

Spring 2024

FAMILY PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION



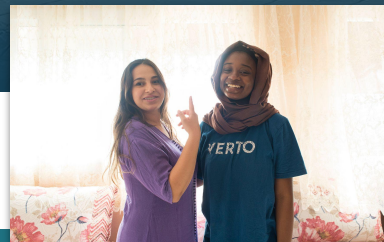
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Welcome

TO THE VERTO
COMMUNITY



WHAT WE'LL COVER

1

Community
at Verto

2

Academics
and College
Counseling,
Advising, and
Transfer
Services

3

Health and
Safety

4

Next Steps

5

Breakouts by
Location



Questions? Use the chat
feature!

MEET YOUR SPEAKERS



Matteo Travers

Community Manager



Steven Mockler

Assistant Director of
Academic Affairs



James Lorello

Dean Of Students



Escely Marr

Manager of College Counseling, Advising
& Transfer Services

Community AT VERTO



James Lorello

Dean Of Students



BUT WHO AM I?

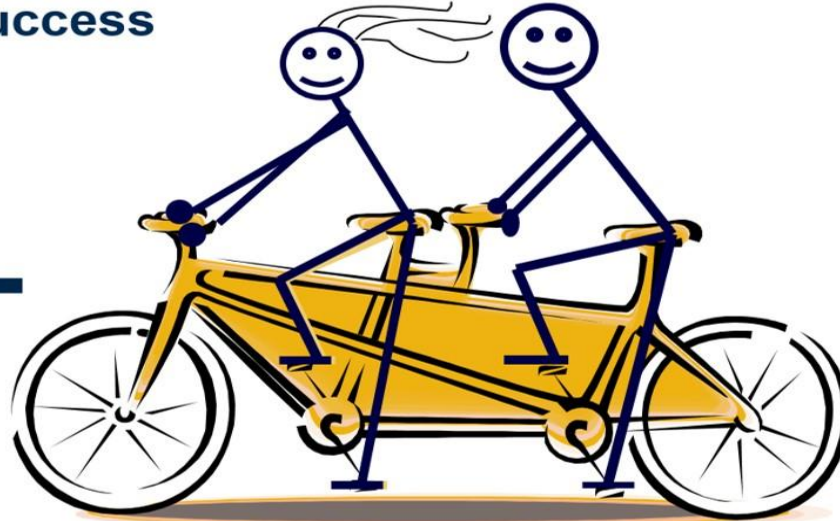


BECOMING A LEARNING PARTNER

Stage 3

**Switching Seats
For Student Success**

COLLEGE



VERTO COMMUNITY VALUES & FOUNDATION

Compassion

Vulnerability

Responsibility

Transformation

"A healthy community is one in which essential but often competing values are maintained in tensioned balance"

