AMERICAN UNIVERSITY



FIND YOUR PURPOSE

2026

WELCOME TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Where originality meets opportunity, changemakers find community, and today's greatest challenges meet their match.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

The McKinley Building, home of the School of Communication, earned LEED Gold certification in 2015 for its sustainable design.

12,300+
total enrollment

7,500
undergraduates

4,800
graduate and law students

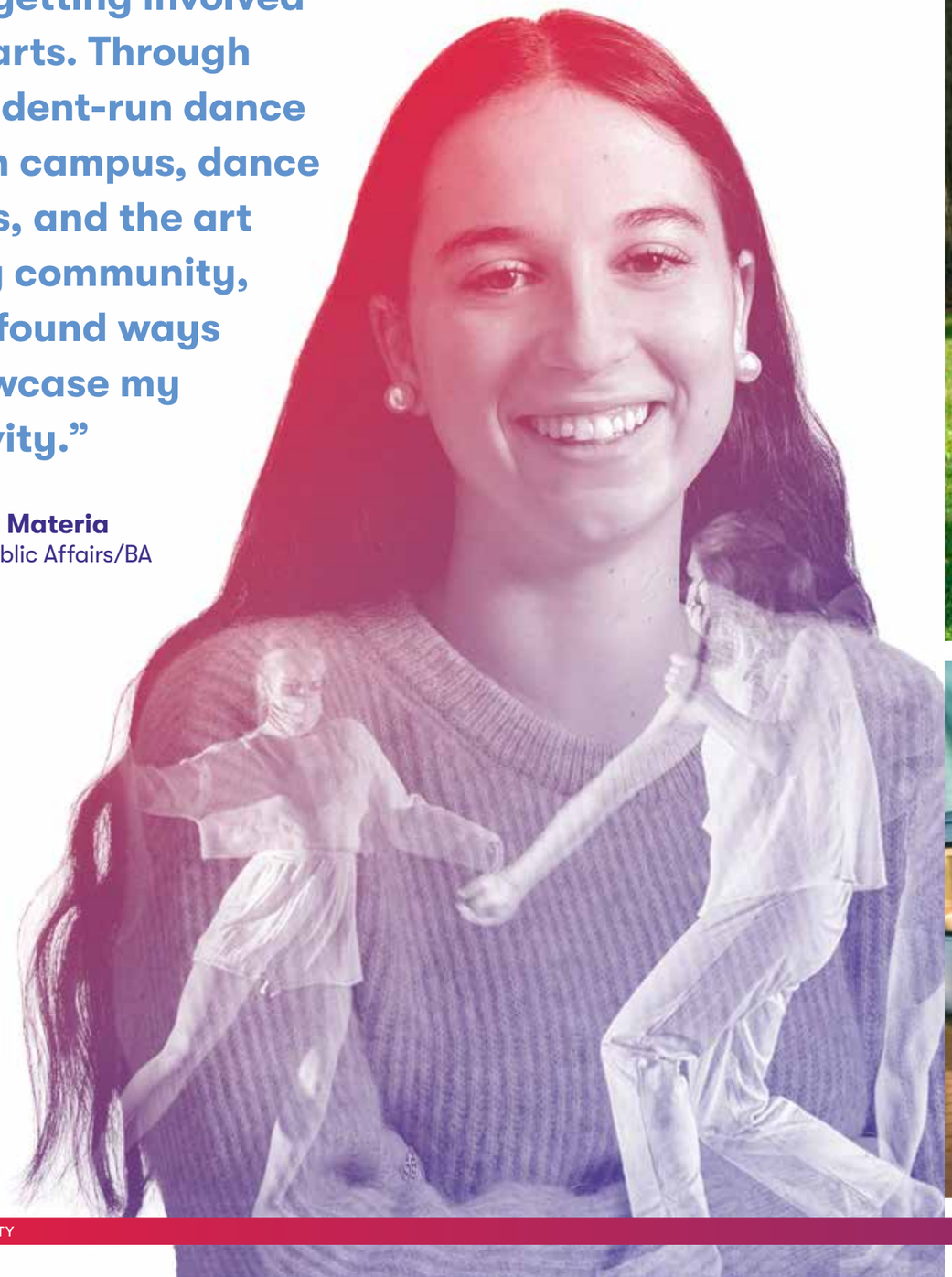
23
average class size

11:1
student-faculty ratio

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“I found my people at AU by getting involved in the arts. Through the student-run dance club on campus, dance classes, and the art history community, I have found ways to showcase my creativity.”



