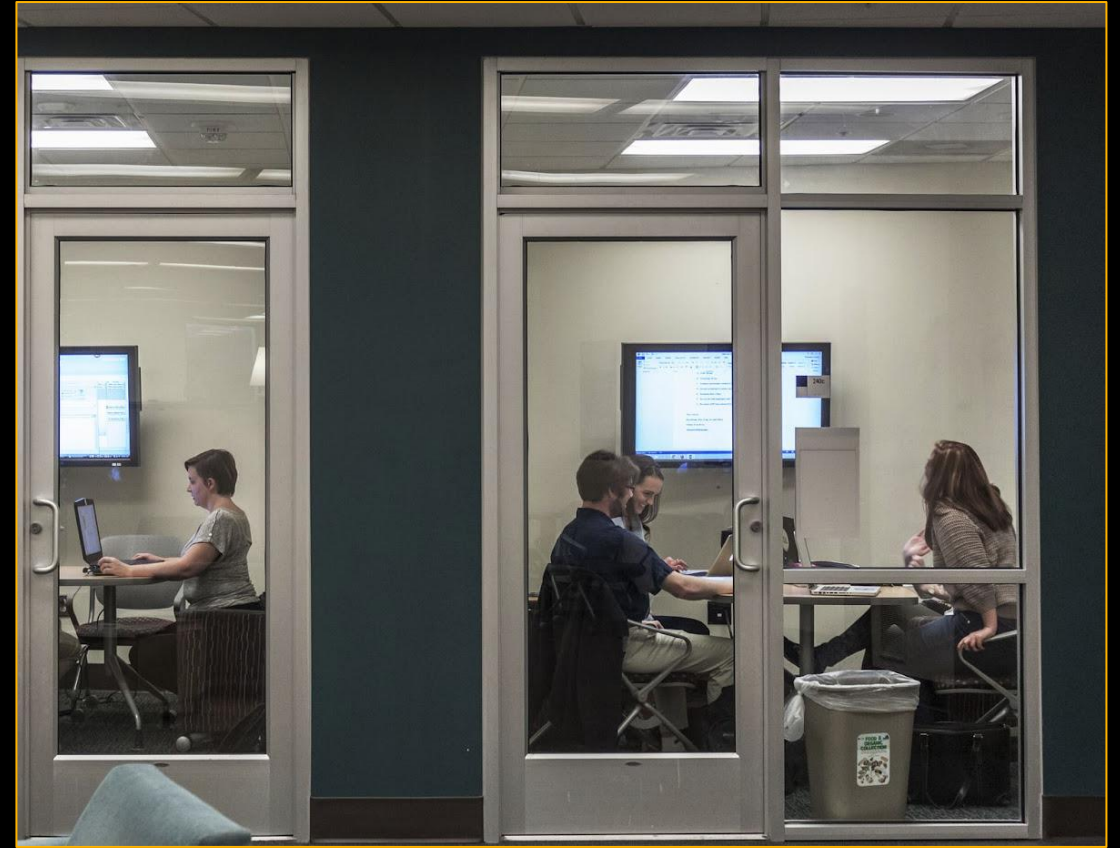
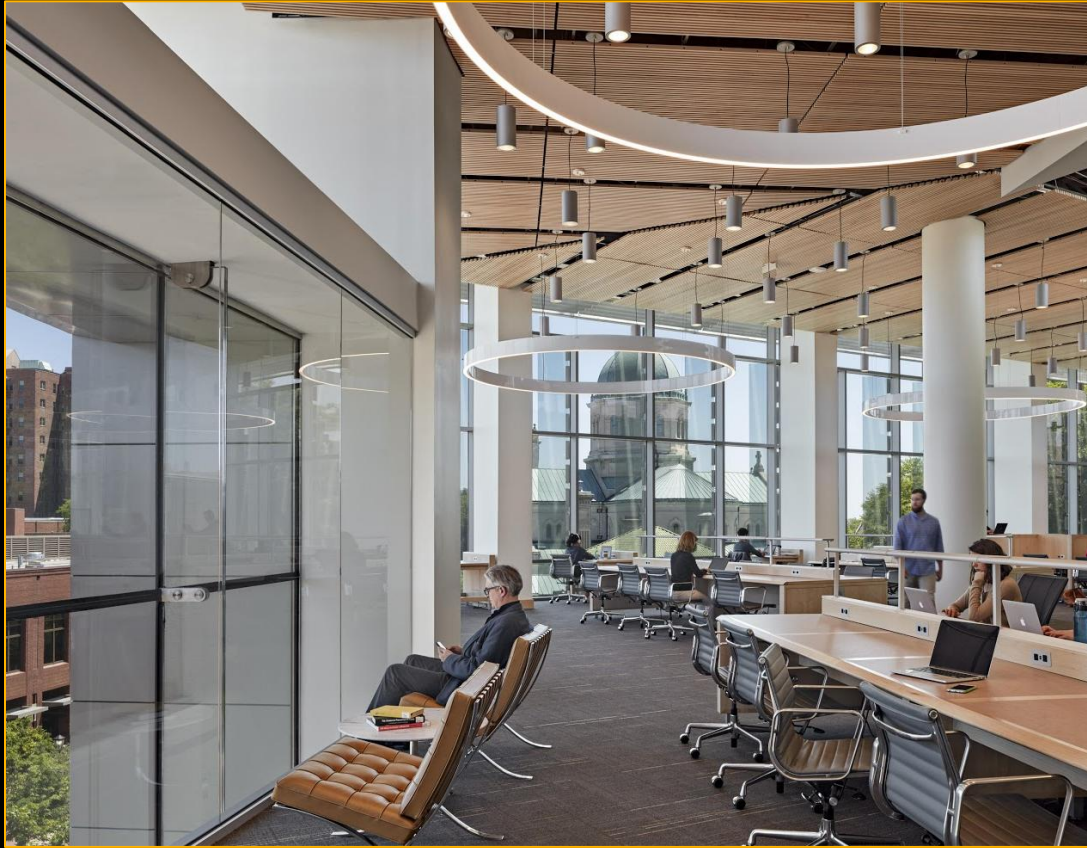


