

Vanderbilt Info Guide

Campus/Environment

- Built on an arboretum, trees turn colors and campus is gorgeous
- Nashville is 15 min walk, maintains the Vanderbilt bubble
- Southern hospitality, people are nice and warm
- People are motivated but have a good work/life balance
- People relax, country music, less fast-paced
- General vibe = wanting to connect and get to know each other
- Sometimes super academic and sometimes very energetic/charismatic with southern charm, sometimes party-ing
- Lots of people go to downtown Nashville. It's a music city, lots of concerts with soulful music and pop too. Lots of art and good food (lots of restaurants)
- Freshman area = Commons
- Attached to the commons is “Peabody” – the education classes
- A+S (arts and sciences) are on main campus, main student center, food, and res colleges
- No longer than a 15 min walk to get anywhere
- Southwest of campus- Hillsborough village = cute village with shops and cafes
 - Jenni’s ice cream
 - clothing stores
 - where Belmont and vandy meet
 - close to commons
- Buses go straight downtown – 10 min
- Commodore card works for buses and uber – makes transportation easy
- To the North- there’s the main hospital district (research hospitals and Vanderbilt hospital) and centennial park (TAYLOR SWIFT)
- Contained on 330 acres in the city
- Three sectors:
 - Main campus
 - Peabody and Commons
 - Medical area (hospital, children’s hospital, doctor’s offices)

- 15 minutes from one end of campus to the end
- Feels like a park, cut off to auto traffic
- Several pedestrian bridges that help you get over roads

Dorms/Housing

- Commons: all freshman live in one area (12 residential buildings, all beautiful) with separate dining hall, gym, and facilities
 - Commons is really nice with clean and new dorms
 - Separated by a bridge to main campus
 - Everyone is in a double unless you request a single for a medical need, a few triples
 - Assigned by questionnaire
 - 4 communal bathrooms for 42 people in Sutherland, for example
 - Food trucks!
 - Co-ed houses with gender-specific or gender-mixed floors
 - Great breakfast, bad dinners
 - Commons Dining is a bunch of long tables and it's a nice way to meet people
 - Melissa Gresalfi = dean of Ingram College (also a teacher of education/teaching)
 - 2-3 times a week dinners
 - knit night once a month
 - 10-15 minute walk to main campus
 - Upstairs Commons is a great study spot
- Every freshman dorm has:
 - AC
 - study space
 - security
- Specific dorm videos
 - [Vandy Freshman Dorms Pt.1 | Hank Ingram, Stambaugh, Memorial - YouTube](#)
 - [Vandy Freshman Dorms PT. 2 | Crawford, Sutherland, Murray - YouTube](#)
- Dorm details:

- o West house: 120 students, 3 stories, own laundry, old house, floors are wooden, smaller rooms (140-235 square feet), hinged closet (more space)
 - Doubles and triples
 - laundry
 - music practice rooms
 - two seminar rooms
 - study areas
 - 1 male, 1 female, 1 co-ed floor
- o North house: 160 students, 6 stories, old house, wood floors, no laundry, hinged closet, 111-310 square feet
 - 1st and 2nd floors have dorms with private bathrooms
 - study areas
 - doubles and triples
 - 1 and 2 are co-ed, 3+5 are guys, 4+6 are girls
 - some dorms have two sets of closets
- o East house: 100 students, 3 stories, wood floors, old house, no laundry, typical room: 159-290 square feet
 - doubles and triples
 - music practice areas
 - study rooms
 - guy-guy-girl floors (in order)
 - big rooms omg
- o Memorial house: old dorm, 80 students, weekly s'mores events, no laundry, typical room: 136-245 sq feet, more spacious
 - Mostly doubles
 - Two music practice rooms
 - Two seminar rooms
 - Common rooms
- o Gillette house: 220 students, small rooms, 136-220 sq feet, small rooms, central location (but worst house LOL), old house, has laundry
 - 3 music rooms