Alexandra Materia
School of Public Affairs/BA





At AU, individuals with the drive to make a difference find their purpose, then put it into practice. We don’t just better ourselves, we better the world around us. No matter what you study, you’ll find a challenging and rewarding curriculum, a city rich in culture and opportunity, faculty who are experts in their fields, and a community of diverse thought, origins, interests, and talents. You’ll bring about positive change in yourself—and the world.

OUR **PURPOSE** GUIDES US, OUR **VALUES** **GROUND** US



Nothing motivates an Eagle like making an impact. We drive continuous progress and achieve transformative outcomes through learning and scholarship that contributes to society. There is no issue too complex, no challenge too great. From **being a leader in sustainability** to **building a more equitable future on our campus and in our world**, we step up, show up, and we say "challenge accepted" to the issues that matter most to us—and to our community.



1st
carbon-neutral university in the US

2020
AU divested its endowment of fossil fuels



11
environmental student clubs & organizations



CHALLENGE YOURSELF, THEN CHALLENGE THE WORLD

At American University, our commitment to inclusive excellence is at the heart of everything we do. Our Inclusive Excellence plan, implemented six years ago, is a core pillar of our strategic plan and drives collaboration among students, faculty, and staff. Inclusive excellence enriches faculty research, enhances the student experience, and energizes our partnerships in DC and beyond.

Our vision is for an AU community that thrives on equity, where ideas and perspectives from individuals of all identities and experiences are not only recognized but also celebrated. We believe that this is the key to achieving institutional and educational excellence.

50%

new tenure-line faculty hired in 2020 who identify as faculty of color

★★★★½

4.5 / 5 stars

Campus Pride Index



Life at AU is full of opportunities to explore, learn, and grow. Here, you'll make a difference while differentiating yourself. The flexibility of our programs and the breadth of our faculty's expertise help you focus on what drives you. You'll find lifelong friends while participating in one-of-a-kind experiences. Best of all, you'll join a community of changemakers who are as driven to spark positive change as you.

250+ clubs and organizations

including

Kennedy Political Union
Robotics Club
American Literary Magazine
American University PRIDE
AU Vets









15

NCAA Division I Patriot League teams, plus club and intramural sports, state-of-the-art fitness centers

ADMITTED STUDENT PROFILE

GPA middle 50%

3.60-4.06

of schools reported

SAT* middle 50%

1350-1470

critical reading and mathematics

ACT* middle 50%

30-33

**AU is test optional. The SAT and ACT ranges reflect only applicants who submitted test scores.*

DID YOU KNOW?

From Kay Spiritual Life Center and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, to counseling and wellness services, you can find community, support, and ways to get involved right on campus.

33% students of color

110+ countries

50 states represented

plus DC, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands

Davenport Coffee Lounge, affectionately known as "the Dav," a student-staffed shop where the community refuels and comes together.

WHERE WE MAKE MONUMENTAL CHANGE



Metro U•Pass

provides unlimited rides on Metrorail and bus, giving you access to everything the DC area has to offer.

85%

students who pursue at least one internship





Trick or treating on Embassy Row, moonlit tours of the nation's monuments, interning at prestigious organizations you won't find anywhere else—**Washington, DC, is our home, playground, and laboratory**. AU's convenient location combines the advantages of a traditional campus setting with the energy, culture, and opportunities of a global capital—and you'll get a front-row seat to change in action.







“Washington, DC, allows me to explore a wide variety of interests, from the arts to government. Aside from being the nation’s capital, it is a vibrant cultural center that is constantly evolving.”

James Andrade
College of Arts of Sciences/BA





91%

new AU grads who are working, attending graduate school, or both

(within 6 months of graduation)

WRITE YOUR OWN SUCCESS STORY





148

times AU students were winners of, alternates for, or semifinalists in national scholarships in ’20–’21

At American University, we set students up for success. And we don’t define what success means—that’s determined by you. Whether it’s reaching your academic, personal, and professional goals or discovering what you’re most passionate about, we help you take advantage of everything the AU experience has to offer.