Off-campus access

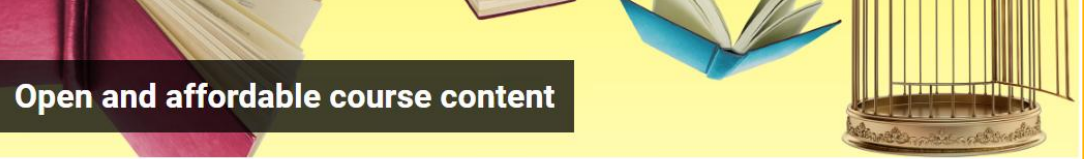
Be ready for a library that you can access online wherever and whenever you need.



Be ready for spaces in the library just for graduate students and group meetings.



Be ready for a mix of free course materials and spending \$ on textbooks.



Open and affordable course content

Contact us

For questions, help, or more information, reach out to the Open and Affordable Course Content Initiative staff

Email

VCU Libraries' Open and Affordable Course Content Initiative supports instructors as they work to transition their courses to zero textbook cost courses, using either open educational resources or library content.

VCU Libraries understands the importance of selecting the right course materials. Not only do zero textbook cost courses eliminate the cost burden for students, but they have been shown to improve student success while increasing instructor flexibility, including the ability to customize resources.



Open Educational Resources (OER)

- [What are OER?](#)
- [Find OER](#)
- [Create OER](#)
- [Open Images](#)



Library Content

- [Using library ebooks as course materials](#)
- [Review the VIVA Faculty Ebook Portal](#)
- [Request a purchase](#)
- [Media, Digital Collections and more as course content](#)



Support for Open and Affordable Course Content

- [Overview of VCU Libraries' Support](#)
- [VCU Affordable Course Content Awards](#)
- [VIVA Open Grants](#)
- [Place an item on reserve](#)

OACC news

Faculty: Apply by March 1 for state grants to support free course materials
November 8, 2023 — VIVA grants help faculty help students

Faculty: Explore options and VCU Libraries services during Open Access Week
October 23, 2023 — Faculty

[COURSE MATERIALS & TEXTBOOKS](#) [APPAREL & SPIRIT SHOP](#) [SUPPLIES & TECHNOLOGY](#) [STUDENT ESSENTIALS](#) [HEALTH & WELLNESS](#)

Find Course Materials

Complete info below for one or more courses to view the required and recommended course materials.

[Log In / Create an Account](#) with your .edu address for a personalized course material experience [SIGN IN](#)

