SUPPORTING YOUR ENGINEERING STUDENT:
A WEBINAR FOR PARENTS OF NEW SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Cynthia B. Paschal, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
Vanderbilt University School of Engineering
WELCOME

• Your young adult’s admission and matriculation to the Vanderbilt University School of Engineering means that you also are now a member of the Vanderbilt community. Welcome!

• This webinar is intended to provide you with an overview of your student’s journey at VU and to give you information that will help you support your engineering student.

• Your supporting roles may include these:
  • Encourager, cheerleader, consoler, voice of reason, prompter, assistant navigator
  • Depending on student and family circumstances and choices, you might also handle student’s account and financial aid at VU
TRANSITIONS & PARTNERSHIP

• Your scholar is in the midst of a major transition to adulthood and independence as a person and as an engineer*

• Students must chart their own courses through their Vanderbilt years.
  • They must take the lead and be responsible for themselves.
  • This is a major shift for not only students but also for their families.

*Throughout this presentation, “engineer” is meant to encompass all the different disciplines and professions our students train for and enter.
TRANSITIONS & PARTNERSHIP

We believe that parents and other caring adults are extremely important to the success of students, and we want to partner with you to facilitate that success. Together, our job is to guide and support students in their journeys.
VUSE PARTNERS

Philippe Fauchet
Dean of the School of Engineering

Cynthia Paschal
Senior Associate Dean, Undergraduate Education
VUSE PARTNERS

Adam McKeever-Burgett
Director of Academic Services and Data Analytics

Maddie French
Senior Academic Counselor

Allison Gomes
Academic Counselor
VUSE PARTNERS

Julianne Vernon
Associate Dean for Academic Success

Lana Hefner
Program Assistant
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SERVICES

OAS can assist your student with...
- Registration
- Changes to degree program
- External credit
- Academic skills (time management, study skills, etc.)
- Backup academic advising
- Any general questions about resources or programs at Vanderbilt

Your scholar can find OAS
- in Featheringill Hall (FGH) 104,
- by phone at 615-343-8061, and
- by email at engineering-oas@vanderbilt.edu

Follow us on Instagram @vuengineeringoas
VUSE PARTNERS: INSTRUCTORS

- Faculty teach, hold office hours, assess student achievement, and assign both mid-term and final grades.
- Encourage your scholar to meet with every professor they have and to do so early in the semester.
- Student initiative is expected; instructors might not prescribe all study activities a student may need to do to be successful.
- Instructors may or may not reach out to non-participating students.
VUSE PARTNERS: ACADEMIC ADVISERS

• Academic advisers help students navigate the curriculum.
  • Students must meet with academic adviser once every semester to review course selections for the next semester.

• Academic advisers are great resources to students for information about their discipline and its applications to future careers.

• Wise students read adviser emails carefully and cultivate a good relationship.
FOUR YEARS IN A

• Students will get to know each other and faculty via Vanderbilt Visions, the Commons, Intro to Engineering, optional summer book club, & more.

• They will start with foundational courses in year 1 and engineering courses starting in 2nd year.
  • They will complete a capstone (Immersion Vanderbilt) project in their senior year.
  • They will complete a liberal arts core.

• They will laugh, cry, struggle, succeed, and everything in between.

• The vast majority of the VUSE Class of 2025 will graduate the second Friday* in May 2025

• We look forward to celebrating with you!
FALL 2021 CALENDAR

• Fri. Aug. 20 – New transfer student move in
• Sat. Aug. 21 – 1st year move in; Dean’s reception
• Wed. Aug. 25 – first day of classes
• Thurs. Oct. 14 & Fri. Oct. 15 – fall break
• Sat. Nov. 20 – Sun. Nov. 28 – Thanksgiving break
• Sat. Dec. 18 at 10:00 pm – end of last final exam
  * Students must remain on campus through their last exams
  [https://registrar.vanderbilt.edu/documents/Fall_2021_exam_schedule.pdf](https://registrar.vanderbilt.edu/documents/Fall_2021_exam_schedule.pdf)
  * VUSE does NOT use alternate exam schedule
  * Please do not let your student make travel plans that would cause them to miss an exam.
SUMMER BOOK CLUB

• Open to all incoming VUSE students. E-Book is free.

• Peer-to-Peer groups with upper-class peer facilitators & Faculty / Staff Leaders

• Book covers study strategies, overcoming struggles, growth mindset, study groups, campus resources, goal setting, and more

• Please encourage your scholar to participate.

CLASS OF 2025
SUMMER BOOK CLUB
JULY 19TH - AUGUST 13TH

FREE AMAZON E-BOOK!

Working Smarter, Not Just Harder
Three Sensible Strategies for Succeeding in College...and Life

Karl W. Reid, Ed.D.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
School of Engineering
CURRICULA

• Your young scholar will follow the curriculum for their desired major as specified in the Undergraduate Catalog, available at https://www.vanderbilt.edu/catalogs/documents/UGAD.pdf.

• All entering students have been contacted by our academic counselors with guidance about what courses to take in Fall 2021 and how to register via our YES system.
  • Students should all be registered by now. YES will re-open for registration changes on July 21st.

