

WHAT IS A RESIDENTIAL CAT COMMUNITY?

Connecting Across Topics (CAT) Communities are a set of learning communities specifically designed for first-year students. They are a terrific way for students to make a great start at K-State.

Residential CAT communities provide an added opportunity for first-year students to connect with others who share their academic interests. Students in each CAT Community will live in the same hall along with their residential learning assistant (RLA). The RLA is a talented upper-level student who is trained to help first-year students be successful in and out of the classroom. This allows a group of like-minded students to not only take a group of classes together, but also to eat, sleep, study, and socialize near each other, too!

If you would like to enroll in a residential CAT Community, please e-mail kstatefirst@k-state.edu.



THE AMERICAN STORY

Ever wonder what life was like for average Americans from the colonial period through the end of the 19th century? Find out for yourself in this highly interactive course that combines classroom projects, field research, and a hike along the Overland Trail to reveal not only the *facts* about periods in America's past, but the *feel* of life in those times as well. You'll keep a journal of your reactions to American novels and dramas, and discover the rich connections between American History and American Literature.



BE THE CHANGE: SOCIAL JUSTICE

In this CAT Community, you will explore themes of power, privilege, and oppression in today's society through coursework and community outreach service projects. You will also develop the ability to think critically and creatively discuss social justice issues and solutions while evaluating strategies for social change.



BEFORE THE CRISIS: PUBLIC HEALTH

You will explore various health care opportunities available in our current society, the impact that health care has (locally, regionally, and globally), and how you can begin to educate others and create preventive programs based on the understanding of a person in a societal context and through the lens of public health.



APDESIGN COMMUNITY

APDesign has a long-standing tradition of providing connection between building a foundation in design through Studio, learning about the rich and varied history of design through History of the Designed Environment, and exploring the diversity of the professions and career paths in Survey of Design Professions for all first-year students. The CAT Community will provide you with additional opportunities to get to know your ENVD classmates better, have dinner with a faculty member each week, and learn strategies to stay focused and motivated in your first year as an APDesign student.



BRAIN GAMES: THE BIOLOGY BEHIND BEHAVIOR

Discover neuroscience--the biology of the brain--how it works, how it has evolved, and how it has influenced human behaviors ranging from economic decisions to criminal choices. See how two seemingly different sciences (psychology and biology) are interrelated!



ENGINEERING COMMUNITY

Connect with other first-year engineering students taking Calculus I, Chemistry I, and the department-specific Introduction to Engineering. Discover engineering applications relevant to engineering curriculum, chemistry, and calculus through problem-based learning, team-based collaborative learning, managing cognitive load, active diversity interaction, and growth choices.



THE ART OF HACKING CULTURE

Recently, artists have begun exploring ways to bring art into the world to create interactive experiences, engage communities, and create social and cultural change. Leveraging the insights of anthropology (the study of people and culture), we will examine ways in which people are using art, technology, and design to "hack" culture and create positive change. The core project of this CAT community will be to "hack" the culture of education by creating our own prototype of a college, using ourselves as the first class.



FIRST SCHOLARS

This CAT community will empower you with tools, resources, and services to create a successful transition to college. You will learn how to analyze the social world and your place in it. You'll accomplish this through hands-on workshops to learn about bettering yourself professionally and socially while exploring leadership potential. This living-learning community is only for first-generation first-year students selected to be part of the First Scholars program.



HEALTHCARE FOR THE HEARTLAND: RURAL MEDICINE

You will combine gerontology and biology to better understand the joys and challenges rural health providers face in today's rural America. In addition, you'll develop observational skills and hone your abilities to make decisions in health care situations.



SUSTAINABILITY AND YOU

We each make thousands of decisions each day. But have you ever seriously considered how those decisions may impact the lives and well-being of others or the condition of the planet? This CAT Community introduces concepts of the "triple bottom line" and "circles of sustainability" to help you think more critically about the consequences of their actions--both intended and unintended--and to better understand complex social, environmental, and economic issues.



MAKING THE ULTIMATE PLAYLIST

Longfellow once famously wrote, "Music is the universal language of mankind." Drawing on this notion, our CAT Community approaches music as a cultural mirror to reveal how Americans have viewed their world and themselves through time. You will create an "ultimate playlist" of recordings and videos to reflect the diversity, history, and values of American culture from its origins to today.



TALKING PHYSICS

Do you dread speaking in front of an audience? Do you think physics is a mysterious force that would be best left to Star Trek nerds? Why not overcome your dismay and conquer public speaking and physics in your first semester at K-State. In a supported atmosphere with other first year female students, you will be able to take on these rigorous general education courses through faculty interaction, residence hall programs, cultural and academic programs, and structured peer tutoring.



NEXT GENERATION JOURNALISM

You will examine the next generation of journalism, including new business models and innovative ideas. You will learn from successful and unsuccessful journalism startups and discuss how the digital era has and will continue to move journalism onto a stage that is dynamic, mobile, and digital.



WHAT NOT TO WEAR: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FASHION

Students will explore why people choose to wear the clothes they wear and the influence an individual's clothing has on both him or herself as well as on other people. They will also discuss the meanings individuals link to dress, the relationship between personality and fashion, how clothing choices affect our self-perception, moods and emotions, and how clothing influences the perceptions/ impressions of others.



PSYCHOLOGY OF PREJUDICE

You will examine stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination broadly, including field observations that manifest in media and everyday social interactions. You will also complete a novel research project using psychological/sociological research methods to answer a research question related to stereotypes, prejudice, or discrimination. Some class time will be devoted to strategies for maximizing opportunities for success in college.



STRENGTHS

Strengths is a living learning community for first-generation, first-year students. Discover what you do best and learn how to use those talents to make your college experience rewarding and successful. In this positive and engaging learning community, you will study the importance of good leadership and the links between your own strengths and your social world.



WORLD-CHANGERS: SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Become inspired by people who have identified significant problems or opportunities in the world and leveraged them to create real, positive change. Identify new opportunities and solutions to critical problems, and gain key skills, know-how and core processes for putting those ideas into action.