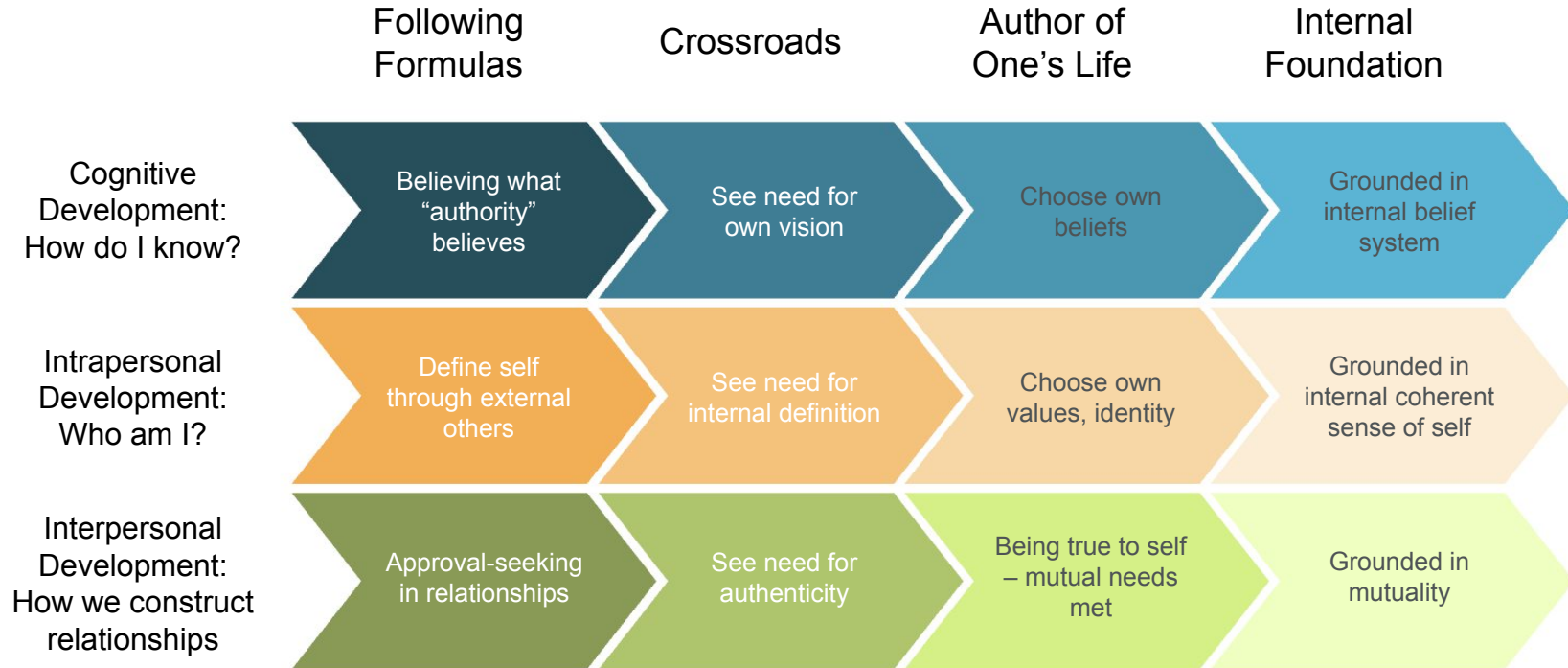
~ Ernest Boyer

Community is a laboratory of self discovery, as such Verto Discovery is our method of establishing community at Verto.

These values inform all aspects of student life, including programming delivered through Verto Discovery.

A PEEK BEHIND THE CURTAIN: Journey to Self-Authorship

PHASES



Adapted from Baxter Magdola (2001)

LEARNING OUTCOMES



Journey	Skill	Objective
Intrapersonal Development	Emotional Awareness	Students will develop the capacity to understand their own emotions and how their emotions can be perceived by others.
	Values/Goals	Values/Goals Students will examine their values, career and life goals.
	Responsibility	Students will take responsibility for their choices and actions inside and outside of the classroom.
	Critical Thinking	Students will exercise sound reasoning, make decisions, overcome problems, achieve goals, and recognize the implications of their decisions.
	Academic Self-Efficacy	Students will make measurable improvements towards advanced college-level study skills, in reading, writing, research, critical thinking, and verbal communication.
Interpersonal Development	Connection	Students will build meaningful connections with other members of their community and feel a sense of belonging to both Verto and the local community.
	Communication	Students will respectfully discuss expectations of self and others in a shared living environment, recognize the impact of actions on community, and take responsibility for our actions.
	Collaborative Leadership	Students will engage in dialogue about behaviors that impact the community and work together with staff, faculty and peers to have ownership over their experiences. They will articulate the value of interacting with people with diverse identities and engage in sustainable behaviors and initiatives.
Intercultural Development	Agency	Students will demonstrate their own agency and influence on the world around them.
	Cross-Cultural Competencies	Students will gain awareness of their own world views and attitudes towards cultural differences, becoming knowledgeable about the cultural practices and issues impacting their host societies, and learning to appreciate the cultural differences and nuance in order to effectively communicate across cultures.
	Interdependence	Students will understand the interconnectedness of all people and community and work to take action that contributes to positive, sustainable change in the global community

“The main reason why students fail instead of succeed, is because they give up what they want the most for what they want in that moment.”

~Anon.



OUR CODE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Without accountability we can't build the community we want!

- There to provide guardrails for all students to have a positive learning experience
- Infractions will lead to disciplinary action designed to promote learning and growth
- Dismissal is absolute last resort

Protections

- In Emergencies: we will contact whomever is listed as the emergency contact
- Disciplinary meeting: we won't call you; not because we don't want to, but because we can't!
- If you contact us about an issue, we will not discuss it unless authorized by your student to do so.

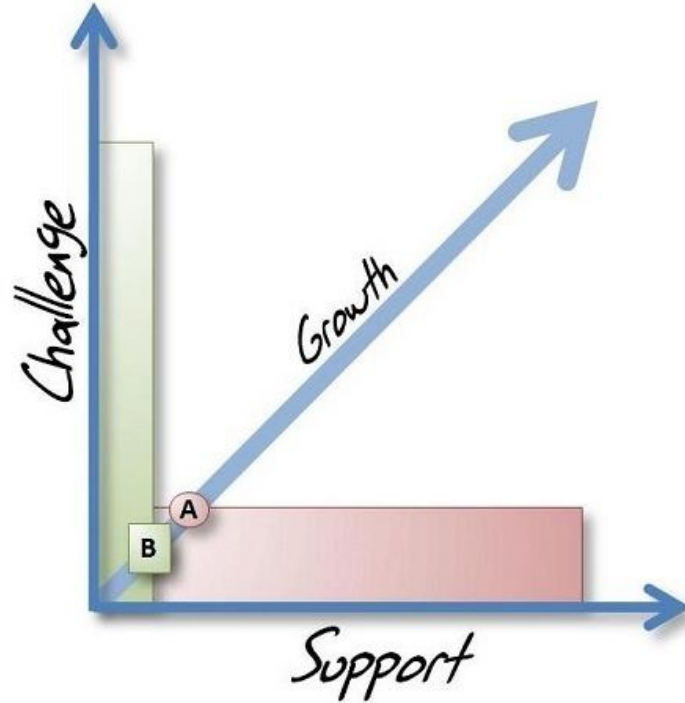


Student Support and FERPA

- The world beyond high school
- College Life
- Aligning Expectations
- What is FERPA?

