ThinkAGAIN

Spring 2021

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

RICHMOND
School *of* Professional
& Continuing Studies™

Getting Even More Comfortable with Remote Learning

We're still operating in remote mode.

In the Fall 2020 issue, we wrote that "'Going remote' is no longer a transition: it's a state of being." Remote instruction remains our primary means of instruction in our Think Again professional education and lifelong learning courses and programs. As of writing this piece, the University of Richmond remains in the Red Stage of its Physical Distancing Framework, which shifts most non-residential education experiences to remote learning to ensure the safety of the campus and surrounding community.

It's not going to remain like this too much longer. We won't be on Zoom forever. But we expect to continue expanding our remote learning opportunities beyond the coronavirus pandemic's lockdowns and quarantines to meet the unique learning needs of Richmond's working professionals. The flexibility of remote learning, especially self-paced, instructor-led online instruction, is the primary reason we'll expand our online programming post-pandemic. Richmond's working professionals and lifelong learners like you require this kind of flexibility, and we want to deliver what you need.

We want to do online and remote learning well. We're getting better with practice, and we have the expertise of the University of Richmond's faculty and staff to help us continue to improve. We continue to explore partnerships with online education providers like the Learning Resource Network (LERN), ed2go and MindEdge. And we're expanding programming with proven providers like World Instructor Training Schools (WITS), offering several additional Personal Wellness programs like *Group Fitness Gold Certification* and *Senior Fitness Specialist Certification* (see **spcs.richmond.edu/fitness** for details).

As we look toward the summer, we expect one more term of largely remote instruction. In the meantime, classes remain open for registration through the end of spring in April and early May.

We're regularly adding new classes and programming. If you're not receiving our regular email messages that include announcements about new programs and existing program registration openings, drop us a line at **spcs@richmond.edu** to be added to our mailing list.

When you visit us online, you're going to see a new look and feel on the SPCS website. We're excited to debut the new design. Be sure to check out several pages that will help you see all we have to offer:

- Our Professional Education portal: ***spcs.richmond.edu/professional-education***

- Our Lifelong Learning portal: ***spcs.richmond.edu/lifelong-learning***

- Our Think Again entry page to the Registration Portal: ***spcs.richmond.edu/ta***

We hope you'll visit us soon, check out the new site design and consider registering for our professional education and lifelong learning classes. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy!

Spring 2021
VISIT THINK AGAIN ONLINE
spcs.richmond.edu/ta

FORMER LT. GOV. BILL BOLLING
joins SPCS instructional team

The Honorable Bill Bolling, former lieutenant governor (2006-2014) and state senator (1996-2005), has joined the instructional team at the School of Professional & Continuing Studies (SPCS) to teach a professional education course on Virginia Government & Politics and to help facilitate the Political Campaign Management Professional Certificate program.

Bolling's distinguished public service career includes elected offices at local and state levels. He has served as member and chairman of the Hanover County Board of Supervisors (1992-1996), as a member of the Virginia Senate (1996-2006) and as lieutenant governor of Virginia (2006-2014).