- seminar room
 - common rooms on floors 1-3
 - doubles and triples
 - Gillette gelato events
- o Hank house: best house, 290 students, 7 stories, study rooms on every floor, big common areas, new house (wall closets, tile floors, laundry, new/nice bathrooms), spacious
- Common room on every floor
 - 2 co-ed floors, 2 girls, 1 boy
 - “Hank hotel”
 - Laundry room in basement with study room
 - Music rooms
 - Kitchen on floor 2, near small library
 - 2 seminar rooms (can be used for studying)
 - hub of commons
- o Sutherland house: 180 students, 5 stories, 201-290 sq feet, spacious, new house (wall closets, tile floors, laundry, new/nice bathrooms), spacious
- Doubles
 - Music practice rooms
 - Common rooms
 - Laundry
 - Seminar room
 - kitchen
 - no co-ed floors
 - 30 students per floor
 - 4 bathrooms per floor, 2 showers per bathroom
 - weekly Thursday bonfires
- o Stambaugh house: 180 students, 209-310 sq feet, new house (wall closets, tile floors, laundry, new/nice bathrooms), spacious
- o Murray house: 150 students, 196-315 sq feet, new house (wall closets, tile floors, laundry, new/nice bathrooms), spacious

- Doubles
- Music practice rooms
- Common rooms
- Laundry
- Seminar room
- o Crawford: 150 students, 191-235 sq feet, new house (wall closets, tile floors, laundry, new/nice bathrooms), spacious
 - Doubles
 - Music practice rooms
 - Common rooms
 - Laundry



- Sophomores always stay on main campus (Scone Building, central to everything)
 - o Scone is the oldest building but they are knocking it down and building a new one
- Pretty res colleges (4 of them)
 - o The res colleges were just built
 - o Singles, doubles, and suite-style living
 - o Upperclassmen

- o Dining hall is attached
 - o Hard to get because they are in high demand
 - o Kassam, EBI, Zepos, and ?
- Living-learning communities
 - o Mayfield's – houses for around 6 people
 - o McTeer
 - o McGill
- Cole = all girls dorm
- Highlands is another upperclassmen option
- Juniors and seniors sometimes move off campus right across the street
 - o Lots live in apartments off campus after sophomore year (15%)
- Lots of money going into housing
- Mostly single sex halls
- Faculty head of house lives in their own apartment on the first floor of the house and hosts weekly events + advises
 - o Competitive to be one
 - o They help promote community
 - o Relationship strength is up to you
- Commons Events
 - o The Commons Cup = tournament between all the houses (like the House Cup)
 - Activities you do earn you house points
 - Some events (like kickball) is winner-takes-all
 - Each house has different numbers of residents so that is accounted for
 - o The year-end extravagant Commons Ball is an added bonus.
- After 8, you need cards to get in and have to show it to a security guard
- Freshman move in: second to last weekend of August
 - o Move crew puts stuff in carts and bring it to your room
- Dorm assignments are by or on August 1st
- Old dorms and new dorms
 - o Old- 1920s/30s
 - o New- 2006 (all amenities)

- Great video on commons housing: [VANDERBILT FRESHMAN DORMS: Everything you need to know \(+photos included!\) - YouTube](#)
- Sophomore-senior year:
 - o 4, 5, or 6 person suite
 - o Apartments
 - o Single, double, triple
 - o 10 person house
- 20-70 students per 1 RA, depends on house
 - o some floors have 2
- Chancellor Zepos Res College – new and just opened
- More res colleges are on the way

Food

- Taste of Nashville program = Meal plan builds in 225/250 dollars a semester to other restaurants (like monopoly money)
 - o Some amazing Nashville restaurants and snacks/cafés
 - o 30 ish restaurants
 - o Specific places ([Taste of Nashville | Vanderbilt Campus Dining | Vanderbilt University](#))
 - Biscuit love = breakfast, lunch, and brunch! Artsy and hipster
 - Urban Juicer = healthy, right near commons, good study place
 - Jeni's = ice cream place
 - Sun and Fork (by First Watch) = classic brunch and lunch and near B+N
 - Chili's
 - Donato's Pizza
 - Hopdoddy (burger bar)
 - Nicoletto's Italian Kitchen
 - Papa John's
 - The Donut and Dog ("Sweet savory local")
 - Wendy's
- Compared to other schools, way better