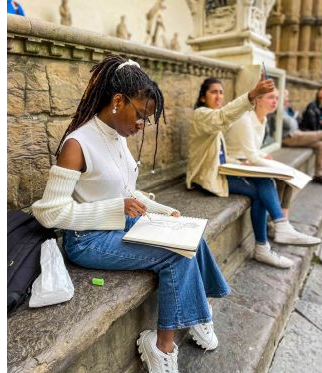


Challenge & Support



KINDERGARTEN OR COLLEGE ABROAD...?



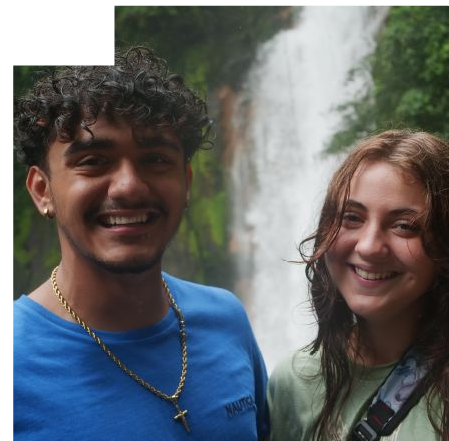


WELCOME TO THE VERTO FAMILY!

Dr. James Lorello

deanofstudents@vertoeducation.org

Dean of Students



A group of diverse students are gathered in the ornate interior of a cathedral. Some are sitting on a wooden bench in the foreground, while others stand behind them. They are looking in various directions, some towards the camera and others towards the architectural details of the cathedral. The background features a highly decorated altar with a large tapestry and intricate carvings. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the students and the grandeur of the space.

ACADEMICS

The Verto Experience



POP QUIZ

- Verto's Academic Provider is _____.
- Verto aims to have 20% of class time dedicated to _____ activities.
- True/False: Attendance impacts students grades, not their visa and/or immigration status.
- What does CCATS stand for?
- *Look for the * asterisk to find the correct answers*



ALL VERTO PARTICIPANTS ARE

- Matriculated at the University of New Haven
- Enrolled in the **Associate of Arts** of General Studies Degree
- Upon successful completion, students are 2nd semester freshman/first semester sophomores
- (Most) can participate in Verto for three consecutive semesters



ACADEMICS PROVIDED BY



University of New Haven

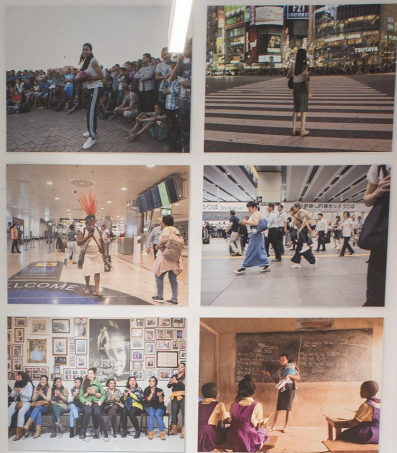
ZOOM IN ON ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN GENERAL STUDIES

Category	Course	Credits Required
Core Competency 1.1 Written Communication (choose one)	ENGL 1112 Academic Inquiry and Writing	3
Core Competency 2.1 Oral Communication and Presentation	COMM 1130 Principles of Communication	3
Core Competency 3.1 Mathematical and Quantitative Literacy (choose one)	MATH 1104 Quantitative Reasoning, MATH 1110 College Algebra, MATH 1115 Precalculus, MATH 1117 Calculus I	3 or 4
Core Competency 5.1 Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	BUSA 1000 Introduction to Business and Entrepreneurship, INTS 1141 Diversity and Social Justice	3 or 4
Choose one Tier 1 course from: Core Competency 4: Scientific Exploration Core Competency 6: Historical Perspectives Core Competency 7: The Individual and Society Core Competency 8: Global and Intercultural Awareness Core Competency 9: Perspectives on Creative Arts	BIOL 2253/5 Introduction to Biology with Lab; CHEM 1115/7 General Chemistry I with Lab, ENVS 1101/2 Environmental Science with Lab; HIST 1100 Inventing Our Modern World; HIST 1102 Modern Societies, PHIL 1101 Introduction to Philosophy	3
Any Tier 1 or Tier 2 course from any competency	Choose one	3
Any Tier 2 course from any competency	Choose one	3
UNH Core Curriculum (21 credits)		21
1 course that fulfills Writing Across the Curriculum requirement	DIET 1175 - Food, Nutrition, and Culture (online asych)	3
Electives (12 courses or 36 credits needed)	Any course not fulfilling a competency above will count as elective	36
Electives (39 credits)		39
TOTAL (60 credits)		60

Transformation

THE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

- Discussion-Based Classes
- A Diverse and Inclusive Curriculum
- Differentiated Instruction
- Holistic Education
- Experiential Learning



QUICK SHARE

Share Out in Chat

What did you
do to support
your child
academically
during HS?





