Why build a cadre of informed agency safety managers and decision-makers?

Workers’ compensation losses, liability claims, citations for noncompliance with growing numbers of federal and state Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) mandates all present real and present challenges to Virginia agency risk managers, safety specialists and other decision-makers. Virginia’s Executive Order 109 (10): Workplace Safety and Employee Health recognizes the seriousness of the Commonwealth’s risk control problem by directing Virginia state agencies and operational programs to better focus and direct their loss control efforts. VRCI supports EO 109 (10) by helping agencies to develop the internal expertise to build and maintain effective risk control programs, not only now but also in the future.

VRCI faculty

VRCI courses are coordinated by Timothy Cook, director of the Risk and Insurance Studies Center, VCU School of Business and are taught by VCU faculty. Questions about course content may be directed to Mr. Cook at his office by phone at (804) 828-1486 or e-mail at tjcook@vcu.edu.

Tuition

The Department of Human Resource Management Workers’ Compensation Services will pay course tuition fees and textbook costs for employees of agencies who carry their Workers’ Compensation insurance through DHRM. The Department of Treasury’s Division of Risk Management will pay costs for state agency, local government employees currently responsible for human resources; workers’ compensation; risk management; and/or developing, implementing and monitoring employee health and safety programs. Agencies whose personnel participate in VRCI must currently be insured through the Commonwealth’s Workers’ Compensation Services or insured by DRM. Applicants for VRCI courses must hold an earned high school diploma or GED. Please contact Worker’s Compensation Services or insured by DRM. Applicants for VRCI courses are open to Virginia state and local government employees currently responsible for human resources, but also safety/health background and the percentage of time spent in direct support of agency safety, health, or risk management goals. Class size is limited to 25 participants.

Acceptance into the program

Acceptance will be based upon not only experience, but also safety/health background and the percentage of time spent in direct support of agency safety, health, or risk management goals. Class size is limited to 25 participants.

How to apply

Please complete the application form located at www.dhhrm.virginia.gov/workerscomp/riskcontrolinstitute and return it by fax to the number on the form. Applications will be reviewed for approval approximately 10 days in advance of the first class date and applicants will receive an email notifying of acceptance after approval.
Fall 2019 Class

Risk Control Track

RC-4: Ergonomics
August 7 and 8 (Richmond)
November 18 and 19 (Richmond)

The topic of study will be ergonomics and the assessment of ergonomics standards and programs. Content will address the history, scope and mechanics of work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), which currently account for one-third of all occupational injuries and illnesses reported to the Bureau of Labor Statistics by employers every year. MSDs constitute the largest job-related injury and illness problems in the United States today. Program design, development, implementation, and monitoring techniques and procedures will be discussed. Participants will evaluate the need for and applicability of ergonomic intervention within their agency and/or work setting.

Course instructor:
Mr. John J. Meola, CSP, ARM, has been a practicing occupational safety and health professional for more than 30 years. His background includes safety management in heavy industry and construction, commercial insurance, organization development, and employee and management safety training. Mr. Meola holds a bachelor’s degree from Rhode Island College. He is the author of two safety publications and a regular contributor to industry trade magazines. He served as a safety consultant to national trade associations, including the Specialized Carriers and Rigging Association. He is a frequent presenter at national conferences, including the American Public Works Association and the American Society of Safety Engineers Construction Symposium, and a co-presenter with NIOSH at the Roads and Bridges Safety Conference, addressing highway work zone safety issues. He also holds numerous OSHA credentials for technical safety and health issues. Mr. Meola resides in Richmond, Va., and is an adjunct professor for the VCU School of Business.

Fall 2019 Class

Risk Management Track

RM-2: Insurance Law
August 13 and 14 (Richmond)
November 12 and 13 (Richmond)

This course will provide the student a better understanding of how laws impact risk management, insurance decisions and outcomes. The course will explore contract law and the associated insurance applications. Commercial, property, tort and agency law will also be covered. Gaining a better understanding of the legal environment will assist the student in addressing potential loss exposures and how to best address and prepare for outcomes.

Course instructor:
Ms. Susan Zoboli, MBA, CPCU, has served as the director for purchasing and insurance for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, Va., where she was responsible for the property and casualty insurance program, assisted with loss control and managed the procurement team, which purchases all goods and services for the foundation that are not consumed or resold. Ms. Zoboli’s career in risk management and insurance spans more than 30 years, including underwriting management positions with various national insurance companies. During this same time span, she has been an instructor of insurance courses. She attended California State University, East Bay, where she received a Bachelor of Science in accounting. She earned a master’s degree in business administration from Golden Gate University. She holds the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU®) designation from The Institutes.

About the Virginia Risk Control Institute

The Virginia Risk Control Institute, in partnership with the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Business, is sponsored by the Workers’ Compensation Services, Department of Human Resource Management and the Division of Risk Management, Department of Treasury. VRCI includes a Risk Control Certificate Track and a Risk Management Certificate Track. Each track offers five undergraduate courses, each carrying three college credit hours, designed to assist state agencies and designated local government agencies in better controlling workplace accidents, injuries and occupational health exposures. Workers’ Compensation Services or the Division of Risk Management will pay course tuition fees and textbook costs for those who successfully complete each course and whose agencies approve their participation as part of a focused agency loss-reduction effort. However, meals and lodging will be at agency expense as allowed by State Travel Regulations. Classes are held in state facilities here in the greater Richmond area. Participants who successfully complete any four classes in the RM track or RC track will receive a certificate of completion for that track from the Virginia Risk Control Institute.

Risk Control Track courses:
RC-1: Regulatory Aspects of Safety and Risk Control
RC-2: Incident Investigation and Analysis
RC-3: Safety Management
RC-4: Ergonomics
RC-5: Benefits and Costs of Safety Programming
RC-6: Industrial Hygiene

Risk Management Track courses:
RM-1: Property and Liability Insurance
RM-2: Insurance Law
RM-3: Risk Management for Public Entities
RM-4: Managing Cyber Risk
RM-5: Legal Environment of Risk Management

About VCU, the School of Business and the Risk and Insurance Studies Center

Virginia Commonwealth University was created on July 1, 1968, by the act of the General Assembly that combined the Medical College of Virginia and the Richmond Professional Institute. Because it is located in the heart of the capital city of Richmond, VCU offers its 32,000 students and more than 2,100 faculty the opportunity to benefit from educational experiences throughout the city and the surrounding areas, as well as from university-sponsored events.

VCU School of Business

The VCU School of Business ranks in the top five percent of business schools worldwide due to its AACSB International-accredited status. Our dedicated faculty and prime location within one of the top research universities in the nation ensure that students have the support they need to pursue the aspects of business they find most interesting.

Risk and Insurance Studies Center (RISC)

The Risk and Insurance Studies Center is located in the Department of Finance, Insurance and Real Estate in the School of Business. The mission of the center is to prepare students for careers in risk management, financial services and other areas of the insurance industry by providing a sound educational foundation and opportunities to meet industry leaders by attending local and national industry meetings/conferences; to meet the continuing educational needs of professionals in the industry such as providing educational programs in loss control and risk management; and to provide support to further research in the field.