



Guide for campus life

The university's campus reflects the character of its host city by mixing modern, high-tech amenities with historical buildings and small-town charm. Virginia Commonwealth University students enjoy the excitement of downtown living as they learn.

This is a brief guide for campus life for VCU School of Social Work students. In it you will find information about Richmond, dining, parking, entertainment and more. For more information or up-to-date schedules and contact information, refer to the appropriate websites or city resources. For any school, program or advising questions contact your Student Success Adviser.

Neighborhoods

Greater Richmond extends beyond the city limits into nearby counties. Richmond is often described as falling into one of four geographic references that mirror the points of a compass: North Side, Southside, East End and West End. These areas are loosely defined and can be further broken down into neighborhoods.

Here is a list of neighborhoods with descriptions:

Downtown

Downtown extends east and west of the I-95 downtown interchange, up to Belvidere Street, and North and South from I-64, up to Main Street. Known for housing the VCU Medical Center as well as the city's financial district, downtown is home to government agencies and service centers as well as shopping areas, eateries and places to dance.

Fan

The Fan is named after the stretch of streets that extend east and west from Belvidere Street to Boulevard and north and south from Broad Street to Main Street. The Fan earned its name because while Belvidere, Broad and Main Streets are only four blocks apart they fan out to be 9 blocks apart by the time they cross Boulevard, near the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Monroe Park and the surrounding VCU academic buildings are considered to be a part of the Fan.

The Upper Fan

The Upper Fan stretches west of Boulevard to the downtown expressway. There are mostly homes and apartments in the Upper Fan, with a few restaurants and markets. The notable exception is Carytown. Carytown is a boutique style shopping district located on Cary Street.

The Near West End

The Near West End extends from west of the downtown expressway to Three Chopt Road and Patterson Avenue. This area has many shopping areas and housing opportunities. It also is home to University of Richmond as well as the Country Club of Virginia.

The West End

The West End extends west of Three Chopt Road and Patterson Avenue. The West End is continually expanding towards Goochland County and is home to numerous apartment complexes, residential areas and commercial developments, including Innsbrook and Short Pump. Many national business and restaurant chains can be found in the West End.



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Southside

Located south of the James River, the Southside is home to residential and commercial districts as well as several golf courses. Southside is also home to Stony Point, Westover Hills, Blackwell and Bon Air.

North Side

North Side is considered everything north of Broad Street. North Side is home to Bellevue, Washington Park and Ginter Park, as well as Virginia Union University and Virginia Theological Seminary, Richmond International Raceway and the Classic Amphitheater at Strawberry Hill.

Shockoe Bottom and Shockoe Slip

Shockoe Bottom and Schockoe Slip are homes to shops, galleries, restaurants as well as many Richmond specific attractions. Shockoe Slip is located along Cary Street from the 1200 block to the 1800 block. Shockoe Bottom is east of the 1800 block of Cary and Main Street and is named after being the lowest area in the city.

Church Hill

Located east of Shockoe Bottom on Broad Street, Church Hill is home to some of the most historic homes in Richmond. Areas in Church Hill include St. John's, Oakwood and Fulton Hill.

Jackson Ward

This area is close to Monroe Park and contains many original Victorian houses. There are many housing opportunities and it is home to the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

Oregon Hill

This small, six-block neighborhood is also close to Monroe Park and contains historic Hollywood Cemetery, the resting place of several U.S. Presidents. It's also home to Mama Zu's, a famous Italian restaurant on Pine Street.

Housing

VCU is a part of a continuously changing urban landscape and finding housing can sometimes be tricky. Whether you are looking for on-campus or off-campus finding housing to fit your specific needs is key.

Off-campus

There are multiple options for finding apartments and houses to rent or buy in and around Richmond. Students should consult a home realtor for best area and cost to fit their needs.

Below are some resources to assist you in your search:

Off-Campus student services

Off-Campus student services offers housing assistance as a free service for VCU students, faculty and staff. It is important for all first time apartment, or home renters to get educated about the process and procedures, pitfalls and triumphs of living independently off campus. If you have never rented an apartment or lived on your own, start by getting educated. Stop by the Off-Campus Student Services Office or attend the spring programs for housing education and resources.

