

HONORING THE FUTURE

The University of Virginia
School of Continuing
and Professional Studies

“Today, the ‘average’ college student works full-time, cares for family members, has life happening all around them. They need programs that meet their needs. I know we have done our job when we help students develop valuable skills and they fall in love with learning all over again. That is the magic of SCPS. When we are at our best, we change lives.”

**ALEX HERNANDEZ, DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING
AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

The University of Virginia School of Continuing and Professional Studies has an important mission at UVA: Reach beyond Grounds and build “ladders of opportunity” for working adults. SCPS offers a variety of online and in-person programs, including bachelor’s degree completion programs, professional certificates, a postbaccalaureate premedical program, a Master’s of Public Safety, and other career accelerators to help our students thrive in a fast-changing economy.



BUILD LADDERS OF OPPORTUNITY

SCPS provides accessible, affordable, high-quality programs with steady support structures for working adults who seek to finish their degrees, upskill, or change careers. The school's average undergraduate student is in their late 30s, and nearly half of them will become first-generation college graduates.

DEGREES

SCPS helps working adults complete their bachelor's degrees—a key initiative in the UVA strategic plan. SCPS students graduate at rates over twice the national average and can concentrate in areas like business, technology, and healthcare. The school's first master's degree—in public safety—successfully launched in the summer of 2021 and is exceeding expectations.

PATHWAYS

SCPS delivers certificates that help students level-up their skills and boost their careers. Students benefit from employer-aligned, professional credentials in areas including project management, technology, accounting, human resources, cybersecurity, and more. The school is working on a new digital skills strategy focused on helping students find jobs in high-demand fields.

SKILLS

SCPS teaches the digital and human skills adults need to thrive in a tech-driven economy. In 2020, SCPS, in partnership with the College of Arts & Sciences, created UVA Edge, a one-year program for working adults with little to no college experience. UVA Edge teaches the digital and professional skills needed for career success, while students earn 20 credits towards a degree. The pilot launched in the spring of 2021 with UVA staff and community members.

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

SCPS is featured in the University's strategic plan as one of ten key University-wide initiatives. As a public institution, UVA is committed to supporting the 1.1 million Virginians without college degrees and the hundreds of thousands more who need to upskill in a digital economy. Your gift can be used to:

Increase scholarship support to help adults finish their degrees at UVA and meet strategic plan goals

In 2020-2021, SCPS welcomed its largest degree completion class in school history with 111 students. However, adults without degrees are most impacted during economic downturns, and SCPS bachelor's students receive institutional grant aid at a rate five times greater than on-Grounds students. Scholarships enable a diverse cohort of students to transition from workplace to school without the burden of debt.

Gifts to scholarships benefit adults without degrees who are disproportionately first-generation college students, from underrepresented groups, and/or come from low-income populations. Gifts may also be an important investment in year-round financial aid to accelerate time to completion and increase student retention.

Provide startup funds to expand portfolio of innovative online programs

SCPS has successfully launched a series of innovative programs, including UVA Edge, UVA Launchpad (a summer program for Arts & Sciences students), and the Master's of Public Safety. Gifts can seed future innovations and new program launches.

Expand student success initiatives

The higher education landscape is changing rapidly, and SCPS can ensure students achieve their goals by offering scalable career-advising, student support programs, and outcomes tracking.

CONTACT

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