

A group of students, mostly women, are shown from the chest up, wearing bright yellow t-shirts and grey baseball caps. They are all smiling and cheering, with their arms raised in the air, some making peace signs. The t-shirts have the text "We move you" printed on them. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with trees and a building.

SUPPORTING YOUR ENGINEERING STUDENT

A WEBINAR FOR PARENTS OF NEW SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Cynthia B. Paschal, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
Vanderbilt University School of Engineering



VANDERBILT
School of Engineering

TECH NOTES FOR THIS WEBINAR

- Links that are displayed in this presentation will also be pasted into a discussion board in the Q&A function.
- If you don't see the Q&A function, click on the three dots for "More" to find it. If you entered the webinar via a forwarded link, you might not be able to access the Q&A.
- Use the Q&A function to enter questions; we will address these at the end of the presentation.
- All slides and a recording of this presentation will be posted online. The link for this will be shared at the end of this webinar and via email.



WELCOME

- Your young adult's admission and matriculation to the Vanderbilt University School of Engineering (VUSE) means that you also are now a member of the Vanderbilt community. Welcome!
- This webinar is intended to provide you with an overview of your student's academic journey at VU and to give you information that will help you support your engineering student.
- Your supporting roles may include these:
 - Encourager, cheerleader, consoler, voice of reason, prompter, assistant navigator
 - Depending on student and family circumstances and choices, you might also handle student accounts and financial aid at VU



[HTTPS://WWW.VANDERBILT.EDU/WELCOME/](https://www.vanderbilt.edu/welcome/)

Helpful website with links to all the dates and information about the practical aspects of coming to Vanderbilt as a new student



TRANSITIONS & PARTNERSHIP

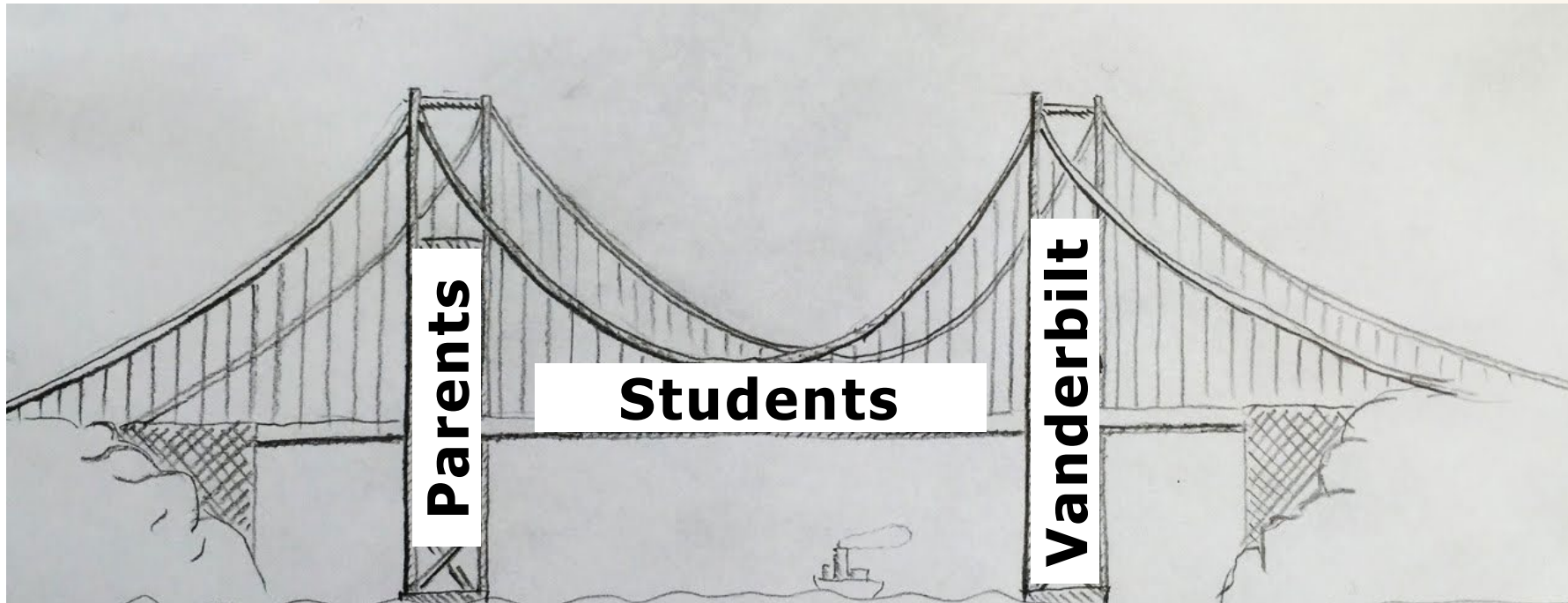
- Your scholar is experiencing a major transition to adulthood and independence as a person and as an engineer*
- Students must chart their own courses through their Vanderbilt years.
 - They must take the lead and be responsible for themselves.
 - This is a major shift for not only students but also for their families.

*Throughout this presentation, “engineer” is meant to encompass all the different disciplines and professions our students train for and enter including computer science.



