ABOUT THE EDITION

Welcome back, Bearcats! I'm Emma Balcom, your next editor-in-chief at The News Record for 2022-23. I am so pleased to present you with our Bearcats Bound guide and welcome you into your next semester at the University of Cincinnati.

As campus has started its transition back to the pre-pandemic normalcy it once knew, we too must adjust back to life outside of lockdown. Making the move to Clifton is a first step, and it may have you wondering where you’re going to live, how you’re going to make money, or even simply how you’re going to get involved in the hustle and bustle of college life.

Wonder no more, for in this guide we’ll answer all your questions and more so that you feel the most prepared you can be to start the first day of fall semester on the right foot. As you flip through these pages, think about how you want to make the most of these formative years at UC and what impact you hope to have in our Bearcat community.

Best of luck this semester!
Emma Balcom

Stories in the summer 2022 Bearcats Bound edition were produced by staff at The News Record – the independent student news organization at the University of Cincinnati.

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The student housing scene in 2022

Allison Kiehl
News Reporter

As the University of Cincinnati (UC) continues to receive record numbers of applications and larger incoming classes of students each year, on-campus housing has become a larger issue for the university’s fully surrounded campus.

With Calhoun Hall under renovation, only three traditional dorms are currently available to students: Siddall, Daniels and Dabney Halls.

These traditional dorms are the most affordable on-campus housing that UC offers to its residents. A multiple occupancy room costs $6,426 per semester, or $12,852 for the year.

The construction of Calhoun Hall has disrupted the number of students who can live in traditional dorms, as the 816 previously available beds housed in Calhoun are inaccessible. This is over 30% of the university’s 2,516 beds contained in traditional dorms.

Calhoun Hall is expected to be fully renovated and ready for student residents in winter 2022. After such a point, Siddall Hall will begin a renovation of similar scale as its sister building, in which its student residents will then move to the renovated Calhoun Hall for the spring semester.

UC has taken steps of action to begin renovations by the Board of Trustees approving 6.5 million dollars in August 2021, that was designated for design and preconstruction purposes.

By March 17, 2022, the university had finished accepting submissions for the Construction Manager at Risk services role in the Siddall renovation. As Siddall goes vacant for its own construction period, around 22% of UC’s traditional beds in traditional dorms would be unavailable.

The department of Planning + Design + Construction was unavailable for immediate comment on the Siddall Hall renovation at this time.

The university does offer different types of dorms to students living on campus. Besides the four traditional style dorms, UC owns 14 other student housing buildings ranging from suite style rooms to actual apartments near to the uptown campus.

According to the U.S. News report, approximately 17% of all UC undergraduate students live on-campus. Besides the four traditional style dorms, UC owns 14 other student housing buildings ranging from suite style rooms to actual apartments near to the uptown campus.

According to the U.S. News report, approximately 17% of all UC undergraduate students live on-campus in such university-owned or operated housing.

University housing includes the recently renovated Morgens and Scioto Halls, as well as The Deacon and Bellevue Gardens apartment complexes.

In addition to operating as a student housing property, Bellevue Gardens is the university’s quarantine and isolation housing for students who may need temporary housing due to COVID-19.

With less beds to offer due to construction and isolation housing, the price tag of on-campus housing at UC continues to be more expensive in the 2022-23 academic year than in prior years.

These traditional dorms are the most affordable on-campus housing that UC offers to its residents. For a multiple occupancy, it would cost an incoming student $3,821 per semester and $7,642 each academic year.

Compared to the same room type, one year prior, this dorm is about 4% or $336 more expensive than in the 2021-22 school year. Beside the rate of the 2019-20 academic year, the price of the same dorm room has risen just over 10%.

The prices of dorms follow an increasing trend at UC, as the price of tuition and meal plans published for the upcoming school year will also come at a greater cost.
Students can now get help from Steger Student Wellness Center

Bryn Dippold | Features Reporter

The hottest new spot at the University of Cincinnati (UC) is also the most relaxing: The Student Wellness Center has moved into the space formerly held by the Main Street Starbucks.

The space, which was once packed and bustling with ‘javaphiles,’ is now filled with cushy chairs, study corners, and — most importantly — a sense of peace.