Barnes and Noble @ VCU Official Bookstore

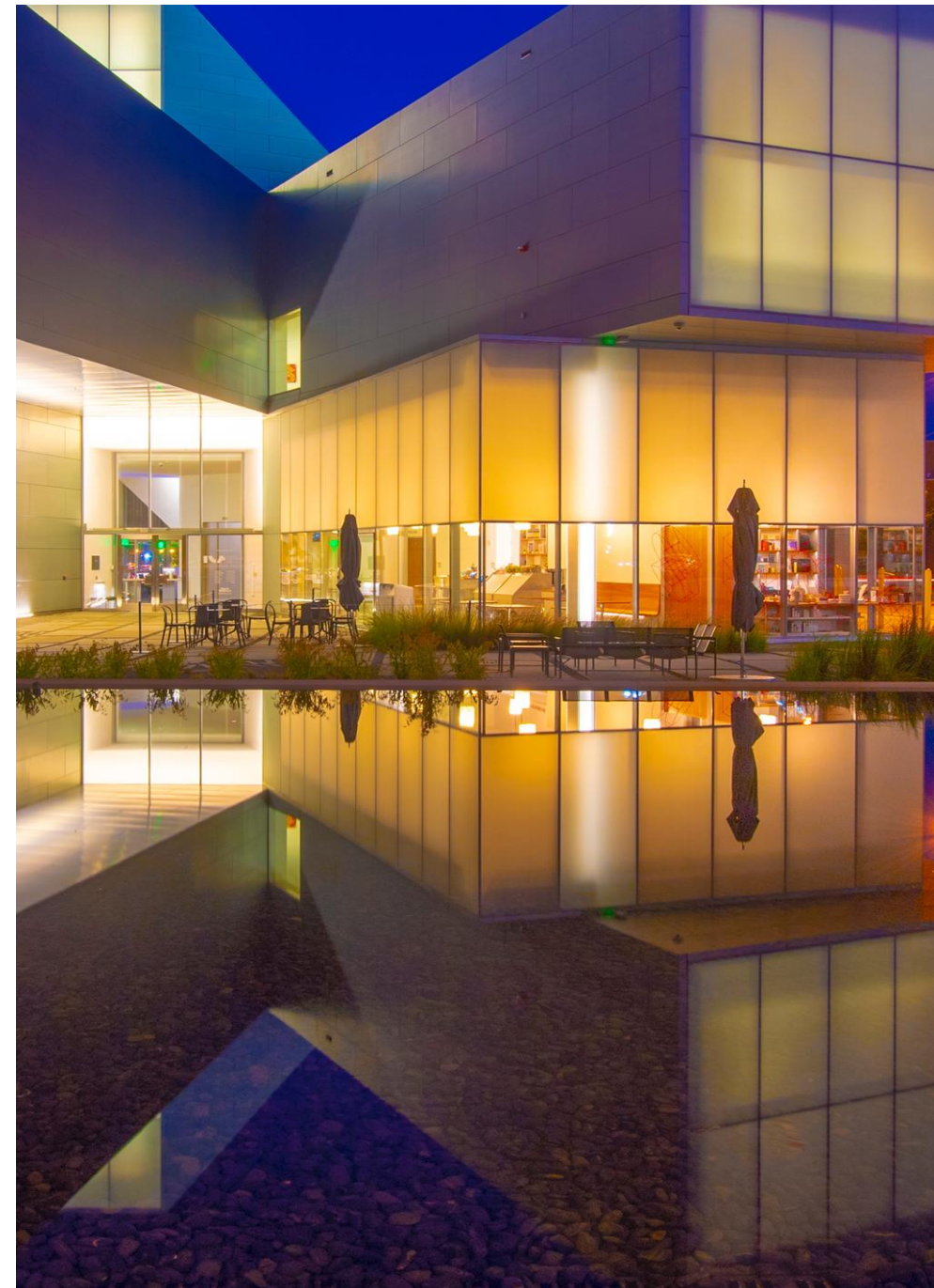
Select your course(s)

Term	Department	Course #	Section	Clear Information
FALL 2024	EGMN	605	901	Clear
FALL 2024	EGMN	606	C90	Clear
FALL 2024	EGMN	610	C90	Clear

International Student Housing Information

Stephanie Coats

Assistant Dean of Basic Needs Support
advocacy@vcu.edu



Some Background Knowledge

- In the United States, most landlords require tenants to sign a 12-month contract. A few landlords will offer shorter leases for an additional monthly fee.
- Apartment leases are binding legal documents which govern the length of time and terms of apartment rentals. Breaking a lease (moving out before the end of the lease period) can result in financial and legal issues.
- All leases require a proof of income. Some VCU-area landlords will accept an international student's I-20 or a scholar's DS-2019 document as proof of financial support.
- Some landlords may also require you to have a cosigner or guarantor, who is a person in the U.S. or in Virginia who financially qualifies and is responsible for your rent if you do not pay it.

If you do not have a qualifying guarantor, contact the Office of Student Advocacy for a list of third-party guarantor companies.

- The Global Education Office and VCU University Staff are **NOT** permitted to cosign or pay an apartment deposit for students.
- A common deposit required is a security deposit. This money is paid to the landlord as a precaution in case there is any damage caused to the property during your lease.

If you are unable to secure a cosigner guarantor, your deposit could equal the total cost of your lease.

Contact the VCU Office of Student Advocacy, or GEO if you would like someone to review your lease before signing!



WE ARE THE UNCOMMON.

