LEARNING AT VANDERBILT: GETTING TO KNOW OUR STUDENTS

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Dean of the Martha Rivers Ingram Commons
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN THEIR NEW WORLD

Why do you try?

**Mastery Orientation:** focus on learning new skills, trying to gain increased understanding, and improving competence; define success in terms of improvement and learning.

**Performance Orientation:** focus on doing better than others and demonstrating competence, for example, by striving to best others, using social comparative standards to make judgments about abilities while seeking favorable judgment from others.

Ames & Archer, 1988; Dweck & Leggett, 1988
# MOTIVATION, CHALLENGE, AND PERSISTENCE

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SO WHAT?
SUPPORTING PRODUCTIVE DISPOSITIONS

• Goals are not innate

• Approaching challenging tasks, persisting in the face of failure are not personality traits
  • They are behaviors that students only undertake when they feel safe, supported—when failure is not an identity threat.
SUPPORTING STUDENTS
WHY RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES?

1. Critical to achieving excellence in the undergraduate experience.

2. Residential Colleges help students thrive by building community, fostering inclusion and by removing barriers to access.
WHY RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES?
THREE BROAD GOALS

Community Building
Faculty Engagement
Connection to Campus Resources
EVIDENCE OF HOW THE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE SYSTEM SUPPORTS STUDENT SUCCESS

We’ve seen measurable improvements in students’ sense of intellectual growth

- **74%** report that out-of-the-classroom interaction with faculty had a positive influence on their intellectual growth.

- More students (64%) report having developed a close working relationship with a faculty member compared to their peers in traditional residence halls.
WE’VE SEEN MEASURABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN STUDENTS’ ABILITY TO FOSTER DIVERSE CONNECTIONS

Students consistently report that they make more friends of a different culture, race, religion, sexual orientation, and political ideologies in their house than in classes, clubs, or other avenues.
Community building through signature events
FACULTY ENGAGEMENT
ACTIVE LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Residents → Faculty Heads

Dynamic, Inclusive, and Innovative Student Programming

Advisory Council → RC Staff
CONNECTIONS TO RESOURCES, REMOVING BARRIERS

1) Broaden understandings of academic success to include students’ identities

2) Consider student identities in the ways we teach

3) Provide access and support to all students
RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES
A TIMELINE

2008
The Commons

2014
Warren & Moore Colleges

2018
E. Bronson Ingram College

2020
Nicholas S. Zeppos College

2022
Rothschild

2024
RC-C

2025
RC Phase 2
HOUSE COMMUNITY

Crawford House
Douglas McMahon

East House
Elizabeth Meadow

Gillette House
Carol Ziegler

Hank Ingram House
Eric Barth

Memorial House
Celso Castilho

Murray House
Alyssa Hasty

North House
Natasha McClure

Stambaugh House
Roosevelt Noble

Sutherland House
Chalene Helmuth

West House
Emily Pendergrass
COMMONS PHILOSOPHY

• Intellect
  • Acquire an appreciation for intellectual discovery and creativity outside the bounds of the formal academic curriculum, which contributes to academic engagement & success.

• Community
  • Engage actively in building healthy communities on their floors, in their Houses, in their Visions groups, on The Ingram Commons, and within the university.

• Personal Well-Being
  • Understand and learn to utilize the skills necessary for healthy physical, psychological, and sexual well-being.

• Self Discovery
  • Clarify their own ethical, spiritual, and civic personal values through self-discovery.

• Cultural Awareness
  • Explore, live, and celebrate the diverse community of The Ingram Commons, Vanderbilt, Nashville, and the world.
COMMONS SEMINARS

SPRING 2021

18 immersive choices
15 hours • 1 credit

Seminar enrollment is limited to one course per student. See complete course descriptions and specific course schedules at https://www.vanderbilt.edu/residentialcolleges/ingram-commons/programs/iseminars/
ASIA 1001: Experiencing Asia: An Exploration Into The Cultures Of India And Japan with PROFESSORS ASAMI NAKANO AND DIVYA CHAUDHRY. This seminar will promote a complex and enriched understanding of culture through an exploration of what are considered ‘Indian’ and ‘Japanese’ cultures by using a combination of immersive activities.