TRANSITIONS & PARTNERSHIP

We believe that parents and other caring adults are extremely important to the success of students, and we want to partner with you to facilitate that success. Together, our job is to guide and support students in their journeys.



VUSE PARTNERS



Krishnendu Roy
Bruce and Bridgitt
Evans Dean of the
School of Engineering



Cynthia B. Paschal
Senior Associate
Dean, Undergraduate
Education

VUSE PARTNERS



Maddie Humbert
Director



Allison Gomes
Undergraduate
Advising Program
Manager



Karly Kattenbraker
Academic Program
Manager



VUSE PARTNERS



Julianne Vernon

Associate Dean for Student
Success



Jessica Hernandez

Academic & Educational
Support Program
Coordinator



Connie Crockett

Academic & Educational
Support Program
Coordinator



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VUSE STUDENT HUB

VUSE
STUDENT HUB

The VUSE Student Hub
incorporates two adjacent and
complementary offices in
Featheringill Hall:

- Office of Academic Services
- Office of Student Success



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SERVICES

OAS can assist your student with...

- Registration
- Changes to degree program
- External credit
- Academic skills (time management, study skills, etc.)
- Backup academic advising
- Answering general questions about resources or programs at Vanderbilt

Follow us on Instagram
@vuse_studenthub



Your scholar can find OAS

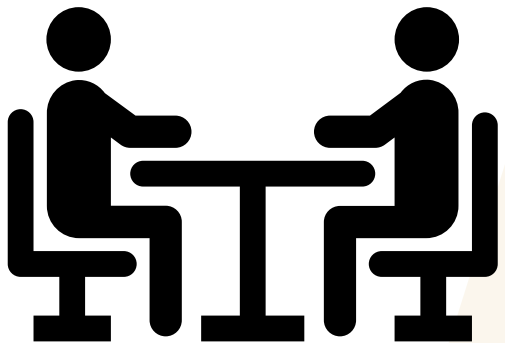
- in Featheringill Hall (FGH) 104,
- by phone at 615-343-8061,
- by email at engineering-oas@vanderbilt.edu, and
- online
<https://engineering.vanderbilt.edu/academics/undergraduate/academic-services/>



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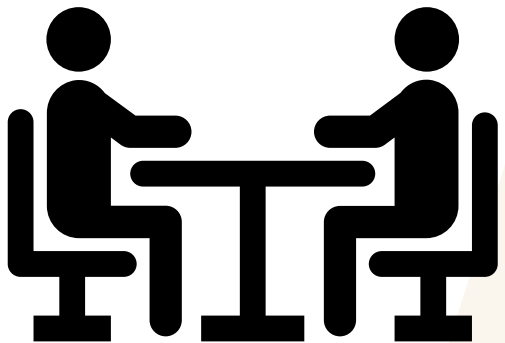
VUSE PARTNERS: ACADEMIC ADVISERS

- Academic advisers help students navigate the curriculum.
 - This summer, Ms. Allison Gomes is your scholar's academic adviser.
 - She engaged new students in two registration webinars and a Q&A session in May. Nearly all students have since successfully registered for the fall term.
 - Students with additional questions about their fall registration are encouraged to check out the Advising Corner online at <https://engineering.vanderbilt.edu/academics/undergraduate/academic-services/first-year-information/#h2-advising-corner>
 - Students with additional questions may contact engineering-oas@vanderbilt.edu



VUSE PARTNERS: ACADEMIC ADVISERS

- Academic advisers help students navigate the curriculum.
 - On Monday, Aug. 18th, each student will meet their faculty academic adviser who will serve throughout the student's undergraduate career
 - Students must meet with their faculty academic adviser once every semester to review course selections for the next semester.
- Academic advisers are great resources to students for information about their discipline and its applications to future careers.
- Wise students read adviser emails carefully and cultivate a good relationship.



VUSE PARTNERS: INSTRUCTORS



- Faculty teach, hold office hours, assess student achievement, and assign both mid-term and final grades.
- Encourage your scholar to meet with every professor they have and to do so early in the semester. ★
- Student initiative is expected; instructors might not prescribe all study activities a student may need to do to be successful.
- Instructors may or may not reach out to non-participating students.



FOUR YEARS IN A



- Students will get to know each other and faculty via Vanderbilt Visions, the Commons, Intro to Engineering, optional V² Connect: Virtual Summer Discussions, & more.
- They will start with foundational courses in year 1 and engineering courses starting in 2nd year.
 - They will complete a capstone (Immersion Vanderbilt) project in their senior year.
 - They will complete a liberal arts core.
- They will laugh, cry, struggle, succeed, and everything in between.
- The vast majority of the VUSE Class of 2029 will graduate the second weekend in May 2029
- ★ • We look forward to celebrating with you!



