



VCU



COUNTDOWN

TO

GRADUATION



THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS!



December 2020 Graduation Candidate:

I know that since March 2020, your academic experience has been very challenging. Nevertheless, earning your degree is a milestone that deserves special recognition. Starting September 28, 2020, the Countdown to Graduation begins with being able to purchase your academic regalia at Barnes & Noble @ VCU at 1111 West Broad Street. Additionally, representatives will be available to assist you with questions regarding announcements, diploma frames and class rings September 28 - October 2, 2020, from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. The representatives will be available by appointment only. Please schedule at <https://v2.waitwhile.com/book/balfour>.

Please review the enclosed information carefully and contact me at vcudean@vcu.edu, if you have any questions. If you are unable to attend, information regarding regalia, announcements, class rings and diploma frames will be available on the VCU Commencement website at: <https://commencement.vcu.edu/>. At this time, no decisions have been made regarding an in-person Commencement ceremony but more information will be provided on the Commencement website.

Congratulations on your achievement and best wishes for your future endeavors!

Dr. Reuban Rodriguez
Associate Vice Provost and Dean of Student
Division of Student Affairs

CAP AND GOWN

Academic regalia prices, including cap, gown, hood and tassel are: bachelor set, \$56.98; master set, \$73.98; Ph.D./Ed.D. set, \$108.98; and professional doctorate set, \$59.98 (professional doctorate programs include D.P.T., D.D.S., Pharm.D., M.D. and D.N.A.P.). Prices do not include sales tax. Regalia will be available for purchase during the Grad Fair events, see page 2 for scheduled events.

If you are unable to purchase your regalia from the Barnes & Noble @ VCU locations, please visit www.balfour.com/vcu to purchase online starting October 3, 2020. Shipping charges will apply.

Note, all medical degree regalia is at Barnes & Noble @ VCU Medical Center only.

RING INFORMATION



Join the Ring Tradition and choose from our custom-crafted class ring options, find out your ring size and purchase your class ring during the Grad Fair events (dates on page 2). Current STAT donors will save \$60 on class rings, or if you update your post-graduation information with VCU Alumni, you could receive \$35 off your class ring. Full collection can be seen online at balfour.com/vcu.

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Graduation marks an important milestone. Share the wonderful news with VCU standard or personalized graduation announcements. Standard graduation announcements include two envelopes and a blank name card. These are available for purchase at the Barnes & Noble @ VCU on both campuses.

Personalized announcements are available at www.balfour.com/vcu or (800) 433-0296. These incorporate the graduate's name, degree and major. Please allow 5-7 business days for personalized announcement delivery.

For more information on class ring or graduation announcements, visit balfour.com/vcu or call (866) 225-3687.



REGALIA ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A fund has been established to provide relief for those who need financial assistance in purchasing regalia. This fund is administered by the Division of Student Affairs. Students may access the application for regalia assistance online at dos.vcu.edu/resources/regalia-assistance/.

Eligibility: Undergraduate, graduate and professional students who will graduate in December 2020 may apply for assistance. Funds are limited and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Assistance will be for ONE SET of regalia (cap, gown and hood).

Applying for Assistance: Students must complete the application form and are required to write a 12-point font, double spaced essay of no more than two pages, reflecting on their experiences as a VCU student and the significance of graduation for the student, their friends and their family.

Administration of the Award: Financial need will be considered as part of the process. Students will retrieve their regalia from Barnes & Noble @ VCU on either campus per the timeline below. Note: Reimbursement will not be made to students who have previously purchased regalia; assistance is not applicable for online purchases.

Timetable: Applications will be accepted beginning Friday, November 6. Funds are limited and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds run out. Retrieve regalia at Barnes & Noble @ VCU starting October 3, 2020, with the approval notice.



YOUR GRAD CHECKLIST:



VISIT COMMENCEMENT WEBSITE

commencement.vcu.edu



PURCHASE CAP & GOWN

Starting September 28 at Barnes & Noble @ VCU



ORDER CLASS RING & GRAD. ANNOUNCEMENTS

By appointment, Sept. 28-Oct.2 @ v2.waitwhile.com/book/Balfour or online @ Balfour.com/vcu



VIRTUAL GRAD CELEBRATIONS

Stay tuned for updates at vcualumni.org



RING CEREMONY

Virtual - December 9



COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION

Please check the Commencement website for the latest updates



VCU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.



As a soon-to-be graduate of VCU, you can pay it forward and support those who follow in your steps. Make a gift to VCU's Student Life and Learning Fund to help future students extend their learning beyond the classroom through enriching, career-focused civic engagement, community service, student organizations, leadership development, internships and more.



