



# ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING

Fall 2022 through Spring 2023

Please note that this policy is a draft and subject to change  
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## ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING

### The Verto Method

Verto's mission is to help students discover themselves and the world around them by making international education a foundational and accessible part of a four-year college degree. At the heart of our mission is learning, and Verto subscribes to core pedagogical commitments that inform course development and implementation across all our courses and programs. The learning environment is specifically designed so that all students leave their Verto experience with the academic, social, and emotional skills required to not only thrive in college but to also make a positive and responsible impact in our wider diverse and global society.

The learning environment is characterized by five core principles including active and experiential learning, diverse and inclusive curricula, differentiated instruction, and holistic education.

**Active learning.** Research shows that lecture-only classrooms are markedly less likely to deliver student success than those which engage students with experiences that prioritize [active learning](#). This refers to engaging with, and inviting, students to actively consider and make sense of information using a variety of methods that extend far beyond reading, listening, or memorization. Methods include class discussions, group work, problem-solving, case studies, role plays, reflection, and more. This is made possible by our commitment to small class sizes (generally fewer than 25 students for non-language classes and 18 students for language classes).

**Experiential Learning** Learning happens best when students are actively engaged in the world around them. A great way to achieve this is by taking students out of the classroom, into new settings, to apply learning in practice. That is why faculty emphasize learning through hands-on, experiential activities, such as service learning, field trips, demonstrations, and discussions with individuals from the host community.

**Diverse and Inclusive Curricula** The curriculum is based on a foundational commitment to diversity and inclusion, and to building access and opportunity for all students to thrive and grow. We create learning atmospheres that engender trust and a sense of belonging. Through practices that demonstrate mutual respect, tolerance, and empathy, we build brave spaces for diverse perspectives, experiences, and broad ranging views.

**Differentiated Instruction** We value a student body with diverse backgrounds and differing experiences, and recognize that students will have varied learning experiences, strengths, needs, and interests. We therefore provide the relevant support to ensure that all students succeed and thrive. Whether it be providing [scaffolding](#) to bridge learning gaps for those that need them, or assignments and assessments that challenge more advanced students, our goal is for everyone to be in their [stretch zone](#). Faculty and academic success coordinators meet

students where they are to ensure everyone remains challenged but not panicked (or bored!) by their coursework.

**Holistic Education** Learning should not just be about cultivating academic skills and intellectual knowledge. It should also be about building non-cognitive skills like self-awareness, social awareness, intercultural competence, and responsible decision-making. Prioritizing collaboration, community-building, shared norms, academic integrity, and open and vulnerable dialogue, courses promote not only academic but also social and emotional learning to set students up for long term personal, academic, and career success.

## Academic Success Plans and Academic Actions

Verto strives for each student to feel connected to their academics and personally motivated to grow and succeed in this area. We have created comprehensive systems and advising to support students to achieve their academic goals. Our comprehensive Academic Success Programs include a wide range of tools and resources, as well as advising services to offer students opportunities to achieve their academic goals.

Academic Success Program Strategies:

- Learning Support Services
  - College Strong “Grab and Grow” Toolkit
  - Tutoring
  - Writing Coaching
- Academic Success Programming
  - Learning Labs
  - Academic Workshops
- Academic Success Plans
  - Academic Progress Reviews
  - Mid-Term Grade Reports
- Care Team Support
  - Academic Advising
  - College Counseling
  - Student Life Counselors
- Academic Assessments
  - Academic Skills Assessment
  - Typefinder - Career and Personality Assessment

If a student is not meeting the academic expectations and requirements of a course, or is at risk of not meeting full-time status, Verto has a range of Academic Actions to implement to support student learning and success.

Academic Actions are policies and procedures designed to help students better understand their academic progress, align with academic expectations, and take prompt corrective action(s) when needed. These include:

- *Care and Concern Meetings* - Meetings with Faculty, Academic Success Staff, and/or Care Teams to discuss any academic related concerns.
- *Early Warnings / Academic Warnings* - Notifications to ensure students are aware of academic policies, grades, attendance, and other success indicators.
- *Academic Agreement* - Conflict resolution and academic integrity violation agreements.
- *Academic Improvement Plan* - Strategies to improve academic behaviors and skills to stay on track for successful program completion.
- *Course or Program Dismissal* - If previous academic actions have not been successful, or a student is unable to meet the academic expectations and community guidelines, faculty and staff have authority to dismiss a student from a course or program, as outlined in Verto's Code of Conduct and Academic Policies. Students who drop below 12 credit hours are subject to program dismissal.