

Executive Summary

Blueprint for Academic Excellence Preston Residential College AY2022-2023

Highlights

We are pleased to report that despite space restrictions and COVID-related policies in the 2020-2021 academic year, all residents attended at least one or more events in Preston. Our peer mentoring initiative (between returning and new students) facilitated successful integration into life at Preston Residential College. Two leadership seminars were offered: a half day seminar in the Fall, and a weekend seminar in the Spring. Other leadership opportunities included Lunches with the Dean, Hall Government experience, and leadership of Preston organizations. The Preston Scholars Program continues to grow with 44 students of different class levels and majors. This program fully integrates GLD and is framed around the Preston Pillars (Knowledge, Passion, Community and Responsibility). We successfully hosted the Residential College Symposium in November 2020.

Mission Statement

As a creative and vibrant undergraduate living and learning community, Preston Residential College is committed to building leaders and transforming the world. We achieve this through meaningful relationships with faculty and staff, intellectual exchange through diversity of thought, civic engagement, and creative expression. Committed to mentorship, leadership development, social interaction, and student-led initiatives, we strive to engage our students in learning both within and beyond the classroom.

Updated: 08/30/2021

Vision Statement

Preston Residential College seeks to provide a transformative undergraduate experience by fostering a close-knit family of scholars, purposeful interactions, a commitment to servant leadership, and a passion for civic engagement.

Updated: 02/23/2019

Values Statement

Updated: 02/08/2019

Table Of Content

Executive Summary	1
Highlights	1
Mission Statement	1
Vision Statement	1
Values Statement	1
Goals - Looking Back	3
Goals - Real Time	8
Goals - Looking Ahead	12
Programs or Initiatives	16
Effective Programs or Initiatives	16
Program Launches	16
Program Terminations	16
Program Rankings	16
Initiatives and Fees	18
Initiatives	18
Fees	18
Community Engagement	19
Community Perceptions	19
Collaborations	20
Internal Collaborations	20
External Collaborations	20
Campus Climate and Inclusion	21
Campus Climate and Inclusion	21
Concluding Remarks	22
Weaknesses and Plans for Improvement	22
Key Issues	22
Quantitative Outcomes	22
Cool Stuff	22

Goals - Looking Back

Goal 1 - Support for academic attainment

Goal Statement	Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Preston residents are afforded the opportunity to take classes with one another and to use the multiple study rooms in Preston. By promoting interaction between students and Preston Associates, as well as academic resources and workshops, residents have additional experiences to enhance their academic attainment.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Develop and implement small academic courses and foster intellectual exchange between Preston residents and University faculty; create for-credit leadership course. Develop programs to create purposeful shared interactions between students and Preston Associates; recruit and retain new Preston Associates; facilitate dialog surrounding GLD. Promote and facilitate international travel and inquiry through informational programs and competitive grants that provide stipends to support study abroad.
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 sections of 7 courses were offered for Preston residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ UNIV 101 (2 sections) ◦ ENG 101 ◦ BIOL 101 ◦ PSYC 101 ◦ ENGL102 ◦ STAT 206 ◦ SPCH 140 • No new initiatives to create programs to create purposeful shared interactions between students and Preston Associates • 43 students were enrolled in the Preston Scholars Program (which complements GLD)

Goals - Looking Back

Resources Utilized	Time and energy of Senior Assistant Principal to coordinate courses offered. Time, energy, and budget for Faculty Principal and Senior Assistant Principal to meet with course instructors. Time and energy of Graduate Assistant to manage the Preston Scholars Program.
Goal Continuation	Will continue for 2021-2022
Goal Upcoming Plans	Develop for-credit leadership course. Continue to recruit new Preston Associates.
Resources Needed	More funding to support larger travel grants and/or more expensive study abroad locations. Working with University Housing Residential Education to create new sections for Preston residents.
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Back

