



How can I make the *Ut Prosim* difference?

Discussion Guide

Discuss

1. Menah describes how the *Ut Prosim* motto, adopted in 1896 when the call to service was understood as service to country, has since been reinterpreted and taken to heart by Hokies of every generation. Consider the motto, *Ut Prosim* (that I may serve) from our current historical moment in the 21st century. What does it mean to you—as an individual? As a member of Virginia Tech?
2. Menah states that as global citizens we need to engage across ideas, beliefs, perspectives, experiences, identities, backgrounds and cultures in service to humanity. What are ways you can engage in the campus community and beyond?
3. Achieving the *Ut Prosim* difference requires us to cultivate the skills of complexity. (See text box) Choose one of the skills of complexity and discuss:
 - How does it apply to your workplace?
 - What are some ways you can you cultivate this skill?
 - Of these skills, which represents something you already do well?
 - Which of the skills represents a point of growth?

Skills of Complexity

Adaptive—ability to continuously adjust to change.

Interdependent—ability to incorporate multiple perspectives to address dimensions of a problem.

Intersectional—ability to take account of the historical, social and political contexts as well as the unique experience of each individual based on their multiple identities.

Persistence—ability to stick with it even when a clear resolution is not in sight, and to stay in the conversation even when it becomes difficult.

Curiosity—ability to open our minds to ideas and perspectives that may be very different from our own.

Learn More

Elevating the *Ut Prosim* difference is Strategic Priority 2 of the University Strategic Plan. [Go here](https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/Initiatives/dsp.html) (<https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/Initiatives/dsp.html>) for a high level discussion of how the university envisions this for the institution. Where do you and your colleagues fit into this plan?