**uawordmark**

**College of Arts and Sciences and Housing and Residential Communities**

**Parker Adams Year**

**UA- ACTS**

**Academic Initiatives and ongoing programming**

The *Capstone Living Learning Programs* provide students with opportunities to actively engage and connect to the University. The programs are dedicated to making the transition from high school to college an easier and richer experience. At the core of these experiences are opportunities for students to engage in experiential learning, principled leadership, and cultural enrichment activities.

The curriculum’s intent is to provide a seamless experience to ensure that students are exposed to resources that assist with their successfully transition to the university. Activities, initiatives and events have been intentionally designed and sequenced to provide challenge and support for students progressing through their first year at the University, and to develop competencies that not only will assist in their academic success but will provide a foundation for them to be successful as lifelong learners.

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| Program/Initiative | Description |
| Arts and Sciences Opening Reception | Members of the Capstone Living Learning Communities and University are invited to officially open the communities each year. |
| Faculty Mentor Program College of Arts and Sciences | Tied to the College of Arts and Sciences Living Learning programs, the faculty mentors serve as resources in a network of support for first year students transitioning to UA.  Students are asked to meet with their mentors during the semester and to review and react to a common reading experience. |
| Biography Series | A lecture series lead by faculty and staff held in the residence halls where faculty members talk about their journey through life.  Faculty and staff may focus on personal or professional topics. |
| Faculty Dinners | Each month residence halls host a faculty dinner where instructors and faculty are invited to dine with the students ‘on us’ Housing and Residential Communities picks up the cost of the meals of attending faculty. |
| 20 Tickets | Each season Housing and Residential Communities purchases 20 tickets to a variety of cultural events on campus.  These tickets are available for students to attend these events and invite faculty. |

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| Compass Courses | Designed to assist students with navigating their first year of college, this academic course serves as the point of integration for the other cohort classes, and residential experience. |
| Academic Advising | An academic advisor from the College of Arts and Sciences maintains office hours in the buildings housing the programs. |
| Classroom and group work space | Space in the halls has been designed to allow for small class meetings in the residence halls. |
| Cohort Classes | In addition to the A&S compass courses, the students also are placed in classes by their cohort group. This allows for subject matter to transcend traditional classroom boundaries and subject matter to be covered several courses. (English, Art Appreciation) |
| Program Traditions | The program introduces the students to the idea of being a part of something bigger than themselves through yearly traditions. Homecoming, Halloween, Spring Talent Show, Community Service Project and End of the Year cookout and Awards Ceremony, provide opportunities for students to shape their community. |
| Study Hall Requirements | As a part of the academic class connected to the living learning program, students are required to complete four study hall hours a week. A large study area in the main library on campus is the location of the study hall. |
| Community Service | In an effort to create an awareness of civic responsibility, conversations about community issues begin at the end of the fall semester. The spring semester is dedicated to community service. Students in the programs are required to complete ten hours of community service in the Tuscaloosa community. |
| Faculty in Residence | Parker Adams is home to a faculty member who serves as an academic mentor to the students living in the residence hall. |
| Graduate Student Support | A Graduate Student Staff member from Housing and Residential Communities lives in the building and provides supervisory support |
| Peer Mentors  “Fellows” | The College of Arts and Science and Housing and Residential Communities select undergraduate peers to serve as role models and to proctor study hall hours in Gorgas Library. |

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| UA- ACTS Program  Components | Description |
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