Welcome to the College of Charleston and to our thriving community of thinkers. By the time you graduate, you will have chosen a specialized discipline—your major—and you will master its body of knowledge and particular way of studying the world.

Right now, you're about to embark on studies that are central to everyone at a liberal arts and sciences college. We call these studies your "General Education," which is an unexciting title for what could be the most exciting part of your entire career as a scholar.

Everyone who enrolls at the College of Charleston will join our intellectual community through his or her General Education courses. Future marine biologists will study philosophy alongside future lawyers, and aspiring teachers will study art elbow to elbow with entrepreneurs. Writers will study biology or astronomy, while psychologists puzzle over Hamlet and his problems.

The faculty of the College recently created what might prove to be the most exciting part of your General Education: the First-Year Experience. You can enroll in small, specially designed seminars taught by some of our best professors, or in linked courses, called "Learning Communities," that pair professors from two or more disciplines with a single group of students.

Both the First-Year Seminars and the Learning Communities are specially designed for freshmen, and their topics offer the best fare you'll find. But more than that, these courses will give you the chance to think for yourself, to argue with your peers, to join that messy and exciting thing we call an intellectual community. From the moment you step through the door, you'll become more than a student; a scholar. You'll be responsible for your ideas; you will be taken very seriously.

Once again, welcome.

We, the faculty, look forward to meeting you, the newest members of this community.
Over the next few years you will continue to develop as a person, both intellectually and socially. We look forward to taking that journey of personal growth with you.

The First-Year Experience (FYE) academic program was developed with you in mind. In FYE classes you will work closely with small groups of first-year students. You will be able to connect quickly with other students who share similar interests, and get to know your professors through class discussions, projects and social events.

You will also get up-close and personal insights into the resources available at the College that you can use to help you pursue your academic, personal and career goals.

As you look through the first-year seminar and learning community course offerings, feel free to contact faculty members or the staff in New Student Programs if you have questions about specific courses or course requirements.

We look forward to working with you, as you become a member of the College of Charleston community.

we are happy to
WELCOME YOU
to the College of Charleston!
To make the most of your first year at the College, you should enroll in a FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR or a LEARNING COMMUNITY.

**FYE BENEFITS**

Through these courses you will:

1. Meet other students who share similar intellectual pursuits.
2. Develop the skills that will help you succeed academically.
3. Work closely with exceptional faculty who love to teach and who will help you succeed.
4. Learn in depth about the campus and the city.
5. Form strong peer support systems.
6. Become familiar with campus resources.

**FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS (FYSM)** focus on narrow, often unusual, academic topics and introduce new students to a variety of campus resources. Classes are small (generally 20-25 students) and are taught by roster faculty. The focus in a FYSM is on group work, class discussion and debate. First-year seminars focus on specific topics within a particular discipline or more than one academic discipline. If you combine a FYSM with other courses, you will have an excellent introduction to the academic life of the College of Charleston.

**LEARNING COMMUNITIES** link two or more courses. Faculty teaching the courses work together to set the curriculum, schedule joint class activities and explore the ways in which the subjects are interrelated.

The weekly synthesis seminar is another component of learning communities. Because each seminar is led by an upper-level (sophomore, junior or senior) peer facilitator, you will have the advantage of getting the perspective of and advice from a successful upperclassman.

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

FYE courses are very popular and are available on a first-come first-served basis. Make your selection early. You can register when you sign up for orientation or e-mail the Academic Advising and Planning Center. You’ll find instructions at the very end of the list.

It is important that you review the following courses carefully. The College does give AP* course credit per the College Entrance Examination Board Advanced Placement Program. If you decide to enroll in a class for which you have already received AP credit:

- You will not receive additional credit hours to count toward the 122 total you will need to graduate.
- The grade you earn in the class may be included in your cumulative grade point average.

*If you wish to decline AP credit and take the College of Charleston course instead, you will have to fill out a form in the registrar’s office.
You are about to put high school behind you and begin what we expect will be the most exciting time of your life. You’re about to move out on your own; be your own person and make your choices and decisions by yourself. We want to give you an opportunity to challenge yourself with an outstanding college seminar right away. It will give you the tools you’ll need to be an active and involved learner and it will help you plan your education around a variety of disciplines.

With that in mind, we’ve designed first-year seminar (FYSM) courses to help you begin your college learning experience in creative ways. As the name suggests, FYSM classes are small, and the focus is primarily on discussion and debate. In whichever class you select, you and your fellow students will join your professors on an exciting intellectual journey. You will explore ideas (some old, some new) and expose yourself to different ways of thinking and a range of experiences.