“We are thrilled to expand the services that we provide for students,” Brandy Reeves, director of the Student Wellness Center, said in a February 2021 statement. “The new space will allow us to engage with students and teach hands-on skills for maintaining and improving their mental wellness and overall well-being.”

The Student Wellness Center has many of the same resources it has had in the past, such as free deodorant, lip balm, condoms, lube, tampons and pads. And like usual, the center is a safe space to talk about well-being and mental health. The difference now, however, is that there is more space for students to engage with each other and reset.

At the center, students can play video and board games, participate in arts and crafts and hang out in small groups on the first floor, which has a primary focus on student engagement and interaction. The second floor is reserved for workshops, in which students will have to register in advance on CampusLink due to limited space.

The Student Wellness Center aims to empower students to make informal decisions regarding their health and wellness by providing evidence-based education, inclusive resources and non-judgmental support, according to their website. They offer an extensive collection of resources and information about various health and wellness topics.

The center also has a Gotcha Covered condom distribution program with over 500 trained volunteers. They also offer free and confidential HIV testing to students the first Monday of each month. Additionally, the Student Wellness Center offers free and private Peer Financial Coaching from trained Peer Financial Coaches, with the goal of assisting UC students to become financially literate and independent.

If you can't make it to the Student Wellness Center during their regular business hours, the Health Hut travels around UC with similar products and resources that are available at the center, and each month, they have a special theme that features more in-depth activities, resources and information focused on that topic.

The Student Wellness Center is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, though, so students will have plenty of opportunities to check it out.

“We don’t want it to just be like the library where students might come to do homework,” Reeves previously said to The News Record. “We want students to know that this is a space for them to engage with other people, to engage with their wellbeing.”

“Yes, we’re going to have things that explicitly address mental wellness,” she said, “but we’re also going to sort of implicitly address students’ wellness and really make this a space where students can interact with each other and connect with each other.”
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The most useful student resources available on campus

Joe Frye | Life & Arts Editor

College can be difficult at times. Luckily, at the University of Cincinnati (UC), there are a number of resources that students can make use of to assist them along in their college experience. Here are just a handful of those resources to make sure your time at UC is safe, fun and successful.

Counseling and Psychological Services
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is available 24 hours a day for students to access psychological care while at UC. Providing students with up to three free individual consultation sessions, unlimited group sessions and various online resources, CAPS seeks to create “an optimal healthy environment for students to grow psychologically, relationally, and intellectually, as well as achieve wellness and academic success,” according to the service’s mission statement.

225 Calhoun Street, Suite 200

Women’s Center
The UC Women’s Center offers women and gender non-conforming students a place on campus to foster community, fight gender inequity and find support. The center also provides trainings such as Women in Leadership and Learning and Start Smart Salary Negotiation Training, both of which help to create the future leaders of the intersectional feminism movements. Throughout the semester, in addition to providing day-to-day support for Black UC students, the center hosts special events such as Kuamka, a weeklong celebration of Black excellence, and Talk About It Tuesdays, where Black students can participate in communal conversation on a weekly basis.

60 W. Charlton

LGBTQ+ Center
The UC LGBTQ+ Center offers Bearcats a spot to find community, support and inclusivity on campus. Offering support groups for LGBTQ+ Bearcats in addition to training for allies, the center is open to every student on campus. The center also hosts numerous social events throughout the year, such as Lavender Graduation, a ceremony to honor LGBTQ+ students and allies for their achievements, and Alternative Spring Break, an annual trip for students to learn about equal justice initiatives.

565 Steger Student Life Center

African American Cultural & Resource Center
Supporting UC’s Black student body and any of their needs is the African American Cultural & Resource Center (AACRC). Created in 1991, the AACRC has been providing Black students with a supportive environment while also challenging the systemic racism that has commonly plagued universities.

Throughout the semester, in addition to providing day-to-day support for Black UC students, the center hosts special events such as Kuamka, a weeklong celebration of Black excellence, and Talk About It Tuesdays, where Black students can participate in communal conversation on a weekly basis.

The AACRC supports the Black student body and any of their needs at the University of Cincinnati.

60 W. Charlton

Bearcats Pantry
Students experiencing food insecurity can find resources such as food, hygiene products, professional clothing and cleaning products in the Bearcat Pantry. Providing for students in need since 2017, the Bearcat Pantry offers both fresh and shelf stable food, meal vouchers and to-go bags to make sure that every UC student has the resources they need to be successful. The pantry is open five days a week and doesn’t require proof of need.