Goal 2 - Connecting students to UofSC

Goal Statement	Connect resident students to UofSC opportunities and activities both as part of the living and learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the University.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Connect resident students to UofSC opportunities and activities both as part of the living and learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the University
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Continue Preston Mentor Program for one-semester relationship with opportunity to renew. Continue and expand Preston Scholars Program and graduate the fifth cohort. Continue to improve relationships with partnering offices and advertise their services to residents.
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preston Scholars Program graduated 6 students in the fifth cohort, bringing the cumulative total to 22. • There are currently 44 students in the Preston Scholars Program working towards GLD • The Preston Mentor Program matched 22 incoming students with current and former residents for a one-semester relationship. • 100% of mentors would recommend participating the Preston Mentor Program to both incoming students and returning students.
Resources Utilized	Time and energy of Senior Assistant Principal and Graduate Assistant to work with Preston Mentor and Preston Scholars Programs
Goal Continuation	N/A
Goal Upcoming Plans	N/A
Resources Needed	N/A
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Back

Goal 3 - Connections to Faculty Principal

Goal Statement	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with the Faculty Principal.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Preston residents are encouraged to interact and connect with the Faculty Principal by Dr. Lara Lomicka Anderson hosting weekly Student Hours and monthly events. She hosted monthly dinners with students, a welcome reception, and a game night.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Faculty Principal will meet with students who are struggling academically to craft an academic plan. Requiring students of academic concern to complete mid-semester check-ins with each of their professors, the results of which will be discussed with the Faculty Principal.
Achievements	N/A
Resources Utilized	Time and energy of Senior Assistant Principal and Business Manager to assist in coordination of events and meetings.
Goal Continuation	Goals will continue for 2021-2022
Goal Upcoming Plans	N/A
Resources Needed	N/A
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Back

Goal 4 - Promotion of leadership development

Goal Statement	Provide students opportunities and programs to promote leadership and civic engagement within Preston and the greater UofSC community.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Preston Residential College supports leadership development by sponsoring student organizations, independent leadership development, incorporating leadership development into Preston classes, and encouraging involvement in the greater UofSC campus community and the Columbia community.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Preston staff are available for individual mentoring. Support organization participation both internal and external to Preston. Career preparedness workshops and individual consultations. Purposeful interaction with Preston Associates. Participation in leadership seminars and workshops. Provost Leadership Week events within Preston. Community service opportunities and sponsored conference attendance.
Achievements	Senior Assistant Principal Sarah Kelly met with 14 students for resume review and critique.
Resources Utilized	Having upperclass students return to the community each year is a hallmark of a residential college.
Goal Continuation	Goal will continue for 2021-2022
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Goals - Real Time

Goals for the current Academic Year.

Goal 1 - Support for academic attainment

Goal Statement	Provide supportive living and learning environments and encourage engagement and high impact practices that promote academic attainment of resident students.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Preston residents are afforded the opportunity to take classes with one another and to use the multiple study rooms in Preston. By promoting interaction between students and Preston Associates, as well as academic resources and workshops, residents have additional experiences to enhance their academic attainment.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Develop and implement small academic courses and foster intellectual exchange between Preston residents and University faculty. Develop programs to create purposeful shared interactions between students and Preston Associates. Facilitate dialog surrounding GLD. Promote and facilitate international travel and inquiry through informational programs and competitive grants that provide stipends to support study abroad.
Achievements	N/A
Resources Utilized	Time and energy of Senior Assistant Principal to coordinate courses offered. Time and energy of Office Manager to coordinate and manage study abroad quotes.
Goal Continuation	Goal will continue for 2022-2023
Goal Upcoming Plans	Working with University Housing Residential Education to offer new classes for Preston residents. Continue study abroad program. Continue to recruit new Preston Associates.
Resources Needed	More funding to support larger travel grants and/or more expensive study abroad locations.
Goal Notes	

