

MAKE NEW **FRIENDS**
EXPLORE INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS
 ACHIEVE ACADEMIC **GOALS**



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
 KENNETH P. DIETRICH SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES
 FALL 2018



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. To confirm days and times of classes and to view course descriptions, visit asundergrad.pitt.edu/fp and click on List of Academic Communities.

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

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



Maya Boyd
 Inside the Theater
 Academic Community

“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.”



Matthew Karr
 Neurons and Chemicals
 Academic Community

Cedar Hansen
 Neurons and Chemicals
 Academic Community

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.

HOW TO APPLY

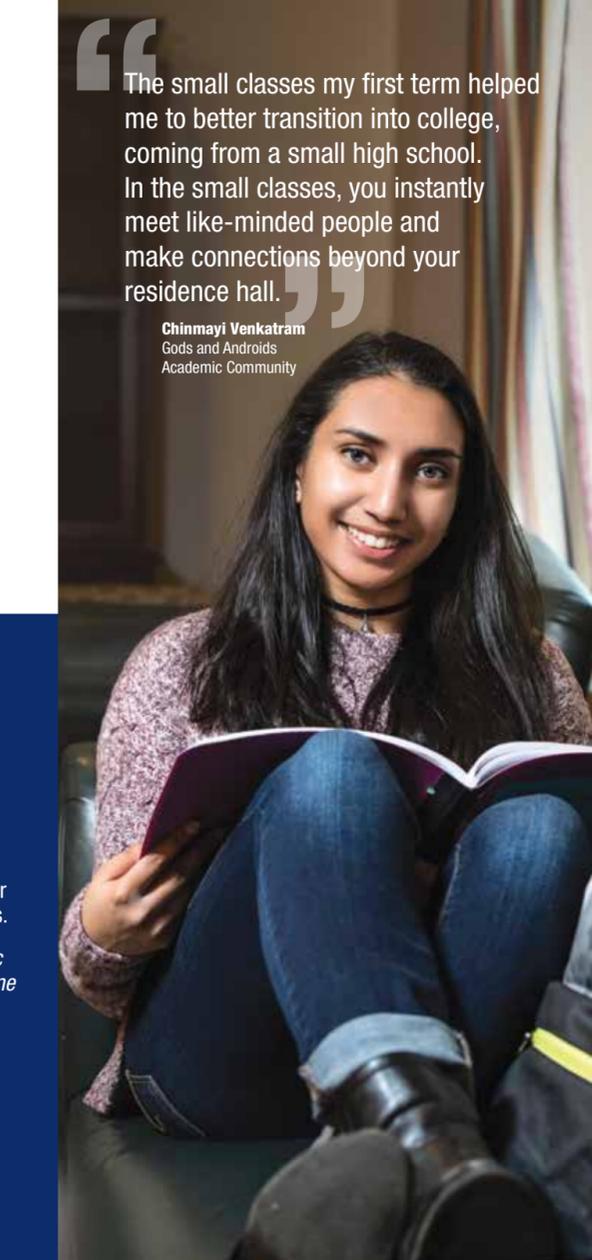
STEP 1: Go to asundergrad.pitt.edu/ac.

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.



Chinmayi Venkatram
 Gods and Androids
 Academic Community

“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.”



ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES

FALL 2018

Samantha McCoy

How to Make a Movie
Academic Community

1. INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: ASIA

Learn more about Asian culture and language and the history of Asian art with other students who share your interest. Find out about study abroad opportunities and explore Hillman Library's extensive collection of materials on Asian studies. Participate in campus events and visit important sites relevant to Asian culture and art. (4 credits plus language credits)

Courses:
HAA 0020: Introduction to Asian Art
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

To be a member of this Academic Community, students also must enroll in any level of one of the following languages: Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, or Vietnamese.

NOTE: Students enrolled in this Academic Community will travel to Cleveland, Ohio, to visit the Cleveland Museum of Art's amazing collection of Asian art. (This trip is funded by the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.)

2. INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: EUROPE

What is a nation? And how have individual answers to this question created the Western world in which we live? Trace the political life of Europe and how it has affected the individual's sense of identity and place in the growing European Union and in the world. (4 credits plus language credits)

Courses:
HIST 0187: World War II-Europe
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

To be a member of this Academic Community, students must also enroll in any level of one of the following languages: French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Irish Gaelic, Swedish, Modern Greek, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak, Russian, or Arabic.

NOTE: Students enrolled in this Academic Community will visit New York City, tour the United Nations (UN), visit with the Delegation of the European Union to the UN, and learn about study abroad and funding opportunities at the Institute of International Education. (This trip is funded by the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.)

3. INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: GLOBAL

Examine the ways in which nation-states interact on a global level and the challenges that arise for our leaders, policymakers, and fellow citizens as a result of different governing strategies. Find out about study abroad opportunities and participate in campus and local events centered on global studies themes. (7 credits)

Courses:
HIST 0712: Global History of Terrorism
PS 0550: Introduction to Global Studies
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

NOTE: Students enrolled in this Academic Community will travel to Washington, D.C., and visit museums and other political and cultural national landmarks. (This trip is funded by the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.)

4. INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: QUEBEC

Learn about the rich linguistic, cultural, and geographical landscape of our French-speaking neighbor to the north while studying the French language. Participate in a unique and exciting "study abroad" weekend and explore North America's French-speaking province first hand. (4 credits plus language credits)

Courses:
FR 0014: Introduction to French-speaking Canada
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

To be a member of this Academic Community, students must also enroll in any level of French language study, three credits or more.

NOTE: Students enrolled in this Academic Community will have the opportunity to travel to Montreal, Quebec, and explore museums and landmark buildings as well as other areas of cultural, geographical, and political significance. (This trip is funded by the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.)

NOTE: Students travelling to Montreal must have a valid passport with an expiration date more than six months after October 31. Students must verify that they are in possession of a valid passport at the beginning of fall term. Interested International Students must contact the Office of First-Year Programs prior to enrolling in this community.

5. POLITICS AND PUBLIC LIFE

Learn the basics about the American political process and the intricacies of how it impacts individuals and society at large. Consider how local and national politics intersect and examine the roles citizens play in both arenas. (7 credits)

Courses:
PS 0200: American Politics
SOC 0434: Political Sociology
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

NOTE: Students enrolled in this Academic Community will travel to Washington, D.C., and visit museums and other political and cultural national landmarks. (This trip is funded by the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.)

6. HOW TO MAKE A MOVIE

"Hollywood in Pittsburgh" is a common phrase here. Learn the important role Pittsburgh has had in the production and creation of films both past and present. Learn the processes of movie making by scripting, shooting, and editing your own film. Write about your own engagement with film and film production and discover where you fit in Pittsburgh's vibrant film community. (7 credits)

Courses:
ENGCOMP 0205: Seminar in Composition: Film
ENGLM 0590: Filmmaking: Production and Criticism
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

To enroll in this Academic Community, students must place into Seminar in Composition. ENGCOMP 0205 fulfills the Seminar in Composition requirement.

7. BODIES IN MOTION

Join a community interested in various ways to think about the body and sports. Students in this community will be introduced to human interest writing, the sociology of sports, and physiology, as well as the technology behind sports broadcasting. Engage and learn about how the body and the athlete have been imagined and reimagined by the media. Learn how to interview subjects and create profiles of sports figures. (7 credits)

Courses:
ENGCOMP 0200: Seminar in Composition
ENGLM 0585: Technologies of the Body
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

To enroll in this Academic Community, students must place into Seminar in Composition. ENGCOMP 0200 fulfills the Seminar in Composition requirement.

8. INSIDE THE THEATER

Study the evolution of modern theater as a cultural mirror and gain insight into the different perspectives of actors, directors, and designers. Try your own skills on stage and attend productions by Pitt's Department of Theatre Arts and professional theater troupes in the city. (7 credits)

Courses:
CMPINF 0999: Special Topics in Computer and Information:
Big Ideas in Computing and Lab

SA 0110: Visual Thinking
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

9. GODS AND ANDROIDS

How do science fiction literature, film, and television draw on myth and religion to explore how our society works and what the individual's place is in it? You'll consider the rich metaphorical language of science fiction in essay writing to examine who we are and what we believe. Through readings that consider the intersection of myth and science fiction, we'll imagine a new way to think about the future, the present, and the past. (7 credits)

Courses:
CLASS 0030: Mythology and the Ancient World
FP 0003: First-Year Seminar: Science Fiction and Myth

To enroll in this Academic Community, students must place into Seminar in Composition. First-Year Seminar fulfills the Seminar in Composition requirement.

10. WHO ARE YOU?

How and when does a person develop a sense of one's self? How do both psychology and philosophy help us to understand our natures and personalities? The courses in this community will provide a multifaceted approach to finding answers to these questions. (7 credits)

Courses:
PSY 0160: Psychology of Personality
PHIL 0010: Concepts of Human Nature
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

To enroll in this Academic Community, students should anticipate receiving either AP or course credit for Introduction to Psychology, a prerequisite for Psychology of Personality.