• All students will be assigned a faculty advisor in their major and will meet that person this fall and at least once each semester to discuss progress through the curricula.
CURRICULA

• Students will get the courses they need to graduate with their major in eight semesters if they do the following:
  • Meet prerequisites
  • Follow the guidance of the Undergraduate Catalog and their academic adviser
  • Follow directions and register in a timely fashion
• Students with difficulty getting a class they need should reach out to the Office of Academic Services.
  • We cannot guarantee that a student can get a course earlier than specified in the plan for their major or that they can fit multiple majors/minors into eight semesters.
• YES is your student’s portal for the most critical applications that support their VU progress.

• It is a **serious violation** of the VU Student Computing Policy for a student to share their Vanderbilt University passwords with anyone, including parents, or to allow another person access to systems requiring their VUnetID and password.
  
  • Please do **NOT** put your student in jeopardy of serious sanctions by asking them for access to their VU passwords or computing systems.

• [https://www.vanderbilt.edu/enrollmentbulletin/policies/student-computing-policy/](https://www.vanderbilt.edu/enrollmentbulletin/policies/student-computing-policy/)
LAPTOP

• Your scholar is required to have their own laptop meeting the specifications at this link:
  https://engineering.vanderbilt.edu/transit/ComputerRecommendation.php

• Four-year accidental damage coverage highly recommended
DETOURS

• Changing a VUSE major is really simple and can be done any time. Your scholar will submit a form to engineering-oas@vanderbilt.edu.

• Changing school/college within VU is permitted for students in good standing via application at end of first year or later.

• Leaves of absence (LOA) are permitted and in certain circumstances required.
  • These will alter a student’s expected graduation term.
  • Encourage your student considering a LOA to contact engineering-oas@vanderbilt.edu to discuss.
STEM TUTORING

• Not remedial – wise students get tutoring early
• Free STEM Tutoring
  • In-Person and Virtual
  • Drop-In and Appointment
  • Covers most courses taken in the 1st three engineering semesters
• STEM Tutors are VUSE students
• More VU tutoring options: Vanderbilt.edu/tutoring
• Please encourage your scholar to use tutoring
If your student had an IEP or 504 Plan in high school, they will most likely request accommodations while at Vanderbilt.

• Your scholar needing accommodations should register with Student Access ASAP. The process can take up to three weeks.

• Student is responsible for requesting accommodations and for informing Student Access if there are implementation issues.

• Student Access uses the Commodore Access Portal for accommodation management.
  • Student logs in each semester to send their pre-generated accommodation letters to instructors of their choosing.
  • The portal is also where accommodation change requests can be made and where students can schedule proctored exams.
STUDENT ACCESS SERVICES

• In addition to academics, Student Access also provides accommodations for dining, housing, and transportation.

• Applying for Accommodations: https://www.vanderbilt.edu/student-access/how_to/get_accommodations/index.php

• Questions about Student Access Services – studentaccess@vanderbilt.edu
GETTING INVOLVED

• AnchorLink – online resource to find and connect with VU student organizations; anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu

• Student Involvement Fair - Friday, August 27 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm on the Commons Lawn
The Student Care Network is a holistic network of services and resources pertaining to health and wellness available to all Vanderbilt students.

The Student Care Network:  [https://www.vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/](https://www.vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/)

Questions:  [studentcare@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:studentcare@vanderbilt.edu)
STUDENT CARE NETWORK

• Student Care Network encompasses a wide range of resources pertaining to health & wellbeing; bolstered by 4 primary offices:
  • Office of Student Care Coordination
  • University Counseling Center
  • Center for Student Wellbeing
  • Student Health Center

• Because we have so many wonderful resources, we also recognize that it can be hard to know where to start. The Office of Student Care Coordination is the first and central point of contact to help students identify their needs and navigate the many resources around campus. Students can meet with a care coordinator at the OSCC by completing the intake form found on their website, www.vanderbilt.edu/carecoordination.
As parents/concerned adults, you have the unique opportunity to be a strong partner in your student’s health and wellbeing. Learn more about support available by visiting the Student Care Network website. [https://www.vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/](https://www.vanderbilt.edu/studentcarenetwork/)

Listen for cues that your student may be facing challenges, share campus resources that may help, and encourage your student to reach out for help proactively.

All offices of the Student Care Network value student’s privacy. While we welcome parents’ input and information, we may not be able to provide specific information about your student without written consent. This can be waived in the case of an emergency where safety is a concern.
STUDENT HEALTH

• VU Student Health serves the primary care needs of students and is located adjacent to School of Engineering buildings. [https://www.vumc.org/student-health/welcome](https://www.vumc.org/student-health/welcome)
  • No charge for office visits
  • Charges at cost may be incurred for in-house diagnostic testing, procedures, vaccines, medications, and supplies
  • Vanderbilt Student Health Center does not bill insurance & is out of network for insurance plans

• Info for new students at [https://www.vumc.org/student-health/information-new-students](https://www.vumc.org/student-health/information-new-students)
  • Students with chronic health conditions are encouraged to make an appointment now to help ensure continuity of care
STUDENT HEALTH

