

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
Resolution for Review Process for Pathways Concept 7  
2025-2026A**

Draft Notice Sent to University Council Cabinet	09/08/2025
First Reading by Commission	02/09/2026
Approval by Commission	Date
First Reading by Senate	Date
Approval by Senate	Date
Faculty Senate Comment	Date
Staff Senate Comment	Date
Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment	Date
Graduate and Professional Student Senate Comment	Date
Undergraduate Student Senate Comment	Date
First Reading, University Council	Date
Approved, University Council	Date
Approved, President	Date
Approved, Board of Visitors	Date
Effective Date	Date

**WHEREAS**, President Sands maintained that legal and compliance risks arising from new federal regulatory requirements, coupled with the Board of Visitors' DEI resolution passed on March 25, 2025, created an exigent circumstance requiring the university leadership to act quickly to eliminate or adjust a number of university programs and services, including some changes to academic programs; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result, President Sands informed University Council Cabinet of university action taken to suspend the requirement to fulfill Pathways Core Concept 7: Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States for all current students; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 8, 2025, University Council Cabinet approved a motion to affirm the administration's decision to suspend Pathways Core Concept 7 and associated resolutions and policies; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 1, 2025, Pathways Core Concept 7 was suspended, and the requirement was fulfilled for all students' DARS; and

**WHEREAS**, Pathways Core Concept 7 was created and approved by faculty through shared governance according to the following policies and resolutions: PPM 299: Addressing Intersectional Diversity in Pathways and accompanying [PPM 299: Addressing Intersectional Diversity in Pathways Curriculum](#) and accompanying [Resolution CEOD 2015-16C](#), PPM 290-Revision 1: Resolution to Revise Pathways General Education Curriculum\*

and accompanying [Resolution CUSP 2016-17G](#) (such that the original PPM 290 issued April 6, 2015, is in effect); and

**WHEREAS**, regrettably, faculty were not consulted about the decision to suspend the concept; and

**WHEREAS**, the four-year assessment cycle for Pathways was developed by UCCGE and includes two years of data collection, one year of data analysis, and one year of action on those results; and

**WHEREAS**, year 3 of that cycle, which is the upcoming academic year (AY 2026-27), calls for a thorough review of the program;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the UCCGE, in collaboration with faculty and the university community and utilizing the process of shared governance in order to return responsibility for the curriculum to the faculty, will use year three of the Pathways review cycle (AY 2026-27) to determine how to revise the Pathways program, including Core Concept 7, in such manner that it provides meaningful contribution to students' education and does not pose a legal risk; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** UCCGE and CUSP reaffirms the Principles of Community and reaffirms that Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University is an institution that highly values diversity and fosters an inclusive environment, encouraging a culture of opportunity for all, which immensely enriches our campus, and is committed to providing every student an education that is free from discrimination.