

# Academic Communities

Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Fall 2022





## Welcome to Pitt!

Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of Pittsburgh and the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences! We invite you to enroll in one of our Academic Communities for your first term.

Academic Communities are thematic blocks of first-year level courses that help to make your transition to college life smoother. They provide you with more opportunities to interact with faculty; to learn alongside other first-term students with similar interests; to engage in focused intellectual inquiry; and to enhance your academic, social, and leadership skills.

Each Academic Community contains an Academic Foundations course, which is a small class taught in an interactive learning environment. The Academic Communities have no residential component.

When applying to a community, please consider any Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and/or transfer credits you may be bringing with you, as enrolling in an Academic Community means you must enroll in all the courses in that particular community. To confirm days and times of classes and to view course descriptions, visit [asundergrad.pitt.edu/ac](http://asundergrad.pitt.edu/ac) and click on the List of Academic Communities.

First-Year Programs is committed to ensuring an inclusive, fun, and academically enriching environment for you. We hope to connect with you and be an important part of your first-year experience.

Hail to Pitt!

Bianca DeJesus  
Director, First-Year Programs

Russ Maiers  
Assistant Director, First-Year Programs

Rachel Clites  
Program Coordinator, First-Year Programs

## Why Choose an Academic Community?

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.



### New Friends

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.



### Faculty Connections

Focused groups allow for more personal interaction with faculty members and teaching assistants.



### Academic Skills

You'll have peer support for studying and for writing, and you'll develop the habits needed for academic success.



### Leadership Skills

Many Academic Community students go on to serve as undergraduate teaching assistants in First-Year Programs courses. All students who complete any fall-term First-Year Programs class are eligible to apply to become a First-Year Programs Undergraduate Teaching Assistant.

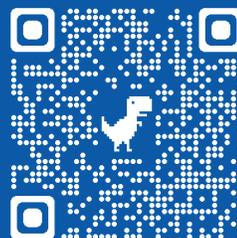
## 2022 Academic Communities

International Studies: Asia\*  
International Studies: Europe\*  
International Studies: Global\*  
Québec and Francophone North America  
Inside the Theater\*  
In the Museum  
How to Make a Movie\*  
Seeing the World\*

Who Are You?  
Nature/Cities/Humans  
The Beautiful Mind  
Molecules and Morals  
Neurons and Chemicals  
Science in a Gendered World  
Medical Humanities  
Society and Science

\*These communities include fully-funded excursions to Washington D.C. or Rochester, NY. For more details about each excursion, please visit [asundergrad.pitt.edu/ac](https://asundergrad.pitt.edu/ac)

Apply online at [asundergrad.pitt.edu/ac](https://asundergrad.pitt.edu/ac)





## 2022 Academic Communities

### **International Studies: Asia\***

Discover the history, languages, and cultures of Asia with other students who share your interest. Explore study abroad opportunities and investigate the Hillman Library's extensive collection of materials on Asian studies. | 4 credits, plus required language credits

### **International Studies: Europe\***

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. Learn one of more than 20 languages that contribute to the complex cultural landscape of Europe. | 4 credits, plus required language credits

### **International Studies: Global\***

Dig deeper as you reach wider in this community designed to explore global contexts of social inequality. Gain insight from transnational issues informed by dominant political and economic trends and build connections to your studies both locally and abroad. | 7 credits

### **Québec and Francophone North America**

Learn about the rich linguistic, cultural, and geographical landscape of our French-speaking neighbor to the north, Québec. In addition to developing your French language skills, you will explore other French-speaking areas of North America. Enrich your understanding of international studies with opportunities on campus and abroad. | 4 credits, plus required language credits

### **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. Students will focus on movement and vocal practice as it relates to acting. Explore productions by Pitt's Department of Theatre Arts and professional theater companies in the city. | 7 credits



### **In the Museum**

What role do museums play in society? What role should they play? As collectors of objects from different historical periods, peoples, and places, museums offer essential understandings of past cultures and our world. Because of their rich and yet sometimes controversial origins, can museums still spark wonder and curiosity? Explore these questions and the complexities of culture from our origins to the future. | 7 credits

### **How to Make a Movie\***

“Hollywood in Pittsburgh” is a common phrase here. Discover 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 make your way in Pittsburgh’s vibrant film community. | 7 credits

### **Seeing the World\***

Through the examination of film, photography, museum exhibits, video games, and other media you will discover how artistic vision is shaped socially, culturally, and technologically. You will also learn how these media influence your own critical practice as you work to develop your individual creative voice. | 7 credits

### **Who Are You?**

How and when does a person develop a sense of 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

### **Nature/Cities/Humans**

How do humans live in harmony with each other and nature in urban areas? Explore how sustainability plays out in natural and built environments. Examine the tradeoffs, challenges, and opportunities of balancing equity, environment, and economics at the campus and city scale. | 7 credits



### **The Beautiful Mind**

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, beautiful for its neural structure and complex in its creative expression. | 7 credits

### **Molecules and Morals**

Explore ethical dilemmas in modern medicine in connection with modern chemistry. Cut through the advances in science and medical miracles with a critical eye that examines questions of ethics in medical experimentation, resource allocation, and health care reform. | 8 credits

### **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

### **Science in a Gendered World**

How does gender impact the study and practice of science in our world today? What can we learn from studying how science has been pursued, practiced, and promoted historically? Consider what the historical record reveals and how an awareness of it enhances your academic studies in the sciences at the University and beyond. | 7 credits

### **Medical Humanities**

Pursue your health care passion by starting with the fundamentals of biology while also discovering what literature can teach us about health care. Learn important biological functions and discuss crucial topics that inform how healthcare providers treat patients. | 7 credits

### **Society and Science**

This Academic Community is for pre-health students who are from racial and ethnic populations that are underrepresented in the health professions. This community will support student exploration of health professions and assist with preparation for such programs to build the foundation for future success. Students will develop a pre-health academic development plan and gain insight into numerous pre-health resources on and off campus. | 8 credits



## First-Year Programs Courses

### **FP 001 Academic Foundations**

If your schedule doesn't allow for an Academic Community, be sure to enroll in the 1-credit standalone Academic Foundations course. You'll meet other first-year students in a small class setting; get an orientation to the campus and the community; and become knowledgeable about the workings of your new school.

Through your participation in FP001, you can expect to be able to:

- Discuss the variety of resources available to you as a student at Pitt and within the Dietrich School
- Articulate the richness of Oakland and the surrounding Pittsburgh neighborhoods
- Navigate and maximize the many properties of Canvas
- Lead and present classroom content and discussion for diverse perspectives
- Think critically about your college journey and reflect deeply on the interconnectedness of equity, diversity and belonging in your journey

### **FP 003 First-Year Seminar**

Not interested in an Academic Community? Consider one of the interesting 4-credit First-Year Seminar classes, which include Academic Foundations and fulfill the Seminar in Composition requirement. Topics include:

Rereading Popular Culture  
Idle Hand: Devil's Workshop?  
Fitness, Nutrition, & Wellness  
Who's Watching Who?  
Fun & Games

Doctoring the Story  
Rock & Roll as Literature  
Capitalism: Do You Buy It?  
Writing the World  
On a Quest

### **FP 008 Academic Foundations: Exploration of Civic Engagement**

Building on the foundation of the conventional Academic Foundations course, students will explore their civic identity through intentional dialogue and mindfulness reflection practices. This course's aim is to encourage students to commit to civic engagement for the entirety of their university experience to make a positive lasting impact in Pittsburgh communities and beyond.



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