Stratford Heights, Building 16, Rm 007

Learning Commons
Students can find free academic support of all types at the Learning Commons, a student-led organization. Offering help in writing, math, science and more, all students must do is schedule an appointment to receive assistance. Additionally, students can enroll in the Success Skills Workshops, where important skills such as time management, efficient note taking and successful group work are regularly taught free of charge in one-hour classes.

2510B French Hall West

International Services
International students can find assistance adjusting to their new life in Clifton through UC International’s office. With faculty available to help, students are sure to find support with any issues that may arise while in Cincinnati, whether that be visa and immigration needs, finding their way around campus or making new friends. Furthermore, the office’s iBearcatsGlobal portal has streamlined much of these processes, allowing students to fill out forms, make appointments with UC International and check visa status all in one place.

7148 Edwards Center One
The most useful student resources available on campus to-go bags to make sure that every UC student has the resources they need to be successful. The pantry is open five days a week and doesn't require proof of need. Stratford Heights, Building 16, Rm 007 Learning Commons

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Zachary Jarrell | News Director

Spring 2022 was full of news, but here are the five most important stories from last semester to get you up to date on the latest happening on campus.

‘We have to transition back’: Students react to UC’s decision to drop mask mandate

With the University of Cincinnati’s (UC) recent decision to drop its indoor mask mandate, some students have expressed relief and excitement, while others remain apprehensive.

As of March 12, the university eliminated all masking restrictions and removed a weekly testing requirement for unvaccinated individuals.

Zeke Texter, a fourth-year communications and marketing student, agrees with the university’s changed COVID-19 guidelines to not mask indoors.

“With cases going down to the lowest it has been since early November, I think it makes sense,” said Texter. “It is good that we’re doing it gradually, and not just immediately. Not just because the weather is getting nicer, but I think it makes sense.”

Rebecca Yardy, a third-year pre-physical therapy student, says that the lessened COVID-19 precautions make her more stressed about maintaining her safety while on campus.

“I think it will be a little more stressful since the people who haven’t gone vaccinated could potentially be carrying it around because I have older parents who while they may be vaccinated if I happen to carry it back to them,” said Yardy. “It is scary because I don’t want to put other people at risk.”

Allison Kiehl | News Reporter

Smitherman and Matinez elected 2022-23 student body president and vice president

Isaac Smitherman and Yulia Martinez will be the next student body president and vice president at the University of Cincinnati (UC) for 2022-23.

Weeks of campaigning ended March 4, as the votes were tallied and the victorious Smitherman/Martinez presidential slate was revealed at Kade Center in Old Chem. Despite the serious nature of last Friday’s proceedings, the atmosphere in Kade Center was reminiscent of a sweet 16, with balloons, cookies and 2010s hits.

Although Martinez worried the Raphael Hicks/Casey Harloe slate was likely to beat them when the time came, it turns out their fears were unfounded, as their slate finished victorious.

Zurie Pope | Staff Reporter

Phishing scams targeting UC students in bulk

Phishing scams at the University of Cincinnati (UC) have become prevalent, targeting students online and through emails.

At UC, these phishing schemes have come in the form of emails on subjects such as applying for jobs, getting exclusive benefits and making high wages.
The stories you need to know from spring 2022

Students have reported seeing emails regarding applying for tax benefits, bitcoin account reports and job applications, among other malicious emails sent to students’ UC emails.

An unusual message was even posted on UC’s official Instagram account. Similar to the reported scams, a post on the account’s story advertised a contact earning $28,000 in just two hours.

The message encourages viewers to direct message the post to “increase your money.”

Allison Kiehl | News Reporter

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Allison Kiehl | News Reporter

UC names former CPD Chief Eliot Isaac as next UCPD, Public Safety Leader

Eliot Isaac, the recently retired Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) chief, will be the next person to lead the University of Cincinnati’s (UC) Department of Public Safety and Police Division (UCPD). President Neville Pinto announced March 30.

Isaac said he is “extremely excited” to be the next Director of Public Safety and UCPD Chief at UC, noting that he is looking forward to “building upon the accomplishments in Public Safety and deepening the relationships with all of our partners.”

