WEB COURSE REQUEST FOR FALL 2012
BEGIN TUESDAY, MARCH 20 AND
ENDS TUESDAY, MARCH 27

1. Use the online timetable.
2. Access Hokie SPA from Virginia Tech’s homepage and follow instructions for “course request.”
3. Complete course request before midnight Mar 27.
4. You can view and modify your schedule when drop/add period opens on April 21.

REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2012 IS APR 21-MAY 11

COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION
The Blacksburg Spring 2012 Graduate Commencement Ceremony will be held at 8:30am on May 11, 2012. For other information regarding commencement please go to: http://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/ completion/commencement.html

NOTICES
• If you need assistance, please see Teresa Quesinberry in The Academic Programs Office, located in 138 Cheatham Hall rather than the previous location of 324 Cheatham Hall. You may also call Teresa at 540-231-5482 or email tquesinb@vt.edu if you have questions.

• The Department of Wood Science and Forest Products has officially changed its name to the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials. ALL COURSES ARE LISTED WITH THE PREFIX OF SBIO and no longer as WOOD.

FALL 2012 COURSE INFORMATION
REMINDER: Please Register for Correct Research Hours Each semester, there seems to be a number of CNRE students who register for the wrong research hours.

5994 is Research and Thesis, so if you are a master’s student, please use the course request number that corresponds with 5994.

7994 is Research and Dissertation, so if you are a Ph.D. candidate, please use the course request number that corresponds with 7994.

Please take the time to double check BEFORE the end of this semester.

• FIW 6004, CRN 97308, Special Topics course, Leadership and Communications for Natural Resource Professionals, time and place TBA, 2 credits, A-F, taught by Steve McMullin

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES
The College of Natural Resources and Environment has a very active and growing study abroad program. Students interested in any study abroad program should begin planning at least 6 months prior to departing.

To learn more about each course, visit the Education Abroad web site at http://www.educationabroad.vt.edu
Confused about the policy for Defending Student Status? Please read this clarification from the Graduate School.

The minimum enrollment for students working on writing their thesis/dissertation and consulting with their advisor and/or committee during a semester or summer is 3 credit hours. The exception is those students who may qualify for Defending Student Status (DSS).

**Qualification for DSS:** A student who is on active status (i.e., does not require Readmission) and has a thesis/dissertation ready for defense at the beginning of the semester may qualify for Defending Student Status (DSS, 1 credit). If a student is not on active status (i.e., has not been enrolled for more than a calendar year), the Readmission process must be completed before the student can file to take the Final Examination or qualify for DSS.

**International Students:** International students may defend within the first 15 days of the semester or any time during the semester using DSS, if your principal activity is other than being an F-1/J-1 student enrolled full-time in pursuit of a degree (i.e., already on OPT or Academic Training). See www.grads.vt.edu/igss/general_info/faq.html for more information.

International students should check with Ruth Athanson or Zelma Harris in our Immigration Office (110 Graduate Life Center) to see if they qualify for the Oct. 1 DSS deadlines or will be held to the “first 15 days to defend” rule (Sept. 9) required by SEVIS and immigration policy.

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**Sustainable Biomaterials Graduate Students Symposium**

**Tuesday, March 27**

**315 Cheatham**

Masters and PhD students in the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials will be presenting their research to industry professionals, faculty members, and their peers. This unique event helps the students develop scientific presentation skills and allows for a dynamic exchange of ideas across our varied departmental disciplines. Presentations will be held from 8:30 am till 2:30 pm. Refreshments, breakfast, and lunch will be provided during the event.

Adrienn Andersch  
PhD Student  
Email: andersch@vt.edu  
Phone: (540) 553 – 6348

Dr. Urs Buehlmann  
Symposium Faculty Advisor  
Email: buehlmann@gmail.com  
Phone: (540) 231 – 9759

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**Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation Fourth Annual Graduate Research Symposium**

**Tuesday, March 27**

**Fralin Auditorium**

This day-long event features graduate oral and poster presentations and a keynote speech by Dr. Michael Campana, past president of the American Water Resources Association. This year we have expanded participation beyond our department, soliciting presentations from across the College of Natural Resources and Environment and other related departments. We will also host students from nearby universities, in an effort to meet and learn from our colleagues in the region.

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**College of Natural Resources and Environment Annual Awards Celebration**

**Thursday**

**March 29, 2012**

Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.  
Commonwealth Ballroom  
Squires Student Center  
An RSVP is necessary to attend.  
Please call 231-5482 if you have questions.