



How To Use This Catalog

This catalog is one of many tools you'll use while a student at Valley City State University. Like any good tool, it's best used when you keep it available, particularly when questions arise. The policies and procedures that govern your progress to a college degree are defined by the catalog in force when you enter VCSU. So we've taken every effort to provide you the most current information about courses and degree requirements. Despite this effort, policies do change. That is why we expect you to consult with your academic advisor (a faculty member assigned to you or chosen by you) routinely. We also recognize that your goals change. As you explore new ideas, and these ideas either confirm your goals or lead you to new ones, please see your advisor. If there is one phrase you'll hear often, it will be, "see your advisor."

A college education is an experience directed by you. Ultimately, you are responsible for the decisions made about your education. A faculty advisor is just that, an advisor. Seeking guidance from more than one person is also some advice we hope you take seriously. That is why we have counselors available in Career Services, in Student Academic Services, and in the Academic Departments. VCSU prides itself on being learner-centered, and good advising is at the heart of this. Remember, it's still up to you to use it wisely.

To help you we've provided some suggestions to make this catalog work best for you:

Identify the department of your intended major.

Each major has a department from which the major's specified courses are designed, approved, and taught.

Identify general education requirements.

Some refer to this as the "generals" or "basics." All students must complete these courses. Refer to the general education (<http://catalog.vcsu.edu/undergraduate-catalog/academic-affairs/general-education/>) section of this catalog for more details. Refer also to the section about your major to identify the specified general education requirements for your major.

Identify the coursework required for your intended major.

This information can be found on the catalog page describing your major. Work closely with your advisor to put together an academic plan. With your advisor, you are able to plan each term at VCSU well in advance.

All students must complete a digital portfolio or a capstone project in order to graduate.

See your advisor or consult the university web page describing the student requirements for the academic department of your major.

Some classes are not offered every term.

Many courses are offered alternate years or only one semester each year. Find out when a required or recommended course is offered. Plan accordingly.

If you are an athlete, check with coaches about eligibility rules and academic progress.

There are NAIA policies that apply to athletes that don't apply to the general student body, so it is important to know them as you take courses.

Know the procedures and deadlines for applying for financial aid.

The federal financial aid program has deadlines and procedures that allow students the best opportunity for available aid. For more information check the financial aid (<https://www.vcsu.edu/financialaid/>) section.