Responsibility

COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS

- **Shift in Responsibility: Parent > Student**
 - De jure (legally) & de facto (realistically)
 - Official Records like FERPA & Accommodations
 - Owning time management and course/homework
 - Practicing vulnerability and asking for help
- **Verto Difference**
 - Built in support e.g. care teams, CCATS, Parts of Term
 - Each part = ~25% of the grade
 - Sage on the stage > Guide on the side
 - Active & respectful engagement
 - Curiosity, creativity, & critical thinking skills

MACBETH



SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE

Experiential Learning *Introduction to Theater*

THEORIZING



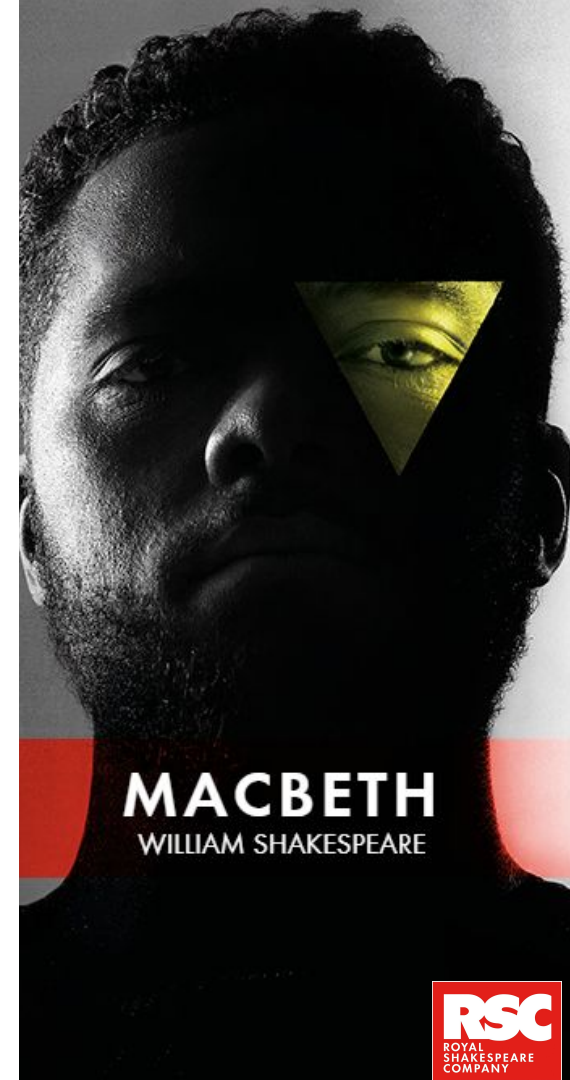
DOING



REFLECTING



LEARNING



MACBETH
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



Academics:

Experiential Learning

Professors across locations are committed to finding meaningful experiential learning opportunities to put the theory learned within the classroom into real-life practice.



Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*International Relations
Prague, Czech Republic*

Visit the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discuss international relations and politics with Czech diplomats.



Arcetri Observatory

*Introduction to Astronomy
Florence, Italy*

On the outskirts of Florence and close to the home of Galileo Galilei, the Arcetri Observatory allows students to witness a variety of research conducted at the frontiers of astrophysics using cutting-edge technologies.



Caritas Diocesana

*Diversity & Social Justice
Seville, Spain*

Learn and contribute to the work done by Caritas Diocesana, an NGO working to prevent social exclusion by providing occupation and training to local and migrant citizens of Seville.

**All experiential learning activities are examples, and subject to change based on availability.*

ADA ACCOMMODATION(S) SUPPORT

K-12 (High School)	College
The school must provide the assessment of disability, classify disability, and involve parents	The student must provide documentation of his/her disability to the designated office
School staff will discuss academic progress with parents or legal guardians	The student is considered an adult with privacy and confidentiality protections. Staff cannot talk with parents or legal guardians about the student's academic progress
The school must develop an Individualized Educational Program	The student must request specific accommodations and provide supporting evidence through documentation
The school must provide a free and appropriate education including modified program and appropriate related services	The student must act as independent adults to activate and obtain accommodations and structure weekly schedules
The school must coordinate the provision of all services, monitor progress, and evaluate results	The college must provide reasonable accommodations for students who qualify



WHAT VERTO PROVIDES:

Course Supplies

- Academic Systems Access
 - Canvas
 - Cengage
 - myCharger
- Lab supplies
- Costs related to experiential learning excursions and activities

ACADEMIC SYSTEMS

Canvas

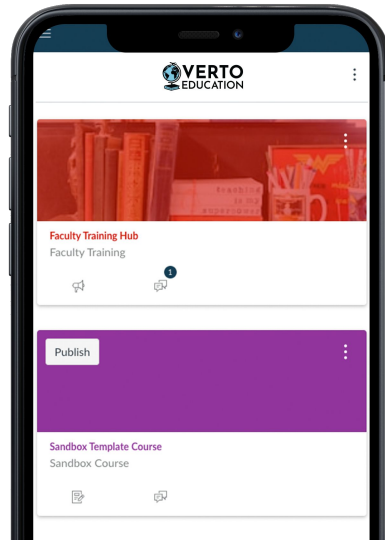
- Learning Management System (PACE)
- Access and submit assignments
- See grades
- Communicate with Faculty

Cengage Unlimited

- Accessed through Canvas
- Textbooks, assignments, and more

myCharger

- Accessed using your UNewHaven Login
- Access ePay, library resources, FERPA form, Accommodations, etc.
- Access final grades
- Verto Participant Resource Page:
<https://www.newhaven.edu/academics/verto-education-study-abroad/participant-resource-page.php>



WHAT YOUR STUDENT NEEDS TO PACK

Course Supplies

All Students:

- Laptop with charger & adapter
 - If you do not have a working laptop, please complete the Laptop Loaner form in your student portal
- Starter supplies (1-2 notebooks, planner, pack of pencils/pens)

Photography Students:

- Recommend purchase: Canon EOS Rebel T7 / EOS 2000D / EOS 1500D
- DSLR or mirrorless
- At least 24 megapixels with a normal kit lens.
- Very limited number of cameras available if needed.