Goals - Real Time

Goal 2 - Connecting students to UofSC

Goal Statement	Ensure that students from all groups are connected to UofSC and that all students are exposed to diversity and develop an attitude of inclusiveness and understanding of equity.
Linkage to University Goal	
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Connect resident students to UofSC opportunities and activities both as part of the living and learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the University
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Continue Preston Mentor Program for one-semester relationship with opportunity to renew. Continue and expand Preston Scholars Program and graduate the fourth cohort. Improve relationships with partnering offices and advertise their services to residents.
Achievements	N/A
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	Goal will continue for 2022-2023
Goal Upcoming Plans	N/A
Resources Needed	N/A
Goal Notes	

Goals - Real Time

Goal 3 - Connections to Faculty Principal

Goal Statement	Enhance resident's living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with Faculty Principal
Linkage to University Goal	
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Preston residents were encouraged to interact and connect with the Faculty Principal by Dr. Lara Lomicka Anderson hosting weekly office hours and monthly Lodge Dinners.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Faculty Principal will meet with students who were struggling academically to craft an academic plan.
Achievements	N/A
Resources Utilized	Time and energy of Faculty Principal for events. Funding for materials used at Faculty Principal events. Time and energy of Senior Assistant Principal or Graduate Assistant to help with marketing and RSVP lists for events
Goal Continuation	Goal will continue for 2022-2023
Goal Upcoming Plans	Continue weekly office hours, Lodge Dinners, and other ways to interact with residents in an informal setting.
Resources Needed	N/A
Goal Notes	

Goals - Real Time

Goal 4 - Promotion of leadership development

Goal Statement	Provide students opportunities and programs to promote leadership and civic engagement within Preston and the greater UofSC community.
Linkage to University Goal	
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Preston Residential College supports leadership development by sponsoring student organizations, facilitating independent leadership development, incorporating leadership development into Preston classes, and encouraging involvement in the greater UofSC campus community and the Columbia community.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Preston staff will be available for individual mentoring. Students will have support for organization participation both internal and external to Preston. Career preparedness workshops and individual consultations. Purposeful interaction with Preston Associates. Participation in leadership seminars and workshops. Community service opportunities; sponsored conference attendance.
Achievements	N/A
Resources Utilized	Having upperclass students return to the community each year is a hallmark of a residential college. The formal and informal mentorship they offer to incoming students is priceless. Time and energy of professional and graduate staff to advise organizations.
Goal Continuation	Goal will continue for 2022-2023
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Ahead

Goals for the next Academic Year.

Goal 1 - Support for academic attainment

Goal Statement	Provide supportive living and learning environments and encourage engagement and high impact practices that promote academic attainment of resident students.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Preston residents are afforded the opportunity to take classes with one another and to use the multiple study rooms in Preston. By promoting interaction between students and Preston Associates, as well as academic resources and workshops, residents have additional experiences to enhance their academic attainment.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Develop and implement small academic courses and foster intellectual exchange between Preston residents and University faculty. Develop programs to create purposeful shared interactions between students and Preston Associates. Facilitate dialog surrounding GLD. Promote and facilitate international travel and inquiry through informational programs and competitive grants that provide stipends to support study abroad.
Achievements	N/A
Resources Utilized	Time and energy of Senior Assistant Principal to coordinate courses offered. Time and energy of Office Manager to coordinate and manage study abroad quotes.
Goal Continuation	Goal will continue for 2022-2023
Goal Upcoming Plans	Working with University Housing Residential Education to offer new classes for Preston residents. Continue study abroad program. Continue to recruit new Preston Associates.
Resources Needed	More funding to support larger travel grants and/or more expensive study abroad locations.
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Ahead

Goal 2 - Connecting students to UofSC

Goal Statement	Ensure that students from all groups are connected to UofSC and that all students are exposed to diversity and develop an attitude of inclusiveness and understanding of equity.
Linkage to University Goal	
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Connect resident students to UofSC opportunities and activities both as part of the living and learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the University
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Continue Preston Mentor Program for one-semester relationship with opportunity to renew. Continue and expand Preston Scholars Program. Improve relationships with partnering offices and advertise their services to residents.
Achievements	N/A
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	Goal will continue for 2022-2023
Goal Upcoming Plans	N/A
Resources Needed	N/A
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Ahead

