

**VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
(Agency 208)**

Capital Project Budget Amendment Proposal

Undergraduate Science Laboratory Building

	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
Additional Funds Requested:		
General Fund	\$74,800,000	\$0
Nongeneral Fund	\$0	\$0

The Undergraduate Science Laboratory building is the university's top priority instruction project in its 2016-2022 capital outlay plan and is essential to support the growing demand for STEM-H majors at Virginia Tech. Over the past decade, STEM-H majors at Virginia Tech have increased by 31 percent while the total enrollment grew by about eight percent. Thus, as the total number of students is expanding, the number of STEM-H majors is growing at a faster rate.

The increasing number of students majoring in engineering, traditional sciences, and in new degree programs such as neuroscience have generated a significant demand increase for course sections of chemistry, biology, and physics laboratory instruction. The university last constructed an undergraduate laboratory facility in 2004 for instruction in chemistry and physics, and the university's existing inventory of science laboratories for instruction is now too small and generally outdated to meet the call for science laboratory course sections. Because laboratory rooms are not available to meet the demand for course sections, students must defer courses and potentially extend time to degree completion.

The university is confronted with the need to construct new instructional laboratories to support significant enrollment growth. To meet demand for science laboratory courses and keep students on pace with degree completion, the university requests authorization to construct a new undergraduate science laboratory facility of 102,000 gross square feet. The proposed building includes two physics laboratories with 100 stations each, one physics laboratory with 150 stations, six freshman biology laboratories with 36 stations each, three multi-disciplinary integrated science laboratories with 36 stations each, four classrooms with 108 seats each, one computer laboratory/mediated testing center with 150 stations, and associated lab support, faculty and graduate teaching assistant workspace.

This proposal is for authorization and funding of the Undergraduate Science Laboratory Building capital project. The estimated total project costs are \$74.8 million and the funding plan calls for General Fund support. If the Commonwealth of Virginia cannot fully support the entire project at this time, the university requests planning funds for \$3.75 million to complete design work through preliminary designs and in accordance with the state's cost review process. Because the project is a high priority, the agency is willing to temporarily fund planning with nongeneral fund resources provided the agency is reimbursed by future General Fund allocations when the project is funded to move into the construction phase.