Our curriculum is tailored to students’ passions and goals as it challenges them to combine serious theoretical study with meaningful real-world learning experiences. And when it comes to career readiness, our award-winning Career Center is an invaluable resource for career planning, alumni networking, internships, national merit scholarship mentoring, and more.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The transition from high school to college can be as overwhelming as it is exciting. That's why you begin working with your advisor before you step on campus. They will make sure you understand all the resources available to help you thrive on campus. They'll help you navigate AU's unique first-year AU Core courses, which are capped at 19 students so you can build meaningful relationships with your classmates and professors.



> **"I thoroughly enjoyed the Complex Problems course because I was able to spend time with my classmates, whether we were volunteering, exploring museums, or having meaningful conversations."**
>
> **Abby Kleman**
> SOC/BA





#52

in first-year experience

US News and World Report 2026





VENTURE TO VOLUNTEER

Explore your new home, serve your new community, and meet your new cohort through Venture to Volunteer, a multiday program where you'll explore DC neighborhoods, history, and culture, and work with local nonprofits on community issues, from food security and affordable housing to education and more.





> **"Venture to Volunteer was a great opportunity that allowed me to meet new people, move in early, and explore D.C.**
>
> **Aidan Sheridan '28**

DID YOU KNOW?

Our two-year residency requirement helps to integrate you academically and socially. Our meal plan caters to dietary needs with a variety of dining options.

11 residence halls

6 traditional style

3 suite style

2 apartment style

Find your people in Themed Community housing.

Letts-Anderson Quad, a hub for many first-year students.

“Studying neuroscience and participating in neuro research at AU have allowed me to explore my passions and curiosities, form lifelong relationships, engage in amazing opportunities, and learn from leaders in the field. I am extremely thankful for this community and how it’s helped me grow.”

Olivia Dragovits
College of Arts
and Sciences/BA



OUR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

With world-class faculty, innovative academics, and experiential learning opportunities, our schools and colleges prepare you to lead the way toward positive change.

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

With more than 100 programs in the arts, humanities, sciences, and education, CAS offers outstanding opportunities for hands-on research, internships, and creative expression. Our Katzen Arts Center and Greenberg Theatre provide inspiring spaces for visual and performing artists. And our labs, like those in the new state-of-the-art Hall of Science, advance research and discovery.

KOGOD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Recognized by *US News and World Report* and *Bloomberg Businessweek* as one of the nation’s top accredited institutions, Kogod is rewriting traditional notions of business. We know that purpose and profit are not at odds. Through our interdisciplinary, hands-on curriculum, you’ll learn to lead while collaborating, generating prosperity, and changing our world.

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

At SOC, we redefine communications in the digital age and explore new media challenges and professional roles. Our faculty—Oscar and Emmy winners, Pulitzer Prize recipients, leading investigative journalists and political strategists—share their knowledge and know-how across media platforms and academic disciplines, combining intellectual rigor with real-world experiences.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Our School of Education is committed to creating and ensuring excellent learning experiences and schools for every child. This vision is achieved through cutting-edge research, innovative district partnerships and outreach, development of relevant and inspired course work, and ongoing effective practice in the most challenging education settings.

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Our nationally ranked School of International Service has the largest full-time faculty and most comprehensive curriculum of any school of international affairs in the country and draws students from all over the world. With our DC location, our LEED Gold–certified building, and a multidisciplinary approach that marries theory and practice, you won’t find a better place to build your global practice of service.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Where better to start creating meaningful change than at a school ranked among the best for public policy by *US News and World Report*? You will have many opportunities to network with Washington’s judges, policymakers, community leaders, and well-connected educators. Our comprehensive approach pulls together all aspects of public service to help you build a successful career.

STUDY WHAT DRIVES YOU

Regardless of your choice of major, AU's **world-class academics** will provide a solid foundation in liberal arts while you pursue in-depth study in your chosen field.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

African American and African Diaspora Studies
American Studies
Anthropology
Applied Mathematics
Arabic Studies
Arab World Studies
Art History
Asian Studies
Audio Production
Audio Technology
Biochemistry
Biology
Chemistry
Computational Science
Computer Science
Dance
Data Science
Economics
Environmental Science
Environmental Studies
Fine Arts
French Studies
German Studies
Graphic Design
Health Promotion
History
Jewish Studies
Language and Area Studies
Literature
Mathematics
Mathematics and Economics
Music
Musical Theatre
Neuroscience
Philosophy
Photography
Physics
Psychology
Public Health
Religious Studies
Russian Studies
Sociology
Spanish Studies
Statistics
Studio Art
Theatre
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
World Languages and Cultures:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Hebrew
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swahili