WELCOME TO VANDERBILT

- July & Aug. – see <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/welcome/important-dates/> for pre-arrival important dates
- Wed. Aug. 13 – New international student move-in day
- Fri. Aug. 15 – New domestic transfer student move-in day
- Sat. Aug. 16 – 1st year domestic student move-in day with various activities for all new students and families.
- ★ Sat. Aug. 16 – **Family Farewells @ 5 pm**; parent & family orientation activities that evening until 8:00 pm

COMMONVU ORIENTATION OVERVIEW

- Sun. Aug. 17 – Norms of our Communities; V Visions & House mtgs
- Mon. Aug. 18 – Academic Orientation
- Tues. Aug. 19 – Connections to Campus Resources
- Wed. Aug. 20 – first day of classes



FALL 2025 CALENDAR

- Fri. Sept. 19 to Sun. Sept. 21 – Family Weekend
- Thurs. Oct. 9 & Fri. Oct. 10 – fall break
- Sat. Nov. 22 to Sun. Nov. 30 – Thanksgiving break
- Thurs. Dec. 4 – last day of classes
- Sat. Dec. 13 at 5:00 pm – end of last final exam
 - **Students must remain on campus through their last exams**
https://registrar.vanderbilt.edu/documents/Fall_2025_exam_schedule.pdf
 - VUSE does NOT use alternate exam schedule
- ★ Please do not let your student make travel plans that would cause them to miss an exam.



LAPTOP



- All Engineering students are required to have a portable computer
 - Students majoring in Biomedical, Civil, Electrical and Computer, Environmental, or Mechanical Engineering should have a PC and not a Mac
 - Students majoring in Chemical Engineering, Computer Science, or Engineering Science can have a PC or Mac
- Hardware and Software minimum specifications are listed on the Computer Specifications webpage:
 - <https://engineering.vanderbilt.edu/academics/undergraduate/academic-services/computer-recommendations/>
- Students should make sure they have enough SPACE on their computer per the requirements listed!
- Computers must be able to run application software designed to be compatible with Microsoft Windows
- Four-year accidental damage coverage highly recommended



LOANER LAPTOPS



- All new VUSE students receiving Opportunity Vanderbilt financial aid or a Cornelius Vanderbilt scholarship are eligible to receive a free loaner laptop (PC) for use throughout their undergraduate years.
- Loaner laptops meet required specifications for VUSE students
- Eligible students must sign an agreement that is part of the financial aid document process managed by the Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA).
- Laptops will be available for pickup at the Hill Center beginning on move-in day.



CURRICULA

- Your young scholar will follow the curriculum for their desired major as specified in the 2025/2026 Undergraduate Catalog, soon to be available at <https://registrar.vanderbilt.edu/catalogs/> (2024/2025 version is [here](#))
- All entering students have been contacted by our academic adviser for advising about what courses to take in Fall 2025 and how to register via our YES system.
 - Students should all be registered by now. YES will re-open for registration changes on July 16th.
 - A few students still need to submit immunization records in order to be able to register.
- In August, students will transition to a faculty adviser in their major and will meet that person on Academic Day and at least once each semester to discuss progress through the curricula.



CURRICULA

- Students will get the courses they need to graduate with their major in eight semesters if they do the following:
 - Meet prerequisites
 - Follow the guidance of the Undergraduate Catalog and their academic adviser
 - Follow directions and register in a timely fashion
- Students with difficulty getting a class they need should reach out to the Office of Academic Services.
 - We cannot guarantee that a student can get a course earlier than specified in the plan for their major or that they can fit multiple majors/minors into eight semesters.



YES

- YES is your student's portal for the most critical applications that support their VU progress.
- It is a **serious violation** of the VU Student Computing Policy for a student to share their Vanderbilt University passwords with anyone, including parents, or to allow another person access to systems requiring their VUnetID and password.
- ★ • Please do NOT put your student in jeopardy of serious sanctions by asking them for access to their VU passwords or computing systems.
- <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/enrollmentbulletin/policies/student-computing-policy/>



DETOURS

- Changing major within VUSE is simple and can be done starting March 1, 2026. Your scholar will make the request via an online form.
- Changing school/college within VU is permitted for students in good standing via application at end of first year or later.
- Leaves of absence (LOA) are permitted and in certain circumstances required.
 - These will alter a student's expected graduation term.
 - Encourage your student considering a LOA to contact engineering-oas@vanderbilt.edu to discuss.



COLLEGE OF CONNECTED COMPUTING: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- VU's new College of Connected Computing is nested within the School of Engineering and its first cohort of students will begin Fall 2027.
- To prepare students for their careers and advance research, this new college will be devoted to these fast-changing disciplines and will collaborate with all the other colleges due to its interdisciplinary nature.
- No incoming or current students will be affected by the creation of this new college. Computer Science students will still be earning the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.



V² CONNECT: VIRTUAL SUMMER DISCUSSIONS


- V² Connect are summer virtual discussions with V² Ambassadors.
- V² ambassadors are engineering upperclassmen here to help first-year students acclimate to college life. This is a chance for first-year students to connect with other engineering students and ask questions about student life at Vanderbilt.
- V² Connect discussions include engineering majors, transitioning to college, extra-curricular activities, grades, resources, and more!
- Sign up at <https://redcap.link/v2connect> by July 15



Meet with our V² ambassadors (these are your engineering upper classmen peers who here to help you navigate college life at Vanderbilt) over Zoom this summer to learn about campus life before you arrive this fall!