Though Isaac’s tenure as CPD chief is widely seen as successful, he did endure some controversy.

In 2018, Isaac was added to a federal lawsuit against the city, former City Manager Harry Black, former Mayor John Cranley and others – where a veteran Cincinnati police captain alleged he was passed over for promotion because he challenged city officials. Jeff Butler, the plaintiff, later “won” the lawsuit, accepting a monetary deal in exchange for dismissing his claims. According to his lawyer, the city admitted wrongdoing.

Zachary Jarrell | News Director

Lindner family among Cincinnati businesspeople funding Trump’s election falsehoods

Numerous candidates for U.S. Sen. Rob Portman’s (R-OH) seat in the Ohio Senate race have echoed former President Trump’s election falsehoods, with Josh Mandel, Jane Timken, J.D. Vance and Mike Gibbons all supporting the idea. None would be able to maintain their campaigns were it not for an influx of donors from across the country, including members of the Lindner family who have ties to the University of Cincinnati (UC).

Zurie Pope | Staff Reporter

Provided | University of Cincinnati
Finding your place at UC
Students reflect on their first-year anxieties

Emma Segrest | Features Editor

Coming to college for the first time can be terrifying for any student, with the introduction of a new place, new people, new rules and new culture. The flood of so many new things at once can be incredibly anxiety-inducing.

The term ‘culture shock’ refers to the idea of increased distress due to being in an unfamiliar setting with new cultural practices and implied rules that one isn’t accustomed to. The idea of culture shock for incoming students is often under discussion as a prevalent problem.

Anxiety about starting at the University of Cincinnati (UC) is completely normal. For fourth-year communication and English student Sarah Dieterich, their initial reaction moving into the UC residence halls was equal parts anxiety and fear.

“I remember moving into Daniels Hall and as soon as I saw how small the room I was going to be sharing with three strangers was, I just started crying,” Dieterich said. “I was so overwhelmed, and I didn’t know what I was even supposed to do once my mom left.”

In their first year at UC, Dieterich struggled a lot with anxiety. They would skip social events and even meals if they felt the situation was going to be too crowded, especially if they were going by themselves. But what Dieterich didn’t realize was the way so many other students felt similar during their first year, especially their first semester.

Spencer Kleeh, a third-year computer science student, also experienced anxiety when first coming to UC. Not many people from his high school made the move to Cincinnati, and for the first time in eight years he had to learn to make new friends.

“There is nothing quite like college and it is such a huge change to deal with as a freshman,” Kleeh said. “I definitely think a lot of freshmen struggle with a good deal of culture shock, which really takes time to work through.”

Anxiety happens, and learning to cope and find ways to work with it is an important skill many first years at UC learn. Dieterich recalls listening to podcasts while they walked around to help them feel less lonely. Kleeh would find solace at The 86 café. Both would want to tell their younger self that it’s okay to struggle.

“Things got so bad my first year that I was considering transferring or just dropping out of school; I felt so alone because everyone around me had found a group they fit in with and felt like they belonged, and I didn’t have that instant connection,” Dieterich said. “I wish there’d been someone to tell me that I wasn’t alone, and not everything immediately clicks for everyone.”

It can take time to find your footing in a new place, but at UC there is a place for everyone. With dozens of clubs, sports, organizations and more on campus, there is a place for every student to find their footing. Dieterich has been a member of the UC marching band during their years at UC. Kleeh has begun hosting DIY house shows with his roommate. Both have found ease in their presence at UC, and their anxiety about not belonging has stayed behind with their first year selves.

“The coolest thing I’ve experienced at UC is there’s a slice of something for everyone,” Kleeh said. “With the amount of students we have, there is a group of people out there somewhere dedicated to doing whatever it is you love doing the most and you can find them.”

Both Kleeh and Dieterich’s best advice for first years is to find a routine; wake up at a good time, try and find an organized time to get dinner with a friend or to attend a club meeting. Don’t be afraid to try something new. College is a fresh start for everyone, and this can be empowering.

“One of the things I looked forward to most when I was a freshman was that coming to college was a fresh start,” Dieterich said. “It was scary, but I also changed a lot when I came to college and people didn’t judge me because they didn’t know how different I was even a year before meeting them.”