We expect that the experience will give you the confidence to think creatively, challenge yourself, and grow.

Kay Smith
associate vice president/ academic experience
Animal Minds, Animal Rights
Hugh Wilder
Philosophy

What kinds of minds – if any – do non-human animals possess? What moral rights – if any – do animals possess? How are these two problems related? The issues are fascinating and strongly contested: answers affect public policy (how should animal research be regulated?) and personal choice (should I be a vegetarian?).

Completion of this FYSM fulfills one course in the humanities component of the College's general education requirements.

“These courses will give you the chance to think for yourself, enter into discussions and debates with your peers, and discover that learning is an active and involving experience. Your exposure to the arts, sciences and humanities will help you become part of an exciting intellectual community. You’ll be responsible for your ideas and you will be taken very seriously.”

— Melinda “Mindy” Miley
assistant vice president
Office of New Student Programs
“The First-Year Experience is a good way to form strong relationships with your classmates that will last for the rest of your college experience.”

— Kate Rogers, peer facilitator

Among western cultures, Americans have been especially worried about an alleged distinction between good and bad sexual identities. Why the furor? This question will be explored through an examination of the origin of the concepts of heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, and transgenderism, and the continuing evolution of moral attitudes in our culture concerning these concepts, relying on a broad interdisciplinary selection of academic work: historical, philosophical, psychological, sociological, and religious, together with some literary and cinematic treatments of sexual identity. Completion of this FYSM fulfills one course in the humanities component of the College’s general education requirements.

— Richard Nunan, Philosophy

This course will introduce students to the sociological perspective by exploring how American culture shapes and often encourages alcohol and other drug use. Film, music and advertising will be examined as well as specific American subcultures (e.g., drug use norms on college campuses) to reveal the sociological basis of drug use, abuse and therapeutic interventions. This course awards four credits. Lab hours will include workshops and activities at a nearby minimum security prison. Completion of this FYSM fulfills one course in the social science component of the College’s general education requirements.

— Heath Hoffman, Sociology

A picture is worth a thousand words, an intuitive adage that can be quantified through information theory. As a mechanism of information collection, analysis, modeling, communication, and knowledge extraction, the power and utility of the human visual system catalyzes the scientific process and empowers scientists to consume vast amounts of data quickly. Empower yourself by understanding, using and evaluating images, graphics, animation and video. This is a course every science student will want to take because it is a skill that many scientists wished they had. Completion of this FYSM results in three hours of elective credit.

— Chris Starr, Computer Science

Theatre often presents its audiences with questions of ethical choice – which of two moral codes to follow, whom to believe, when to sacrifice personal desires for the greater good. This class will look at plays and performances that address these questions, examining not only the questions themselves, but also the styles in which they are asked, and connect those questions to the types of ethical quandries that college students experience. Completion of this FYSM fulfills one course in the humanities component of the College’s general education requirements.

— Susan Kattwinkel, Theatre

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) is recognized as the greatest, if not necessarily the best-liked, European artist of the 20th century. Two themes dominated his life and art: love and death. His first masterpieces at age 20 confronted the suicide of his friend over love rejected by a Parisian prostitute. In visual images Picasso expressed his own sexual loves, from youth to old age, continuously confronted the deaths, as well, of his own family and friends as well as those killed in terrorist bombings of Guernica in 1937. Completion of this FYSM fulfills one course in the humanities component of the College’s general education requirements.

— Diane Johnson, Art History
“In their study of revolutions and revolutionary language, our students discovered and combined the insights of both history and English. Each course reinforced the other, and the whole experience led to an integrated in-depth learning experience.”

— Richard Bodek
history professor

Computers, Music, and Art
Bill Manaris
Computer Science

What do Einstein and da Vinci have in common? Each was an artist and a scientist. If you are interested in connecting your right (intuitive, visual, musical, artistic, innovative) brain to your left (rational, analytical, logical, sequential, and mathematical) brain, this course is for you. You will explore the creative side of computing in the context of music, sounds, images, and other digital artifacts. You will learn about media modeling and computational thinking in the liberal arts and sciences. You will develop several digital artifacts. You will learn how to use computers to explore, visualize, speculate, and invent. Completion of this FYSM results in three hours of elective credit.