Bolling is one of the few people in Virginia's history to serve two terms as the state's lieutenant governor. He also has the distinction of serving with both a Democratic governor (Tim Kaine) and a Republican governor (Bob McDonnell). He brings his extensive political experience and work with both parties to provide an insider's guide into Virginia state and local politics and government.
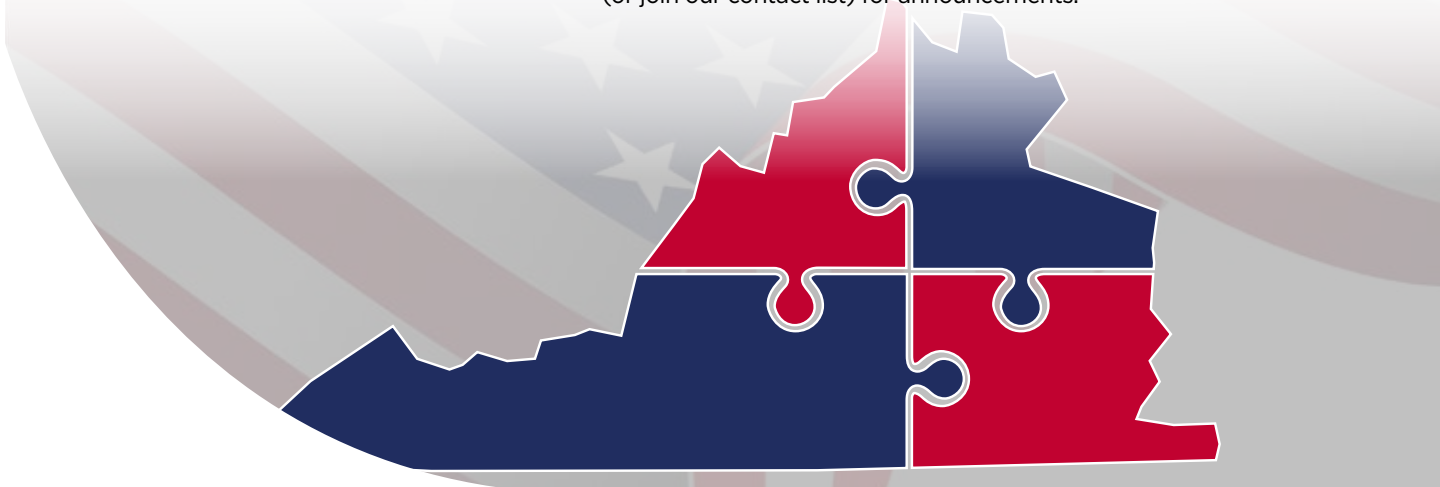
Bolling's Virginia Government & Politics class serves as an introduction to the unique history of politics in Virginia, tracing ways this history influences today's governing. Lectures in the 11-week course cover major periods in Virginia political history, including the Colonial period, the Revolutionary period, the disruptive period (both the Civil War and Reconstruction), the Jim Crow era and Massive Resistance, and the modern period.

Bolling is also working with members of the instructional team to lead the Political Campaign Management Professional Certificate program. The Political Campaign Management Professional Certificate prepares students to successfully manage a political campaign at the local, state or federal level. It's ideal for those seeking to become more active in politics. Bolling's extensive experience in both his own party and across the aisle in Virginia politics provides valuable insight into local, state, and national politics. This insight, combined with the experience brought by other leaders and presenters in the program, helps prepare students for the work required to manage a political campaign.

The Political Campaign Management Professional Certificate is offered annually in the Spring and Fall semester. We're not sure how often we'll offer Virginia Politics & Government, so watch your email (or join our contact list) for announcements.

Visit the Virginia Government & Politics class online
spcs.richmond.edu/vapolitics

Visit the Political Campaign Management program online
spcs.richmond.edu/campaign

ASL CLASSES MAKE THE MOVE TO ZOOM

An outstanding ASL instructor and her dedicated students successfully make the transition to virtual learning.

SPCS relaunched American Sign Language classes to community members in the fall of 2017, and our courses quickly gained popularity, with more than 100 registrations since.

Though some aspects of the courses have changed since their start, instructor Reba Poole has been a constant. Poole, who is deaf, is a graduate of Gallaudet University. She's fluent in ASL, and also reads lips, which facilitates communication with beginner students.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Poole decided to offer the class remotely through Zoom although she realized the video meeting platform would require adaptations.

Through interactive and creative solutions within virtual lessons, students begin learning the words Poole signs and reinforces with repetition. Classes also utilize the closed caption feature to enhance communication during lessons.

"I was forced to pay extra-close attention, which allowed me to pick up details I may not have in an in-person environment."

Poole's students see a silver lining to the current virtual classes. "The first online ASL class was engaging and discussion-based," said Adrienne Piazza, Director of the Bonner Scholars program and ASL student. "I was forced to pay extra-close attention, which allowed me to pick up details I may not have in an in-person environment."

What began as a small class has evolved into a strong team of ASL learners that even a global pandemic can't stop.

Visit our Languages & Cultural Studies area of study online
spcs.richmond.edu/language

OUR CAREER-FOCUSED COURSE FRAMEWORK

Our online offerings are structured to better, more immediately meet the needs of Richmond's professionals. We know many in Richmond are facing uncertain employment futures, and our career-focused framework will help you explore options, build skills, and develop professional competencies to support your employment needs.

