Academic Exploration at UChicago

At a school like UChicago, incoming students often feel the transition from high school to college, and a major part of that is the sudden academic shift. Some students may already have their undergraduate experience completely mapped out. For most students, however, the first few years at the College will be focused on adjusting to the academic rigor and navigating the core curriculum. The amazing part about the College is that there are resources available for all students to navigate the academic experience. Read below for some tips and places to go for academic assistance!

1. College Academic Advising
   Every student in the College is assigned to an academic adviser, who works to assist with all things academics. Their job is to help you map out your academic path, leading to a degree in a field you are passionate about. Your peers and upperclassmen will not always have the answers you need, so frequent meetings with your adviser are highly recommended, especially in your first year. Rest assured that your adviser has all the information you need to guide you in planning a curriculum, choosing a major, and most importantly, staying on track to graduate. They want you to succeed and are ready to provide you with honest advice on how to tackle the academic rigors of the College!

2. Center for College Student Success - CCSS
   Another great resource for incoming students is the Center for College Student Success—commonly known as the CCSS. This community serves to empower First-Generation, Lower-Income, and Immigrant students (FLI) as they navigate the College experience. For academic assistance, the Lending Library is available to students through the CCSS. The Lending Library provides access to laptops throughout the year and textbook resources for use each quarter. There are also staff members available to speak with students about any academic issues they may encounter. They are willing to point you in the best direction for academic help. Feel free to check them out if you have any further questions about the resources they offer!
3. Core Tutors
Now that you know about the resources to assist with academics at the College, it is time to really dig in and discuss what to do when you need help with a difficult course. Professors and TAs (Teaching Assistant) are always helpful as initial contacts, but the College also offers another resource for students who need help with core classes. The Core Tutor Program exists to connect students with tutors who offer free individual and small group tutoring sessions in scientific and quantitative subject areas. If you need assistance with essays, the Core Writing Tutor Program is also available to help you in all stages of essay writing. Be sure to check out the Core Tutors page!

4. UChicago Libraries
Finally, let’s discuss the elephant in the room—libraries! Students at UChicago have many options when considering the best place to study alone or with friends. As a student in the College, you have access to the Regenstein and Mansueto libraries, to name a few. Here, you can request library materials, use the computers and printers, and even grab a warm or cold drink while you study. Each floor at the library has a different quiet level, so be sure to keep that in mind as you explore! If you’re up for an adventure, however, be sure to try different study areas to find the best fit for you!

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