TIPS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

★ A gentle nudge from you to your student to check out this web page <https://engineering.vanderbilt.edu/academics/undergraduate/academic-services/student-success-programs/> could be very helpful

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**
School of Engineering

About ▾Admissions ▾Academics ▾Departments ▾Resea

On this page

▾ Tips for Academic Success

▾ All Handouts

Tips for Academic Success

1. Make Your Own Decisions

2. Make Academics Your Priority

3. Go To Class

4. Use an Organizational Tool

5. Get To Know Professors and Teaching Assistants

6. Complete Assignments On Time

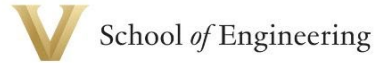
7. Use Campus Resources

8. Ask For Help When You Need It

9. Check E-mail/Brightspace

10. Stay Healthy and Happy

STEM TUTORING & MORE



STEM TUTORING

JAN. 21 - APR. 21
(EXCLUDING BREAKS)

SPRING 2025

EVERY DAY
8AM-9PM CT

BME 2100	CS 1100	MATH 1100	MATH 2400
CE 2200	CS 1101	MATH 1200	MATH 2420
CHBE 2200	CS 1103	MATH 1201	MATH 2810
CHEM 1601	CS 2201	MATH 1300	MSE 1500
CHEM 1602	ECE 2112	MATH 1301	PHYS 1601
CHEM 2222	ECE 2123	MATH 2300	PHYS 1602

AVAILABLE ON
WEB AND APP



penji
TUTORING

FREE TO ALL
VU STUDENTS!

Contact: The Office of Student Success
at vuse-studentsuccess@vanderbilt.edu

Additional tutoring services: www.vanderbilt.edu/tutoring

- Not remedial – wise students get tutoring early
- Free STEM Tutoring
 - In-Person and Virtual
 - Drop-In and Appointment
 - Covers most courses taken in the 1st three engineering semesters
 - STEM Tutors are VUSE students
- More VU resources include Vanderbilt.edu/tutoring, Writing Studio, calculus tutored study halls, and academic coaching by the Center for Student Wellbeing
- ★ Please encourage your scholar to use these resources



VANDERBILT
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STUDENT ACCESS

If your student had an IEP or 504 Plan in high school, they will most likely request accommodations while at Vanderbilt.

- Your scholar needing accommodations should register with Student Access ASAP. The process can take about two weeks.
- The student is responsible for requesting accommodations and for informing Student Access if there are implementation issues.
- Student Access uses the **Commodore Access Portal** for accommodation management.
 - The student logs in each semester to send their pre-generated accommodation letters to instructors of their choosing.
 - The portal is also where accommodation change requests can be made and where students can schedule proctored exams.



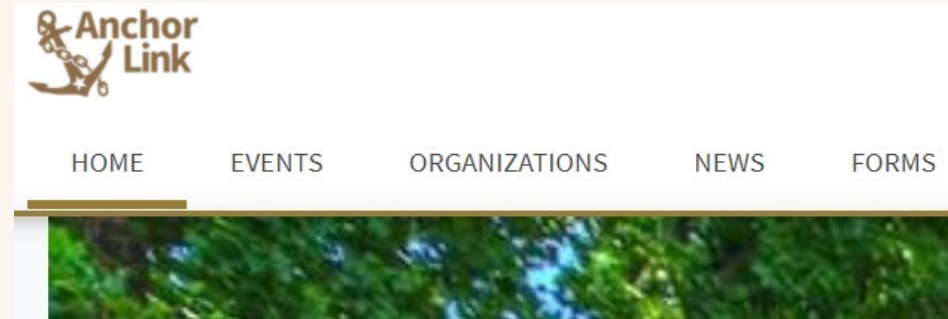
STUDENT ACCESS

- In addition to academics, Student Access also provides accommodations for dining, housing, and transportation.
- Applying for Accommodations: https://www.vanderbilt.edu/student-access/how_to/get_accommodations/index.php
- Questions about Student Access – studentaccess@vanderbilt.edu



