

# VIRGINIA TECH STUDENT-ATHLETE PYLONS *of* PROMISE

- **Cost of Attendance Awards**
- **Four-Year Scholarship Commitment**
- **Excellence in Academic and Athletics Support, and Career Development**
- **Loss of Value Insurance**
- **Continued Commitment to Landmark Concussion Research**
- **\$425,000 Student Assistance Fund Annually**

The Virginia Tech Student-Athlete Pylons of Promise sets forth our commitment to our student-athletes during their time at Virginia Tech and beyond.<sup>1</sup> This Promise is based on the ideals emblazoned on the eight pylons at the Virginia Tech War Memorial Court and our athletics department's guiding principles of INTEGRITY, SERVICE, HONOR, EXCELLENCE, STRONG TOGETHER.

Our shared commitments with our Virginia Tech student-athletes are as follows:

## **INTEGRITY** **COST OF ATTENDANCE**

When earned, full athletics scholarships pay all costs of a student-athlete's undergraduate education, including tuition, fees, room, board and books. Effective August 1, 2015, as part of our athletics-grants-in-aid, Virginia Tech will provide the full allowable miscellaneous expense allowance of \$3,280 for in-state and \$3,620 for out-of-state student-athletes per year to cover the full cost of attendance for all sports.<sup>2</sup>

Equivalency scholarships pay for specific elements (books, for example) and/or percentage of costs.<sup>3</sup> While non-scholarship student-athletes do not receive full or equivalency scholarships, they receive all non-scholarship-related benefits provided to all student-athletes.

## **FOUR-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP COMMITMENT**

Athletics scholarships may be awarded on an annual or multi-year basis. Four-year scholarships are available for full equivalency scholarship student-athletes entering Virginia Tech. All scholarships set forth in writing the amount of the scholarship, the duration and any conditions of the award. Scholarship terms will be honored unless the student-athlete voluntarily leaves the team, renders himself or herself ineligible, or violates NCAA, ACC, university or department policies. Any reduction of a scholarship's terms may be appealed to an independent panel.

Scholarship terms will not be reduced because of a student-athlete's injury, illness, or physical or mental condition which prevents or limits participation in athletics, nor on the basis of a student-athlete's athletics ability or athletics performance.

## **SERVICE** **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Virginia Tech is committed to developing leaders. The Department of Athletics provides our student-athletes with a comprehensive, multi-faceted leadership development program which includes:

- Leadership assessment and development curriculum;
- International service-learning opportunities designed to promote global leadership skills; and
- A targeted student-athlete career development program to help facilitate a student-athlete's transition to their professional aspirations. Upon successful completion of this program, each student-athlete will be provided with a complimentary interview suit to launch their career after their playing days at Virginia Tech are complete.

## **HONOR** **A CULTURE OF TRUST AND RESPECT**

With service and honor at our core, Virginia Tech develops student-athletes to be the best men and women they can be in an environment of trust and respect with a commitment to compliance. Virginia Tech follows the letter and spirit of NCAA, ACC and institutional rules. Through the Virginia Tech Principles of Community,<sup>4</sup> we acknowledge the importance of diversity and inclusion and the extent to which they enhance the lives of student-athletes and the university. We encourage a healthy environment, free of prejudice and discrimination including demeaning language and physical, verbal and emotional abuse.

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### **Mission Statement**

Virginia Tech Athletics is committed to excellence, both academically and athletically, and to the personal development of our students. In the spirit of *Ut Prosim*, we stand strong together to serve and represent our university and community with integrity and respect.

# EXCELLENCE

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Virginia Tech provides quality academic support that aims to meet the unique needs of each student-athlete through the services and programming provided by Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS). Inclusive in this support is:

- Tutoring;
- Mentoring;
- Facilitated study hall;
- Learning assistance and disability support services;
- Study skill programming;
- Academic advising;
- Individualized degree completion planning aimed at meeting educational and career goals;
- Technology assistance; and
- A laptop computer for all full scholarship student-athletes.

## COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELLNESS

Virginia Tech is committed to protecting and enhancing the health, safety, and wellness of all of our student-athletes. These commitments include, (but are not limited to) access to:

- A comprehensive athletic performance program dedicated to providing the most efficient and effective broad-based care for Virginia Tech student-athletes incorporating sports medicine, sports psychology, and performance, strength and conditioning services;
- High-quality medical, dental, vision, psychological, rehabilitation, preventative and related healthcare services for all student-athletes;
- Assistance for student-athletes to purchase loss-of-value insurance based on their future earnings as professional athletes, consistent with the athletics department's protocol for disability insurance;
- A comprehensive sports nutrition program and state-of-the-art Nutrition Oasis, fueling stations, Gatorade hydration options, and training table providing optimal nutrition for student-athletes before, during, and after training;
- Quality transportation, housing, meals and per diem to all student-athletes traveling to away competitions; and
- No. 1 nationally ranked on-campus dining options.

## COMMITMENT TO CONCUSSION RESEARCH

Virginia Tech will follow all NCAA concussion protocol and continue its landmark study of the topic. In 2014,

Virginia Tech and two other schools were awarded a \$30 million Department of Defense grant to study the effects of concussions and ways to combat them.

## COMPREHENSIVE ATHLETIC SUPPORT

Virginia Tech assists all student-athletes in maximizing their athletic potential. This comprehensive support includes, (but is not limited to):

- Nationally recognized coaching and training;
- Proud partnership with Nike since 2007 and contracted through 2022; and
- Top quality practice, competition, and strength and conditioning related facilities.

## STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND

Virginia Tech will provide student-athletes the opportunity to use the Student Assistance Fund annually to enhance their collegiate experience. This fund of approximately \$425,000 annually is used to cover a wide range of student-athlete personal expenses within NCAA, ACC and university guidelines.

# STRONG TOGETHER

## A COLLECTIVE VOICE

At Virginia Tech, student-athletes have a united voice that is recognized and valued by the athletics department. This voice is known as the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). Through SAAC, Virginia Tech student-athletes are expected to provide input on issues impacting student-athletes and their experiences on the campus, conference and national level.

Each team is assigned a sport administrator who will provide another resource for student-athletes. The sport administrator helps ensure the Virginia Tech student-athlete experience is positive, productive and adheres to these guiding principles.

## A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

As highly visible members of the Virginia Tech community, student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves, both on and off campus, in a manner which respectfully represents their family, team and Virginia Tech. They should at all times demonstrate good judgment and ethical behavior and are expected to adhere to the policies stated within the Hokie Handbook.

It is a privilege to represent Virginia Tech. Our student-athletes, coaches and staff share in this privilege and are expected to act with honor and respect in all that we do.

<sup>1</sup> This document is meant to provide a summary of our shared commitment. Further detailed information may be found on the Pylons website at [Hokiesports.com/Pylons](http://Hokiesports.com/Pylons) or in the Student-Athlete Handbook, available on [Hokiesports.com](http://Hokiesports.com).

<sup>2</sup> Amounts were determined by the Virginia Tech Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid for the 2015-16 academic year.

<sup>3</sup> Summer school, a fifth school year, and/or an "Olympic redshirt year" may also be paid for through grants-in-aid when needed, available, and earned in compliance with institutional protocol.

<sup>4</sup> [www.diversity.vt.edu/principles-of-community/principles.html](http://www.diversity.vt.edu/principles-of-community/principles.html)

## VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS



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