



ABOUT US

Next Steps at Vanderbilt is a 4-year inclusive higher education program committed to providing neurodiverse students an inclusive, transformational postsecondary education in academics, social and career development, and independent living, while honoring equity, compassion, and excellence in all endeavors.

More Information: vu.edu/nextsteps

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VANDERBILT
Peabody College
Next Steps



NEXT STEPS AT VANDERBILT

Excellence in Inclusive Higher Education



ACADEMICS

Students audit Vanderbilt courses connected to the liberal arts and their academic interests. They receive a learning agreement that outlines how their involvement is supported with detailed assignment modifications. Over 250 faculty have had students from Next Steps at Vanderbilt participate in their classes.

INCLUSIVE VANDERBILT COURSES

Each program of study includes up to two Vanderbilt University courses per semester as determined by students' individualized interests. Students are held accountable for their learning objectives through individual learning agreements.

NEXT STEPS COURSES

Students complete independent studies, Experiential Seminars, which connect to the student's Person-Centered Plan and identified goal areas. Topics are unique to each student and an individualized syllabus is created in partnership with student goals. The support of a peer Experiential Seminar tutor will support student success.

Additionally, students complete workshops and other learning experiences to build skills in career awareness, discovery, personal responsibility, communication, and more.



CAMPUS LIFE

Being engaged in campus life exposes students to new people, ideas, cultures, and more; it's a chance to develop both personally and professionally. Next Steps encourages students to explore several campus life opportunities that align with their interests. Students enrolled in Next Steps have access to nearly all student organizations, along with campus offices and services.

AMBASSA'DORES

Each student in the Next Steps program develops relationships with a customized number of Vanderbilt Ambassa'Dores who serve as peer mentors and make up a circle of support. They partner with students the Next Steps students to support them in reaching academics goals, program requirements, and increasing social skills through building positive and reciprocal friendships.

4 : 1 AMBASSA'DORES PER STUDENT RATIO

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Students are encouraged to fully immerse themselves into the VU community by joining campus organizations. Students have joined organizations such as sororities, intramurals leagues, service clubs, and more! Students hold leadership positions in organizations like Vanderbilt Student Government the Multicultural Leadership Council

600+

CLUBS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS ON CAMPUS



*Each student customizes their Circle of Support of Ambassa'Dores based on support needs.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Our career-related programming is driven by each student's interests, future career plans, strengths, and identified needs. Each semester students participate in job shadowing experiences, internships, or paid jobs designed to prepare them for a meaningful, paid career after graduation.

CAREER EXPLORATION

- Career awareness and discovering interests
- Development of employability skills: professional workplace conduct, soft skills, and self-advocacy
- Begin developing transferable job skills

INTERNSHIPS

- Identifying career interests
- Increased independence in employability skills
- Exploration of at least two career fields
- Developing transferable job skills
- Working on and off campus

EMPLOYMENT

- Defined career goals
- Strong employability skills
- Refining transferable job skills in desired career field
- Strengthening self-advocacy skills and professionalism