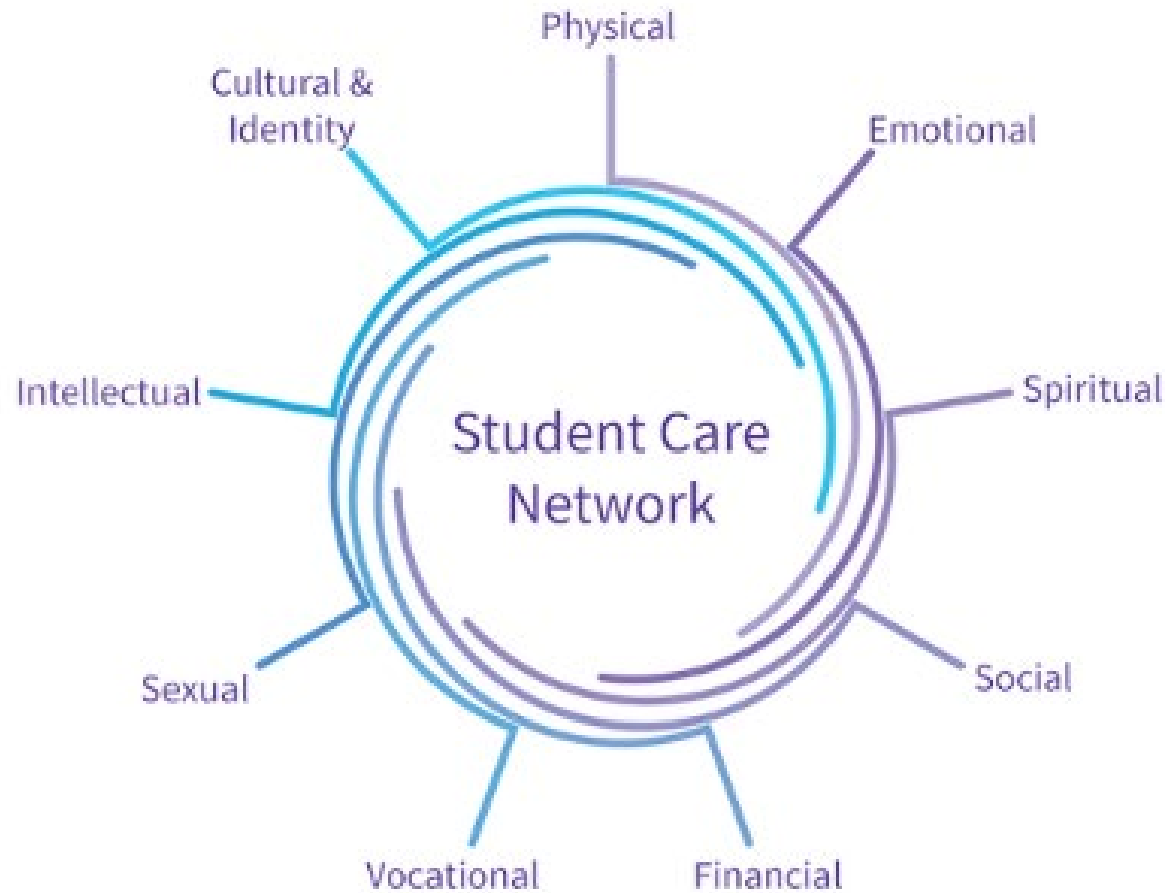
GETTING INVOLVED

- AnchorLink – online resource to find and connect with VU student organizations;
anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu
- Student Involvement Fair -
Friday, August 22 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm in the David Williams II Recreation and Wellness Center



STUDENT CARE NETWORK

The Student Care Network is a holistic network of services and resources pertaining to health and wellness available to all Vanderbilt students.



The Student Care Network: <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/>
Questions: studentcare@vanderbilt.edu



VANDERBILT
School of Engineering

STUDENT CARE NETWORK

- Student Care Network encompasses a wide range of resources pertaining to health & wellbeing; bolstered by 4 primary offices:
 - Student Care Coordination
 - University Counseling Center
 - Center for Student Wellbeing
 - Student Health Center
- Because we have so many wonderful resources, we also recognize that it can be hard to know where to start. **Student Care Coordination** is the first and central point of contact to help students identify their needs and navigate the many resources around campus. Students can meet with a care coordinator at SCC by completing the intake form found on their website, www.vanderbilt.edu/carecoordination.



STUDENT CARE NETWORK

- As parents/concerned adults, you have the unique opportunity to be a strong partner in your student's health and wellbeing. Learn more about support available by visiting the Student Care Network website. <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/>
- ★ • Listen for cues that your student may be facing challenges, share campus resources that may help, and encourage your student to reach out for help proactively.
- All offices of the Student Care Network value student's privacy. While we welcome parents' input and information, we may not be able to provide specific information about your student without written consent. This can be waived in the case of an emergency where safety is a concern.



STUDENT HEALTH

- VU Student Health serves the primary care needs of students and is located adjacent to School of Engineering buildings. <https://www.vumc.org/student-health/welcome>
 - No charge for office visits
 - Charges at cost may be incurred for in-house diagnostic testing, procedures, vaccines, medications, and supplies
 - Vanderbilt Student Health Center does not bill insurance & is out of network for insurance plans
- Info for new students at <https://www.vumc.org/student-health/information-new-students>
 - Students with chronic health conditions are encouraged to make an appointment now to help ensure continuity of care



STUDENT HEALTH



- Please encourage your student to prepare for a healthy transition to a new location and environment
 - Make sure they have a copy of their health insurance card. Cards for the student health insurance plan (SHIP) are online.
 - If relevant, show your student how to arrange for continued supply of any maintenance prescriptions
 - Suggest that they bring a first aid kit with a thermometer and know how to use it.
 - Encourage exercise options – Student Recreation Center, Commons mini-gym, walking, intramural sports, etc.
 - Remind them that making new friends takes time and is something everyone goes through
 - See also the tips at <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/plan-for-a-healthy-college-transition/>



