

# The American University

## Residential Education Plan

### 1. Mission of Residential Education at AU

#### The Mission of Residential Education at American University

The Residential Education Program facilitates the holistic development of residential students in living-learning communities by incorporating faculty and staff in-out-of-classroom collaborative learning opportunities. Our communities foster an environment that develops Global Citizen Scholars that put ideas into action and action into service.

### 2. Learning Goals of Residential Education at AU

Residential Education at American University utilizes a learning outcomes-based approach in guiding the learning opportunities in our residence halls. To guide these activities, we developed a philosophy and broad learning goals to guide our practice:

Residential Education at American University seeks to develop our students as Global Citizen Scholars. Global Citizen Scholars act in service to their communities on the basis of a coherent ethical system that acknowledges and appreciates the multiple perspectives and identities of people in a diverse world. The actions and service of a Global Citizen Scholar arise from an interdisciplinary knowledge base and a well developed sense of civility, ethics, and multiculturalism.

In reaching this end, Residential Education focuses on the following learning goals for its residents. After living in American University Residence Halls, students will:

#### Cognitive Maturity

1. Understand the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge and develop strategies for learning and information literacy
2. Make decisions and engage in problem solving in diverse contexts

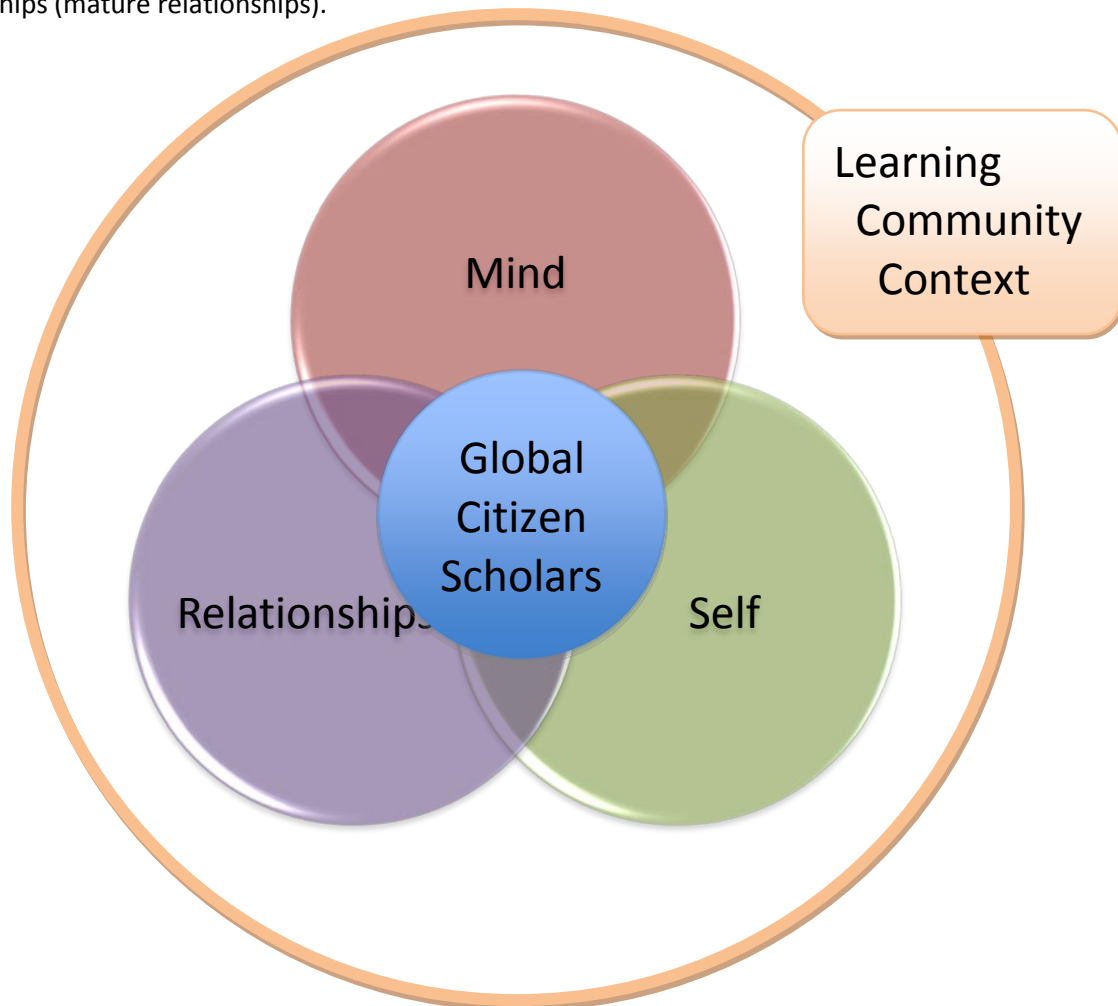
#### Integrated Identity

1. Understand one's own history, cultures, and backgrounds impact one's identity and decision making
2. Act independently, and within a community context, with integrity from a unified internal belief system

#### Mature Relationships

1. Understand and respect other's identities, cultures and perspectives
2. Civily collaborate with and integrate learning from the identities, cultures and perspectives of others

More simply stated, Residential Education aims to produce Global Citizen Scholars, within the context of a learning community, by focusing on the mind (cognitive maturity), the self (integrated identity), and relationships (mature relationships).



### 3. Residential Education in Practice

Residential Education at American University utilizes a learning goals-based approach in guiding the learning opportunities in our residence halls. We use a variety of “planned” methods to provide learning opportunities to our students that engage our Global Citizen Scholar goals:

- One-On-One: Intentional individual interactions
- Small Group Dialogue: Community interactions where meaningful dialogue amongst a group of residents is facilitated
- Shared Experience: Attendance at intentionally selected events
- Programs: Intentional designed learning opportunities
- Environment: Utilizing the floor, hall, or a virtual environment (e.g. newsletters, bulletin boards, floor blog, etc.)
- Floor Meeting: Open or guided forums for community members to share information or engage in decision-making

We also engage our student in the learning process in a variety of the interactions we have with them. These include other opportunities, such as:

- Incident Review Meetings and judicial situations
- Academic Success Meetings and academic interventions
- Roommate and conflict mediations
- Health and safety inspections
- Hall Council and student organization advising

One of the most important aspects of our work are the opportunities provided through our paraprofessional staff, the Resident Assistants. In helping to guide the Resident Assistants through this educational and community-building process, each RA is expected to complete a Residential Education Action Plan. The Action Plan is intended to aid our RAs in reaching the Global Citizen Scholar learning goals and to a learning-focused community environment.