Goal 3 - Connections to Faculty Principal

Goal Statement	Enhance resident's living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with Faculty Principal
Linkage to University Goal	
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Preston residents were encouraged to interact and connect with the Faculty Principal by hosting weekly office hours, monthly dinners with residents, and other events at the faculty residence.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Faculty Principal will meet with students regularly each semester who are struggling academically to craft an academic plan.
Achievements	N/A
Resources Utilized	Time and energy of Faculty Principal for events. Funding for materials used at Faculty Principal events. Time and energy of Senior Assistant Principal or Graduate Assistant to help with marketing and RSVP lists for events
Goal Continuation	Goal will continue for 2022-2023
Goal Upcoming Plans	Continue weekly office hours, Lodge Dinners, and other ways to interact with residents in an informal setting.
Resources Needed	N/A
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Ahead

Goal 4 - Promotion of leadership development

Goal Statement	Provide students opportunities and programs to promote leadership and civic engagement within Preston and the greater UofSC community.
Linkage to University Goal	
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Preston Residential College supports leadership development by sponsoring student organizations, independent leadership development, incorporating leadership development into Preston classes, and encouraging involvement in the greater UofSC campus community and the Columbia community.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Preston staff will be available for individual mentoring. Students will have support for organization participation both internal and external to Preston. Career preparedness workshops and individual consultations. Purposeful interaction with Preston Associates. Participation in leadership seminars and workshops. Community service opportunities; sponsored conference attendance.
Achievements	N/A
Resources Utilized	Having upperclass students return to the community each year is a hallmark of a residential college. The formal and informal mentorship they offer to incoming students is priceless. Time and energy of professional and graduate staff to advise organizations.
Goal Continuation	Goal will continue for 2022-2023
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Programs or Initiatives

Effective Programs or Initiatives

List your most effective programs/initiatives toward fulfillment of mission.

Lunch with the Dean was a very successful endeavor:

- 100% say Lunch with the Dean was a positive experience
- 100% say I have a stronger connection to my college after Lunch with the Dean
- 100% say the Dean made an effort to get to know more about me and my experiences in the college
- 100% of respondents would recommend Lunch with the Dean to other Preston residents
- "Having lunch with the Dean of my college definitively provided some important guidance when choosing majors and their concentration.?"
- "Lunch with the Dean made me feel motivated. Gained knowledge about the best way to enhance my experience at the University from the dean and that means a lot."

Dr. Lara Lomicka Anderson's weekly Student Hours brought in 20-30 students each week for informal conversation with the faculty principal.

Program Launches

List any programs/initiatives that were newly launched during the Academic Year or any programs/initiatives you would like to launch in the coming year(s). Describe the program/initiatives, provide financial requirements (including additional staff), and academic year in which you would launch. What key performance indicators are you utilizing to track the success of this program?

Coffee Club is a regularly-scheduled event for residents to interact with Preston staff. It began as a weekly event and then transitioned to a monthly activity. Students are invited to join Preston staff for coffee and breakfast treats before class. Associates and other campus professionals occasionally participate as well

The Preston Mentor Program had more mentors signed up than mentees, which led to a 100% match rate for incoming students.

The Preston Scholar Program continues to enroll more students each semester for a total of 44 students participating in 2020-2021, plus 6 graduated as Preston Scholars.

The first-ever Preston Cup debuted in Spring 2021, with a high percentage of participants being male, and also on our low-engager list.

Program Terminations

List any programs that were newly terminated or discontinued during the Academic Year. Provide justification as to why the program was discontinued.

2020-2021 was the last year Preston Dining was a required component of our community. Residents will no longer be required to purchase a separate meal plan from others on campus.

Program Rankings

Programs or Initiatives

List any nationally ranked or external recognition during the Academic Year. For each, provide the formal name of the program followed by the name of the organization that issued the ranking, the date of notification, effective date range, and any other relevant information.

Initiatives and Fees

Initiatives

Describe any new initiatives your unit will need for the coming year.

Fees

List any new or changed fees that your unit has implemented or had to take on in the last academic year.

