What We Do

Virginia Tech Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) is a training program designed to increase the number of minorities with a PhD in biomedical and behavioral sciences and engineering who want to pursue a career in biomedical research in accordance with the NIH mission. VT-IMSD is supported by the National Institute of Health through the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Our training program is a partnership with departments and programs in all colleges at Virginia Tech. The program emphasizes community, mentoring, and networking as a foundation to becoming a successful undergraduate and graduate student.

Program History

Started in 2007, the VT-IMSD program includes 33 Ph.D.s and 10 Master's. Approximately 85% of IMSD alumni (from the predoc program) have received a Ph.D. and are pursuing a postdoc or a position at a Research 1 University or in industry. About 70% of the undergraduates who participate in the IMSD prebac program are in Ph.D. programs at different institutions including Brown, Duke, NC State, and Stanford.

Benefits

- Tuition Remission
- $27,000 annual compensation and benefits
- Travel support to attend workshops and scientific meetings
- Individualized mentoring
- Student driven mentor selection process following three 10-week lab rotations
Eligibility

- B.A./B.S. degree with a minimum GPA of 3.2 out of a possible 4.0
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Applicants must be individuals from ethnic groups considered to be historically underrepresented by the Federal Government in STEM

Application Process

1. Complete the VT Graduate School application for the department or discipline of interest: http://graduateschool.vt.edu
2. Visit http://imsd.apsc.vt.edu and complete the application.
3. Email the following materials to imsdvt@vt.edu:
   a. Unofficial Transcripts
   b. Resume
   c. Statement of career interests and how the IMSD program will help you reach them
   d. Three Recommendation Letters, with at least 2 from faculty

To learn more, visit http://imsd.apsc.vt.edu
IMSD Program Office, 2250 Litton-Reaves Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061
540-231-5898, email imsdvt@vt.edu

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of age, color, disability, sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.
Nine colleges and graduate school
170 master's and doctoral majors
34,440 students on and off the main campus
Main campus includes 213 buildings and 2,600 acres
Facilities across the state and around the globe, including a strong presence in Northern Virginia
Ranked 46th in university research in the United States
Main campus is located in Blacksburg, VA

Blackburg, VA

Home to about 42,600 residents
Founded in 1798
Located in Montgomery County
Named one of the top 10 places to live in the country by Outdoor Magazine
2nd largest town in Virginia
Moderate climate with four distinct seasons

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Fun Local Activities

- You can hike, bike, or walk the Huckleberry Trail.
- You can buy local goods at the Blacksburg Farmers Market on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from April through October.
- The Blacksburg Paragon Theater shows movies in IMAX and has an arcade, bowling alley, and restaurant.
- The Starlite Drive-in Theater in Christiansburg shows movies on the weekend during warmer months.
- Virginia Tech's Moss Arts Center features a variety of performances, exhibitions, and experiences.
- There are several local breweries including: Bull & Bones brewpub, Eastern Divide Brewing, Lefty's Right Mind Brewery in Lefty's Main Street Grille, Rising Silo Brewery, and Sinkland Farms Brewery.
- Christiansburg has a Wine & Design studio where you can take public or private art classes while sipping on a beverage.
- The NRV SuperBowl has bowling and laser tag.
- Blacksburg has a bustling downtown with a variety of shops and restaurants.
- You can even attend a Hokie football game at Lane Stadium in the Fall!

Acknowledgements

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