ATTENDANCE POLICY*

- **Why is it important?**
 - Students can't keep pace if they do not attend all classes and course-related excursions
 - *Must maintain full time student status (enrolled in 12 credit hours) for visa and immigration requirements*
- **Impact of Excessive Absences**
 - No "excused" and "unexcused" absences, absence is absence
 - Absences w/o penalty determined by the # of times a course meets,
 - Impact totaled at the end of the semester, can include:
 - Grade penalties
 - Removal from a course
 - Removal from the program (without a refund)



ATTENDANCE POLICY

Highest Grade Possible Based on Number of Absences and Course Type

Course Credit Hours & Class Sessions Per Week*	Number of Absences and Grade Impact						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3 or 4 credits meeting twice per week	A	A	A	A-	B+	B	F(Ab)



Imagine: Caponata, Big Bird's cousin studying in Seville, has an A- in Spanish 2202 Intermediate Spanish II, a 3 credit course that meets twice per week

# of absences	12-14 Credit Hours	15+ Credit Hours
4	B+	
5	B	
6	B-	
7	F & Program Removal	F & Course Removal

IT'S PRETTY HARD TO MISS THIS MUCH CLASS:

- Seeing the city through experiential learning & SL activities
- Classes that meet 2x a week usually meet M/W or T/Th
- 1 hour of class = 2 hours of homework
- Be sure to encourage student to apply for accommodations, if needed
- Parents may be on vacation when they visit, but students are still in school

Vulnerability

COLLEGE COUNSELING, ADVISING, AND TRANSFER SERVICES (CCATS)*

Students can expect:

- Personalized advising to help identify, apply to, and enroll at a “best fit” college
 - Includes access to Verto’s growing consortium of 70+ partner colleges and universities
- Guidance in self-exploration and in developing their best fit plan for life after Verto
 - Example: **TypeFinder** for Career Planning!
- Support towards continued success, if your student’s plans for life after Verto change.
 - Example: **Academic Safety Net** for alt. plans





Responsibility

CCATS EXPECTATIONS

- **Channel Students (Invited by a partner college to participate in Verto)**
 - Complete your Typefinder for Career Planning Assessment
 - Review your FAQ in your Campus Groups student portal
- **Traditional Students (Found Verto Independently, may need support with academic plans)**
 - Complete your Post-Verto Planning Form, found in PACE
 - Complete your Typefinder for Career Planning assessment
 - In collaboration with your ASC: identify & apply to partner colleges by stated deadlines

Verto Spring 2024 Experience - CCATS, Traditional Students

KEY MILESTONES

January

- Complete TypeFinder to explore careers
- Complete Post Verto Planning Form

February

- Meet with ASC to discuss Post Verto Planning

March

- **March 1-** All sites (minus Seville) Priority College Application deadline
- **March 8-** Seville Priority College Application deadline
- Check and download your midterm report

April

- **April 19-** Final College Application deadline (all sites)

May

- Students are required to request their UNewHaven Final Official Transcript to any institution they are planning to attend for their following semester



Verto Fall 2023 Experience - CCATS, Channel Students

KEY MILESTONES

*Please refer to your specific channel FAQ document for important information regarding matriculation for your next semester



August

- Complete TypeFinder to explore careers



September

- Add/drop week- *If needed*



October

- October 20th- Midterm Grades *Verto will submit your midterm report directly to your channel partner



End of Semester

- Verto will submit your UNewHaven Final Official Transcript directly to your channel partner





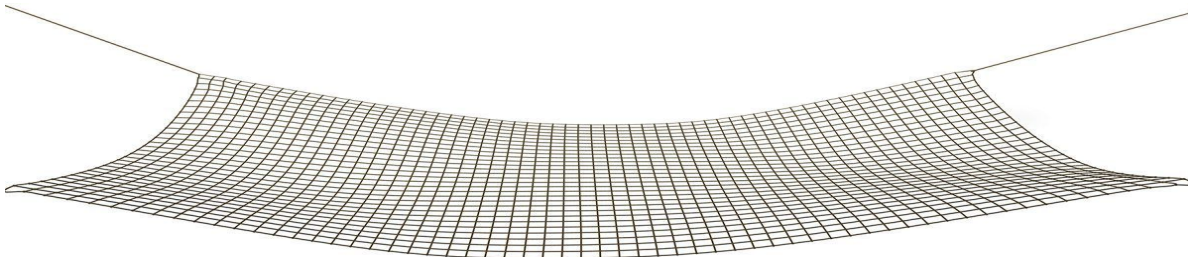
THE ACADEMIC SAFETY NET

All students will have options to continue their education regardless of final GPA at the end of the semester. Students, parents, and partners can be assured that students will have a post-Verto destination that will allow them to continue towards graduation.