For more information:

<http://www.usca.vcu.edu/about/off-campus-student-services/off-campus-housing-assistance/>



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My renters guide

Don't know where to start or what to do. Visit MyRentersGuide Blog where we provide tips and tools for apartment living to help you find your perfect fit.

For more information:

<http://myrentersguide.com/>

Richmond.com

For information on all things Richmond, including events, recreation, city life and housing check out Richmond.com.

For more information on housing opportunities:

<http://www.richmond.com/realestate/>

Forrent.com

Find an apartment for rent that fits your needs from an expansive selection of rental and property types, to various bedroom and floor plan options. ForRent.com allows you to adjust your search in multiple ways so that the results suit your needs. View property listings with videos, virtual tours, photos and more while also choosing the apartment and community amenities that you want and those that you don't.

For more information:

<http://www.forrent.com/>

On-campus

There are many benefits to living on-campus. The university's Residence Education program provides support for students to excel academically, personally as well as in their extracurricular pursuits.

Through the Residence Education program, living in campus residences provides each student with:

- Professional and para-professional staff who are genuinely interested in meeting student needs and who have been trained to assist students in getting involved in campus life.
- Immediate opportunities to become involved in service and leadership roles in the residence community through hall council government, the Residence Hall Association and building programs and activities.
- An environment in which safety and security are major priorities. Staff members work with students to develop a partnership in maintaining a safe environment.
- Numerous programs and activities on topics related to academics, recreation, personal safety and diversity, along with opportunities to socialize with peers.

For more information:

<http://www.housing.vcu.edu/>

Parking and transportation

Parking

There are several parking decks near all academic buildings on campus. Students can either pay for parking by the hour or semester. For parking deck locations and permit availability go to <http://www.parking.vcu.edu/>.

Street parking is available as well. Parking on the street is limited to one or two hour time allotments in most areas. You will be ticketed and/or towed if you exceed the allotted time. Time limits and parking availability are posted on signs.

Parking in the Fan is limited to one hour unless you live in the immediate area and display the proper parking decal. Fan parking permits are available with proof of lease and a utility bill, from Richmond City Hall at 900 E. Broad St.



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Transit Service and commuter parking

Greater Richmond Transit Company and VCU have come together to provide students with access to convenient transportation around Richmond, with the GRTC Student Transit Pass program. GRTC Transit Pass is free to all full time VCU students and allows them to ride any GRTC bus by showing a VCU issued identification card and a GRTC Student Transit Pass. Passes can be reserved online or in person at a parking customer service office location. You can find more information about the Student Transit Pass on the GRTC website or the VCU Parking and transportation website.

For more information about VCU Parking and transportation:

<http://www.parking.vcu.edu/vcupark/transportation.htm>

For more information about GRTC or the Student Transit Pass:

<http://www.parking.vcu.edu/vcupark/TransitPass.htm>

Dining

Richmond is known for good food and great places to eat. For information about when and where to eat consult Style Weekly and Richmond Times-Dispatch for a complete listing of restaurants in and around Richmond. Both publications offer an extensive listing of Richmond eateries, including reviews and suggestions and are available online.

Grocery stores and markets

There are grocery stores and neighborhood markets located throughout Richmond. The following stores are located near the VCU campus:

Martin's

Martin's is near the west end of Carytown at 3537 W. Cary St. and it is open daily.

Freshmarket

Freshmarket is near the west end of Carytown at 10 N. Nansemond St. and it is open daily.

Kroger

Kroger is located at two locations near campus. One is at 901 N. Lombardy St. and the other second is located at the west end of Carytown at 3507 W. Cary St., across from Martin's. Both of these locations are open daily.

Ellwood Thompson's

Ellwood Thompson's is a locally owned, natural and organic grocery store. It is located at the corner of Ellwood Avenue and Thompson Street. Ellwood Thompson is open daily.

