Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies
The Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies supports undergraduate education at AUC and provides assistance to students who have not yet declared a major. It is home to the Academic Advising Center and the University Council for Advising, Registration and Enrollment. The office supervises the Core Curriculum, coordinates community-based learning initiatives and supports undergraduate research. Working closely with deans, faculty and staff, it aims to improve the advising and registration processes, encourage greater integration and coordination of teaching and learning activities across the curriculum, and serve as an advocate for undergraduate studies and students at the University.
The Core Curriculum seeks to instill a desire for knowledge in students. Through various programs, students are able to recognize the need for intellectual examination, self-reliance and independence. These programs enable students to enhance their writing and reasoning skills by presenting effective and logical arguments, allowing them to address the patterns of rational thought and argumentation in order to better understand themselves, their goals and the endless possibilities that are available to them.

“The value of an education in a liberal arts college is not the learning of many facts, but the training of the mind to think something that cannot be learned from textbooks.”

- Albert Einstein

“Education can give you a skill, but a liberal education can give you dignity.”

- Ellen Key

“The liberally educated person is one who is able to resist the easy and preferred answers, not because he is obstinate, but because he knows others worthy of consideration.”

- Allan Bloom
The Dialogue Program aims to advance the principles and experience of cross-cultural discourse, chiefly through the use of videoconferencing technologies. The courses give students the opportunity to explore the dialogue process with counterparts from around the globe, discussing topics that range from current local events to a wide variety of global socioeconomic, political and cultural issues.

**Student Testimonials**

“Videoconferencing with students from other countries has given me insight into my own country. There are so many opportunities for Egypt, and we should learn from our past experiences to push Egypt forward.”

- Shirwet Sadek

“It is positive dialogue, and it is interesting to see the perspective of different Arab cultures and how we perceive one another because as much as we are similar, we remain different. Through dialogue, we are able to explore these issues.”

- Ezzat Shindy

“It was a refreshing experience to connect with foreign and other Arab students. Through the program, I was able to hear their opinions about the current situation in the Arab world and compare it to the West.”

- Nesma Nassef
Community-based learning is an educational approach that aims to build on classroom lectures, readings and discussions by applying academic theories and innovative ideas toward co-developmental, hands-on work and services that target the greater Egyptian community. Through this approach, students are able to gauge the effect of civic engagement initiatives and reflect on the changes that they have brought about within themselves, the partners they’ve worked with and the community at large.

**Student Testimonials**

“Charitable work should be a daily activity in our culture. As educated individuals, we should start adopting civic-engagement activities and set a norm that will hopefully contribute to a better Egypt after the January 25 Revolution.”

- Anas Amin

“I have always believed that giving to one’s community and doing charity work is a duty and a responsibility. I thought that by helping the less privileged, I was only contributing to their lives. This experience made me realize that giving is mutually rewarding.”

- Mohamed Saleh

“Through community work, I learned that a lot can be achieved with the right planning and the right team. Even small-scale projects can grow into something a lot bigger than you realize.”

- Bourhan Rateb
The Academic Advising Center (AAC) provides academic advising and assists undeclared undergraduate students in developing their educational plans and setting career and life goals, while helping them appreciate the values of a liberal arts education. This is done through advising and mentoring systems that are offered to students throughout their year(s) at the center. AAC operates on the basis of shared responsibility, where AUC community members, faculty, students and staff interact and coordinate efforts to achieve advising goals and desired student outcomes.

**Student Testimonials**

“The center helped me select my major out of 30 other programs. I was able to learn more about the discipline and choose the courses that would help me in my career.”

- Nayera Abdelhady

“AAC allowed me to explore different courses and learn about various majors and minors at AUC. During times of uncertainty, I visit my adviser to make sure that I’m on track to graduate. AAC advisers also helped me understand different policies and procedures at AUC.”

- Kareem Radwan
The Undergraduate Research Program institutionalizes, supports and expands opportunities for undergraduate student research, entrepreneurship and creative achievement. It nurtures amongst the academic community, across the disciplines, a culture of research and development, as well as the drive to advance the liberal arts education outcomes of undergraduate inquiry and critical and creative competence.

**Student Testimonials**

“I was privileged to go to a selective social entrepreneurship conference at Northwestern University to present Heya, my student organization, thanks to a research grant awarded to me by the Undergraduate Research Program. Traveling to Chicago for the Global Engagement Summit was one of the highlights of my undergraduate career. Meeting and sharing ideas with social entrepreneurs from all over the world made me realize just how limitless the possibilities are for Egypt, a country with critical thinkers and innovators. The invaluable lectures, workshops and training sessions I received will continue to help me grow.”

– Heba Hesham

The program prepares undergraduate students for the challenges that they will face should they pursue graduate studies. The existence of such an office recognizes the importance of undergraduate contributions to academia.

– Dalia Abbas
The University Council for Advising, Registration and Enrollment (CARE) is comprised of staff members who work collaboratively on advising, registration, enrollment and scheduling at the University. The council also includes eight faculty members and a student representative. Its main focus is to enhance the student experience at AUC in the key area of registering for classes, as well as modify existing operations to better serve the needs of students.

“CARE builds on the spirit of close collaboration, communication and shared purpose, which made the Task Force on Advising, Registration and Mentoring such a success. The council’s goal is to institutionalize regular communication and collaboration among various offices at AUC that are involved in advising, registration and mentoring undergraduate students. It seeks to share experiences and present solutions to common problems while providing support and enhancing best practices. Ultimately, it strives to establish a student-centered ethos for academic advising at the University.”

- Noha Saada, director, Academic Advising Center
“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela