

WHAT IS A CAT COMMUNITY?

Connecting Across Topics (CAT) Communities are a set of learning communities specifically designed for first-year students. A group of 22 students enroll in two general education courses and one connections course together during the fall semester. The two main courses count toward graduation in most programs, and the friendly faces in your CAT community make the larger, mostly lecture-based classes feel a lot smaller. They are a terrific way for students to make a great start at K-State.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL CAT COMMUNITY

Pre-professional CAT Communities allow students with the same major and/or career interest to take courses in their field of study while working with a professor and undergraduate learning assistant in their same discipline.



ART OF ENGINEERING (MATH)

This learning community focuses on developing a solid understanding of the importance of science as a foundation for engineering while working to improve your ability to communicate, especially science and engineering design, with a diverse group of people. Students in this learning community must enroll in BAE 101 Introduction to Biological and Agricultural Engineering and Technology as well as MATH 220 Calculus 1 and the recitation for MATH 220.



ART OF ENGINEERING (CHEMISTRY)

This learning community focuses on developing a solid understanding of the importance of science as a foundation for engineering while working to improve your ability to communicate, especially science and engineering design, with a diverse group of people. Students in this learning community must enroll in BAE 101 Introduction to Biological and Agricultural Engineering as well as CHM 210 Chemistry 1.



BUSINESS DECISIONS AND ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY

How does a recession affect individual businesses? Why do some businesses make more money in lean times? How can a business protect itself against risks from outside its own walls? Take a look at why the economy is important to the various aspects of a business from management to marketing to timing when to start a new business.



THE BUSINESS OF HOSPITALITY

Have you ever thought about owning or managing your own hospitality business like a restaurant, sports bar, bed and breakfast, hotel, or becoming an event or wedding planner, or managing a country club? This CAT Community will blend business and hospitality together to see how others have successfully built their own businesses and careers in one of the largest industries in the world.



THE LAW AND SOCIETY

This CAT Community connects a U.S. politics course and a moral philosophy course and explores the nature and special status of law and the connections between law, society, and morality. We will discuss the nature and functions of law, explore the links between political change and legal reform, and investigate the links between law and morality. Though not intended only for Pre-Law students, the course will also include interaction with the Pre-Law Advisor and discussion of the many career paths available to students interested in the law.



LEADERSHIP FOR AGRICULTURAL ADVOCACY

Develop your advocacy skills for the agricultural industry by examining assumptions of advocacy and leadership. Explore and engage agricultural issues from the perspective of multiple stakeholders and develop your skills in critical thinking, communication, and productive conflict. This class will be highly interactive and discussion-based. We will focus on current events and engage with industry leaders.



THE NEED FOR FEED: GRAIN SCIENCE

In this CAT Community, you will learn the fundamentals of grain science and business, while at the same time gaining hands-on experience in K-State's modern laboratories, which include industrial scale flour mills, a feed production facility, and a bakery. It will also serve as an introduction to grains and their processing/utilization in food and non-food products, as well as exposure to career opportunities in grain and related industries.



PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY

Learn the physical and behavioral attributes of physical fitness, health and movement in this CAT Community. You will develop an understanding of the physical therapy profession, examination requirements, education, and opportunities.



PROFITABILITY IN LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISES

This CAT Community focuses on a practical discussion of how the Principles of Animal Science and Principles of Agricultural Economics course intersect around the issue of profitability in livestock operations. You'll examine economic, management, and production factors that impact the costs, revenues and profitability of livestock enterprises. You'll also discuss paradigms that result in successful academic performance and meeting academic and career goals. Livestock production experience is recommended.

INTEREST-BASED CAT COMMUNITY

Interest-based CAT Communities allow students to explore an interdisciplinary area of study while working with an expert professor and undergraduate learning assistant who share similar interests.



GENDER, DIVERSITY, AND MORALITY

This CAT community provides students with the necessary tools for analyzing the roles that gender, class, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation and age play in shaping an individual's and culture's moral views. A guiding question for the course will be this: if we believe that we should respect other cultures and their moral beliefs, then how can we critique and try to change cultural practices that we see as violating human rights?



PREDICTING THE FUTURE: MIND VS. MATH

We make predictions every day; we estimate the likelihood that a team will win, where the car will stop when pressing on the brake, and the productivity of a prospective employee. Most often, we rely on our own human judgment in making these predictions, but statistics offers a more mathematical approach. We will explore the conditions under which mind or mathematics is superior and why both perform poorly for some prediction problems.



UNDERSTANDING THE WEATHER

We care about the weather. We may buy our clothes based on the climate, but we dress for the weather. We check the latest forecast, we discuss the weather, and the weather can have a significant impact on our lives. This CAT Community combines a social science class on culture and cultural differences with a lab science class on the workings of the Earth's atmosphere to better understand how any subject can be viewed using multiple perspectives. The class will visit a local weather forecast office to learn about making and communicating a weather forecast.



WHO WILL YOU BE?

Prepare for a fully engaged college experience by exploring who you are through Expository Writing 1 and Introduction to American Ethnic Studies and deciding who you will be through our learning community discussions and activities. Together, we will create a learning space that promotes critical thinking and active learning while also fostering relationships that can become your K-State foundation.

STUDY ABROAD CAT COMMUNITY

Study Abroad CAT Communities provide a dynamic, global learning experience for K-State students at the start of their college experience. Like our other CAT Communities, a small group of students take a group of academic classes together, but they also have the chance to travel abroad together during their first year.



SPANISH IN ACTION

Develop your intermediate Spanish skills through meaningful interactions with Spanish speakers here in Manhattan and in the small rural community of Atenas, Costa Rica. The Spanish in Action community links the study and practice of service-learning with a special section of Spanish 4, culminating in an 11-day service-learning immersion adventure in Costa Rica in January.



NOT ALL THOSE WHO WANDER ARE LOST

Not All Those Who Wander Are Lost: Leadership for a Globalizing Community - In this CAT Community, students will explore what it means to be a "global citizen" and utilize an international experience as an opportunity for personal growth and self-development. We will examine some of the major forces that shape identity and culture, foster ethical values and behaviors that promote human dignity, and gain practical skills to navigate the rigors of the modern world. No matter where your career path may take you, your sense of global citizenship should help get there. The class culminates in a spring break trip to Hong Kong.