<http://ellwoodthompsons.com/>

7-eleven

7-eleven is located on the corner of Main and Harrison Streets as well as the corner of Grace and Harrison Street. Both locations are open 24 hours a day.

Eating on campus

Eating on campus is easy, affordable and convenient. Besides the university dining halls, university commons, hospital cafeterias there are several on campus eatery options. Below is a small list of what the area has to offer. Consult Style Weekly and Richmond Times-Dispatch for a complete listing of local restaurants.



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Ever Green

Location: 612 W. Grace St.

Phone: (804) 643-6333

<https://evergreenrichmond.com/>

Harrison Street Café

Location: 402 N. Harrison St.

Phone: (804) 359-8060

Hardywood Park Craft Brewery

Location: 2408 Ownby Lane

Phone: (804) 420-2420

<http://www.hardywood.com/>

Ipanema Café.

Location: 917 W. Grace St.

Phone: (804)213-0190

<http://www.ipanemaveg.com/>

The Village Café

Location: 1001 W Grace ST

Phone: (804) 353-8204

<http://www.villagecafeonline.com/>

Richmond Food Truck Association

<http://www.foodtruckcourt.com/>

This is only a small sampling of the dining options available on or near campus. In addition to fixed establishments, there are also number street vendors that provide great food options on the go.

Entertainment

Richmond is known for its events and outdoor culture. For information about what to do and when consult Style Weekly and Richmond Times-Dispatch for a complete listing of local places to dance, theatres, museums and events. The following is a selection of popular annual events:

Strawberry Hill Races

This is an annual horse race that takes place at Colonial Downs facility, east of Richmond. This event is held in April.

Monument Avenue 10k

Richmond is home to many street races through the year. One of the largest is the Monument Avenue 10k. It attracts more than 35,000 runners.

The Grand Illumination

The official lighting ceremony for the winter holiday season is held at the James Center in early December.

Greek Festival

This event is held in the spring from a Thursday to Sunday at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, at the corner of Malvern and Grove Avenues. This event features Greek food, crafts and great entertainment.



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Friday cheers

Friday cheers is a free concert service that runs from the end of May to the beginning of September. The event is located on Brown's Island and feature local and national bands.

Innsbrook After Hours

Innsbrook After Hours is located in the West End at the Innsbrook Pavilion. These events feature national acts and local bands.

Richmond Folk Festival

This event is 3 day festival of music, dance, traditional crafts, storytelling and food. Admission is free and this event occurs every October.

Richmond Jazz Festival

This event is held each year to August. It brings in national and local jazz artists. Tickets typically go on sale in June.

Virginia food and wine festival

This event is held each year in July. Local vendors bring crafts, homemade products, food and win.

Sports team and arenas

In addition to food and entertainment, Richmond boasts an active community of sports enthusiasts and is home to a professional arena football team, soccer team and an international racetrack. The following is a selection of teams and arenas:

VCU sporting events

VCU Siegel Center
Location: 1200 W. Broad St.
Phone: (804) 827-1000
www.siegelcenter.com

Baseball

Richmond Flying Squirrels
Phone: (804) 359-3866
<http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t3410>

Soccer

Richmond Kickers
Phone: (804) 644-5425
<http://www.richmondkickers.com/>

Arena football

Richmond Raiders
Phone: (804) 859-0825
www.richmondraidersprofootball.com

NASCAR

Richmond International Raceway
Location: 602 E. Laburnum Avenue
Phone: (804) 345-7223
www.rir.com

*Conventions*

Richmond Coliseum

Location: 601 E. Leigh St.

Phone: (804) 780-4974

<http://richmondcoliseum.net/>**Stay up to date**

Richmond boasts a vibrant art scene, six Fortune 500 companies and 10 Fortune 1000 companies, government agencies, 23 corporations that welcome co-op students, more than 550 acres of parks bordering the historic James River, theaters, shops, annual events and a host of other attractions that bring life to the region. Stay up to date on all the benefits of attending an urban research university.

- www.richmond.com
- www.styleweekly.com
- www.ci.richmond.va.us
- www.timesdispatch.com
- www.gatewayva.com
- www.virginia.com