

2026 Early Start Residential Course Catalog (23)

AD 24200 – Ceramics I (3 credits)

UCC: HUM

Catalog Description:

An introductory studio course on ceramic art, focusing on wheel-throwing and hand-building techniques to create pottery and sculpture, with attention to how contemporary artists reinterpret traditional ceramic forms.

Best for: College of Liberal Arts majors (Art and Design, Art Education, Visual Communication Design) and any student interested in studio art or creative practice.

ANTH 21000 – Technology & Culture (3 credits)

UCC: STS

Catalog Description:

A survey of how technologies shape, and are shaped by, society across ancient, modern, and postmodern eras, exploring the origins of major technologies, how they spread, and their impacts on identity, politics, everyday objects, and the body.

Best for: Anthropology, Sociology, Communication, History, Political Science, and students in Engineering/Polytechnic interested in technology and society.

COM 11400 – Fundamentals of Speech Communication (3 credits)

UCC: OC

Catalog Description:

An overview of communication theory applied to spoken interaction, offering practice in interpersonal communication, group discussion, problem-solving, and delivering informative and persuasive speeches in typical speaker–audience situations.

Best for: All majors; especially Communication, Management, Education, Health & Human Sciences, and pre-professional pathways (pre-law, pre-health).

COM 251 – Communication, Information, and Society (3 credits)

UCC: IL

Catalog Description:

An introduction to information and communication technologies—including digital media and computing—where students build technical literacy and examine key ideas about

mediated communication in contemporary society.

Best for: Communication, Media, Public Relations, Marketing, Organizational Leadership, and students in CS/Polytechnic interested in media and information literacy.

COM 325 – Interviewing: Principles & Practice (3 credits)

UCC: No UCC – Upper Division, use as a 300+ requirement

Catalog Description:

A study of interviewing techniques across informational, employment, and persuasive contexts, emphasizing one-to-one communication, effective questioning, and the psychological and logical foundations of interpersonal influence.

Best for: Communication, Management/HR, Sales, Pre-law, Health professions, and any student preparing for internships, jobs, or graduate/professional school interviews.

EAPS 10500 – The Planets (3 credits)

UCC: SCI

Catalog Description:

A scientific examination of the physical, chemical, and geological characteristics of planets and their atmospheres, drawing on spacecraft data to compare Earth with other planets and understand planetary formation.

Best for: Science and Engineering majors, as well as Education and Liberal Arts students interested in astronomy, space science, and Earth/planetary systems.

EDCI 28550 – Foundations of Multicultural Education and Community (3 credits)

UCC: BSS

Catalog Description:

A course that examines multiculturalism and social identity within communities and educational contexts, helping students understand the role of culture in teaching, learning, and citizenship in a diverse society.

Best for: Education majors, Human Development & Family Studies, Sociology, Social Work-related pathways, and any student interested in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

EDPS 315 – Collaborative Leadership: Interpersonal Skills (3 credits)

UCC: OC (Oral Communication), Upper Division [Purdue University Catalog+1](#)

Catalog Description:

A course focused on collaborative leadership and professional oral communication skills, emphasizing listening as a leadership skill and exploring how interpersonal and oral communication relate to leadership development, conflict resolution, interviewing, team building, ethics, and group dynamics. [Course Sidekick+1](#)

Best for: Students in any major seeking to strengthen leadership and communication skills—especially Education, Liberal Arts, Management/HR, and students interested in the Collaborative Leadership Certificate. [Purdue University Education](#)

ENGR 10301 – Introduction to Engineering in Practice (1 credit)

UCC: ENGR

Catalog Description:

Small, focused seminars that introduce first-year engineering students to specific engineering fields, problems, or topics, helping them explore interests and make informed decisions about their engineering major.

Best for: First-Year Engineering students exploring specific disciplines or topics.

ENGR 131 – Transforming Ideas to Innovation I (2 credits)

UCC: IL

Catalog Description:

A multidisciplinary engineering course that introduces students to engineering thinking, creative idea generation, systems approaches, quantitative decision-making, teamwork, design processes, communication, project management, and tools such as Excel and MATLAB.

Best for: First-Year Engineering students and pre-engineering majors.

GS 12000 – Summer Beginners Seminar I (1 credit)

UCC: No UCC – College Readiness, Required for the Early Start Program (except Honors and Pharmacy students)

Catalog Description:

A student-success course that develops effective study habits, motivation, and learning strategies while introducing campus resources, strengthening time management, and supporting the transition from high school to college academics and community life.

Best for: All majors; ideal for new students who want structured support in adjusting to Purdue and college-level coursework.

GS 19501 – Preparing for Your Undergraduate Research Experience (1 credit)

UCC: No UCC – Research Readiness

Catalog Description:

This course is for prospective Purdue undergraduate researchers who are interested in conducting undergraduate research or creative endeavors. Purdue students who have not already started an independent research project with a research mentor will learn valuable skills to market themselves to individuals and research programs. Throughout the course, students will develop components for a final application packet to submit to a research team or program they choose.

