“What does it mean to be a global Hokie?”
“Ut Prosim (That I May Serve)” - Virginia Tech’s Motto

There are two vital components in embodying a “global Hokie”. The first is to take the knowledge gained at Virginia Tech and to apply that knowledge in accordance with the directive of the University’s motto. The second is to embrace the University’s missions and carry them out when embarking on life’s journeys. As an embodied entity, Virginia Tech is illustrated by three missions: learning, discovery, and engagement. When these missions are considered in light of their motto, Ut Prosim (That I May Serve), the true character of Virginia Tech can be understood. Being a Hokie is not a passive or a disengaged act. The active discovery of knowledge followed by (or paired with) its dissemination is central to the Hokie missions.

This institute has encountered several challenging obstacles, most notably the 4/16 shooting. Associated stigma may have even brought tarnish to the name of this decorated institution. However, in the face of adversity the university community has bonded together and has stood its ground in the face of opposition. There is an inherent strength of character which is manifest in our proud mascot. Therefore, a Hokie should display the same confidence that the institution possesses by embodying the components of its missions.

Identifying as a Hokie is to truly actualize the quintessence of Virginia Tech. This means that a Hokie should not focus solely on teaching and learning, outreach and engagement, or social and community development, but attempt to capture each of these assignments with his actions. A true Hokie is a walking, acting manifestation of the University’s missions. This University is not an island isolated from the peripheral world. It is a living entity that interacts with and benefits the surrounding world. With over 207,000 alumni hailing from every state and more than 100 countries, Virginia Tech is a global force. The demographic composition of this institute subsists with a strong international presence. This means that even the institute’s core values are fundamentally designed and delivered with contributions from global perspectives.

With this level of global influence, each Hokie should be a guiding light and a driving force within his or her own environment. It does not matter whether that environment is Blacksburg, or whether it is Europe or Asia. A global Hokie has a predesigned gold standard of conduct and goal-seeking which he
can choose to embrace. The most direct way to implement these missions is to act. Action is the key to globalization, and engaging in the core values of Virginia Tech's missions is the precedent for a Hokie's actions. However, with all things considered, serving others is ultimately still the most important pursuit that a global Hokie can undertake. Taking the knowledge and experience gained at Virginia Tech is the tool by which to do this. A transnational dissemination of ideas is an effective way to benefit others with the knowledge and experience gained from this Institution.