• Please encourage your student to prepare for a healthy transition to a new location and environment
  • We are never too old to be reminded about the importance of handwashing
  • If relevant, show your student how to arrange for continued supply of any maintenance prescriptions
  • Encourage exercise options – Student Recreation Center, Commons mini-gym, walking, intramural sports, etc.
  • Remind them that making new friends takes time and is something everyone goes through
STUDENT HEALTH: COVID-19 VACCINE

• To keep the VU community as safe as possible and help ensure the ability to continue to conduct in-person teaching and learning, all new and returning students as well as staff and faculty are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19
  • Students must submit their vaccination record at http://vu.edu/submit-vaccine by August 18
  • Students can request accommodations for medical exemptions through the Student Access office and religious exemptions through the Equal Opportunity and Access office.

• Please encourage your student to address this requirement if they have not already done so.
SERIOUS DISRUPTIONS

- Encourage your scholar to reach out to their professors to discuss addressing academic work in the context of the crisis.
- If your scholar is unable to self-advocate, please notify engineeringdeansoffice@vanderbilt.edu so that we may notify your scholar’s professors.
  - Documentation may be requested.
- Check out “Helping Others” page which includes a link to the Student of Concern reporting form:
  
  https://www.vanderbilt.edu/carecoordination/sample-page/assisting-students-of-concern/

Note – this form is not intended to be an emergency response notification.
STUDENT ACCOUNTS

• All billing is electronic. The e-bill for fall will be sent on August 2nd with a due date of August 31st.

• E-bills are automatically sent to the student. If you wish to also receive the e-bills, please have your student add you as a payer. Instructions are available on the website https://www.vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts/.

• VU offers an optional payment plan. The Vandy Plan enrollment for Fall 2021 has already begun. More information regarding the plan can be found on the website https://www.vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts/payments/options-fall.php
• It is essential that students set-up direct deposit to receive refunds. Please have the student do this now. Students login to YES, click “direct deposit” and save their preferred US checking account details.

• Past-due balances are subject to financial holds and late fees. Late fees accrue monthly at 1.5% (minimum late fee is $5).

• Important checklist of student account-related items: https://www.vanderbilt.edu/stuaccts/undergraduate/checklist.php

• Please direct questions to student.accounts@vanderbilt.edu
ENGINEERING FEE

• This fee covers a portion of the additional costs associated with an engineering education such as the special facilities, equipment, software, safety considerations, staff, and faculty needed to support activities like curricular and extra-curricular hands-on learning, senior projects, and student research.

• The fee is charged every semester to all undergraduate students in the School of Engineering and helps ensure that these special resources are ready for students regardless of when they might specifically use them.
FINANCIAL AID

• Your student must read emails from the VU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (OFAS) and pass them to you as needed.

• Students and parents must reapply for need-based financial aid each year. Priority deadlines & other info are included on the website https://www.vanderbilt.edu/financialaid/.

• While Vanderbilt's cost of attendance may increase annually, if family circumstances remain relatively unchanged, students can expect to receive comparable aid in future years.
  • Minimum contribution expected from student summer and academic year earnings may increase from year to year.

• Financial aid is awarded for a maximum of 8 semesters.
FINANCIAL AID

• Outside scholarships/sources of assistance must be taken into account as part of a student's total need-based aid package and cannot be counted as part of the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
  • If an adjustment to a need-based financial aid package is necessary, the outside scholarship will be used first to replace a student's earnings expectation before reducing Vanderbilt need-based assistance.
  • If a student is receiving some form of outside scholarship or outside assistance (such as employee tuition assistance or scholarships, state grants, etc.), they should download the Outside Scholarship Form from our website at http://www.vanderbilt.edu/financialaid/docs/outside.pdf.
• Please direct questions to finaid@vanderbilt.edu.
FERPA

- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.

- Please make sure your student submits the Consent to Release Academic Information form from their VU email address to let us know whether we may discuss their academic records with anyone, including you.

VU ENGINEERING CONNECT
THE ALUMNI MENTOR PROGRAM

- Online platform connecting VUSE alumni and students for help and mentorship
- Open to VUSE sophomores, juniors, and seniors
- +340 alumni members
- Paired Mentorship Program pairs alumni and students for one year
• Engineering students are encouraged to study abroad.

• Planning ahead is essential.

• VU financial aid can be used to study abroad.

• Your scholar should visit VU’s Global Education Office (www.Vanderbilt.edu/geo) and look for information sessions.
WHAT TO DO NOW

• Talk with your scholar; ask them how they would like you to help them during their Vanderbilt years.

• Discuss expectations with your scholar, both your expectations and theirs, regarding matters such as:
  • Communication
  • Dealing with academic challenges
  • Conduct

• Ask your student to review their lists of things to complete including the FERPA form.

• Start them on the road to independence.

• Follow us on Instagram @VUengineeringoas
QUESTIONS?

- Please type your questions into the Q&A

- The recording of this presentation as well as a pdf of the slides will be posted at https://engineering.vanderbilt.edu/academic-services/IncomingStudents.php