There are three versions of the Safety Net- Internal Safety Net, [Channel Safety Net](#), [Traditional Safety Net](#)

Options include:

- Continuing with Verto for a 2nd semester (GPA 2.0 or higher)
- Transitioning to the main campus of the University of New Haven (below a 2.0 GPA)
- Transferring to a local Community College



POP QUIZ

- Verto's Academic Provider is _____.
 - The University of New Haven
- Verto aims to have 20% of class time dedicated to _____ activities.
 - Experiential learning
- True/False: Attendance can impact my grades, **but does not** have an impact on my visa and/or immigration status.
 - FALSE
- What does CCATS stand for?
 - College Counseling, Advising, and Transfer Services



Verto Spring 2024 Experience

ACADEMIC MILESTONES

Schedules

- Argentina & Florence; Jan. 11
- London, Prague, and Seville; Jan. 23
 - Automatically added to courses on Canvas

Location Orientation & Discovery Week

- Location Orientation
 - Added to Location-Orientation Canvas Course, notified in weekly onboarding email when available.
- Care Team Circle
- Placement, Advising, and College Exploration
 - Complete Typefinder for Career Planning by Jan. 19
 - Placement Exams available through the Thursday before Add/Drop Week:
 - Argentina & Florence; Jan. 18
 - London & Prague; Feb. 1
 - Seville; Feb. 8

Add/Drop Week

- Argentina & Florence; Jan. 25–Jan. 31, 2024
- London & Prague; Feb. 8–Feb. 14
- Seville; Feb. 12–Feb. 16, 2024



SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENT



Who Will Be There **TO SUPPORT STUDENTS?**

- **Program Director:** Provides day-to-day leadership for the program
- **Academic Leadership:** Provide support from HQ to ensure academic success and goals
- **Faculty:** provide dynamic instruction and mentorship
- **Student Life Coordinators (SLCs):** Provide logistical and social-emotional support and mentorship
- **Academic Success Coordinators (ASCs):** Provide academic support and mentorship



Who Will Be There **TO SUPPORT STUDENTS?**

Care Team Model:

- **Student Life Coordinators (SLCs):** Provide logistical and social-emotional support and mentorship
- **Academic Success Coordinators (ASCs):** Provide academic support and mentorship
- Fellow Care Team members, students
- Care Team Circles, 1-on-1s, Activities, and more!



Student Support

Independence: a critical aspect of college life!

- Empower your student to advocate for themselves

Who should **students** go to for concerns:

- Care Team: Student Life Coordinator / Academic Success Coordinator
- Program Director
- Location 24/7 Emergency Phone
- deanofstudents@vertoeducation.org

Who should **families/parents/guardians** reach out to with concerns:

- For real emergencies: the Verto US Emergency Phone: 971.801.0955
- Dean of Students: deanofstudents@vertoeducation.org
- The site via location@vertoeducation.org

Supporting Your Student

Give your student space for immersion and cultural adaptation

- Ask questions, give advice—avoid fixing it for them!
- Empower and support your student to resolve their own issues
- Academics come first!
- If you plan to visit: keep academic and excursion schedule in mind; COVID protocols and precautions; public holidays; visa restrictions!



Verto **Discovery Week** First Week

Participation is required - we cover nuts and bolts such as :

- **Health & Safety:** fundamental health and safety procedures
- **Academics:** familiarity with academic expectations, facilities, professors and experiential learning
- **Student Life:** living in a healthy community - housing guidelines, roommate agreements and student responsibilities (code of responsibility) that all participants need to follow in order to successfully participate
- **Student Involvement:** student clubs, volunteering, and group travel during the semester
- **Discovery:** personal goal setting and the foundation for a semester full of Verto Discovery
- **Adjusting-** walking tour, public transport, local excursions
- **FUN!** - lots of fun team building and get to know your classmates and local staff activities



HEALTH AND SAFETY



VERTO
EDUCATION

PRIORITIZING HEALTH & SAFETY WHILE ABROAD

To make the most of the Study Abroad experience, it's important to be informed about Health and Safety Issues

- Respect Local Rules & Laws
- Physical & Mental Health
- Responsible Independent Travel
- Alcohol Use & Impaired Judgement



Verto Spring 2024 Experience

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE & ASSISTANCE

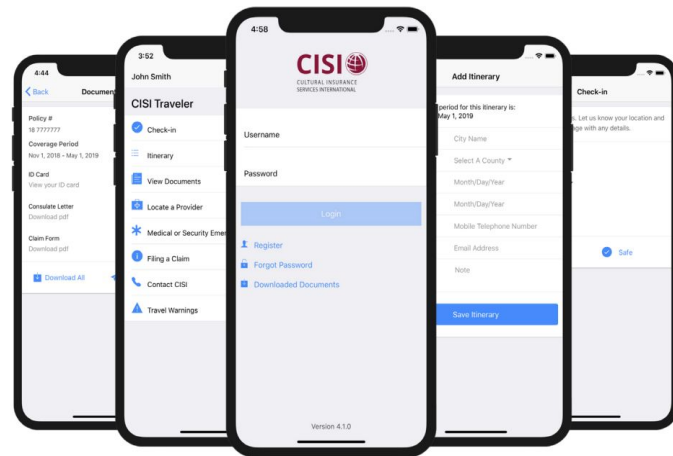


Overseas Insurance & Assistance (CISI)