Public Health Scholars *(three-year program)*

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Foreign Language and Communication Media

Language and Area Studies:

- French/Europe
- German/Europe
- Russian/Area Studies
- Spanish/Latin America

KOGOD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Accounting

Business Administration

- Accounting
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance
- Information Systems and Technology
- International Business
- Management
- Marketing

Business, Language, and Culture

Language tracks:

- Arabic
- French
- German
- Russian
- Spanish

Business and Entertainment

Finance

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Communication Studies

Film and Media Arts

Foreign Language and Communication Media

Journalism

Photography

Public Relations and Strategic Communication

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Early Childhood Education

Elementary Education

Secondary Education

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

International Studies

- Environmental Sustainability and Global Health
- Foreign Policy and National Security
- Global and Comparative Governance
- Global Inequality and Development
- Identity, Race, Gender, and Culture
- Justice, Ethics, and Human Rights
- Peace, Global Security, and Conflict Resolution
- The Global Economy
- Global Scholars *(three-year program)*

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Communication, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government (CLEG)

Data Sciences for Justice, Law, and Criminology

Data Sciences for Political Science

Justice and Law

Legal Studies

Political Science

Politics, Policy, and Law *(three-year scholars program)*



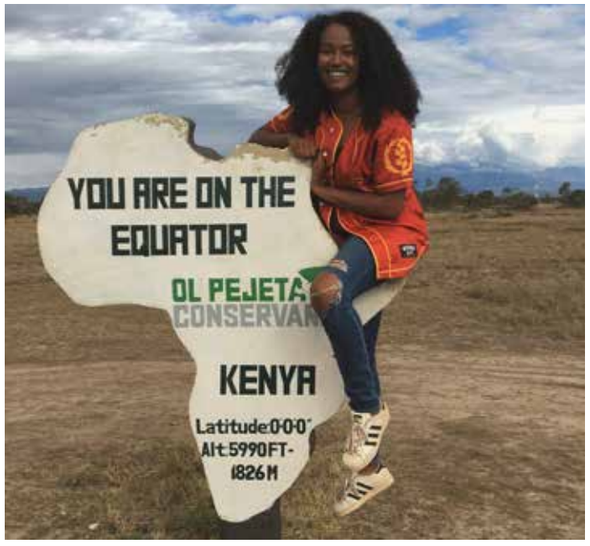




TAKE YOUR PASSION FOR DISCOVERY ABROAD



Imagine studying the European Union and NATO in Brussels. Arabic language immersion in Jordan. Public health in Nairobi. Or international business in Hong Kong. At American University, you can expand your worldview and community through our study abroad program, one of the best and most diverse in the United States. Your advisor helps you choose which experience is right for you, based on your interests and academic needs, language factors, cost, and comfort level. Where will you go with AU?



#5
best study abroad programs
US News and World Report 2026

50%
undergraduates study abroad before they graduate



> “You can learn everything in a classroom and everything in theory, but until you see how these theories play out and affect people directly...well, there’s really no substitute for that. Going to Kenya and seeing how overpopulation affects the environment and public health increased my desire to learn more about global health and pursue it in grad school.”

Charlotte Ruda
SIS/BA
AU Nairobi

TOP STUDY ABROAD LOCATIONS

United Kingdom
Italy
Spain
Kenya
Belgium









Students find places to study or take a break near the Bridge Café.

~2,500

hours volunteered by >1,000 students during the ’20–’21 school year

#2

Peace Corps volunteers

among medium-sized schools

DID YOU KNOW?

Students put their passion for service—and sustainability—to good use in our own backyard on Campus Beautification Day, a yearly tradition that combines community building with gardening activities.

The main quad, the center of campus and part of AU’s accredited arboretum.



FIND YOUR COMMUNITY, DISCOVER LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITY

Our diverse living-learning communities (LLCs) offer talented and motivated students the resources to pursue cutting-edge research, innovative thinking, and excellent scholarship. In these communities, you don't just learn with your cohort—you live with them in the residence halls so you can keep up the dialogue on issues that matter most to you.