Community Engagement

Community Perceptions

Describe how your unit assesses community perceptions of your engagement, and how the unit assesses the impact of community engagement on students, faculty, community and the institution. Provide specific findings.

YIMPACT, Preston's community service organization, leads multiple service events each semester. This group also participates in fundraising for national and international organizations.

Dr. Lara Lomicka Anderson recently participated in a research study on high-impact practices with Elon's Center for Engaged Learning's research group in order to explore Residential Learning Communities as a High-Impact Practice. This three-year commitment allowed her to engage in collaborative multi-institutional research with colleagues from around the nation.

Collaborations

Internal Collaborations

List your Unit's most significant internal collaborations and multidisciplinary efforts that are internal to the University. Details should be omitted; list by name only.

Lunches with the Dean included visits from Deans from Arts and Sciences and Business

Representatives from Preston, Capstone, Maxcy, Green Quad, Rhodos, and Galen hosted the 7th annual Residential College Symposium, a virtual symposium in October 2020.

- 332 registrations (the largest audience in the 7-year history of the Symposium)
- Over 60 institutions in 25 states
 - 30 of those schools have not participated in this conference before!
- 25 education sessions
- 4 plenary speakers including UofSC's Dr. Jennifer Keup and former Preston resident Aidan Baker, University of South Carolina, BBA Marketing 2022
- 93% of attendees said the conference met or exceeded their expectations
- New additions to the conference this year
 - Small group discussions about COVID and BLM and Social Justice
 - Daily mindfulness activities

External Collaborations

List your Unit's most significant external collaborations and multidisciplinary efforts that are external to the University. Details should be omitted; list by name only.

Campus Climate and Inclusion

Campus Climate and Inclusion

Activities the unit conducted that were designed to improve Campus, Climate, and Inclusion.

- Due to COVID-19, Preston was unable to execute a study abroad program

Concluding Remarks

Weaknesses and Plans for Improvement

What is your unit struggling with? What plans do you have to overcome the weakness that you have faced in the next academic year.

- Attendance at events, particularly those with an academic and/or leadership focus
- More targeted outreach to groups (men, Greek life, low engagers)
- Ask students the topic(s) of most interest and program towards them
- Students (residents and leaders) adhering to procedures and deadlines
- Continued training for student leaders
- Communication with various offices and partners around campus

Key Issues

Identify key issues or potential challenges your unit will encounter this coming year and the steps you plan on initiating.

- Loss of Business Manager in January, did not fill the position for the remainder of the academic year.
- Working with Aramark during COVID with menu rotations and attendance was a challenge
- Recruitment of graduate students continues to be a challenge, both at UofSC and in Preston. We will continue to brainstorm ways to enhance the benefits to attract candidates
- Lack of on-campus visit days during the Housing application period hindered our application numbers

Quantitative Outcomes

Explain any surprises regarding data provided in the quantitative outcomes modules throughout this report.

Cool Stuff

Describe innovations, happy accidents, good news, etc. that occurred within your unit not noted elsewhere in your reporting.

- Sarah Kelly and Lara Lomicka Anderson published "Engaging Faculty and Staff with Living and Learning Communities" in Synergy, a NASPA publication.
- Sarah Kelly led the UofSC team in hosting the 2020 Residential College Symposium, which drew the largest registration in the conference's 7 year history
- Lara Lomicka Anderson is co-editing a book with Professor Jennifer Eidem (Elon) called the Faculty Factor (expected publication 2022, contract secured with Stylus)
- Lara Lomicka Anderson is invited to deliver a plenary talk at RCS 2021 "Thriving in Residence: A Call for equitable and engaging communities"
- Lara Lomicka Anderson former Preston resident Logan Lebron presented "Making a location a place: Mapping residential colleges in the U.S" at the 2020 Residential College Symposium
- At the end of 2020-2021, every resident had attended at least one event in Preston
- 7 teams participated in the first-ever Preston Cup, a community-wide and semester-long competition
- Virtual summer meetings and tours of the community were offered to students to help them get excited about living in Preston