- Medical/Health Insurance
- 24/7 Assistance, Travel Support (AXA)
- Emergency Evacuation

All Verto Students Automatically Enrolled in Coverage

- Students Pay out-of-pocket + file a simple claim for reimbursement (globally)
- Medical assistance and payments for significant medical needs
- CISI confirmation - in your Email about 2 weeks prior to departure
 - CISI Portal + CISI Traveler App



CISI Traveler App

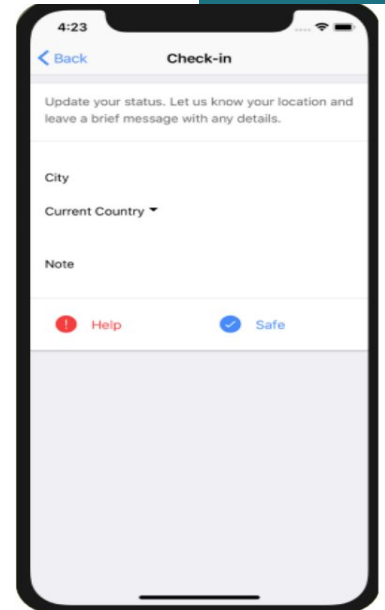
- Download CISI Traveler App once you have received your CISI registration and log-in information (1-2 weeks prior to departure)

CISI Traveler App is an essential tool to enhance the safety of our Verto students and to log a response in an emergency situation. The App can also provide important safety alerts and provide instant access to medical and safety resources.

CISI benefits include:

- **Safety and check in notifications:** Receive instant notifications and instructions from Verto through CISI when emergencies occur, and check in so Verto staff/ CISI know you are safe.
- **Emergency help:** contact CISI/AXA 24-7 in addition to Verto's on site and HQ emergency lines quickly for help in an emergency.
- **A Travel Log:** You will be asked to fill in the **Itinerary feature** on the app every time you participate in independent travel to another city/region outside the program. This is so if you have or if there is an emergency in that city/region, CISI can provide you with emergency assistance quickly.

CISI 
TRAVELER



Verto Spring 2024 Experience

PRE-DEPARTURE STUDENT HEALTH PREPARATIONS

Student Portal Steps

- Health and Medical History (Add/Update Emergency Contacts!)
- Allergies; Dietary Restrictions

Student Personal Health

- Consult with health care provider before travel (both physical and mental health!)
- Prescription Medications - make sure to bring enough for entire semester
- Communicate health needs with SLCs once in-country



HEALTH & SAFETY Reminders

- **Have hard copies of travel Documents**
 - Passports, visas, card information, vax/medical docs
- **STEP Enrollment (US. Dept. of State)**
- **Seek guidance from on-site staff and fill out the Independent Travel Form when applicable**
 - Health, Crime and Safety

Useful Links/Resources:

- STEP — US State Department Travel Advisories
- US State Department: Travel Warnings
- US Embassies Abroad
- US State Department Tips for Students Traveling Abroad
- Department of State Country Specific Information
- CDC Country Information



TOP TIPS:

- Keep phone charged and have the on-site emergency number saved, know the 911-equivalent emergency number
- Separate money and cards - avoid carrying/storing all in one place
- Keep health insurance card with them

Verto Spring 2024 Experience

STUDENT SUPPORT

If you need to report a situation that concerns you, please reach out immediately to your onsite staff (location@vertoeducation.org) or contact Verto via email: deanofstudents@vertoeducation.org

Words of advice for families:

- Give yourself time to adjust to not having your student at home,
- Make a (reasonable) plan on how to communicate with each other and support each other from afar



ANNOUNCEMENTS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Required Events

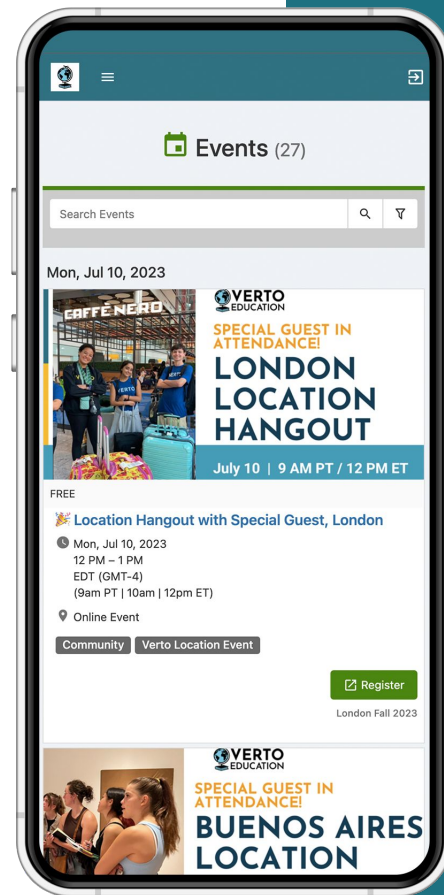
Location Orientation

- Buenos Aires and Florence: January 11
12pm-1pm ET
- London, Prague, Seville: Thurs January 25
12pm-1pm ET

Care Team Circle

- Buenos Aires, Florence: Wed. January 17 12pm ET
- London, Prague: Wed. January 31 12pm ET
- Seville: Wed. February 7 12pm ET

And then ... Discovery Week!