Within each Area of Study in our online Think Again catalog at *spcs.richmond.edu/ta*, we've developed a career-focused framework for browsing our course offerings and programs.

Career-Curious & Enrichment Programs will help you explore careers and expand your interests. Here you can find classes to help you better understand a career and explore a career path, or to enrich your existing knowledge and abilities.

Career-Level Programs will help you build professional skills toward career advancement or career switching. Here you can find classes to help you build entry-level skills or retool existing skills for a new career path.

Professional-Level Programs provide advanced learning and development for industry professionals. Here you can find programs that advance industry knowledge and build professional skills. And mid-career and senior professionals looking for advancement can see opportunities in the Professional-Level category.

We're using this career-focused framework to build out coursework within these topic-based Areas of Study. While you'll still be able to register for classes using the existing Think Again online registration system, you'll also be able to register for a wide range of classes through our online partner registration portals.

VISIT THINK AGAIN ONLINE
spcs.richmond.edu/ta

IOP also offers **a la carte workshops** to fulfill professional development needs, like our upcoming **NPOs and the Pandemic Workshop**.

- March 30-31, 2021, 9am–noon
- Interactive workshop via Zoom
- Cost per registrant: $145
- Register: visit *spcs.richmond.edu/iop*

Our career-focused framework in action: Nonprofit Studies

To demonstrate our career-focused framework for organizing courses and programs, take a look at our **Nonprofit Studies** program.

Our Nonprofit Studies program features the Institute on Philanthropy (IOP) along with online education partners. The combined programming of IOP and our online partner MindEdge provides entry level training for nonprofit staff, career-level implementation plans for strategic nonprofit goals, and executive-level professional development for nonprofit leaders.

At the **Career-Curious and Enrichment** level, we offer **Social Media for Nonprofits**, a self-paced online course from MindEdge that teaches effective use of social media as a marketing tool, tailored to nonprofit organizations. This course introduces learners to the use of social media in communicating, marketing, public relations, and fundraising for nonprofits. It explores the major social media platforms as vehicles for nonprofits to reach their members, volunteers, and donors.

At the **Career Level**, we offer **IOP's Fund Development Institute**, a 6-day, instructor-led remote program offered over two weeks. The Fund Development Institute focuses on the "Art and Science" of fundraising and the work that fundraisers do. The format of the program is guided by the fundraising cycle and the culture of philanthropy and incorporates fundamentals and practical application of tools and methods.

And at the **Professional Level**, we offer **IOP's Nonprofit Leadership Lab**, an instructor-facilitated remote workshop for nonprofit leaders and executives. The Nonprofit Leadership Lab engages regional nonprofit leaders in regular dialogue, problem solving, mentoring and support. Program participants meet for 2 hours in each session, where they will learn from one another by discussing the issues that face each individual leader and the nonprofit they serve.

Each of our **Areas of Study** pages follows this same career-focused framework for consistency and clarity. As always, if you have questions, contact us at *spcs@richmond.edu*.

VISIT OUR AREA OF STUDY PAGES ONLINE
spcs.richmond.edu/noncredit/areas

VISIT THE INSTITUTE ON PHILANTHROPY ONLINE
spcs.richmond.edu/iop

VIRGINIA LAW
& Politics

Over the past couple of years, you may have noticed a growing collection of programming focused on politics, government and legal affairs.

We started by developing the **Political Campaign Management Professional Certificate** with George Chieffo, who has since become one of our Senior Program Managers for Professional Education programs. Shortly thereafter, we developed our **Grassroots Lobbying & Advocacy Professional Certificate** with Beck Stanley, the Director of Government Affairs for VA Agrobusiness Council. Beck continues to lead the program's instructional team. Most recently, we added Bill Bolling's **Virginia Government & Politics** class, which provides an introduction to the way Virginia governs itself and prepares its participants to continue into one (or both) of the certificate programs.