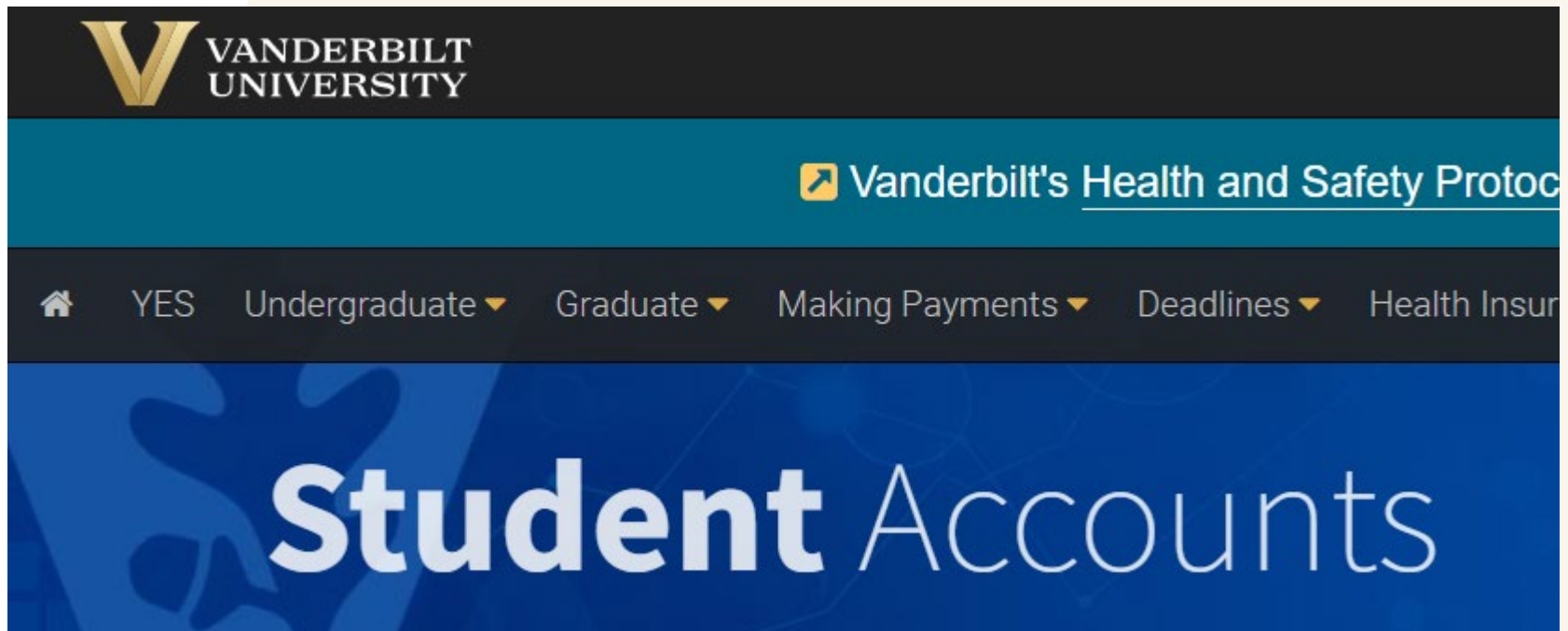
SERIOUS DISRUPTIONS

- ★ • Encourage your scholar to reach out to their professors to discuss addressing academic work in the context of the crisis.
- ★ • If your scholar is unable to self-advocate, please notify engineeringdeansoffice@vanderbilt.edu so that we may notify your scholar's professors.
 - Documentation may be requested.
- ★ • Check out “Helping Others” page which includes a link to the Student of Concern reporting form:
<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/carecoordination/sample-page/assisting-students-of-concern/>
Note – this form is not intended to be an emergency response notification.



STUDENT ACCOUNTS

- Joining us to discuss student accounts:
 - Tuesday- Chris Cook, Executive Director, Office of Student Accounts
 - Thursday – Sarah Renfrow, Student Accounts Manager
- (<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts/>)



STUDENT ACCOUNTS

- All billing is electronic. The e-bill for fall will be sent on August 1st with a due date of August 31st.
- E-bills are automatically sent to the student. If you wish to also receive the e-bills, please have your student add you as a payer. Instructions are available at <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts/>.
- ★ • Methods of payment
 - Online: ACH electronic check (no fee) or credit/debit card (2.85% fee)
 - Mail or in person: check or money order.
 - Note: cash is not accepted.
- VU offers an optional payment plan. The Vandy Plan enrollment for Fall 2025 has already begun. More information regarding the plan can be found on the website <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts/payments/options.php>



STUDENT ACCOUNTS

- It is essential that students set-up direct deposit to receive refunds. Please have the student do this now. Students login to YES, click "direct deposit", and save their preferred US checking account details.