Verto Parent and Family Resources Page

<https://vertoeducation.org/parent-resources/>



How can you support your Verto Participant?

What does a Verto semester Include & Not Include



Pre-departure overview



Logistical conversations



Setting expectations together



Pre-departure orientations



Accommodation, expectations, and living with roommates



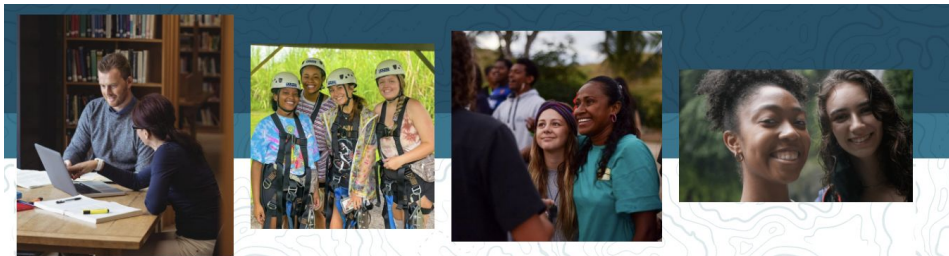
Supporting your student upon arrival in country



Crime & participant safety



Testimonials from participants and families



Welcome parents, guardians, friends, and loved ones!



Reminders for Families

Pre-Departure Orientation recordings will be made available on

vertoeducation.org/orientation

Review Pre-Departure Documents with students

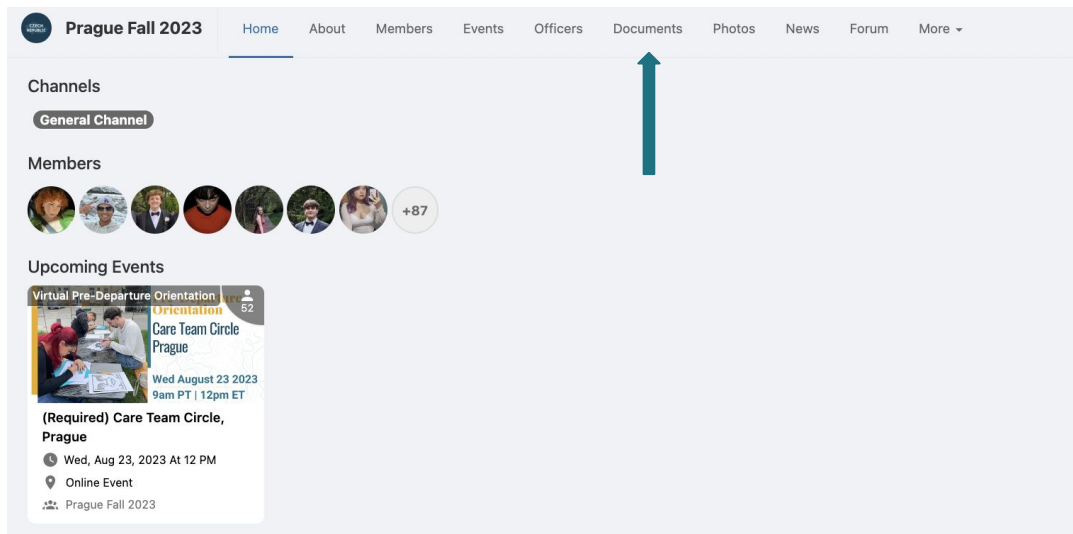
Students will receive their Housing Assignments, Care Team assignments, and course schedules in the last week before departure



PRE-DEPARTURE DOCUMENTS

These can be found in on the Student Portal Documents section:

- Pre-Departure Resources, including:
 - Packing List
 - Using Your Phone in [Location]
 - Mail and Package Guidelines
 - Verto [Location] Study Center
 - Visiting Your Student in [Location]
 - Code of Responsibility
- Arrival Guide
- Money Abroad
- Verto Housing Overview
- Verto Discovery Week Overview (General)



 Documents (5)



Florence Pre-Departure Documents (8)

Travel Day *Logistics*

If you have questions *before your departure:*

Email your **Student Onboarding Advisor (SOA) directly**. This person will be able to provide one-on-one support for all of your pre-departure preparations.

If you don't know who your SOA is, email studentonboarding@vertoeducation.org

If you have questions *during the arrival process:*

The most effective way to reach our team will be **via email or via the emergency phone number provided to you upon arrival**. Please utilize the phone number for urgent situations only.

Seville@vertoeducation.org
London@vertoeducation.org
Florence@vertoeducation.org

Prague@vertoeducation.org
BuenosAires@vertoeducation.org

For any flight delays or other information sharing, please utilize the email addresses above. Only use the emergency phone number for urgent situations needing immediate assistance.

Please do not reach out to Admissions, Student Onboarding, or to our team via social media as they will redirect you to the above resources.





Financial Services Announcements

- Remain in good financial standing. 2 payment plan installments (Jan start) or 3 (February start) made prior to arrival onsite
- Questions? Extenuating Circumstances? Reach out to financialservices@vertoeducation.org.



QUESTIONS





Welcome

TO THE VERTO
COMMUNITY