Alongside these efforts, we recently partnered with Condensed Curriculum International (CCI), a leading online education provider, to offer a number of online courses in **public safety and legal studies**. We're pleased to offer the following certificate programs in partnership with CCI:

- Civil Litigation Specialist
- Contract Specialist
- Corrections Specialist
- Criminal Investigation Professional
- Criminal Justice Professional
- Criminal Law & Procedure Specialist
- Criminal Procedure Specialist
- Family Law Professional
- Homeland Security Specialist
- Juvenile Justice Specialist
- Law Enforcement Professional
- Law Office Technology Specialist
- Legal Writing Specialist
- Tort Law Specialist

These additions are no accident. They're part of the School's ongoing strategic efforts to meet the learning needs of Richmond's working professionals by capitalizing on the University of Richmond's legacy of liberal arts education and expertise.

In this case, we're building on the University's Political Affairs and Criminal Justice programs along with the School's Paralegal Studies degree program. We're also building on the School's historical experience providing degree programs in HR management and leadership for public safety personnel throughout Virginia and degree programs in emergency management for first responders around the world.

We believe the practical application of a liberal arts education reveals itself in engaged citizenship and community service. As a result, we seek to provide Richmond's working professionals with the skills they need to successfully lead political campaigns, participate effectively in Virginia's political process, organize grassroots advocacy efforts around important issues, and practice ethical professionalism in public safety and legal affairs.

We've pulled together all these content areas into a new area of study, **Legal, Politics & Government Affairs**. We hope you'll take a look at what we have to offer.

Visit the Legal, Politics & Government Affairs area of study online
spcs.richmond.edu/government

FROM PSYCHOLOGY TO CODING

SPCS Coding Boot Camp helped Renee Grinnell land her dream job and find passion in her career again.

University of Richmond's Coding Boot Camp helped Renee Grinnell make a successful career transition and find love in her work again. Grinnell majored in psychology at Cornell and received her master's in clinical psychology at VCU. She wanted to become a psychologist, but halfway through her doctoral program, she realized academia wasn't for her.

Because she hadn't seen women in coding when she was younger, Grinnell hadn't considered it for herself. But because she needed a change and some of her friends had positive boot camp experiences, she signed up for UR Coding Boot Camp at SPCS.

Visit our Coding, Cybersecurity & Data Analytics Boot Camps online
bootcamps.richmond.edu

Grinnell ran into challenges, even with a software engineer boyfriend who could help her at home. "I think anyone who says they didn't have a big learning curve isn't telling the whole truth." she said. But she bonded with her classmates and instructors through the challenges. One of her favorite parts of the course was group projects like JAMR, a program she helped build that allows multiple people to create music on a virtual keyboard simultaneously.

After boot camp, Grinnell apprenticed with Maxx Potential, which helps aspiring technology professionals add experience to their resumes. Maxx Potential also helped Grinnell land her dream job as a front-end developer at a local digital agency. Now, she works with front-end email design, development, and UI/UX at Capital One.

"I wake up every day and I love going to work and thinking about work when I come home. I hadn't been able to say that in a long time,"

"I wake up every day and I love going to work and thinking about work when I come home. I hadn't been able to say that in a long time," she said. "I'm so glad I did it."

BREWING EDUCATION
Expanding Our Reach

As you know, we're partnering with Virginia Tech in offering our Beer Brewer Professional Certificate beyond the Richmond region. Virginia Tech's statewide footprint allow us to expand the program into new regions of the Commonwealth and share the state's premier brewing education program outside RVA.

Despite pandemic delays, the partnership is thriving! We've recently graduated our first Roanoke-area cohort and are recruiting our second Southwest Virginia cohort, and we've launched our initial cohort in Northern Virginia and are already recruiting our second NoVA cohort.

And as always, we're recruiting a new cohort in Richmond, too! And our graduates are going great things!

GRADUATE SUCCESSFULLY OPENS BREWERY
in downtown Newport News

David Lamb, a graduate from the Beer Brewer Professional Certificate's inaugural cohort in Richmond, has successfully opened Coastal Fermentory, a "new home for hazy IPAs and bourbon-barrel stouts," in Newport News. The brewery is in a zone of empty warehouses that planners hope will become a new restaurant row in the city.

Read the full story in the
The Virginian-Pilot online
urspcs.info/breweryopening

Visit Our Brewing Education Program
spcs.richmond.edu/brewer

Brewing Program Start Dates for Summer & Fall
- Richmond: April 5, 2021
- Roanoke: April 5, 2021
- Northern Virginia: August 8, 2021