11. MIND AND MEDITATION

Recent studies looking at the intersection of psychoanalysis and Buddhism have demonstrated the value of Buddhist practice to an understanding of the human psyche. Learn about how these fields intersect and how meditation can influence how we understand human psychology. (7 credits)

Courses:
PSY 0010: Introduction to Psychology
RELGST 1558: Buddhism and Psychology
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

12. (DE)CODING REPRESENTATION

Explore the commonalities between studio arts and computing by investigating core concepts like information, abstraction and representation, communication, meaning-making, and creative expression. Learning through hands-on investigations in materials, media, and ideas is central to both SA and SCI courses. (7 credits)

Courses:
CMPINF 0999: Special Topics in Computer and Information:
Big Ideas in Computing and Lab
SA 0110: Visual Thinking
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

13. THE BEAUTIFUL MIND

Like the father of neuroscience, Santiago Ramón y Cajal, you have the opportunity to examine the intersection of art and neuroscience by developing artistic talent while studying the brain. Consider the relationship between art and science and how they complement each other. Nothing demonstrates this like the human mind, truly beautiful in its neural structure and its propensity for creative expression. (7 credits)

Courses:
NROSCI 0080: Brain and Behavior
SA 0130: Drawing Studio 1
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

14. BIOLOGY AND THE BRAIN

How does the human brain interact with the world around it to produce our perceptions, reactions, and responses? Study the basic biology that makes communication between parts of the brain possible and find out how brain function shapes what we do. (7 credits)

Courses:
BIOSC 0150: Foundations of Biology 1
NROSCI 0080: Brain and Behavior
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

15. MOLECULES AND MORALS

Explore ethical dilemmas in modern medicine—such as medical experimentation, resource allocation, and health care reform—in connection with modern chemistry, the advances of which have made medical miracles possible and have raised the question of ethics to a new level. (8 credits)

Courses:
CHEM 0110: General Chemistry and Lab 1
HPS 0613: Morality and Medicine
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

16. CELLS AND SOCIETY

Explore the relationship between medicine and society. Consider how the delivery of medical services can be dependent on a physician's knowledge of social and biological systems. (7 credits)

Courses:
BIOSC 0150: Foundations of Biology 1
SOC 0477: Medical Sociology
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

17. NEURONS AND CHEMICALS

Deepen your understanding of chemical structures and states of matter while learning about their wider application in psychopharmacology. Develop a better understanding of the basic structures of the brain and chemicals. (8 credits)

Courses:
CHEM 0110: General Chemistry and Lab 1
NROSCI 0081: Drugs and Behavior
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

18. HEALTH-RELATED CAREERS

Join a community of students interested in pursuing careers in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, athletic training, and health and rehabilitation sciences and build the foundation for future success in the health professions. (8 credits)

Courses:
BIOSC 0150: Foundations of Biology 1
CHEM 0110: General Chemistry and Lab 1
FP 0001: Academic Foundations

19. HEALTH CARE COMMUNICATION

Take the first steps toward developing the communication skills that health care professionals need. Learn strategies for expressing yourself clearly, asking good questions, and providing solid answers. Delve into the first of the science classes you will need to reach your goals in the health care field. (7 credits)

Courses:
BIOSC 0150: Foundations of Biology 1
COMMRC 0530: Interpersonal Communication
FP 0001: Academic Foundations



University of
Pittsburgh

Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
First-Year Programs

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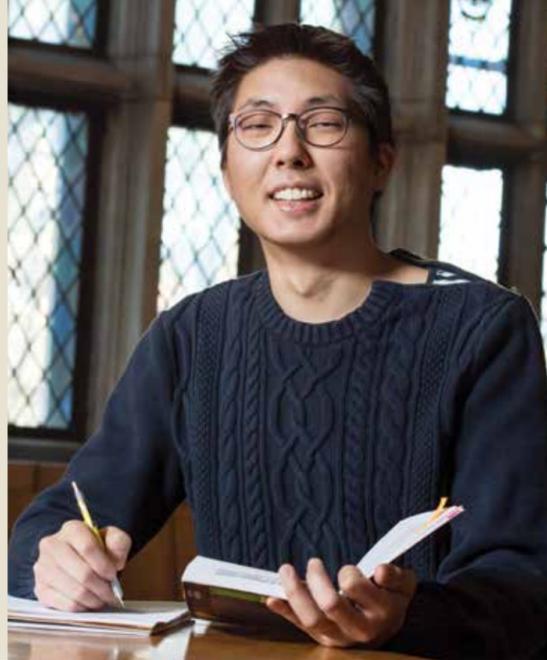
Not interested in an Academic Community?
Consider one of the 4-credit First-Year Seminar (FP 0003) classes, which fulfill the Seminar in Composition requirement and include Academic Foundations (FP 0001).

Topics include:

- Writing the Spiritual
- Writing Food
- The Urban Idea
- Risky Business
- Cinema and Memory
- Lost in Pittsburgh
- Writing on Art and the Body
- Idle Hands: Devil's Workshop?

For more information, visit asundergrad.pitt.edu/fp and click on First-Year Seminar Classes.

NOTE: Students must place into Seminar in Composition and may enroll in only one First-Year Programs course during the fall term.



My academic community enabled me to expand my pool of resources and connect with professors and staff members who provided advice in regards to career planning, my hopes, and opportunities on campus.

Solookhu Bat-Erdene
International Studies: Europe
Academic Community



Planet Positive

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