Anxiety is common as a first-year student at the University of Cincinnati.

Aidan Mahoney | Staff Photographer
Finding your place at UC

Students reflect on their first-year anxieties

Anxiety is common as a first-year student at the University of Cincinnati.

Aidan Mahoney | Staff Photographer

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The most notable alumni of UC athletics

Landon Bartlett | Sports Reporter

As one of the most historic athletic programs in all of the NCAA, the Cincinnati Bearcats have garnered their fair share of iconic alumni over the years. From national championships in the NCAA to an even bigger stage in the Olympics, the Bearcats’ footprint has been ingrained in sports history through these athletes.

With a Big 12 move on the horizon, and new facilities in place to raise the bar, this list will only grow as the Cincinnati Bearcats continue towards greatness.

Oscar Robertson

The only athlete on this list with a statue on campus, Oscar Robertson dropped his name in the hat as “greatest college athlete of all time” during his three-year tenure as a Bearcat. Despite not winning a national championship on the court, the individual accolades were not at a premium. So much so, the United States Writers Association renamed their trophy the Oscar Robertson Trophy — an award given to college basketball’s most outstanding player on a yearly basis.

Robertson broke nearly a dozen NCAA and school records during his time in Clifton and is still Cincinnati’s all-time leading scorer with 2,973 points from 1957-60. The National Association of Basketball Coaches recognized Robertson as “Player of the Century” for his outstanding achievements on the basketball court. Catch his name, number and picture displayed in the rafters of Fifth-Third Arena.

Jordan Thompson

Another NCAA record-breaker is Cincinnati volleyball’s Jordan Thompson, who holds the school record for most kills in a season with 827 in 2018. Her 6.27 kills per set also broke the NCAA record on her journey to First-Team All-American status in 2019. Thompson and the Bearcats made a run in the NCAA tournament her senior year, becoming the first American Athletic Conference team to make it to the Sweet 16.

The Minnesota native dominated her entire career as a Bearcat, from 2015-19, and did not slow down after. A key member to the 2021 Olympic volleyball
Sandy Koufax

Revered as one of baseball’s greatest pitchers, 1954 Bearcats baseball player Sandy Koufax only spent one year on the mound — or on the college baseball field at all — before making his way to the MLB. Initially a walk-on to the basketball program, Koufax quickly became known for his blazing fastball in route to his 3-1 record with the Bearcats.

Koufax went on to win the World Series four times — including his rookie season — for the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers, as well as three Cy Young Awards and a National League Most Valuable Player award. Koufax, like Robertson — and Kelce based on career trajectory — have all cemented their names among their respective sports’ all-time greats and are proof that Bearcats’ blood intertwines within the world’s greatest sports.

Honorable mentions

Every athlete to don the red and black in Cincinnati over its 203-year history have contributed to the culture that makes up one of the NCAA’s most storied athletic programs:

Mary Wineberg, former UC track and field athlete, Olympic gold medalist in the women’s 4x400 meter.

Annette Echikunwoke, former UC track and field athlete, NCAA champion and Olympian in the hammer throw.

Kenyon Martin, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2000 NBA Draft and college football playoff semifinalist.
The top five things to know about UC football

Owen Racer | Sports Editor

The University of Cincinnati’s (UC) historic 2021 football season broke countless records, leading to one of the Bearcats’ most significant off-seasons yet, and expectations for 2022 have never been higher. As the off-season nears its end, here are the top five things to know about Cincinnati football ahead of the first game of the fall.

Quarterback vacancy to be filled

After the 2021 winningest active quarterback of college football, Desmond Ridder, parted with Cincinnati after five seasons for the NFL, a contested offseason battle to fill his shoes ensued.

The candidates — Evan Prater and Ben Bryant — have both been patiently waiting for their shot to lead the Bearcats, and whoever ends up under-center on Sept. 3 to open the season against Arkansas won’t have gotten there without a battle.

According to people familiar with the matter, the Bearcats endured a longer-than-usual summer camp in Indiana, where the battle for quarterback is likely to take place.

Luke Fickell is looking at big changes in his team over the next year

Fresh off a $5 million per year contract extension through 2028, Cincinnati football head coach Luke Fickell is entering his sixth season at the Bearcats’ helm. Not only is this Fickell’s first season without Ridder, but he also graduated 30 seniors after the 2021 season, most of which had been with him since 2017.

