Volgenau School of Engineering

New Student Orientation
College 101

Dr. Sharon Caraballo
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs

Ms. DaFran Ware
Coordinator Undergraduate Academic Advising

Susan Brionez
Assistant to Associate Dean
Office Manager

Shams Bahabib
Education Support Specialist
Student Services

Undergraduate Student Services
2500 Nguyen Engineering Building
vseinfo@gmu.edu  703-993-1511
What Are Your Goals?

VSE graduates…

- Work for high technology companies.
- Work for government and non-high tech companies.
- Start their own companies.
- Pursue additional studies in information technology, engineering, MBA, medicine, law, etc.
Be Strategic

• Use your time here to make a path to your goal.
• Start planning your future resume now.
How Will You Stand Out?

Consider…

• Leadership roles in student organizations
• Advanced courses
• Research and publications
• Developing technology or software
• Work experience
Tips for Student Success

- Spend lots of time on campus.
- Get to know faculty and students.
- Join study groups and study smart.
- Attend every class – arrive early and stay late.
- Use Mason’s many valuable resources, including computer labs (we do not have a computer requirement for VSE students).
- Know when to ask for help.
Academic Support

• Instructors and Teaching Assistants
• VSE Peer Mentors - tutoring for technical classes
• Tutoring Centers - Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Economics, Chemistry, …
• Writing Center
• Learning Services - academic skills
Academic Policies

- Read [catalog.gmu.edu](catalog.gmu.edu) - especially
  - Academic Policies
  - Volgenau School of Engineering
  - Your major
- Examples:
  - 120 credits are required (some programs require more).
  - 45 credits must be upper level courses (300 or above).
  - 24 credits of Humanities and/or Social Sciences are required for all VSE students (21 for CIE majors).
  - Required VSE, math, and science courses must be completed within three attempts.
Policy Notes

- Registrations are NOT cancelled for non-payment or NOT attending class.
- Many official communications come through Mason email only.
- FERPA: Your academic record is private to you.
  - Only send email from your Mason account
Advising

• Advising is done by major.
• Group advising today!
• Meet with your advisor at least once per semester.
• Prepare for advising meetings.
  • Develop a plan of study for remaining courses.
  • Come with questions.
Selecting Classes

- Resources:
  - Sample schedules
  - Catalog
    - Major requirements
    - Mason Core requirements and courses
  - Degree Evaluation in PatriotWeb
  - Other resources from department
- Consider a lighter load in your first semester.
- Take work hours into consideration.
- Review your selections with your advisor.
Placement Testing

• You must take the Math Placement Test unless you have credit for:
  • IT majors: MATH 108
  • All other VSE majors: MATH 113
• Only available to be taken on the Fairfax Campus
• Up to two attempts per year
• Goal is to start in a class where you will succeed
• http://math.gmu.edu/placement_test.htm

VSE students do not need a Language Placement test.
Transfer Students

- Guaranteed Admissions Agreement (GAA) students:
  - GAA noted in Admissions letter
  - Mason Core waiver for lower-level courses
  - Verify your transfer evaluation shows GAA and Mason Core waiver
- Past Mason students: see the course repeat and academic clemency sections of the catalog.
- Past Mason non-degree students: contact advisor.
Notes on Transfer Credit

- Grades earned elsewhere do not count in Mason GPA
- Credits from transfer courses do count
  - Progress towards degree
  - GPA levels for Academic Standing
- All records for transfer credits must be sent from the original source (college, AP, IB).
- Transfer evaluations are final after one year. Work with Admissions to make any corrections ASAP.
Student Organizations

Benefits:

• Social and professional activities
• National conferences and competitions
• Technical experience
• Leadership experience
• Community service
• Networking with professional contacts
• Fun
VSE Student Organizations
(partial list)

- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA)
- Association of Energy Engineers (AEE)
- Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES)
- Civil Engineering Honor Society (CEHS)
- Cyber Security Systems (CSS)
- Engineers for International Development (EfID)
- Gaming (GADIG)
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- International Commission on Systems Engineering (INCOSE)
- Mason GNU/Linux Users Group
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- Patriot Hackers
- Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)
- Society of Women Engineers (SWE)
- Student-Run Computing and Technology (SRCT)
- Theta Tau (Professional Engineering Fraternity)
- Veterans in Engineering and Technology Studies (VETS)
- And more…
When Life Happens

- Contact our VSE Student Services Office as soon as possible whenever outside circumstances are affecting your academics.
  - sbrionez@gmu.edu
  - 703-993-1511
  - Suite 2500, Nguyen Engineering Bldg.
- Do not be passive and complacent!
- The sooner we hear from you, the better the chance we can help.
Undeclared Students

• **VSE Undeclared** students meet with Ms. DaFran Ware for advising.

• **University Undeclared**, or declared students who want to change majors, meet Mrs. Brionez and Shams Bahabib at the end of this presentation to complete a change of major form.

• You will attend VSE Undeclared Advising today with Ms. DaFran Ware.

• Advising is today at 2:45 p.m.
We are committed to ensuring that you will leave feeling that this was the best decision that you have ever made.

Thanks for choosing the Volgenau School.
Notes: