

# American History

## Policy Memorandum No. 192

Approved by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies: March 22, 1999

Approved by University Council: April 19, 1999

Approved by President: April 19, 1999

Approved by Board of Visitors: April 26, 1999

Effective: For all students entering Virginia Tech for the first time in fall 2001.

The University Council, on recommendation of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies approved a resolution concerning American history.

Following is the text of the resolution as adopted by University Council.

**Whereas**, the faculty and administration of Virginia Tech believe that knowledge of critical concepts of American history can be a cornerstone for responsible citizenship and informed future participation in a democratic society, and

**Whereas**, the Virginia House and Senate Joint Resolution number 346 also indicated this expectation by instructing Boards of Visitors of state universities to "...review their curriculum to incorporate American history as a requirement for a bachelor's degree" and,

**Whereas**, the Academic Affairs Committee of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors has endorsed a Virginia Tech draft plan for addressing the sense of the General Assembly at the February 1999 meeting, and

**Therefore, Be It Resolved** that significant knowledge of American history will be considered a necessary component of pre-college or college education and experience for those students pursuing an undergraduate degree program at Virginia Tech, and

That Virginia Tech will expect all students, beginning with those students who enter in the fall of 2001, demonstrate proficiency in American history in one or more of the following ways:

- through reporting of Virginia Standards of Learning achievement (SOL), or
- through equivalent reporting of competency from other states, or
- through the U.S. History advanced placement, or the History SAT II, and/or other testing, or
- through testing developed and administered by Virginia Tech, and
- through a program of instruction at Virginia Tech; and

That all entering students at Virginia Tech who score at or above specified standards established through the university governance system, in one or more of the previous methods will satisfy the Virginia Tech American History competency requirement, and

That all entering students at Virginia Tech whose competency levels fall below the aforementioned established Virginia Tech standards, will be expected to successfully complete one of the following options:

- an on-line American history course at Virginia Tech, or
- the two-semester American History sequence that is included in Area 3 of the University Core Curriculum, or
- an acceptable course(s) for transfer from another institution, or
- other course options developed by Virginia Tech, and approved through the university governance system, that will satisfy the competency level required of all students in American history.

PET:sws

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President's Policy Memorandum

**URL: <http://purl.vt.edu/vtdocs/policies/ppm192>**