QUEST Recalibration
Student Perspectives

Sponsored by the Quest 2025 Recalibration Committee
Background

In Fall 2021, 28,858 students received an anonymous survey requesting feedback to inform efforts to recalibrate VCU’s strategic plan.

- 598 responses (2%)
- All student levels represented:
  - Undergraduate: 324 responses (1%)
  - Graduate: 129 responses (2%)
  - First Professional: 17 responses (1%)
### Top Priorities for Instruction & Learning

**Q: How important is it for VCU to improve in the following areas related to instruction & learning?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Not Very Important / Not At All Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High quality teaching</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td></td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Versatile and innovative curricula to meet student and workforce needs</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td></td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>New high market-demand course and program offerings</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td></td>
<td>34%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personalized academic student support services</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Varied class availability and/or compressed or accelerated semesters</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovative teaching methods</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternative recognition of learning (e.g., certificates, badges)</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum that includes entrepreneurship skills</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td></td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>More hybrid courses</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td></td>
<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>More fully online courses and programs</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>More in-person courses</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<td>31%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Top Priorities for Hands-On Learning

Q: How important is it for VCU to improve in the following areas related to hands-on learning & real-world application of knowledge?

- Connecting students with internships, student teaching, workplace learning, etc.: 80% Very Important, 17% Somewhat Important
- Opportunities to engage with faculty through research, scholarly, and creative activities: 64% Very Important, 29% Somewhat Important
- Focus on students’ holistic development (e.g., well-being, resiliency, etc.): 65% Very Important, 23% Somewhat Important
- Support for student innovations and business start-ups: 46% Very Important, 35% Somewhat Important
- Opportunities to develop collaborative problem-solving skills: 50% Very Important, 28% Somewhat Important
Top Priorities for Support Services

Q: How important is it for VCU to improve in the following areas related to campus life & support services?

- Streamlined administrative processes that improve customer service & eliminate the "runaround"
  - 79% Very Important
  - 18% Somewhat Important
  - 1% Not Very Important / Not At All Important

- Personalized support for students' well-being (e.g., disability services, counseling)
  - 77% Very Important
  - 17% Somewhat Important
  - 6% Not Very Important / Not At All Important

- Campus employment, work-study, scholarship, & other financial assistance opportunities
  - 72% Very Important
  - 21% Somewhat Important
  - 7% Not Very Important / Not At All Important

- Timely & accurate communication regarding events, resources, policies, & deadlines
  - 66% Very Important
  - 27% Somewhat Important
  - 7% Not Very Important / Not At All Important
Top Priorities for Campus Life

Q: How important is it for VCU to improve in the following areas related to campus life & support services?

- Welcoming & inclusive environment where students belong & feel respected: 77% Very Important, 15% Somewhat Important, 7% Not Very Important / Not At All Important
- Campus safety: 75% Very Important, 17% Somewhat Important, 8% Not Very Important / Not At All Important
- Quality & modern auxiliary facilities that meet student needs: 63% Very Important, 25% Somewhat Important, 12% Not Very Important / Not At All Important
- Opportunities to engage with peers outside the classroom: 53% Very Important, 32% Somewhat Important, 15% Not Very Important / Not At All Important
- Facilitate interactions among diverse students: 51% Very Important, 32% Somewhat Important, 17% Not Very Important / Not At All Important
- Increase faculty diversity: 58% Very Important, 23% Somewhat Important, 19% Not Very Important / Not At All Important
- Increase staff diversity: 56% Very Important, 22% Somewhat Important, 22% Not Very Important / Not At All Important
Q: The three words I would use to describe VCU are . . .
Summary

Top Priorities

• High quality teaching
• Hands-on real world experiences
• Streamlined administrative processes
• Innovative curricula to meet student & workforce needs
• Personalized support for students’ well-being
• Financial assistance opportunities
• Welcoming & inclusive environment
• Campus safety