

# College like a Pro

## Step One: Take Ownership of your Education

- Review Potential Degree Plans on the [UCCS Advising Website](#).
- Review your Compass General Education Requirements on the [Compass Website](#) or in [your Degree Audit](#)
- Identify skills you need for future success by talking with the [UCCS T. Rowe Price Career and Innovation Center](#)
- Deepen your education through [High Engagement Opportunities](#) like study abroad or mentored research.

## Step Two: Get Connected

- Join a campus club or organization on the UCCS [Student Life Website](#) or [UCCS Club Match](#).
- Get to know your instructors. Reach out to them by email or visit their office hours for assistance.
- Connect with a student mentor like a [GPS Peer Leader](#) or Engagement Leader (engage@uccs.edu).
- Find a community or affinity group like [First2Go](#) or the [MOSAIC Office](#).

## Step Three: Use your Resources

- Enhance your education and get help from trained tutors at the [UCCS Excel Learning Centers](#)
- Borrow materials or reserve study space at the [Kraemer Family Library](#)
- Review the many other free resources available to students on the [Compass Website](#)

## Step Four: Get Real – Handle the Practical

- Consider applying for a campus job at [SEAN](#) or find aid or scholarships at [Financial Aid](#)
- Get a parking pass or register your vehicle at [Parking Services](#)
- Get textbooks, supplies and UCCS gear through the [UCCS Campus Store](#).

Find a digital version of this handout using this QR code or on our website:  
<https://compasscurriculum.uccs.edu/pro>



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## UCCS Compass General Education Curriculum

A general education curriculum required for all students is common at most colleges and universities. General education helps to provide college graduates with a core set of skills and experiences no matter their degree choices. We believe that all students at UCCS will benefit from the curriculum and will find the skills they develop useful in whatever path they follow after graduation.

The [UCCS Compass General Education](#) program is based on nation-wide best practices and on recommendations from the American Association of Colleges and Universities. The UCCS Compass program is intentional in integrating [high-impact practices](#) shown to promote learning and college success. Our curriculum reflects the most recent research into the skills that matter to employers such as the AAC&U's report on "[How College Contributes to Workforce Success.](#)" The curriculum is also informed by work from leading scholars like [Dr. Matthew Sanders](#), an author of our Gateway Program Seminar (GPS) textbook.

## UCCS Writing Portfolio

Prior to graduation all students must complete the [writing portfolio requirement](#) by successfully passing PORT 3000 or earning a C- or better in a replacement course (TCID 3080 or ENGL 3010). PORT 3000 is a "zero credit" course. The only assignment is to submit a portfolio of two to three papers you wrote in other courses. Most students enroll in PORT 3000 near the end of their junior year when they have completed between 60 and 90 credit hours.

## Gift Cards and Standardized Testing

UCCS regularly recruits students to take standardized tests as a way to measure learning on our campus. We compensate students for the time they spend on the tests with digital gift cards delivered by email at the end of the semester. Many times students can also be entered in a raffle for larger gift cards.

You can use our website to take a standardized test in exchange for a **\$10 gift card** and a chance to **win a \$50 gift card**. You can find more information and [take the test today on our website](#).