Potential Merger of Radford University & Jefferson College FAQs
January 18, 2018

GENERAL FAQs

1. Where did the idea for a merger originate?

The idea to merge Jefferson College into Radford University arose organically, as a result of the long-term partnership among Carilion Clinic, Radford University and Jefferson College. It grew from our belief that together, we can enhance the quality of health care education and research better than we could individually.

We believe integrating these institutions will more effectively meet the growing need for health care professionals in the Commonwealth and beyond. Through its comprehensive network of hospitals, primary and specialty physician practices, and other complementary services, Carilion Clinic works to provide quality care close to home for nearly one million Virginians. Given Radford University’s established legacy of excellence in its nursing, health and human services programs and the many years of successful collaboration among Radford University, Jefferson College and Carilion Clinic, Radford University was a natural fit to move toward an even stronger partnership.

2. When would the schools fully merge?

The planning process is anticipated to take 18 to 24 months. We will work closely together during the next several months to develop processes and procedures for how to move forward.

3. How many students attend each institution?

Jefferson College has an enrollment of about 1,150. Radford University has an enrollment of more than 9,400, including more than 1,400 in the programs offered through its Waldron College of Health and Human Services.

4. Is Radford University equipped to take on this institution?

Yes. Radford University has benefited from close collaboration and partnerships with Jefferson College over the years and has a legacy of excellence in its nursing, health and human services programs, all of which will permit a seamless integration of Jefferson College into the Radford University family.
5. Will this merger have any impact on the amount of faculty and staff members needed at either institution?

Both Radford University and Jefferson College have talented faculty and staff members who are singularly dedicated to our students. Our teams will work closely together during the next 18 to 24 months to determine the best structure and operations.

6. How will the boards and school leaders integrate? How will roles change?

With respect to governing boards, Radford University has and will continue to operate under a single Board of Visitors, members of which are appointed by the governor. Evaluation of the administrative organization will be part of the planning process. With regard to the respective foundation boards and philanthropic boards, funds will continue to be allocated based on the donor’s intent.

7. What Jefferson College operations will be assumed by Radford University?

Our analysis and planning during the next 18 to 24 months will help determine the best structure and operations for the integration. We plan to have operations in both Radford and Roanoke. Upon completion of the merger, academic and operations functions will be assumed by Radford University.

ACCREDITATION & APPROVAL

8. Would a merger require approval from any state agencies?

Yes. We will coordinate with the Commonwealth’s coordinating body for higher education – the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) – and will work with the Commonwealth to determine if other approvals need to take place.

9. What does this mean for accreditation?

Radford University and Jefferson College have long-standing accreditations of their respective institutions and many programs, including Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation of both institutions. Radford University intends to continue to meet those high standards of quality and excellence.

10. How does this impact program offerings at the Roanoke Higher Education Center?

The Roanoke Higher Education Center will continue to play an integral role in Radford University’s program offerings.
11. How will this impact professional certification or licensure?

Students who meet requirements set forth by the respective accrediting body will be able to sit for licensure.

FINANCIAL FAQs

12. What will be the financial impact of the merger?

We will use the 18 to 24-month planning process to refine operating costs.

GEOGRAPHIC FAQs

13. Where will Jefferson College’s main campus be located? Where will Radford University’s Waldron College of Health and Human Services be located?

Radford University’s Waldron College of Health and Human Services has a presence in both Radford and Roanoke. We expect operations to continue in Roanoke similar to how they do today.

14. Will Jefferson College and/or Radford University faculty members, staff members and/or students relocate?

Our planning during the next 18 to 24 months will determine the best structure and operations for the potential merger.

CARILION CLINIC FAQs

15. Why does Carilion Clinic want to make this move? Will Carilion Clinic still be associated with Jefferson College and Radford University?

Carilion Clinic intends to continue its robust partnerships and collaborations. Partnerships are the future, and this public-private partnership is good for the region and the Commonwealth.

16. How will the new relationship between Carilion Clinic and Radford University be structured?

Much of this new relationship will be worked out during the next 18 to 24 months. The partnership will result in enhanced educational opportunities, facilitate access to ongoing research, build upon our robust commitment to community engagement and service, and augment the demand for health care and human services professionals in the region. We believe this relationship will enhance access to health care education.
RADFORD UNIVERSITY FAQs

17. Why does Radford University want this merger?

Radford University believes the merger of Jefferson College, its programs and its students will result in greater educational opportunities, and for more efficiency in STEM-H education. It will allow enhanced access to ongoing research, enable additional collaboration, help our institutions meet and exceed our commitment to community engagement and service, and more effectively meet the need for health care professionals throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond.

18. How does Radford University benefit?

With the addition of Jefferson College, Radford University will have one of the largest health sciences programs in the Commonwealth. This will raise Radford University’s profile and in turn, raise the profile of the region.