I BELIEVE GIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT GIVING DONATIONS. IT IS ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE HERE AT VCU.

– MICHELLE MIGUEL, CLASS OF 2020



YOU can make a difference and leave your mark on campus. Join your classmates in supporting VCU and create a lasting legacy for future generations. vcualumni.org/classgive



You'll always be a Ram.

Stay connected after graduation.

Graduation isn't goodbye! Your relationship with VCU lasts a lifetime, and the Office of Alumni Relations is here, ready to welcome you to a thriving community of graduates (200,000 strong and counting!) and to provide opportunities for you to stay connected and supported no matter where life takes you.

Here are 10 things you can do to stay connected to your alma mater and our network of Rams.

- 1. Download the VCU app:** Take VCU with you on your smartphone and switch your experience to "alumni" in January to access alumni benefits, chapters, events and more.
- 2. Get social:** Follow VCU Alumni on social media for the latest alumni profiles, events, live panels and "how to" demonstrations, giveaways, campus happenings and more.
- 3. Share your experience or benefit from the help of others:** Sign up for VCU Link to help the next generation of students or connect with alumni in industries by participating in flash mentorings online.
- 4. Network:** Attend a virtual networking event to meet other alumni working in your industry.
- 5. Spread the word:** Loved your VCU experience? Tell everyone, especially students who are looking for their future college.
- 6. Update your contact information:** Share your new mailing and email addresses so we can keep you updated on VCU and alumni activities.
- 7. Join a chapter:** Get involved with a regional, academic, shared-interest or identity-based group to make new and lasting connections.
- 8. Submit a class note:** Class notes are the best way to let your classmates and your alma mater know what you've been up to since graduation.
- 9. Visit campus.** While coming back might not be an option soon, we can't wait to see you in person when the time is right.
- 10. Bleed black and gold:** Proudly wear and display your VCU gear. You never know who might notice and strike up a conversation!

vcualumni.org



vcualumni.org [facebook.com/vcualumni](https://www.facebook.com/vcualumni) [instagram.com/vcualumni](https://www.instagram.com/vcualumni) [@vcualumni](https://twitter.com/vcualumni)

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GRADUATE YOUR GEAR!

Hurry in! It's your last chance to get low education pricing.

Your computer has been through a lot these last few years – now is the perfect time to consider upgrading. During "Countdown to Graduation", stop by the RamTech table and get an estimate on your current tech from our Trade-In and Trade-Up Program, which gives store credit toward your upgrade. Don't forget, even as an Alum, you can still shop our accessories! See store for details.

930 West Grace Street | (804) VCU-TECH | ramtech.vcu.edu
Mon-Thurs 9am-6pm, Fri 9am-5pm | @RamTechVCU



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OUR COMMUNITY STRONGER THAN EVER!

www.recports.vcu.edu
Recsports@vcu.edu
804.828.9489

Special VCU Alumni Pricing Available!

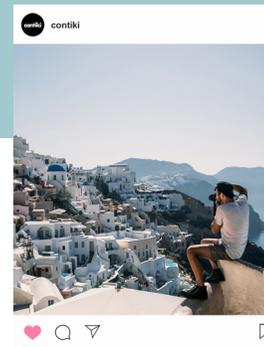
Alumni Memberships Include:

- Access to both Cary Street Gym & MCV Campus Gym
- Optional personal training and massage therapy
- Access to both VCU Aquatics Centers
- State-of-the-art fitness equipment
- Group Exercise Classes Included

Disclaimer: Due to COVID-19, Facilities and services are subject to change at any time.



contiki



Hi there,
we're Contiki.

We bring travelers together from all corners of the globe to discover new cultures and a little part of themselves along the way.

We are incredibly excited to be partnering with VCU to provide the experience of a lifetime.

VCU Grand Trip

As Contiki, we believe that life's greatest lessons are learned when traveling and our trips are perfect for exploring the world beyond the classroom. Join your fellow Rams on this VCU trip to Greece in 2021!



SPACE IS LIMITED
For more info, visit

CALL OR EMAIL TO BOOK!
1-866-266-8454 | GROUPS@CONTIKI.COM



The grad trip for 2021, VCU GRAD TRIP!
Greek Island Hopping, June 5 - 17, 2021

USE PROMO CODE: RAMSTRAVEL10 TO SAVE \$100 ON YOUR TRIP. *Restrictions apply

Get Social
@contiki



www.contiki.com

CST #1001728-20