Beginning Your Search

Neighborhoods to Consider

- The Fan (Close to MPC)
- Jackson Ward (Close to MPC)
- Carver (Close to MPC)
- Oregon Hill (Close to MPC)
- Museum District (Close to MPC)
- Shockoe Bottom (Close to MCV)
- City Center (Close to MCV)
- Church Hill (Close to MCV)

Urgent/Short Term Housing

[Airbnb](#)
[Linden Row Inn](#)
[The Graduate](#)
[The Jefferson Hotel](#)
[The Quirk](#)

Suggested Questions to Ask

1. What is the monthly rent cost?
2. Are utilities included?
3. Does the apartment/house come furnished?
4. Does the apartment/house come with all appliances?
5. What deposits or additional fees do I need to know about?
6. Is the security deposit refundable?
7. As an international student, will my I-20 be sufficient proof of funding?
8. Do you have a general lease agreement I could review?
9. Do you have subletting policy?

Here are some properties close to campus:

- American Campus Communities
- Towers on Franklin
- Parc View at Commonwealth
- Ascend RVA
- Monroe Park Towers
- The James
- Residences at John Marshall
- Vida East at Church Hill

And More!

You should begin your housing search as soon as possible!
Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns!

General Resources for Rams

- [Ram Pantry](#)
- [Off-Campus Student Services](#)
- [Office of Student Advocacy](#)
 - advocacy@vcu.edu
- [Student Resource Guide](#)

Recreation and Well-Being

Your place is here!

- Cary Street Gym
- MCV Campus Recreation Center
- Cary Street Field
- Outing Rental Center
- Thalhimer Tennis Center



Recreation and Well-Being

Get involved:

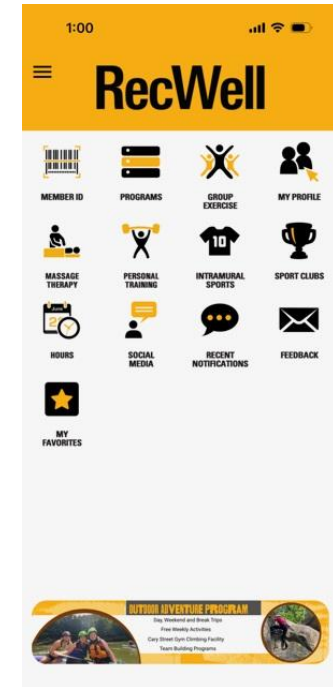
- Fitness
- Outdoor Adventure
- Intramurals
- Sport Clubs
- Aquatics
- Health Promotion



Recreation and Well-Being

Things to know:

- Free for students!
- Download the RecWell app
- Day-use and rental lockers
- \$15 day passes
- Free group ex classes and weekly OAP activities
- Certification courses
- Work at RecWell



Academic and Student Supports

- Academic Calendar
- Schedule of Classes
- Bulletin
 - Go-to resource for curriculum requirements
- Academic Resources
- On-Campus Resources
- GEO Student Supports

Graduate Program Directors

- **Biomedical Engineering, Rehabilitation Engineering, and Tissue Engineering**

- Dean Krusienski, Ph.D., djkrusienski@vcu.edu

- **Chemical & Life Science Engineering**

- Thomas Roper, Ph.D., tdroper@vcu.edu

- **Computer Science**

- Kostadin Damevski, Ph.D., csggrad@vcu.edu

- **Electrical & Computer Engineering, Systems Engineering**

- Yanxiao Zhao, Ph.D., ecegradinfo@vcu.edu

- **Mechanical & Nuclear, Aerospace, and Engineering Management**

- Karla Mossi, Ph.D., mnegrad@vcu.edu

- **Pharmaceutical Engineering**

- Thomas Roper, Ph.D., tdroper@vcu.edu



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Meet the OGS Team

- **Jeni Stanley-Shanks – Director**
 - Strategic oversight and external engagement
- **Lori Floyd-Miller – Academic Specialist**
 - Academic and program support
- **Johnny Ramey – Admissions Specialist**
 - Recruitment and new student support
- **Sam Stiver – Finance Analyst**
 - Tuition and funding
- Email: gradengr@vcu.edu



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Reminders

- **Paperwork 1, 2, 3 Webinar – December 17 ([Register here](#))**
 - Tuition, fees, paperwork
- **Computer & Data Science Advising Sessions ([Register here](#))**
 - December 9 – 9am EST
 - December 10 – 4:30pm EST
 - January 7 – 9am EST
- **Course Registration – Now [open!](#)**
- **Orientations**
 - Launchpad (College of Engineering) – January 9 ([Register here](#))
 - Graduate School – January 8 ([Register here](#))
 - International Student Orientation – January 7 ([Register here](#))
- **Global Education Office [Pre-Arrival Meetups](#)**
 - [December 2](#) and [January 5](#), 8am



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Question and Answer

- Please enter in the Q&A section
- You can also raise your hand to ask verbally



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