19. If programs will primarily integrate within the Radford University’s Waldron College of Health and Human Services, where will programs go if they do not transfer there?

Many of Jefferson College’s existing programs naturally fit into the Waldron College of Health and Human Services due to similarities of their respective disciplines. However, where some Jefferson College programs might not be most suited to Waldron College, we will work to identify which Radford University colleges or departments are better suited based on the respective discipline.

20. How many faculty (full-time, part-time, adjunct) and staff are employed by Radford University? How many faculty and staff are in the Waldron College?

In fall 2017, Radford University had 460 full-time teaching and research (T&R) faculty, 224 adjunct faculty, 305 administrative and professional (AP) faculty, 523 classified staff and 103 part-time staff. During the same period, the Radford University Waldron College of Health and Human Services had 66 T&R faculty, 32 adjunct faculty, 15 AP faculty, 13 classified staff and 17 part-time staff.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE FAQs

21. How does Jefferson College benefit?

The potential merger allows both Jefferson College and Radford University to mutually benefit from each institution’s comprehensive experience in higher education.
22. Does Jefferson College’s administration support the plan of action? The Board of Directors?

Jefferson College’s administration and Board of Directors fully support a merger and are excited for the anticipated benefits that will result.

23. Will Jefferson College students become Radford University students? Which entity will issue their degrees?

In the near term, Jefferson College students will remain students of Jefferson College. During the next 18 to 24 months, we will develop processes and plans that will result in all students becoming members of the Radford University family by the time the integration is complete, which will also result in expanded opportunities for our students in both locations. We will be diligent in our efforts to keep interested parties informed.

24. How will this affect Jefferson College diplomas/alumni?

Jefferson College has a long history of teaching excellence that is validated by the success of its many alumni. Diplomas that have been issued by Jefferson College and the resulting alumni will not be impacted by a merger.

25. Will the name of Jefferson College change? If so, to what?

We anticipate that in some capacity the name will be updated to reflect the integration of Jefferson College into Radford University. Our teams will work closely together during the next 18 to 24 months to work through the details. We will be diligent in our efforts to keep interested parties informed.

26. What is the impact on students currently attending Jefferson College? Will they lose any credits in the transfer?

Radford University and Jefferson College highly value our students and will continue with our commitments to currently enrolled students to complete their program’s requirements for degree completion.

27. How will this impact the benefits of faculty or staff members from Jefferson College?

Jefferson College faculty and staff members who integrate with Radford University will be eligible for all equivalent Radford University-related benefits.
28. How will this impact current applicants to Jefferson College?

There is no impact to current applicants. Nothing has changed that should deter any potential applicant from considering the many quality programs currently offered at Jefferson College. In the near term, Jefferson College students will remain students of Jefferson College. During the next 18 to 24 months, we will develop processes and plans that will result in all students integrating into the Radford University family by the time the merger is complete, which will also result in expanded opportunities for our students in both locations.

29. How will this impact the programs currently offered by Jefferson College? Will any programs be ended?

Both Radford University and Jefferson College have talented faculty and staff members who are singularly dedicated to our students. Our teams will work closely together during the next 18 to 24 months to determine the best structure and operations for the potential merger.

30. Jefferson College offers associate degrees, in addition to bachelor, master and doctoral degrees – will all of these degrees continue to be offered when the potential merger is complete?

In the near term, Jefferson College students will remain students of Jefferson College. During the next 18 to 24 months, we will develop processes and plans that will result in all students integrating into the Radford University family by the time the merger is complete, and that will result in expanded opportunities for our students in both locations. We will be making determinations regarding program offerings compatible with the potential merger during this period of analysis.

31. Will Jefferson College students still get general education requirements through Jefferson College?

Our analysis and planning during the next 18 to 24 months will help determine the best structure and operations for the integration, which will also result in expanded opportunities for our students in both locations.

32. Jefferson College does not have tenure and Radford University does. How will this impact the role of faculty members at Jefferson College?

Both Radford University and Jefferson College have talented faculty and staff members who are singularly dedicated to our students. Our teams will work closely together during the next 18 to 24 months to determine the best structure and operations for the potential merger.
33. What will happen to the facilities associated with Jefferson College?

Our planning during the next 18 to 24 months will determine the best structure and operations for the potential merger. We plan to operate in both Radford and Roanoke. The details of the Roanoke operations will be developed during the forthcoming analysis and planning.

VIRGINIA TECH FAQs

34. How does Virginia Tech fit into this?

Virginia Tech welcomes a more significant presence by Radford University in the Roanoke Innovation District. It will enhance the evolution of the city’s health sciences and technology community.

35. Will the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute change?

There are no planned changes to the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine or the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute.

36. What will be the effect on research?

None.