Although Fickell seems to have made a place for himself in Cincinnati, he is entering what is possibly his last season in the American Athletic Conference, as the Bearcats are looking to capitalize on their initiation into the Big 12 conference sooner than originally planned.

Cincinnati is the team to beat

Beating Cincinnati in 2022 will be a statement upset win for any team, as the Bearcats have established themselves as the best non-Power Five school in the program. Cincinnati’s historic 2021 season put a target on their back that gained further traction with each game, and they now have more to lose than they once had to gain.

Looking forward to the upcoming season, a confrontation with Fickell’s Bearcats should not be taken lightly by any team in the way it once was.

The future of recruitment is now

While the spotlight on the future of the Bearcats is shining on the Big 12 conference, there is still pressure on new recruits to really make the program bright. Recruitment, which truly never ends, has become a staple to Fickell’s success, and the future stars dawning the C-paw throughout Big 12 stadiums are destined to be mutually attracted to UC this season.

If Cincinnati can claim the national spotlight with their 2022 season as they did en route to the College Football Playoffs in 2021, their recruitment is sure to flourish and lead them to a grand entry into the Big 12.

Sigma Sigma Commons is the hub for tailgating

Sigma Sigma Commons, the largest outdoor green space on UC’s main campus beside the Carl H. Lindner College of Business, is by far the best place for fans to be prior to home games for the 2021 season.

Bearcat fans tailgated for hours, packed into the green space under their own personal tents to catch live music, snacks and the occasional round of cornhole before home games, and to see the team walk from their busses to Nippert Stadium.
On-campus jobs for the working student

Joi Dean | Staff Reporter

Anyone can agree that starting your academic career in college is an incredible accomplishment and a step towards a window of opportunity for a bright future. Yet, education at the collegiate level is expensive, and finding an accessible job to help pay tuition isn't always an easy feat.

 Thankfully, the University of Cincinnati (UC) offers a variety of on-campus positions for students so that you can secure your paycheck with ease. Here are a handful of the many jobs on campus that UC has available.

Resident Advisor (RA)

As a Resident Advisor (RA), students can use their leadership skills to lead their peers within the UC community. RAs at the university are responsible for demonstrating the core values of the Resident Education and Development (RED): Leadership, inclusion and community.

According to RED, RAs develop skills through their position that will help them to lead themselves and their peers, create a welcoming environment within UC’s various residence halls, and create a "lifelong impact" on their residents’ college experience.

On top of developing necessary life skills, RAs receive housing scholarships in the residence hall they preside over and lead their residents through various community engagement and learning activities and crisis management situations.

The recruitment period for 2022-23 opens in the fall for students interested in becoming an RA, and RED will host information sessions from September to November.

Commitment is about 15 hours per week, and duties and responsibilities vary.

Desk Assistant (DA)

Desk assistants (DA) play a vital part in making sure that each residence hall community is operating smoothly from day-to-day. Students with strong customer service skills are especially suited to this position, as DAs aim to provide a sense of understanding and assistance for their own residents and other members of the UC community.

From helping residents with specific questions about their housing situations to organizing and distributing incoming packages and other forms of mail, there are many different responsibilities that a DA can have.

Academic Coaching

As students progress into the semester and get their bearing on their coursework, they might be suited to help their peers excel in academics through academic coaching.

According to the Learning Commons, academic coaches can come from a plethora of majors and different walks of life. Their duties include meeting with UC students to figure out their strengths and areas that they may need assistance in, such as time management, reading strategies, note taking, studying and even test taking.

Academic coaches are then responsible for creating individualized exercises tailored to the area the student would like to improve on. Coaching schedules are flexible with other co-curricular activities.

Commitment is a minimum of 8.5 hours per week.

Front Desk Assistant

For those that excel with multitasking, a position at the front desk of the Learning Commons could be an excellent post. Tasks include everything from keeping track of Learning Commons resources and attendance on the database to managing sessions related to academic help, going over appointment reports and answering questions from UC students and faculty.

Frequent face-to-face interaction with community members has also allowed students to develop meaningful connections within their professional network to assist them with future career goals.

Commitment is a minimum of seven hours a week.
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