- Refunds apply when the amount granted in financial aid or the amount paid is greater than the amount direct-billed by VU.
- Past-due balances are subject to financial holds and late fees. Late fees accrue monthly at 1.5% (minimum late fee is \$5).
- Student Health Insurance Waivers must be submitted annually
- Important checklist of student account-related items:
<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts/undergraduate/checklist.php>
- Please direct questions to student.accounts@vanderbilt.edu



FINANCIAL AID

- Your student must read emails from the VU Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships (OSFA) and pass them to you as needed.
- ★ • Students and parents must reapply for need-based financial aid each year. Priority deadlines & other info are included on the website <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/financialaid/>.
- While Vanderbilt's cost of attendance may increase annually, if family circumstances remain relatively unchanged, students can expect to receive comparable aid in future years.
 - Minimum contribution expected from student summer and academic year earnings may increase from year to year.
- Opportunity Vanderbilt financial aid is awarded for a maximum of 8 semesters



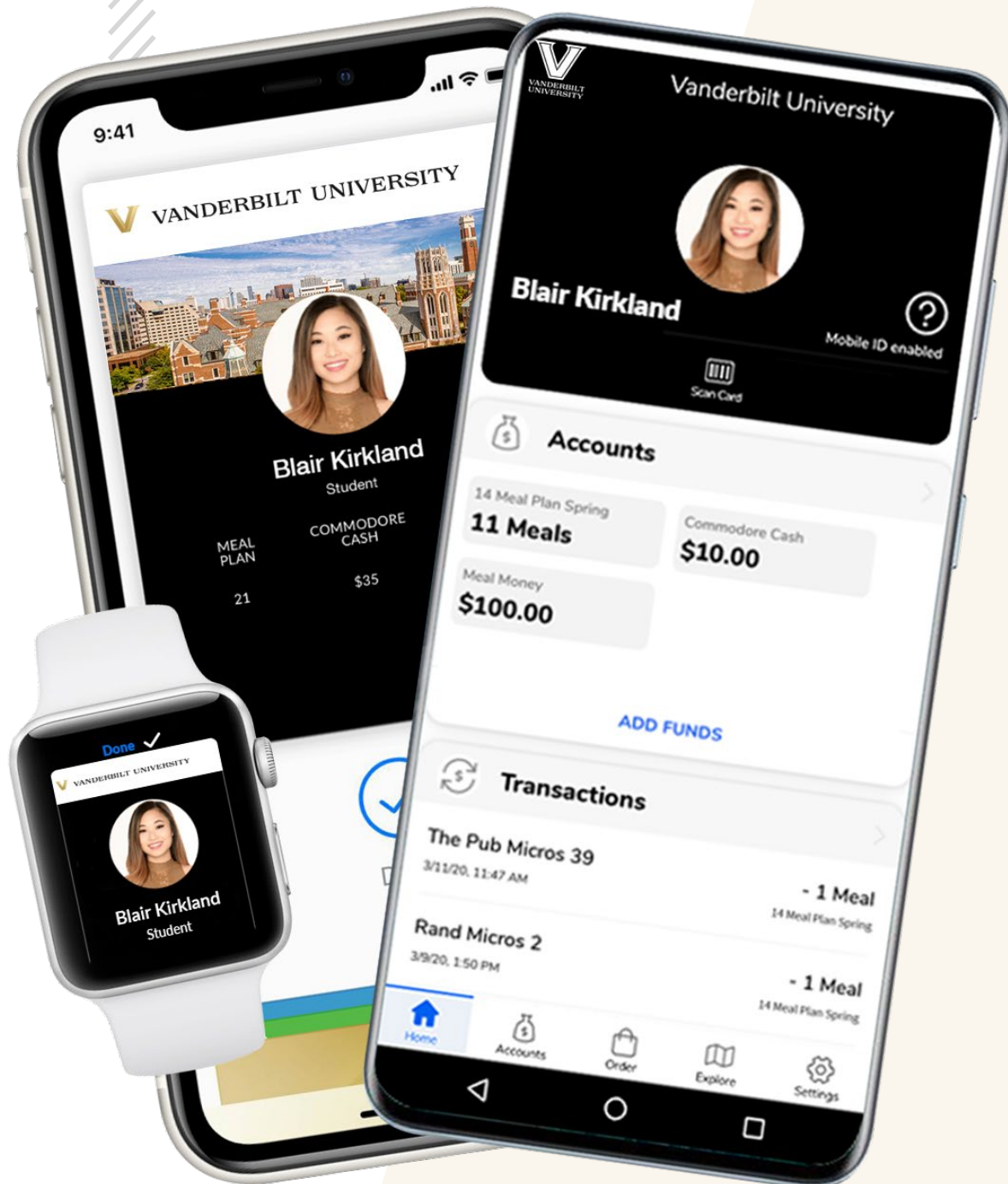
FINANCIAL AID

- Outside scholarships/sources of assistance must be taken into account as part of a student's total need-based aid package and cannot be counted as part of the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
 - If an adjustment to a need-based financial aid package is necessary, the outside scholarship will be used first to replace a student's earnings expectation before reducing Vanderbilt need-based assistance.
 - If a student is receiving some form of outside scholarship or outside assistance (such as employee tuition assistance or scholarships, state grants, etc.), they need to complete the Outside Scholarship Form at https://www.vanderbilt.edu/financialaid/faforms/Outside_Scholarship.php
- Please direct questions to finaid@vanderbilt.edu.



COMMODORE CASH

- Joining us to discuss Commodore Cash:
 - Tuesday – Bryan Masters, Card Services Manager, IT
 - Thursday - Mark Brown, Director, IT, Administrative Operations



COMMODORE CASH

- Commodore Cash is a debit spending account that can be used anywhere on or off-campus where the Commodore Card is accepted for payment, which includes food and non-food purchases, such as books and supplies, vending, printing, and athletic events.
- Commodore Cash balances can be carried over from year-to-year on your student's debit spending account.
- See <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/cardservices/> if you'd like to add funds. Note deadlines & post-deadline late fees.
- Accepted at many locations:
<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/cardservices/where.php>
- A small amount of Commodore Cash is helpful for things like printing on campus. Beyond that, it is really at the discretion of the student.