- Commons food wasn't great but you can go to main campus and there are way more options
- Rand = building on main campus with a lot of great options
 - big lunch rush
 - fresh baked cookies
- Surat = student center
 - theater (movies and shows), café, pub-style restaurant, student resource offices
- Greens = all vegetarian and kosher (attached to Hillel) – good mac n cheese
- They have a first year dining hall but anyone can eat there
 - Pasta, burgers, chicken fingers, smoothie bars, bagels, etc
- Susie's Food for Thought = café
 - Attached to main library
- The Pub = burgers and fries, rooftop eating, pub vibe
- 2301 = free of the 8 main allergens
- Grins = vegetarian café
- Munchie marts = places you can go to get snacks/food for later
- Note: Vandy dining isn't really a thing on weekends
- 21 swipes per week
- #6 for food in the country
- [Vanderbilt Campus Dining | Vanderbilt University](#)

Academics

- 80% of classes have less than 30 people, 93% of classes have less than 50 people
- 70 majors
- Four main colleges
 - Blair = music
 - Peabody = education and HOD
 - College of Arts and Sciences
 - College of Engineering
- CAS
 - Over 60% of students

- o Writing seminars = 15 students-1 professor, freshmen year
 - One in every department!
- Peabody
 - o HOD = Human organizational development, most common major
 - Reached out to big industries and asked what they look for
 - Business but less econ and more psychology
 - Requires an internship
 - o Education major (best in country)
 - o Cognitive studies (not psych but cognitive development)
 - o “Psychology is in Arts and Science. Cognitive Studies and Child Development are in Peabody. Cognitive studies is very similar to Psychology, it just focuses on less statistics.”
- You can take classes at any of the 4 schools
- Emphasis on internships
- Classes fill up very quickly
- Registration priority is by the grade (seniors first, freshmen last)
- Common classes (like general chemistry) are available at different times and with different teachers
 - o The lower and more common the class, the more options

Immersion

- All about learning outside the classroom/experiential
- One project
 - o Can be written, performed, etc
- Normally built-in to the major
- Graduation requirement
- Complete or incomplete, not graded
- immersion faculty advisor = mentor that works with you
- 300-500 hours of time on the experiential portion
 - o 9 credit hours worth of time
 - o met easily

- sometimes it can take all four years but it varies by students
- Can be presented at a showcase
- “Come see us early, come see us often.” – Carolyn Floyd from the immersion office
- The office has tons of resources
- Proposal is due April 1st of sophomore year but you can submit before
- Four categories (I might not have these right)
 - o Intellectual engagement (curiosity, responsibility, creativity, ownership)
 - o Integrated learning (how you are collaborating and using resources)
 - o Critical thought (what is relevant, what reasoning are you using)
 - o Ethical reasoning (academic integrity, equitability)
- Service projects could count

AXLE

- Core curriculum = AXLE, six categories
- AXLE= Achieving Excellence in Liberal Education
- [AXLE | Academics | College of Arts and Science | Vanderbilt University](#)
- Writing Reqs:
 - o 1 english comp course
 - o 1 first year writing sem
 - o 1 W course (any level)
 - o 1 of the following:
 - 1 1000-level
 - 1 2000-level
 - 1 additional W course of any level
 - 1 approved Oral Communications Course
- Liberal Arts Reqs:
 - o 3 humanities/creative arts
 - o 3 international cultures (2 foreign language)
 - o 1 US history and culture
 - o 3 math and natural sciences
 - o 2 social and behavioral sciences

- o 1 perspectives
- 1 course can't count for multiple things within one of the two categories but could count for a writing req AND a liberal arts req
- If a class counts for more than one liberal arts req, you could pick which it counts for but normally each class only has one liberal arts req
- There are 1000-, 2000-, 3000-, 4000-level writing courses. Their catalog number will end with a W (for example PSY-3333W). You can take any course that ends with a W to satisfy the "W course" requirement.

