Undergraduate Education

Established in 1995, the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPUE) comprises the Bing Overseas Studies Program, Program in Writing & Rhetoric, Stanford Introductory Studies, and Academic Advising. VPUE fosters innovation, integration, and pedagogical advancement of the Stanford undergraduate journey. Working with our partners, we prepare Stanford students to be engaged citizens with the creative confidence to tackle the world’s most complex challenges.

VPUE programs for first- and second-year students include New Student Orientation/Approaching Stanford, the Leland Scholars Program, Frosh 101, Thinking Matters, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Integrated Learning Environments, Education as Self Fashioning, Introductory Seminars, and Sophomore College. Programs for more advanced students include the Bing Overseas Studies Program, Stanford in New York, Writing in the Major, Undergraduate Research, Arts Intensive, and Bing Honors College. Academic Advising and the Hume Center for Writing and Speaking serve undergraduates throughout their time at Stanford. The office of the VPUE works closely with the office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs and the Admissions Office, as well as with all seven Schools. The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education reports to the Provost.

Policies governing undergraduate education are formulated by Faculty Senate committees and voted into legislation by the Faculty Senate. The Committee on Undergraduate Standards and Policy (C-USP) addresses such topics as general education requirements, grading, awards, advising, and teaching evaluation. The Committee on Review of Undergraduate Majors (C-RUM) oversees the initiation and review of undergraduate degree programs. Committee members include the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education or his delegated staff (ex-officio) and representatives from the faculty at large, administration (such as the Office of the University Registrar), and students. The Associated Students of Stanford University (ASSU) nominations committee selects student members. The VPUE also maintains, by rule of the Faculty Senate, the Thinking Matters Governance Board, the Writing and Rhetoric Governance Board, and the Breadth Governance Board to oversee these university degree requirements, as well as the Committee on Residential Learning to oversee residential learning programs. Finally, the Undergraduate Advisory Council (UGAC) was established by the provost in 1996 to serve as the main faculty advisory body for the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education: Harry J. Elam, Jr. (Senior Vice Provost for Education, Vice President for the Arts, Freeman-Thornton Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, and the Olive H. Palmer Professor in Humanities)

Senior Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education: Gordon Chang, Professor of History

Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education: Sharon Palmer

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