



Pathways Program

Spring 2024 New & Returning Student Orientation Packet

1/29/24	Monday	Orientation	4-6pm
1/30/24	Tuesday	Info Session	2-3pm
1/31/24	Wednesday	Info Session	5-6pm
2/1/24	Thursday	Info Session	7-8pm
2/2/24	Friday	Info Session	2-3pm

Zoom link:

<https://vccs.zoom.us/my/pathwaysprogram>

Table of Contents

[Program Overview](#)

[Letter from the Director](#)

[Pathways Program requirements](#)

[Pathways Program links](#)

[Next steps](#)

[Contact information](#)

Program Overview

The Mellon Pathways Program is a partnership between Brightpoint Community College (Brightpoint), J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College (Reynolds), and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The program offers pathways, resources, and support for students who are completing their associate degree at Brightpoint or Reynolds and planning to transfer to VCU to complete their bachelor's degree in the arts or humanities.

Participants receive:

- Enhanced advising at the community college
- Connections and peer mentorship with current VCU students
- Career and academic exploration and development
- Opportunities to earn stipends for participating in the e-Portfolio component

Students participating in the Mellon Pathways Program also have the opportunity to apply to become a Mellon Research Fellow, where they will receive a stipend to support conducting a research project in the humanities or arts with a faculty member and presenting their work at a year-end colloquium. Being a part of the Mellon Pathways Program provides students with access to resources and a support system to enhance their academic success. It also gives them an opportunity to save money on tuition by taking classes at the community college that count: count towards their degree, count in their future, and count for transfer.

Letter from the Director

Welcome to the Mellon Pathways Program! If you are a new student, we are thrilled to have you join our program. There are so many valuable resources in store for you and we are thrilled to be able to walk this college process with you. For our returning students, we hope that you had a wonderful winter break and we're looking forward to connecting this spring.

As a staff, we have planned an engaging and reflective program to assist you in learning more about yourself, your college journey and your next steps. We are here to support you every step of the way and I know you will find our staff to be encouraging and true cheerleaders who are completely committed to your success.

The transfer journey can be challenging, confusing and arduous, but it can also be enlightening, full of opportunity and fulfillment. The Mellon Pathways Program is here to provide you with a holistic support system that makes the transfer process less confusing and more engaging. We can't wait to work with you on meeting your goals and if there's anything I can do to support you, please feel free to reach out to me!



Janelle Marshall
Program Director
jmarshall@vccs.edu

Program Requirements

- Currently enrolled at Brightpoint or Reynolds with 2.0 GPA and a minimum of 6 credits.
- Desire to pursue an associate degree
- Interest in transferring to VCU, but not required
- Interested in majoring in African American Studies, Anthropology, Art History, English, Foreign Language, Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies, History, Interdisciplinary Studies, International Studies, Mass Communication, Music, Philosophy, Religious Studies, or Theatre, or who are undecided with interest in arts or humanities

E-Portfolio Assignment

Please click on this link to access the e-Portfolio assignment:

[e-Portfolio Assignment](#)

Notes:

- The e-Portfolio is a component of the **stipend level** of the program. Students who participate in and complete the e-Portfolio aspect of the program will receive a \$500 or \$250 stipend at the end of the semester based on the completed elements. All students in the Mellon Pathways Program are encouraged to participate in the stipend level of the program, but students can instead opt for the **basic** level. Details about the basic level are below.
- **You should expect to spend an average of two hours per week to participate in and complete the stipend level of the program.**
- Students do not need to have any experience with e-Portfolios to complete this assignment, our staff will be available at every step of the way to help you create an e-Portfolio that you are proud of and that serves you well.

Stipend & Basic Level Requirements

\$500 Stipend	\$250 Stipend	Basic Level: no stipend
Attend one event per week (total of 11 including orientation or info session)	Attend one event per week (total of 5 including orientation or info session)	Attend orientation or info session and 3 events/semester
Enrolled in at least 6 credits	Enrolled in at least 6 credits	Enrolled in at least 6 credits
Meet with Transfer Coach/Transfer Coordinator at least two times	Meet with Transfer Coach/Transfer Coordinator at least two times	Meet with Transfer Coach/Transfer Coordinator at least two times
Complete 6 Prompts in your e-portfolio	Complete 3 Prompts in your e-portfolio	No e-portfolio required
Attend a resume consultation and/or visit the Writing Center throughout the semester.	Attend a resume consultation and/or visit the Writing Center throughout the semester.	
Meet with Sarah Jackson to discuss e-portfolio	Meet with Sarah Jackson to discuss e-portfolio	
Present your e-Portfolio at the e-Portfolio Showcase	Present your e-Portfolio at the e-Portfolio Showcase	

Pathways Program links

For orientation:

- Zoom link: <https://vccs.zoom.us/my/pathwaysprogram>

Program requirements, events and assignments

- Canvas site: <https://learn.vccs.edu/courses/336701>
- Calendar: <https://www.vccs.edu/events/>

e-Portfolio:

- Taskstream login: <https://login.taskstream.com/signon/>

Social Media:

- Website <https://www.vccs.edu/pathways/>
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/vcupathwaysprogram>
- Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/vcupathwaysprogram/>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/mellon-pathways-program/>

Next Steps

- ❑ Read over Friday's newsletter
- ❑ Accept the invitation to join our Canvas site
- ❑ Participate in the stipend-level of the program (not required but always encouraged)
 - o **New students:** You will receive an invite from Taskstream to create your e-portfolio account.
 - o **Returning students:** Create a new e-Portfolio or add to an existing one.
 - o Submit your e-Portfolio link by 2/9 [here](#).
 - o Instructions for creating your e-Portfolio are [here](#).
 - o If you have questions while creating your e-Portfolio, please contact your Transfer Coach.
- ❑ If you'd like to join our book group, fill out the form [here](#).
- ❑ Plan the events you'd like to attend by viewing them here: <https://www.vccs.edu/events/>
- ❑ Look forward to (and plan ahead for) a meeting with your transfer coach.
- ❑ Connect to our Social Media:
 - o Website <https://www.vccs.edu/pathways/>
 - o Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/vcupathwaysprogram>
 - o Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/vcupathwaysprogram/>
 - o LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/mellon-pathways-program/>

Contact Information: Pathways Program Staff

Janelle Marshall

Program Director

jmarshall@vccs.edu

804-819-4934

VCU**Peter Henry**

Assistant Director

prhenry@vcu.edu

Ian Coyle

Transfer Coordinator

coylei@vcu.edu

804-827-8216

Lydia Dodd

Communications Assistant

doddl@vcu.edu

Sarah Jackson

e-Portfolio Consultant

jacksonsi@vcu.edu

Rose Monroe

Dual Admission Coordinator

monroer2@vcu.edu

Reynolds**Paul Williams**

Transfer Coach, Reynolds

pwilliams@reynolds.com

804-523-5078

La'Tifha White

Transfer Coach, Reynolds

LSWhite@reynolds.edu

804-523-5537

Brightpoint

Briana Hernandez, Transfer Coach

bhernandez@brightpoint.edu

804-480-4231

Katy Brooks, Transfer Coach

ebrooks@brightpoint.edu

804-706-5230