GERMANNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Craig Branch
Chief of Police

Bulletin# 25-003

OFFICIAL USE ONLY
CRIME ALERT BULLETIN
Fake VCCS Check Scams Targeting Students

Germanna Community College Police is providing this notice of a criminal incident(s) that has occurred in or near our community in order to provide information that may help in avoiding a similar crime or provide information to solve the crime(s).

June 26, 2025

Students, Faculty, and Staff:

The Germanna Community College Police Department (GCC PD) received the below alert from VCCS acting Chief Information Security Officer regarding Fake VCCS Check Scams Targeting Students.

Dear Students,

We want to make you aware of a serious and growing scam involving fraudulent checks that appear to come from the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). These counterfeit checks are **NOT** issued by our colleges and are part of a nationwide attempt by cyber criminals to exploit unsuspecting students.

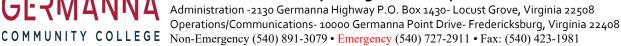**Here's what you need to know to stay safe:**

🔒**The Scam:**
Cyber criminals are sending fake checks, often with messaging that appears professional and related to college business, to trick students into cashing them or providing personal banking information.

🚩**Red Flags to Watch For:**

- The check displays **"Virginia Community Colleges"** instead of the correct **"Virginia Community College System."**
- **Checks are NEVER** sent as an email attachment.

- Emails may appear to come from a college staff member but are sent from **non-college email domains** (e.g., Gmail, Outlook). Always double-check the sender's email address.
- **If the message seems suspicious or too good to be true, it probably is.**

✅**What You Should Do:**

- **Do not deposit or attempt to cash any check** you were not expecting, especially if it appears to be from VCCS.
- **Do not respond to or click on any links** in suspicious emails.
- Verify requests by contacting the college directly through official directory contact information.
- **Report any suspicious communication immediately** to College Police and or Tech Services IT Help Desk.

Your safety and security are top priorities for us. Please remain vigilant and don't hesitate to reach out if something doesn't feel right.

Thank you for helping to keep our college community secure.

If you have safety concerns, GCC PD offers various crime prevention training courses like Refuse to Be a Victim, that can enhance your safety awareness. Additionally, GCC's Tech Services provides great Security Awareness information to the college community to keep them informed and safe. The most recent edition of their June Security Awareness Newsletter focused on the topic "When Cyber Criminals Look Like Us."

If you're still feeling unsafe, GCC PD can also provide campus safety escorts to and from your car while on campus at any time. We can be reached at (540) 891-3079.

As a reminder, if you see any suspicious person or activity in or around our campus, or even online, please notify our College Police Dispatch immediately at extension **322911 from any college VoIP phone or 540-727-2911** from a cell phone.

This crime alert bulletin is being distributed as required by the Jeanne Clery Act of 1998
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