

DA VINCI CENTER FOR INNOVATION

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Richmond, Virginia 23284
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davincicenter.vcu.edu (<http://www.davincicenter.vcu.edu>)

Garret Westlake
Executive director

A collaboration of VCU's schools of the Arts, Business, Engineering and College of Humanities and Sciences, the VCU da Vinci Center is a unique collegiate model that advances innovation and entrepreneurship through cross-disciplinary collaboration.

The academic and other program offerings of the da Vinci Center aim to create T-shaped individuals: individuals who are anchored in a discipline and have the capacity and openness to span across disciplines.

Students participating in the da Vinci Center view innovation and entrepreneurship from multiple disciplinary perspectives and, thus, are prepared for the 21st-century workforce by more robustly approaching the innovation/entrepreneurship endeavor.

Students who complete the requirements for this program will receive a Certificate in Product Innovation.

- Product Innovation, Certificate in (Undergraduate certificate) (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/da-vinci-center-innovation/product-innovation-certificate/>)

Students who complete the requirements for this program will receive a Certificate in Venture Creation

- Venture Creation, Certificate in (Undergraduate certificate) (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/da-vinci-center-innovation/venture-creation-certificate/>)

VCU Innovate

Grace and Broad Residence Center 2
1010 West Grace Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220
(804) 827-1859
innovate@vcu.edu
innovate.vcu.edu (<http://www.innovate.vcu.edu/>)

Somiah Lattimore
Director

Garret Westlake
Executive director, da Vinci Center

Mission

The mission of the da Vinci Center Innovate Living-Learning Program is to equip innovative student entrepreneurs with a human-centered design foundation to launch new ventures or products through academic course work and co-curricular activities.

Curriculum standards

The da Vinci Center Innovate living-learning program curriculum is designed to provide students with knowledge and skills necessary

for employment in a wide range of industries valuing human-centered design. Topics of study include design thinking, problem solving, user experience and interface design, rapid prototyping, innovation, and an entrepreneurial mindset. This knowledge and these skills are coupled with VCU degrees from the schools of the Arts, Business and Engineering, as well as the College of Humanities and Sciences.

- **Course work:** Students receive a Certificate of Completion in Human-centered Design comprising a minimum of nine undergraduate da Vinci credits and engage in experiential client interaction during their two-year residency.
- **Co-curricular hours:** Students fulfill 60 hours of activities ranging from trips to guest lectures and workshops.
- **Service hours:** Students complete 20 hours of service through a nonprofit client interaction built into their academic course work.
- **Residency:** Students live in the Grace and Broad Resident Center 2 for a two-year term.

Learning outcomes

Upon the successful completion of the da Vinci Center Innovate living-learning program, students will be able to:

- Discover innovative and appropriate ideas using a human-centered design process
 - **Head** (eager, creative, analytic)
- Communicate ideas through visual and verbal stories told with passion and empathy
 - **Heart** (passionate, empathetic, brave)
- Execute ideas using the right tools and technologies\
 - **Hands** (relevant, maker, inventive)

Certificate of completion

Students completing the da Vinci Center Innovate living-learning program receive a nine-credit Certificate of Completion in Human-centered Design, which requires a sequence of the following three tailored one-credit hour courses over a two-year required residency coupled with five credits of da Vinci Center approved electives.

Course	Title	Hours
Required courses		
HCDN 351	Introduction to Human-centered Design	1
HCDN 352	Human-centered Design Methods	1
HCDN 353	Human-centered Design Through Service Learning	2
Approved electives		
Select five credits from the following:		5
HCDN 451	Interaction Design and Prototyping	
HCDN 452	Professional Practices	
HCDN 491	Special Topics in Human-centered Design	
HCDN 492	Independent Study in Human-centered Design	
HCDN 493	Internship in Human-centered Design	

INNO 200	Introduction to Innovation and Venture Creation
INNO 221	Introduction to Arts and Design Principles
INNO 223	Introduction to Business Principles
INNO 225	Introduction to Engineering and Technology Principles
INNO 491	Special Topics in Product Innovation
INNO 492	Independent Study in Product Innovation
VNTR 300	Venture Creation Skills
VNTR 491	Special Topics in Venture Creation
VNTR 492	Independent Study in Venture Creation
Total Hours	9

For more information email or call the VCU Innovate living-learning program office at innovate@vcu.edu or (804) 827-1859.

HCDN 351 is taken in the first semester and HCDN 352 is taken in the second semester during the first year of residency. Students take HCDN 353 in the first semester of the second year, with the remaining five credits of da Vinci approved electives completed throughout the two-year residency, as mapped out and approved between the da Vinci adviser, Innovate director and the student resident.

Certificate of completion process

All VCU Innovate scholars must complete the curricular, co-curricular and residential requirements for the Certificate of Completion in Human-centered Design on schedule in the intended progression.

- Commit to a two-year residency in the Grace and Broad Residence Center 2.
- Complete the nine-credit Certificate of Completion in Human-Centered Design.
- Complete 60 hours of co-curricular activities and 20 hours of service.

Students who fail to satisfy the program requirements, including living in VCU Innovate on-campus housing, will be removed from the program. Students failing to meet program requirements also may be removed from VCU Innovate housing and relocated to another residence hall. Students are expected to uphold VCU, VCU Innovate and community partner expectations for personal and professional conduct at all times. Any behavior that violates standards of conduct (<http://www.students.vcu.edu/studentconduct/student-code-of-conduct/>) may result in removal from the program and VCU Innovate.

Application process

Students with professional or personal interest, commitment and a passion for innovation and entrepreneurship are sought as residents in the VCU Innovate living-learning program. Full-time VCU students from all majors may apply for the program during their freshman or sophomore years. Rising juniors and seniors with two more years of undergraduate studies remaining may petition the director for entry.

The application deadline is posted on the VCU Innovate website, [innovate.vcu.edu](http://www.innovate.vcu.edu) (<http://www.innovate.vcu.edu>). In addition to completing the admissions application, students must complete a housing contract for the Grace and Broad Residence Center 2 over two consecutive years.