

ACADEMIC SUCCESS & ACADEMIC ACTIONS

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ACADEMIC SUCCESS

At Verto, we believe all participants should be academically prepared and **#CollegeStrong!** To achieve academic success, Verto prides itself on having caring faculty and staff who are committed to your learning. All Verto participants have an assigned Academic Success Coordinator who serves as a mentor and advisor, providing small group and individual advising sessions, academic success workshops, and other learning support services and resources.

A primary responsibility of faculty and staff at Verto Education is to provide opportunities for participants to achieve academic success and progress toward degree completion.

Verto provides proactive and responsive academic success resources, services, and interventions to support student academic and personal success. Academic Actions provide an opportunity for students to take ownership of their learning experience and identify critical resources to support academic success. Academic Actions offer students a space to reflect on skills and decisions that impact academic performance, and work with academic staff and faculty to receive guidance to navigate challenges and conflicts while receiving encouragement, academic support, and clear information relevant to academic status.

Participants are responsible for taking a **proactive approach** to their own education by interacting regularly with faculty members, peers, and academic staff. Students need to take initiative to seek out academic support and advice, monitor their own academic progress, and take advantage of resources available to support learning. Self-advocacy, asking for help, and utilizing available learning support services are crucial to student academic success.

Substandard academic progress may result in **Academic Actions** as outlined in this document. Verto's goal is to help participants be successful in the classroom, develop academic resilience, and create skills and strategies for life-long success and achievement.

Good Academic Standing & Satisfactory Academic Progress

To ensure students are set up for transfer opportunities and long-term academic success, Verto sets a goal for students to complete their first semester with a 3.0 GPA or better.

Verto considers participants with a GPA of 2.5 or higher (*in progress*) as meeting requirements for good academic standing. Some colleges and universities have additional grade and GPA requirements. Participants will meet regularly with their Academic Success Coordinator to ensure satisfactory academic progress and help participants ensure they meet post-Verto transfer requirements.

All students are required to maintain satisfactory academic progress, which entails the following:

- Full-time student status (12 credit minimum per semester) for visa and immigration regulations;
- Demonstrated progress toward degree completion;
- Course completion, including attempted and earned credits.

ACADEMIC ACTIONS

Academic Actions are policies and procedures designed to help program participants succeed academically, take prompt corrective action(s) when needed, and achieve their academic goals. Faculty and academic staff provide training, interventions, and support as needed to help students succeed.

Academic Actions may be issued as a result of care and concern for academic performance, irregular or substandard class attendance, missed coursework and assignment completion, class participation, academic policy concerns or violations, grades, active or experiential learning engagement, conflict with peers, faculty or learning partners, or other general academic reasons raised by academic staff or faculty relevant to student learning.

Throughout the term, you will meet with members of your academic care team to discuss academic success strategies, engage in learning support services, and address academic questions or concerns relevant to your study abroad and post-Verto academic plans.

Action: Care and Concern Meeting

At any point in the semester, faculty or staff may request a Care and Concern meeting to address behavioral or academic concerns. This is a meeting between the student and the relevant member(s) of the care team and/or faculty to check in on progress, to recommend learning support services, or to proactively address an issue related to academic engagement or performance before formal actions are necessary.

Action: Academic Warning

Students may be given a written academic warning during the semester if your academic engagement or grades are flagged as part of Verto's Early Warning / Early Actions review process. Verto closely monitors academic progress and performance and works with students to ensure GPA's are in alignment with post-Verto transfer plans and requirements.

- *Level 1 Warning:* This is the first warning that serves as a notification of academic misconduct or academic concern. This typically requires a meeting with the Academic Success Coordinator and/or other stakeholders to determine an appropriate action plan.
- *Level 2 Warning:* This is the secondary warning that will come with a formal written warning and an Academic Agreement or Academic Improvement Plan that requires immediate action and a meeting (or regularly scheduled meetings) with the Academic Success Coordinator, Academic Manager and/or Director and any other key stakeholders, such as faculty, for academic interventions.

- *Level 3 Warning:* This is the final warning that a student will receive if they are in jeopardy of maintaining good academic standing. Failure to maintain full-time status may result in course or program dismissal. The final warning will require a meeting with the Academic Director/Manager, Dean of Students, or other Verto Academic leaders.

Action: Academic Agreement or Academic Improvement Plan

In the event of a specific conflict between students and faculty or student to student conflict, or as a follow up to a specific policy violation, an Academic Agreement may be required.

Academic Agreements work to address conflict through mediation, restorative actions, and conflict management. They:

- Are specific agreements to address conflict, mediations, or corrective actions following a policy violation or academic conflict. It is the student's responsibility to take ownership for addressing these problems or policy violations.
- may be utilized in response to Academic Integrity violations or other classroom management or student conduct concerns that impact the teaching and learning environment.

Academic Improvement Plans outline training or interventions necessary to address academic skills and/or adjustments to academic behavior or performance. They:

- may include tutoring, learning support services, advising or mentoring conversations, or other academic actions as necessary to address substandard academic performance.
- lay out a pathway for academic performance improvement as agreed to by the student.

