FAQS

What is a climate survey?
A climate survey captures how you feel and think about a certain topic. It provides an opportunity for all voices to be heard. Results are used to understand our current strengths, identify areas for improvement and track progress. This particular climate survey is related to diversity and inclusion efforts at VCU.

Why is VCU launching this survey?
President Rao is leading a universitywide initiative focusing on diversity and inclusive excellence to advance recruitment, retention and promotion of underrepresented and underserved students, faculty, staff and administrators, and to foster a welcoming environment that values human differences. The survey will help inform this work, including how classes are designed, what training and development is needed, what services are offered, and how to communicate more effectively.

Who will receive a survey?
Two separate surveys will be launched:
• One for current university employees (faculty and staff, full and part time).
• One for current students (undergraduate, graduate, first-professional and nondegree-seeking). Any students who also have a working relationship with VCU will receive ONLY the student climate survey.

Check your VCU email account on April 11 for a link to the survey.

Why are there two separate surveys?
Issues and concerns identified by students are typically different than the issues and concerns of faculty and staff. Separate surveys will allow us to compare results from previous faculty and staff surveys as well as compare VCU student experiences and insights to students at other universities. The VCU Survey Evaluation and Research Laboratory will administer the faculty and staff survey. The student survey, Diverse Learning Environments, is administered by UCLA’s Higher Education Research Institute (HERI).

How long will it take to complete?
About 25-35 minutes. You will be able to stop and save your responses, exit the survey and return to complete it at a later time.

Will responses be anonymous?
Yes. Individual responses will not be shared with any member of the VCU community. An aggregate of responses will be shared with the university community.

Are responses required for all questions?
No. While your responses are appreciated, we understand there may be questions you prefer not to answer.

Technical difficulties or other questions?
Contact Constance Peyton in the Office of Planning and Decision Support at cwpeyton@vcu.edu or (804) 827-0932.

More information
Visit inclusive.vcu.edu to learn about this and other diversity and inclusion initiatives at VCU.