

# *HHS CONNEX*

<https://hhs.purdue.edu/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/hhs-connex>

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# *HHS Connex*

## Description

HHS Connex is an undergraduate program in the College of Health and Human Sciences that fosters **community** , **belonging** , and **allyship** through **academic** , **social** , and **professional development** events and activities.

HHS Connex was first offered in 2022-2023, and it is the college's version of the Multicultural Science Program, Minority Engineering Program, and Business Opportunity Program.



## Program Goals

Foster community, belonging, and allyship by

- Increasing formal and informal mentoring, along with opportunities for personal and academic networking.
- Offering leadership opportunities and ways to engage with the college (e.g. attending events, offering suggestions, and engaging with HHS Undergraduate DEI Committee and Working Groups).
- Partnering with college and campus units and organizations to support students and provide resources.



## Academic Year Programming

- Open to all HHS undergraduate students.
- Events include annual Ice Cream Social and Undergraduate Research Advice and Opportunities.
- Other events change, such as Narcan Training, Financial Wellness, and Bias in the Healthcare Professions.
- Participation ranges from 8-100+ students per event.
- Many events offered in collaboration with HHS and Purdue units, Cultural Centers, or student organizations.

## Dr. Rollock with students at the 2023 Undergraduate Research Advice and Opportunities event



## Comments from AY Events

- “Thank you for taking time to host these events! They are extremely useful for allowing easier ways for students to connect with faculty and other HHS students!” (Undergraduate Research)
- “I recommend going to these kinds of events since they are informative. I think this provides a great opportunity to see what issues are in the field and understand how you can have an impact on them.” (Addressing Bias)
- “I liked the flow of this event and how it was so interactive. Thanks for putting it on!” (Activism in HHS)
- “I loved the event!” (Ice Cream Social)

## Summer Experience Program

- Includes HHS Emerging Leader Scholars who opt into Early Start and other new beginners who apply.
  - 16 in 2023
  - 21 in 2024
- Students take common courses such as PSY 120, ENGL 106, and COM 114, etc.
- Peer mentors (1:5 ratio) provide guidance and support. Mentors are HHS students who are interviewed, selected, and supervised.
- 5 college-specific events that help students develop relationships; network with faculty, staff, and administrators; engage with alumni; learn about research; prepare for the fall.



# 2024 cohort of HHS Connex Summer Experience students and peer mentors



## Comments from Summer Experience

- “I loved the entire summer program.... There were several amazing opportunities for us to make connections and grow our networking web.”
- ”I had a lot of fun this summer. It was the perfect amount of school work, networking, and fun.”
- “I enjoyed everything about the program. I really don’t see much that can be added. Being here early gave me a huge head start, and I know I will be more successful because of Early Start.”
- ”There is so much within the college, and I’ll be able to use those resources in the future.”



## Opportunities for Faculty to Provide Support

- Consider ways to facilitate students' awareness of and participation in HHS Connex.
- Encourage students to follow @HHSConnex on Instagram.
- Mention HHS Connex in class and consider giving specific information to students who might be especially likely to benefit from it.
- Recommend that students get involved with the HHS Undergraduate DEI Committee and Working Groups: <https://hhs.purdue.edu/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/undergraduate-committee/>.

# *QUESTIONS*

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