

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, 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



“

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

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



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.

“

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

