

SOM Graduate Education Academic Calendar Fall 2026

AUGUST

W	12	International Student Orientation https://global.vcu.edu/student/s/started/iso/
R	13	School of Medicine - Graduate Programs New Student Orientation [Ph.D., M.S., and Certificate] https://medschool.vcu.edu/media/medschool2018/content-assets/graduate-education/2026FallOrientationSchedule.pdf
R	13	VCU Graduate Student Orientation [optional] https://graduate.vcu.edu/prospective-students/newly-admitted-students/
T	18	First day of Classes
T-M	18-24	Add/Drop course change period begins
M	24	DEADLINE: Add/Drop course change period ends

SEPTEMBER

M	1	University Closed
F	5	DEADLINE: fall CERT, M.S. and Ph.D. degree candidates to submit graduation applications for December degrees through eServices
W	16	DEADLINE: 30 th calendar day of Fall semester
TBA		NIH Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award (F99/K00) information session
TBA		F30/F31 Predoctoral Fellowship Grants Workshop

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OCTOBER

T	27	Spring semester 2027: Advance Registration Begins
F	30	DEADLINE: Last day to withdraw from a course with a grade of " W " (Exception: students in courses not scheduled for the full semester should review the course syllabus for appropriate withdrawal deadline)

NOVEMBER

T	3	University Closed
W	11	Veterans Day- University is OPEN - Classes in Session
M	16	DEADLINE: MS and PhD deadline for registering approved defense schedule into the SOM GradTrak exam system
M – Sn	23 - 29	Fall Break, no classes held (University offices open Nov 23 through Nov 25)
T	24	DEADLINE: Last day to Defend thesis/dissertation for graduate students planning to graduate Fall 2026. Check with your Graduate Program Director regarding internal schedules for submission of copy and SOM Associate Dean Graduate Education approval. [This is a date change]
W -Sn	25 – 29	University closed - University will close at 12 p.m. on Nov 25

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DECEMBER

F	4	Last Day of Classes - MCV Campus
M	7	Last day for grades of Incomplete to be converted from spring or summer semesters
M	7	DEADLINE: M.S. and Ph.D. students to initiate ETD approval form. BEGIN ETD APPROVAL FORM WEEK.
M - F	7 - 11	Final Examinations- MCV Campus
R	10	DEADLINE: SOM M.S. and Ph.D. students to have completed: ETD Approval forms, ETD upload to VCU Scholars Compass and Survey of Earned Doctorates (Ph.D.) Do Not Follow Other Deadlines.
R	10	DEADLINE: END ETD APPROVAL FORM WEEK.
Sa	12	December university wide commencement ceremony. https://www.commencement.vcu.edu
R	17	Final grades are due by noon using faculty eServices [This is a date change]
Sa	19	Official date for certifying December diplomas (actual graduation date)
M-F	21 - Jan 1	University Closed
M	Jan 4	Fall Graduation: Degree Works final freeze audit due [date pending]

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NOTES:

1. Unanticipated events might necessitate changes to the calendar.
2. SOM students entering other SOM programs (M.S., Ph.D., and including M.D., and VCU D.D.S) must successfully complete their current program prior to starting the new program.

Updated for clarity: 2026.09.10