FERPA

- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.
- ★ Please make sure your student submits the **Consent to Release Academic Information** webform to let us know whether we may discuss their academic records with anyone, including you. The link to the webform can be found on this page:

<https://registrar.vanderbilt.edu/registration/forms.php>



GRADES

- If applicable, your scholar will see mid-semester deficiency grades in YES online – Oct 9 this fall.
 - These may be reported by instructors for students earning a C- or below and/or for having excessive absences
- Your scholar will see their semester grades in YES online.
- ★ • If your scholar is concerned about their grades, please encourage them to speak with their instructor and to use available resources such as the ones presented in this session.



VANDERBILT HONOR CODE

- The goal of the Honor System is to have all students leave Vanderbilt not only as graduates, but also as people of integrity.
- The Undergraduate Honor Code Pledge to be signed on all tests, quizzes, homework, and similar work is:

"I pledge on my honor that I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this examination."

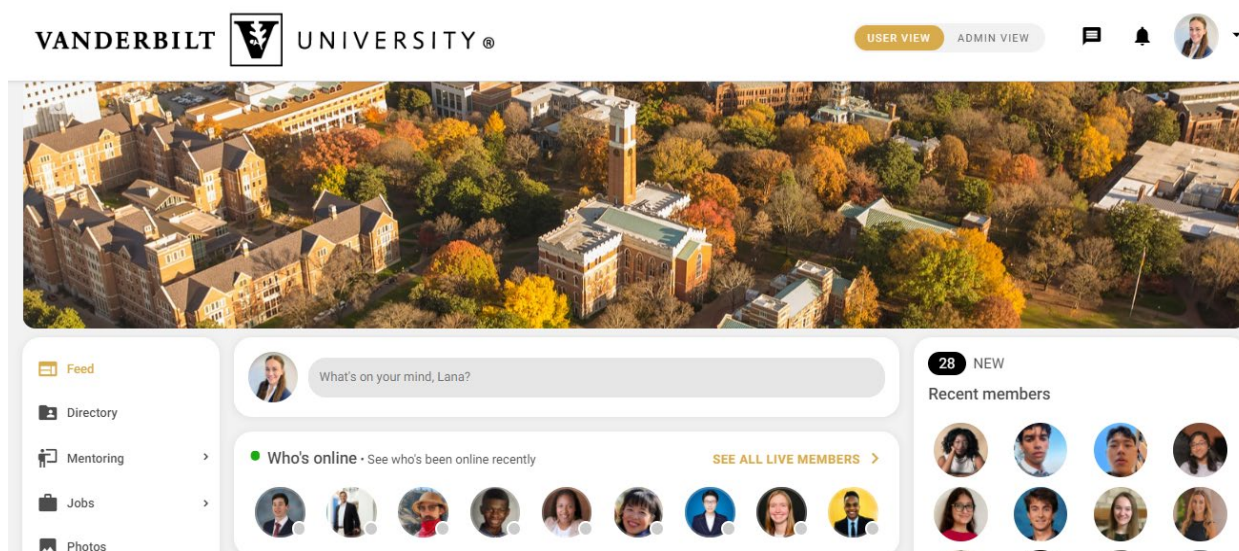


- Please help your student understand that the Honor Code at VU is taken very seriously and that violations, even a first violation, often results in very serious consequences including failure in a course.
- For more information, please refer to the Student Handbook:
<https://studenthandbook.vanderbilt.edu/community-standards>



Looking Ahead

VUSE ALUMNI NETWORK



- Online platform connecting VUSE alumni and students for help and mentorship
- Open to VUSE sophomores, juniors, and seniors
- Over 700 alumni participate



STUDY ABROAD

- Engineering students are encouraged to study abroad.
- Planning ahead is essential.
- Information sessions occur at the beginning of every semester. For more information, visit <https://engineering.vanderbilt.edu/academics/undergraduate/study-abroad/>
- VU financial aid can be used to study abroad.
- Your scholar should visit Study Abroad at Vanderbilt (<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/study-abroad/>) and look for general information sessions.



Photo credit – Stephen Petty Valenzuela



WHAT TO DO NOW

- ★ • Talk with your scholar; ask them how they would like you to help them during their Vanderbilt years.
- ★ • Discuss expectations with your scholar, both your expectations and theirs, regarding matters such as:
 - Communication
 - Dealing with academic challenges
 - Conduct
- ★ • Ask your student to review their lists of things to complete including the FERPA form and the ALEKS math assessment and preparation modules.
- ★ • Start them on the road to independence.
- Follow us on Instagram @vuse_studenthub



QUESTIONS?

- Please type your questions into the Q&A interface
- The recording of this presentation as well as a pdf of the slides will be posted at <https://engineering.vanderbilt.edu/academics/undergraduate/academic-services/first-year-information/> under the resources section “For Parents and Families”.