Student Resources

- Student Coordination Center – helps find support when you need it
- Mental health
 - o university counseling center
 - you can meet with licensed therapists/psychologist/psychiatrists
 - support groups
 - can help you locate off-campus resources
 - free
 - OCD specialists
 - o center for student wellbeing
 - more general life help
 - talk to someone about general wellbeing and self-care practices
 - o student organizations
 - One of them gives students bracelets that basically say "I'm a safe person to come to if you need help with your mental health"
 - o "The UCC (university counseling center) offers free therapy for all students! Students will also have access to a worker who will help you find resources on campus or off campus, if you choose to seek any."
- Career center
 - o Everyone has a career counselor
 - o Many internship connections

Student Life/Body

- 7k, 7-1
- 475+ student organizations and you can make your own
- All students on campus

Transitioning

- Visions: “This weekly program in your first semester helps you in your transition from high school to Vanderbilt, and befriend 17 other first-years.”
 - First years pair with a faculty member and a current student
 - Once a week meetings in person or online
 - 12 weeks
 - 92 visions groups
 - Covers:
 - academics
 - college social life
 - common reading (Class of 2025 will read “When Breath Becomes Air”)
 - adjustment
 - getting to know each other
- Advisor in your house, advisor in your college
- First years have to take a writing seminar and it helps acclimate you to your class and college writing
- Commons is all freshies
- Commons Dining is a bunch of long tables and it’s a nice way to meet people

Greek Life

- Rush is second semester
- Shallow process (some asked what your parents do, what you wear, where your travel)
- Week after rush, everyone wears their sorority merch
 - T-shirt Tuesday
- People immediately associate you with the reputation of the sorority you’re in
- Exclusion exists WITHIN the sorority (sub-groups)

- Greek life dominates the social scene
- Some sororities are considered better than others
- First question is frequently like “what sorority are you in?”
- Recruitment is very judgmental and shallow
- Sororities are super expensive and they fine people who don’t attend events
- Not diverse and actually racist + classist
 - Ex: hair requirements are not inclusive of POC
- Elitist and exclusive
- Only 5 people per Greek house actually live in Greek housing

Sports

- Games are free to attend
- “Make it to the tailgates, don’t make it to the games.”

Random

- You can order ahead for lunch with an app (“The Get”?) and eat outside in a big tent
- COVID tests are with spit and available on campus
- Hillsborough Village = right next the commons

Advice

- First 3-5 days is a critical time to form relationships
- Set roommate standards right away
- Be spontaneous
- Fill requirements ASAP
- Don’t ask professors questions about tests, ask about content
- Don’t commit to a million clubs freshman year but definitely learn about them
- Show your passion and commitment through EC engagement/leadership
- Under-pack for your dorm

Weather

- “Typical southern weather”
- Snows but not frequently
- Changes every day
- Pretty temperate

Other

- Advisory office can set you up to make your own major
- 10 min away is Hillsborough Village (quaint small town feel)
- 10 min away is West End + Centennial Park
- 20 min other way is heart of downtown (Broadway)
- Biggest medical provider in central Tennessee
- Vandy vans = shuttle system that will bring you back to dorms after dark if needed
- All the commons houses walk together to alumni lawn and listen to the Chancellor giving a welcome speech
- To make a club, all you have to do is get a group of people and a faculty advisor
- Weekend quiet hours are 10-8, weekend quiet hours are 12-8
- Blue light system: click it and UPD will be there in under 2 minutes
 - One of the largest police departments in TN
- Free health consultations
- Central Library: 8/9 floors, many nooks and crannies to study in
- Free exercise classes
- Jacobs Believed in Me Auditorium
 - Donated by a graduate whose professor convinced them not to drop out
- Study spots: [Fave Study Spots | Inside 'Dores | Vanderbilt University](#)
- There's always helicopters
- Maymester: 1 3-week class you take while traveling with a professor