Southern Virginia University

Buena Vista, Virginia

📅 Today

Southern Virginia University's one-of-a-kind mission is to **Gather**, **Lift**, and **Launch**. We gather faithful Latter-day Saints and like-minded students from all educational and economic backgrounds, lift them in intellect, character, and spirituality, and launch them into successful lives and careers. Our commitment to gathering students from across the academic and economic spectrum requires us to lift students at all levels. Rather than measuring our value in terms of exclusivity, we define success by adding value to every student. Over the past decade, our mission and personalized approach have made us one of the fastest-growing private residential colleges. By Fall 2022, our enrollment will have more than doubled since 2014—increasing from roughly 600 to over 1200 students in just eight years.

Demographics

1,172 students
67 faculty
Private
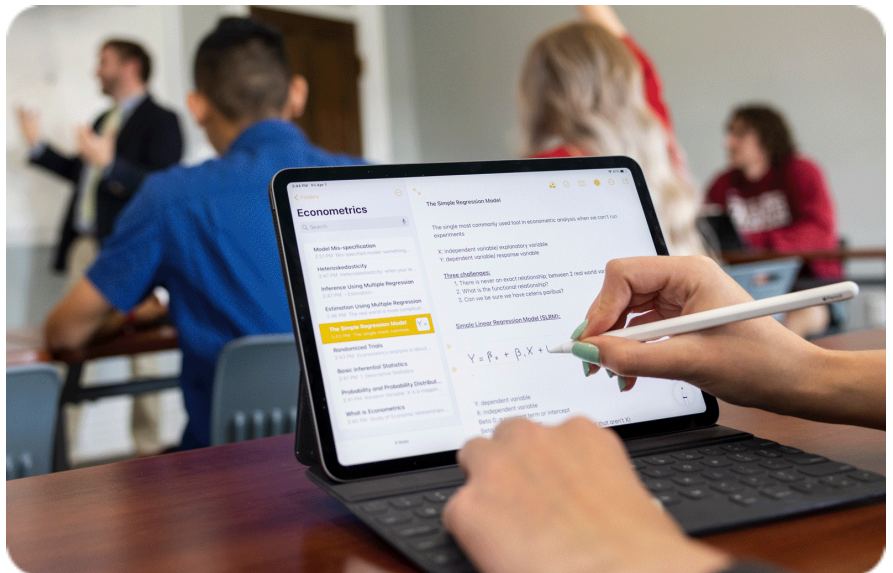Undergraduate

Apple Products

iPad Pro
Smart Keyboard
Apple Pencil
AirPods Pro

In the Classroom

Apple TVs connected to large, flat screen TVs

👁 Vision

Most people assume the best colleges have the lowest acceptance rates. We fundamentally disagree.

The best colleges prioritize student improvement—lifting each student to a higher plane of learning and standards of living—regardless of their academic or economic background. In our unwavering pursuit to Gather, Lift, and Launch students into successful lives and careers, we equip each of our students and professors with an iPad to level the academic playing field and maximize student learning opportunities. This enabling technology is essential for facilitating continuous innovation inside the classroom and disrupting traditional teaching methods in favor of collaborative learning. Using Apple technology, we strive to meet our students' unique and evolving learning needs while reducing the cost of textbooks year after year.

$120

of textbook savings per student in a single Core philosophy course each semester.

🏆 Success

Gather: 90% of students surveyed list the iPad as important to their overall experience. 95% said the iPad improves their classroom experience and increases collaboration with professors.

Lift: As indicated through our learning management software, Canvas, 85% of courses at Southern Virginia are taught with either "high" or "very high" iPad utilization. Of full-time faculty, more than 70% utilize the iPad in coursework done both during class and outside the classroom. 85% of professors indicate that the iPad bundle is essential to learning outcomes at the course level and the major level.

Launch: Our iPad initiative helps prepare students for success after college and, in part, contributes to our 93% career placement rate.

👫 Learning

Eliminating Expenses: The iPad has helped lower textbook costs in many courses while making associated materials easier to access, transport, and maintain. In Core classes, professors now have an online or ebook option for all required texts. In Reason and the Self—a Core philosophy course—professors have eliminated textbook costs altogether by creating an open-source, media-rich, digital textbook. By compiling all readings into a free ebook, these professors reduced their course cost by $120 per student—or $46,000 annually.

Collaborative Tools: Professors across every discipline have leveraged the iPad to increase collaboration. For example, Music uses the iPad for all sheet music (again reducing cost) and as a metronome, pitch pipe, keyboard, musical notation tool, portable recording studio, and tuner. Since all students have the same device, Music has even convened virtual choirs with students and instructors across the country. In math, the iPad has become a shared virtual chalkboard where professors and students work through solutions together in real-time.

Innovative Solutions: The iPad has become a platform for innovation across our University. Standard technology has enabled us to implement and adopt campus-wide learning and communication solutions such as Canvas LMS, a new student app, the Knight App, and digitizing our University literary journal, *The Review*. During the pandemic, we became the first school anywhere to use AirPods Pro—connected to each iPad—to help solve the myriad of issues created by teaching and learning while masked for safety.

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➡ What's next

Add Digital Competencies in Academics: Our Core Curriculum provides students with a solid critical-thinking and humanistic-learning foundation within the liberal arts tradition. As we consider liberal arts for the future, we plan to include tech competencies—such as coding—into our Core Curriculum. We also want to create an App Development concentration available to students from any major who would earn a professional certificate upon completion.

🔗 Links

- Philosophy Professors Cut Textbook Costs With Free Ebook
- SVU to Be First in World to Give AirPods Pro to Every Student
- How One Math Professor is Leveraging iPad Technology in All Corners of His Classroom
- Annual Campus Literary Journal Now Available As E-Book
- VIDEO: Shenandoah Virtual Choir
- VIDEO: Our Innovative Solution to Pandemic Communication
- LaunchPad Initiative Webpage