FIRST-YEAR LLCS

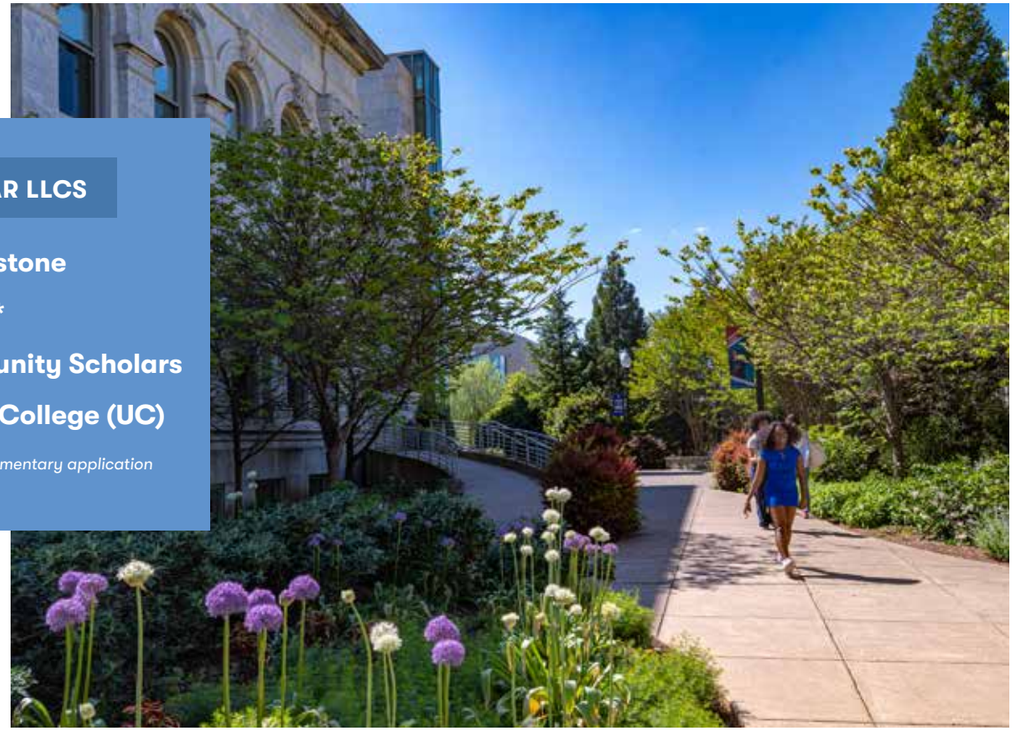
AU Cornerstone

AU Honors*

DC Community Scholars

University College (UC)

**Requires a supplementary application*



> **"The AU Honors program encourages students to think creatively, critically, and analytically about any subject they're passionate about. From the coursework to the experiential learning opportunities the Honors staff organizes, AU Honors enhances one's undergraduate education."**

Alice Kahkajian
SPA/BA

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS

Want to do something different over vacation—and make a difference? Through our Alternative Breaks program, student volunteers travel together to work with community initiatives that address local or global social justice issues—from examining Indigenous rights on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to empowering youth in Cape Town, South Africa.

PREVIOUS PROGRAMS

Climate Change and Environmental Justice
Virtual

QTPOC Histories
San Francisco, California

Education and Inequality
Puerto Rico

Indigenous Peoples' Rights
North Carolina and Tennessee

Healing and Youth Development
Rwanda









FINANCING YOUR FUTURE

College is a significant financial commitment, and determining the right way to fund your postsecondary education can be a challenge. At AU, we offer a comprehensive financial aid program that recognizes both academic excellence and demonstrated financial need. Our dedicated advisors find you financing opportunities: student loans, grants, private scholarships, and more. Our purpose is to help you make the decisions that will work best for you when it comes to paying for school at AU. Because we're as committed to easing the financial burden as we are to making the experience more than worth it.



2025–2026 COSTS

$85,888
Total

$64,828
Tuition and Fees

$21,060
Average housing and meal costs

Variable estimated costs based on financial circumstances and elective expenses

70%
of students receive need-based or merit-based aid



>$100 million
in financial aid awarded to undergraduates

<65%
graduates who took out loans
compared to the 75% national average at four-year private universities

CONNECT
WITH US
TODAY

AU's state-of-the-art Hall of Science, where faculty and students alike partake in cutting-edge research.

To discover everything the AU community has to offer, visit

american.edu/admissions/experience-au

facebook.com/AmericanUniversity

@americanuniversity

@americanU

youtube.com/user/americanuniversity

An equal opportunity university.

For information regarding the accreditation and licensing of American University, please visit american.edu/academics.

Consumer information is available at american.edu/policies.

American University is required to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act). Learn more at american.edu/police.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
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Washington, DC 20016-8001

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CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