Public Education in the 21st Century
Fran Welch and Paula Erlich
Education Foundations, Secondary and Special Education

Never has public education in America been more challenging, interesting, and complicated. In South Carolina, less than half of P-12 students graduate from high school. As an inquiry course, participants will explore the politics, practices, research, and trends of public education. Multiple opportunities for experiential learning will be incorporated. Completion of this FYSM results in three hours of elective credit.

Jewish Spirituality: From the Bible to the Present
Joshua Shanes
Jewish Studies

This course focuses on Judaism as a dynamic religious “tradition,” in which innovation and change emerges ironically through asserting continuity with the past. It emphasizes the extent to which Judaism— and Jews— have always constituted an integral part of their surrounding societies and have both affected and been transformed by those cultures. Students are thus exposed to multiple religious traditions, through a Jewish lens, as they analyze how Jews over time have defined sacred time, sacred space, and religious leadership. Completion of this FYSM fulfills one course in the humanities component of the College’s general education requirements.

The Individual, Family and State in the Western Tradition
Darryl Phillips
Classics

For centuries humans have struggled to define themselves and to define the relationship between themselves, their families, and the state. This seminar will explore these themes through reading central works of the western tradition including Homer’s Odyssey, Aeschylus’ Oresteia, Euripides’ Medea, selections of Livy’s history of Rome, and Virgil’s Aeneid, all of which explore and define the appropriate roles of individuals, families, and the state. Completion of this FYSM fulfills one course in the humanities component of the College’s general education requirements.
Countercultural Literature of the 1960s and 70s
Chris Warnick
English

In this writing-intensive course, we will examine novels, poems, and nonfiction from the 1960s and 1970s. Through our reading, writing, and research, we will investigate how countercultural movements of the Vietnam era— including student activism, feminism, and Black Power—were reflected in literature of the time period. Among the course readings will be Jack Kerouac’s On the Road, Eldridge Cleaver’s Soul on Ice, Sylvia Plath’s The Bell Jar, and selections from published memoirs written by college students. Completion of this FYSM fulfills one course in the humanities component of the College’s general education requirements.

Experiencing World War I
Bryan Ganaway
History

World War I killed 9,000,000 men between the ages of 18 and 35, obliterated three monarchies, destroyed European economic dominance, accelerated the development of mass politics, enabled women’s emancipation, doomed European empires, and set the stage for totalitarian revolutions that dominated the rest of the century. What did it mean for real people to enter this abyss and somehow emerge from the other side? This course seeks to understand the meaning of this cataclysm for the modern world by focusing on memoirs left by soldiers, workers, parents, generals, politicians, colonized peoples, revolutionaries and women. Completion of this FYSM fulfills one course in the humanities component of the College’s general education requirements.

Religion and Traditions of Friendship
Louise Dohe
Religious Studies

This seminar will examine many types of relationships that express ideals of “friendship,” which appear in the sacred texts and writings of Judaism, Christianity and Chinese Confucian philosophy. Themes will include ideals of civility, hospitality, romantic love and forgiveness. Narrative case studies that illustrate different ideals will include the stories of David and Nathan, and Naomi and Ruth in Hebrew Scripture; Jesus and Mary Magdalene in Christian scripture, and stories drawn from Confucian tradition. Completion of this FYSM fulfills one course in the humanities component of the College’s general education requirements.

C.G.I.F - Computer Graphics in Film
Tony Leclerc
Computer Science

Films like Futureworld, Star Wars, and Tron were some of the earliest films utilizing 3D computer graphics (CG). Since then, a significant percentage of films include elements of CG. This course discusses the various forms in which CG is used in films including modeling, morphing, seamless integration, digital removal, and digital grading are among some of the topics considered. Hardware and software technologies and algorithms for performing CG are also considered. Completion of this FYSM results in three hours of elective credit.

Considering the Performance
Mark Landis
Theatre

This will be an intensive writing seminar for students in which the focus will be several assigned live performances of plays or dance concerts. Participants will be taught how to notice details in an ever-changing live performance— an object of study that doesn’t provide the option of re-reading or re-winding. Students who complete this class should leave better prepared to express themselves in formal writing with a more powerful vocabulary to describe a powerful emotional experience such as a play can provide. Completion of this FYSM fulfills one course in the humanities component of the College’s general education requirements.

