

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE

Pre-Arrival Course: Engaging in the Liberal Arts at F&M

Franklin & Marshall College is offering a unique summer course for international students admitted to the College for the Fall 2021 semester. *IST175: Engaging in the Liberal Arts at F&M* is designed to prepare incoming students for their first semester of classes. The 4-week course is taught online by F&M faculty and ESOL Specialist Dr. Nadia Mann, and is followed by early arrival on campus and exploration of the F&M and Lancaster communities. Students who successfully complete the requirements will earn one F&M course credit.

This course is different from an intensive English program. It does not just review grammar that students have already studied. Instead, the course focuses on the specific skills that are essential in first semester coursework at F&M, including reading, analysis, writing, reflection, revision and English language discussion, and conversation. Classes are small, so each student will receive a great deal of feedback from their instructor, and will be able to participate in class daily. The course will also provide cultural adjustment to the F&M liberal arts environment. Students will discuss the philosophies that shape our academic culture, learn about the expectations and requirements of their classes, and discover strategies for handling challenges and achieving academic success.

In addition to polishing English communication skills and studying the foundations of the liberal arts, students in IST175 will also have the opportunity to get to know many members of the F&M community. They will meet F&M professors, learn about what they teach and research and listen to their reflections on their own college careers. They will also meet and talk with current students and alumni, learn about opportunities for research, work



experience, and extracurricular leadership, and receive advice about academic resources and campus life.

One of the most valuable aspects of this program is that students will have a chance to get to know each other before ever setting foot on campus. Students will be able to form real connections with each other, establishing a community that will help them transition smoothly into their college career. They will also build familiarity with their new home, since they will have a chance to learn about Franklin & Marshall, Lancaster, and the United States before they even start their physical journey to the US. When IST175 students arrive on campus in August before International Orientation they will continue to build community as they explore campus and Lancaster in person with the guidance of current upperclass students as well as F&M faculty and staff.

This course is appropriate for any incoming first-year international student who would like an opportunity for preparation and transition before starting their first-semester classes. However, it is designed to be especially useful for students who:

- Are new to liberal arts/US-style education
- Want to practice English-language skills
- Want to learn more about the US or have concerns about cultural adjustment

Engaging in the Liberal Arts at F&M is a fun, informative, and useful course. Above all, its goal is to help international students to begin their F&M careers with confidence, ready to be academically successful and to become leaders in the F&M community.

Please direct questions about the program to ESOL Specialist Nadia Mann at nmann@fandm.edu.

