The small classes my first term helped me to better transition into college, coming from a small high school. In the small classes, you instantly meet like-minded people and make connections beyond your residence hall.

Chinmayi Venkatram

Gods and Androids

Academic Community

HOW TO APPLY

STEP 1: Go to asundergrad.pitt.edu/ac

STEP 2: Click on Apply to an Academic Community and fill out the application for the Academic Community of your choice.

STEP 3: You will be contacted via your Pitt e-mail account by a member of the First-Year Programs team about your application status.

There is no deadline to apply to an Academic Community, but seats are limited. Apply online as soon as possible for the best chance to reserve your seat!

If you have additional questions about Academic Communities, please call 412-624-6844.

ABOUT ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES

WHY CHOOSE AN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY?

MEET PEOPLE. Academic Communities offer built-in social opportunities as you quickly develop a sense of community within your small group. It’s a network that’s sure to serve you well in future classes.

CONNECT WITH PITT’S FACULTY. Focused groups allow for more personal interaction with faculty members and teaching assistants.

DEVELOP GOOD ACADEMIC SKILLS. You’ll have peer support for studying and for writing, and you’ll develop the habits needed for academic success.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE. Education doesn’t only occur in the classroom. Academic Communities introduce you to real-world experiences and a range of other academic opportunities at Pitt.

CULTIVATE LEADERSHIP SKILLS. Many Academic Community students go on to serve as undergraduate teaching assistants in First-Year Programs courses.

Matthew Karr

Neurons and Chemicals

Academic Community

Cedar Hansen

Neurons and Chemicals

Academic Community

MAKE NEW FRIENDS

EXPLORE INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS

ACHIEVE ACADEMIC GOALS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

KENNETH P. DIETRICH SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES

FALL 2018

Not only did the academic community cover prerequisites that I needed to eventually take to declare a major in theatre, it also allowed me to make a solid group of friends.

Maya Boyd

Inside the Theater

Academic Community

WELCOME!

Dear first-year student:

Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of Pittsburgh and the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences! I look forward to your arrival on campus and would like to invite you to enroll in one of our Arts and Sciences Academic Communities for your first term.

Academic Communities are thematic blocks of first-year-level courses taken as a group. Being part of an Academic Community helps make your transition to college life smoother. It provides you with more opportunities to interact with faculty, to learn alongside other first-term freshmen with similar interests, to engage in focused intellectual inquiry, and to enhance your academic, social, and leadership skills—all in a classroom setting.

The Academic Foundations course in each Academic Community is a small class taught in an interactive learning environment rather than a lecture format, encouraging communication between students and faculty.

There is no residential component to these Academic Communities. When applying to a community, please consider any AP and/or transfer credits you may be bringing with you since enrolling in an Academic Community means you must enroll in all of the courses in that particular community.

All first-year students enrolled in a First-Year Programs course receive a complimentary Academic Planner, which provides important information and supports good time management practices.

Sincerely,

Laura Dice, PhD

Director, First-Year Programs

Assistant Dean, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

On the cover, from left: Maya Boyd, John Habib, Samantha Watkins, and Lauren Kachinko
6. HOW TO MAKE A MOVIE

A class on the history of film and the art of filmmaking. Students will be able to

understand the evolution of filmmaking from silent films to the present day and

learn about the technical aspects of making films.

7. BODIES IN MOTION

A course on the human body and movement. Students will learn about the

skeletal and muscular systems and how they function.

8. WHO ARE YOU?

A course on the study of human nature and identity. Students will explore

the concept of self and how it is shaped by cultural, social, and historical

factors.

9. HEALTH-RELATED CAREERS

A course on the field of health-related careers. Students will learn about

the different roles and responsibilities of health professionals and how to

prepare for a career in this field.

10. MOLECULES AND MORALS

A course on the ethical implications of molecular biology. Students will

consider ethical issues related to genetically modified organisms and stem

cell research.

11. COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE

A course on the relationship between communication and culture. Students will

explore how cultural differences can affect communication and how to

navigate cross-cultural communication.

12. HEALTH SYSTEMS AND POLICIES

A course on the health care system and its policies. Students will learn about

the challenges faced by the health care system and how to reform it.

13. INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: ASIA

A course on the culture and history of a specific country or region in Asia.

Students will learn about the political, economic, and cultural aspects of

that country or region.

14. INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: EUROPE

A course on the culture and history of a specific country or region in Europe.

Students will learn about the political, economic, and cultural aspects of

that country or region.

15. NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE

A course on the human brain and nervous system. Students will learn about

the structure and function of the brain and how it affects behavior.

16. PREHISTORIC AND ANCIENT EUROPE

A course on the prehistoric and ancient European cultures. Students will learn

about the development of human societies and the role of art and religion in

those societies.

17. MARKETING AND MARKETS

A course on the principles of marketing and business. Students will learn about

the role of marketing in creating and sustaining demand for products and

services.

18. HEALTH-BASED COMPETENCE

A course on the role of health in personal and social development. Students will

explore how health is related to personal and social well-being.

19. WORLDCLASS AND IDEAS

A course on the role of ideas in shaping the world. Students will learn about

the ideas that have had the greatest impact on human history and how to

apply those ideas to contemporary issues.

20. CALLS AND ROSETTES

A course on the role ofSign up for the newsletter and get:

- Updates on the latest news and events
- Exclusive content and offers
- A personalized experience

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