

# COMMON OBSTACLES FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS FACE

American University is committed to ensuring an easier transition for our students. We have demonstrated our commitment through the various initiatives we intentionally designed with our students' success in mind.

## THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL IS HARDER THAN EXPECTED

Creation of American University Experience (AUx) a full-year transitions course

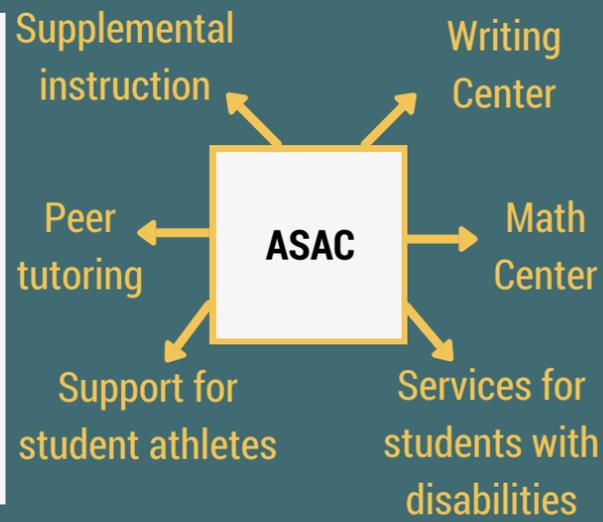


We limit our enrollment to under 20 students per section



Students learn: campus resources, academic skills, and how to navigate social and cultural differences

Newly expanded Academic Support and Access Center



## STUDENTS AREN'T FULLY ENGAGED, CURRICULUM LACKS RELEVANCE



Our experiential learning opportunities allow students to earn real-world skills and insight

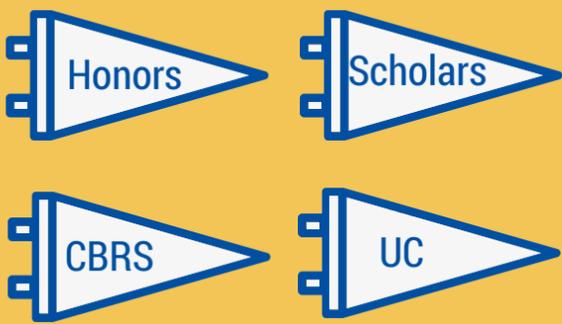


Our location increases engagement and enables our students to use DC as a lab



Our Complex Problems seminar is capped at under 20 students per section in the first year

## STUDENTS STRUGGLE TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS ON CAMPUS



**23** Average class size  
**12:1** Faculty-to-student ratio

Our first-year residential learning opportunities foster connections among our students

Our AUx students report a greater sense of belonging, and stronger personal connections

We provide opportunities for our students to connect and build relationships on campus

## STUDENTS HAVE TOO MANY CHOICES, NOT ENOUGH DIRECTION

**76:1**

AU's student-to-first-year-advisor ratio

**300:1**

Other universities' student-to-advisor ratios



Our first-year students receive timely, personalized mentoring, and guidance while maximizing the value of their education

Our first-year advisors work only with first-year students