ASTR 1001: Exploring The Neurodiversity Movement As A Paradigm For Understanding Neurological Difference with PROFESSORS CLAIRE BARNETT AND KEIVAN STASSUN. In this seminar, students will learn about common types of neurological difference (autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dysgraphia, etc.) and how people with these differences are perceived, supported, and empowered (or not).

CMST 1001: Communicating Presidential Politics with PROFESSORS COURTNEY TRAVERS AND JOHN KOCH. This seminar will focus on modern presidencies from the Kennedy’s to the current administration, and will examine the presidency as a site for public memory, as a reflection of political ideals, as a source for media commentary (both real and fictive), and as an image of national identity.

EDUC 1001: A Study Of The Writing Of E.B. White: From “The New Yorker” To CHARLOTTE’S WEB with PROFESSOR ANN NEELY. This seminar will examine the works of E. B. White. Students will be asked to read essays written by White (many first published in “The New Yorker”). Students will then relate what they learn to the children’s classic of CHARLOTTE’S WEB.

EDUC 1001: The Machines Are Watching Us: AI, Data, And Society with PROFESSORS SARAH BURRIS AND KEVIN LEANDER. This seminar will focus on developing critical understandings of AIs, algorithms, and big data and exploring the ethical implications of these technologies as we become more entwined with them.

EES 1001: The Environment And Environmentalism Of Vanderbilt University with PROFESSORS DAN MORGAN AND MARK PETTY. This seminar will explore the environment of Vanderbilt University. Beginning with, how do you define the environment, and will dive into the basic natural resource flows of Vanderbilt University.

ENGL 1001: Neuro-Culture with PROFESSOR JONG OH KIM. This seminar will examine the new ways in which literature intersects with and intervenes in a Neuro-Culture, particularly the interdisciplinary areas of Neuro-Creativity, Neuro-Law, and Neuro-Education.

FREN 1001: Activism In America, Pedagogy In The Streets with PROFESSORS ROBERT BARKS AND FRANK DOBSON. This seminar will explore activists and activism, in different moments of American history, with particular focus on race relations in the US, and will look to some of the great advocates for and chroniclers of social change in this country.

HOD 1001: Who Am I And Why Am I Here? Exploring Identity, Intersectionality, And Purpose with PROFESSOR ANDY FINCH. This seminar will introduce students to identity models, both classic and current, and conduct activities to foster self-awareness, perspective-taking, and critical thinking.

PSY 1001: On Deciding To Serve As An Expert Witness In The Courtroom with PROFESSOR ASHELLE MAXEY. This seminar will study the work of Elizabeth Loftus, world renown eyewitness testimony researcher and prolific expert witness about memory. Dr. Loftus has testified in many cases where she ultimately helped save an innocent person from a guilty conviction.

PSY 1001: Drug Epidemics: What Lies Beneath? with PROFESSOR CALUM AVISON. This seminar will place the current opioid crisis in the context of drug epidemics of the recent (e.g., heroin epidemic of the 1970s) and more distant past (e.g., morphine/opium 1890-1910), examining the evolution in conceptualizations of dependence and addiction.

PSY-PC 1001: Mental Health And Resilience In Our Changing World with PROFESSOR JENNI DUNBAR. This seminar will provide students with a broad understanding of essential research and relevant topics in the study of mental health and resilience, and also spend some time taking a more narrow scope to examine how these concepts intersect with current events.

SPAN 1001: Why Do We Meme? with PROFESSOR EMMANUELLE K. F. OLIVEIRA-MONTE. This seminar has the goal of understanding the importance of memes in a global era when information and images immediately spread, in a world increasingly apprehended by visual representations and mediated by social media.

SPAN 1001: Design Your Successful Study Abroad Experience with PROFESSOR.
JOIN US!

Fall information session about Residential Faculty
February 15 application deadline for VUceptrors
May 15 application deadline for Commons Seminars