Opportunities and Challenges in Medicine and Allied Health
Michelle Futrell
Sports Medicine

This course will introduce students to professional opportunities within the medical and allied health fields, and expose students to basic terminology, psychomotor skills, current issues and challenges facing health-care professionals. Students will ascertain professional attributes of medical and allied health professionals through one on one interaction with professionals. Completion of this community results in three hours of elective credit.
LEARNING COMMUNITY

Choose a Learning Community with a theme that interests you! You will take classes with a group of students with whom you share similar interests! You’ll also get to know us – the peer facilitators! We will be there to guide you through your first year at the College.

• Every learning community is assigned a peer facilitator. We’ll meet once a week in a synthesis seminar where we’ll let you take the floor. Talk to us about your progress in the community or any difficulties you might be having. Ask us about anything.
• We schedule office hours so that you can chat with us one-on-one.
• One of our goals is to help you gain the confidence to become a leader on campus. We’ll host socials, and are more than willing to organize volunteer activities or invite guests to come speak with you about student clubs and organizations on campus.

Again, we couldn’t be more thrilled to know that we could be working with you soon! See you on campus! Your Peer Facilitators
Left or “Write” Brained?

English 101
Meg Scott-Copps

Psychology 103
Adam Doughty

In our joint English 101 and Psychology 103 community, we will be asking and answering what makes us tick – literally. We will study why we are who we are through an exploration of the brain’s capacity for memory, perception and learning. And once we’ve got it all figured out – who we are and why – we should have plenty to write about! Completion of this community fulfills one course in the English component and one in the social science component of the College’s general education requirements.

The Art of Business
Management 105
David Desplaces
Theatre 176
Laura Turner

Creating a sustainable community through business and theatre: This community seeks to identify and cultivate universal relational and academic skills through cross curriculum collaborative projects as well as service learning opportunities. The community also seeks to develop appreciation and understanding of the business of producing art and the art of productive business. Completion of this community fulfills one elective course and one course in the humanities component of the College’s general education requirements.

Exploring Ancient Rome

Latin 101
Darryl Phillips

Classics 102
Noelle Zeiner-Carmichael

Gladiators, chariots, political intrigue, gods and more: see ancient Rome come to life in this learning community designed to introduce you to the language, literature and customs of Ancient Roman Civilization. Classics 102 will explore everyday life in Ancient Rome through lectures and a variety of readings in English; Latin 101 will introduce you to the language of the Romans, covering the basics of Latin grammar and vocabulary while actively translating passages that provide direct insight into Roman culture. Completion of this community fulfills one course in the humanities component and one course in the foreign language component of the College’s general education requirements.

“My involvement in a learning community during my first year served as a catalyst for my involvement in campus life.”

— Takeshia Brown ’10 peer facilitator

Scientific Reasoning: Across Disciplines

(This learning community includes three courses: English 101, Math 120 or 111, Biology 111. SAT scores in math will be reviewed prior to enrollment to determine eligibility.)

Biology 111 and Biology Lab
Deb Stiwell

English 101
Caroline Hunt

Math 111 or Math 120
Sofia Agrest

Successful scientists learn early on the power of analytical and critical thinking and of accuracy in written expression. Whether destined for a career in mathematics, field work, the health professions, high school teaching, research, scientific writing or simply exploring future options, thinking scientifically is central. Combining academically and socially linked classes with group collaboration and a powerful network of support from professors and peer upperclassmen supports the transition to college while building a strong foundation in critical thinking and written expression. This community requires weekly attendance at either Supplemental Instruction sessions or Synthesis Seminar. Completion of this community fulfills one course in the English component, one in the science component and one course in the math component of the College’s general education requirements.
What's Your Story?
Computer Science 199
RoxAnn Stalvey
Communication 220
Melissa Ferrara

We challenge you to examine your world, how you meet, interact in, develop and end relationships. It is an interesting blend of self-exploration, application, research, online networking, and understanding the Internet's role in facilitating connections. Understand what makes you integral in the connected age! Completion of this community results in six hours of elective credit.

Society and the Individual
Sociology 101
Ann Stein
English 101
Mary Sadler

Have you ever wondered why people behave the way they do? Observe human behavior through the windows of sociology and literature for a better understanding of your world. Learn how sociology and English courses use different approaches to explore the relationship between the individuals and their society. Completion of this community fulfills one course in the English component and one course in the social science component of the College's general education requirements.

Uncovering the Civilizations of Greece and Rome
Classics 104
James Newhard
Art History 200
Matthew Canepa

How does the classical archaeologist go about recreating these complex civilizations using their fragmentary remnants? How did the ancients themselves perceive their visual and built environments? In ARTH 220 and CLAS 104 you will explore how scholars use material remains in combination with other evidence to reconstruct ancient societies, providing you with the tools necessary to incorporate visual, material, and textual evidence meaningfully into your writing; and gain an understanding of academic approaches to the field of classical art history and archaeology. Completion of this community fulfills two courses in the humanities component of the College's general education requirements.