Action: Academic Safety Net

The Academic Safety Net is a tool designed to support students that may wish to change their academic plans. Students can utilize this tool if they do not meet their academic requirements at the end of their Verto experience, decide to change their academic plans, or want to consider alternate post-Verto options. The options available to students through the Academic Safety Net are:

- Participate in Verto for an additional semester
- Continue to the main campus of the University of New Haven
- Transfer to a local community college

Action: Course Dismissal

Students who engage in repetitive violations of course policies including attendance, coursework, class participation, or cause disruptions to the learning environment, may be subject to course dismissal if they have failed to meet the terms of their Academic Success Plan or Academic Agreement. Faculty have authority to dismiss students from a class period or

from the overall course if corrective actions have not been taken. Failure to maintain full-time students status (12 credits minimum) may result in Program Dismissal.

Action: Program Dismissal

Students who fail to maintain the minimum academic requirements may be subject to program dismissal. This includes violations of academic integrity, code of conduct, escalated academic policy violations and/or in the event that a student fails to remain in good standing or make satisfactory academic progress. All students are expected to maintain a full-time credit load (minimum of 12 credits) and regularly attend classes for the full program duration.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM STRATEGIES

Academic Success Programs / College Strong Toolkit

Verto provides Academic Success Programming and a #CollegeStrong toolkit to offer program participants multiple opportunities to strengthen academic skills and learn new academic strategies to achieve academic success in a challenging, caring, and enriching learning environment. Students have opportunities to participate in regular workshops, self-guided learning, workshops in and out of class, as well as group and individual advising with academic staff while onsite.

Academic Success Plan

The Academic Success Plan (ASP) is a proactive academic intervention intended to support all learners' academic success and progress toward course and program completion. The ASP will utilize information from the Academic Skills Inventory, along with feedback from faculty and academic staff to help create customized plans to help ensure students are #CollegeStrong. This will include collaborative planning and recommendations for #CollegeStrong workshops. ASPs can be created pro-actively or as an action item from a Care and Concern Meeting, following an Academic Progress Review, or upon request from a faculty or care team member to help students stay on track for academic success.

Academic Progress Review & Midterm Grade Reports

The Academic Progress Review (APR) meeting is an opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to review academic progress. This can be scheduled after a Care and Concern Meeting, as follow up to other Academic Actions, at different points in the semester, and/or upon request by

a faculty or academic staff member. This is a holistic review of academic progress across all classes.

All students will receive mid-term grades as part of your program.

- Students who plan to continue with Verto for a future semester will meet with your Academic Success Coordinator to ensure you are on track to maintain eligibility (2.5 GPA) for a future term.
- Depending on your post-Verto plan, mid-term grades may be reported to a college official in support of your transfer application, as needed to meet transfer requirements.
- The mid-term grade report may also require a meeting with your faculty or care team to outline strategies for ensuring academic progress, retention and transfer planning.
- If you find that you are not meeting your mid-semester requirements, are at risk for academic probation, or are interested in considering alternate options, participants will be required to complete an Academic Safety Net plan with your ASC.

CARE TEAM SUPPORT, ACADEMIC ADVISING, AND COLLEGE COUNSELING

Each participant will have an assigned care team that includes a Student Life Coordinator and an Academic Success Coordinator. Your Academic Success Coordinator, while working in tandem with College Counseling, Advising & Transfer Services staff across Verto, will work with you to explore and execute your best fit post-Verto plans. All members of the team are committed to working together to support student academic and personal development and success.

To support your academic success, Verto provides the following resources:

Typefinder:

All students complete the Typefinder for Career Planning assessment that pairs personality and career exploration to help assist students in career and major exploration. Utilizing Myers and Briggs' theory of 16 personality types and the Holland Code system of career typing, the Typefinder measures the personality traits and interests to point them to their ideal career path.

College Strong:

College Strong is an Academic Success program that provides group and individual interventions and resources via a toolbox/library in Canvas. Here students can find short, user-friendly lessons to improve their study and work habits, enabling them to perform well

academically and successfully transfer to the university of their choice. College Strong aims to be used by participants in a self-paced environment, by Academic Success Centers (ASCs) during their 1:1 sessions to help students study better, and even by faculty members if they find any material in the College Strong library relevant to their classes.

Learning Skills Inventory:

The Learning Skills Inventory is an individualized assessment that helps evaluate students' study habits in six key areas: Textbook reading, Note-taking, Memory techniques, Test Preparation, Concentration: Study environment, and Time management. ASCs use the survey data to identify areas of improvement for students, set academic goals, and create personalized learning plans. Consistent follow-up is crucial for skill development and fostering resilient, effective study habits.

ASC and Care Team Meetings:

Participants will meet with their Care Teams regularly and have the opportunity to meet one on one with their Academic Success Coordinator at least three times throughout the semester.