Best for: Students in any college planning to join undergraduate research, Honors projects, or Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP).

HIST 387 – History of the Space Age (3 credits)

UCC: HUM, STS and use as a 300+ requirement

Catalog Description:

A historical study of how human values and global politics shaped space exploration, covering the international rocket race, Cold War space competition, moon landings, major space disasters, and the rise of satellite technology.

Best for: History, Political Science, American Studies, International Relations, and STEM students (Engineering, EAPS) interested in the history and politics of space.

HONR 12000 – Introduction to Research (3 credits)

UCC: No UCC – Research Readiness

Catalog Description:

A guided exploration of how ideas become research questions, where students analyze a concept from multiple knowledge perspectives and ultimately build a research plan that integrates at least two modes of inquiry.

Best for: Honors College students across all majors who plan to pursue undergraduate research, capstone projects, or graduate school.

MA 158 – Precalculus – Functions and Trigonometry (3 credits)

UCC: QR [Purdue University+1](#)

Catalog Description:

A precalculus course covering functions, trigonometry, and algebra of calculus-related topics, including polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric

functions, with an emphasis on graphing and applications to prepare students for first-semester calculus. [Purdue Math](#)

Best for: Students in majors that require calculus (Engineering, Polytechnic, many Science and Business majors) who need a strong precalculus foundation before starting calculus.

[Purdue University Catalog](#)

MA 16010 – Applied Calculus I (3 credits)

UCC: QR

Catalog Description:

A practical introduction to calculus covering functions, limits, differentiation and optimization, curve sketching, integration, the fundamental theorem of calculus, and numerical methods, with applications in life, managerial, and social sciences.

Best for: Management, Economics, Life Sciences, Agricultural Economics, HTM, and other majors needing applied calculus (not typically for Engineering calculus sequences).

MGMT 20000 – Introductory Accounting (3 credits)

UCC: No UCC, Required for all Daniels Majors

Catalog Description:

A foundational course on reading and interpreting financial statements, understanding the business activities behind reported numbers, and learning how managerial decisions and operations appear in accounting records.

Best for: Business, Management, Accounting, Finance, Economics, Agribusiness, and students in health or technical fields who want stronger financial literacy.

PHIL 207 – Ethics for Technology, Engineering, and Design (3 credits)

UCC: STS

Catalog Description:

A professional ethics course using global, real-world case studies to explore the moral challenges in technology, engineering, and design, culminating in a reflective analysis of students' own project experiences.

Best for: Engineering, Polytechnic, Computer Science, Design, and any major engaged in technical or design projects.

POL 223 – Introduction to Environmental Policy (3 credits)

UCC: BSS, STS

Catalog Description:

An overview of how societies—especially the United States—make decisions about environmental and natural resource issues, examining current policies, political dynamics, and international considerations.

Best for: Political Science, Environmental Studies, Environmental & Ecological Engineering, Agricultural Economics, Natural Resources & Environmental Science, and Public Policy-oriented students.

PSY 120 – Elementary Psychology (3 credits)

UCC: BSS

Catalog Description:

A broad introduction to major areas of psychology—including personality, intelligence, emotion, abnormal behavior, perception, memory, and thinking—with opportunities for students to participate in psychological research.

Best for: Psychology, Brain & Behavioral Sciences, Public Health, Nursing, Education, and any major interested in understanding human behavior.

SOC 100 – Introductory Sociology (3 credits)

UCC: BSS

Catalog Description:

An introduction to the study of society and social behavior, examining how groups, cultures, institutions, and social structures shape people's lives, identities, and opportunities. Topics typically include socialization, inequality, race and ethnicity, gender, deviance, and social change.

Best for: Sociology, Law & Society, Psychology, Political Science, Communication, Education, and any major interested in social issues, communities, and how society works.

TECH 12000 – Design Thinking & Technology (3 credits)

UCC: IL, STS

Catalog Description:

A hands-on exploration of real-world problems using human-centered design, where students identify opportunities, build solutions, communicate effectively, and analyze the

societal, cultural, and ethical dimensions of technological innovation.

Best for: Polytechnic and Engineering majors, UX/design-focused students, Computer Graphics Technology, and any major interested in innovation and problem-solving.

VIP 17920 – First Year Participation in VIP (2 credits)

UCC: STS

Catalog Description:

A project-based course where students join long-term, interdisciplinary research and design teams, collaborating with peers and mentors on real-world challenges while developing skills in design, communication, leadership, ethics, project management, and technical tools.

Best for: Engineering, Polytechnic, Computer Science, Science, and any major interested in hands-on research/design and long-term team projects.