Chemistry and Biology for Pre-med Students
Chemistry 111
Pamela Riggs-Gelasco
Biology 111
Stephanie Dellis

Successful applicants to medical schools have a strong foundation in chemistry and biology, and they plan for their future early. This learning community will couple two classes pre-med students take - Chemistry 111 and Biology 111. Examples from medicine and research will be incorporated into the context of the curriculum. Additional activities will include advising for pre-med courses, meeting the College's pre-health professions advisor, medical student guest speakers and supplemental instruction. Either of these courses fulfills one course in the science component of the College's general education requirements.

Revolutions: Rhetoric and History
English 101
Joe Kelly
History 102
Rich Bodek

(In this special case students can enroll in History 102 before taking History 101)

This community studies the historical contexts and languages of revolutions, beginning with America's and ending with the Islamic revolutions of today. We'll read the novels, listen to the songs, watch the movies, hear the speeches, and witness the events that have rattled the walls of civilization for the last 250 years. Completion of this community fulfills one course in the English component and one course in the history component of the College's general education requirements.

Sex, Politics and American Culture
Women and Gender Studies 200
Susan Farrell
Political Science 101
Marguerite Arché-Hudson

Why does the media report on Hillary Clinton's dress size? Why have all school shooters been male? How is gender affected by other identity categories, like race? Students in this learning community will explore the roles that sex and gender play in American life and politics. The professors for this learning community are the former director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program and a former California legislator who is now a professor of political science. We'll discuss current controversies, media and popular culture, and social change. Completion of this community fulfills one course in the humanities component and one course in the social science component of the College's general education requirements.
“When you combine language study with the study of culture, a whole new world opens up. Students not only learn Latin, but they learn about the daily lives, beliefs and practices of the Romans who once spoke the language.”

— Darryl Phillips
Classics professor

“Thinking and Writing for Success in Science (for science and math majors)
Chemistry 111 and Chemistry lab
James Deavor
English 102 (completion of English 101 or AP credit for English 101 required)
Mark Rizwilliam

This learning community, intended for chemistry, biology, and pre-med students, will explore ethical issues key to scientific discovery while also honing the writing skills that are essential to documenting your discoveries. You’ll learn about the conventions of writing in the sciences and how they differ from writing in English, and support your Chemistry 111 material with essays in English 102 on hot-button issues like global warming. Besides written assignments and exams, you’ll also present your findings in oral, group presentations. Completion of this community fulfills one course in the English component and one course in the science component of the College’s general education requirements.

“As a faculty member, I’m excited to work with new students.
First-Year Experience courses allow me to help students discover their intellectual passions and inspire me to reexamine my own work”

— Susan Kattwinkel
FYE professor

“Math and Chemistry for Science and Math Majors
(Perfect for students completing Chemistry 111 in the fall or with AP credit awarded for Chemistry 111)
Math 111/120
(Math SAT scores will be reviewed prior to enrollment)
Deborah Jeter
Chemistry 112 and Chemistry lab
Amy Rogers

Did you ever pose the question “When am I ever going to use this?” This math/science learning community, for freshmen majoring in chemistry, biochemistry, biology, geology, or mathematics, will provide some exciting answers for you. It will engage and motivate students by presenting mathematics and chemistry in a real world context. Making the connections between chemistry and calculus allows students to see the relevance between the math and science and students will have a more successful academic experience as a result. Activities will involve connections in mathematics and chemistry through interdisciplinary lectures and labs utilizing technology, cooperative learning, and supplemental instruction. Completion of this community fulfills one course in the science component and one in the math component of the College’s general education requirements.”

— Darryl Phillips
Classics professor
When you register for orientation online through Cougar Trail at https://cougartrail.cofc.edu, select either a first-year seminar or a learning community.

- If you decide to participate after you have registered for orientation, e-mail the Academic Advising and Planning Center at advising@cofc.edu through your campus e-mail account. Include your full name and the first-year seminar or learning community in which you’d like to enroll. Look for an e-mail confirmation.
- During orientation you will meet with an academic advisor. At that time, you will be able to add additional courses to your semester course schedule and make any changes to your FYE selection.

If you have questions about the first-year experience, use the contact information.