

Dr. Richard Greenwald:

Hey, everyone. It's a pleasure to spend some time with you this afternoon. I want to thank you for taking the time to join us today and I also want to thank you for choosing the College of Arts and Sciences as your academic home for yourself or your students. And this presentation is meant to be an overview of what the college is, and what you can expect over the next few years.

I also have to recognize the moment we're in. Here we are sitting separate, but together, waiting to come back to campus so that we can all be together again. One of the things that I think makes Fairfield unique is that we are really a family and we'll talk about how that is lived through today, but I hope you can sense that from this presentation and I also want to spend a little time introducing you to our staff.

Some of whom are here today, because the College of Arts and Science is a holistic office of folks who are really here for one purpose only and that is for student success. So, we have two associate deans who are with us today, Scott Lacy, who you met before, and Glenn Sauer, who's here as well. Their roles are to deal with curricular innovation and issues and to ensure quality of instruction, and that what we're doing is cutting edge. We have two assistant deans in our office, who are not able to be here today. They're busy working with students, but our two assistant deans who are listed here, work continuously with students to support, and work with our students in support of their academic advisors. So, our model here is that there are student advisors and ... Sorry, faculty advisors, and then the assistant deans work to ensure that the students have as much support as they need.

And they really work to troubleshoot and to make sure that students feel completely embraced. And something that the college has, that I would think few College of Arts and Sciences have, and that is a professional office of career professional development, right? And Kim Nickolenko is here, one of our directors, to talk about how we think of ... What we do in the College of Arts and Sciences is holistic training for career launches. And again, we have a holistic approach to our education. We believe in rooting things in the arts and sciences, but really making sure that we have the correct career launch, and we'll talk about that throughout today. I want to turn it ... Talk about some of the requirements and some of our majors.

Dr. Scott Lacy:

Great. Thank you, Richard. First of all, I just want to take a quick pause just because I know you've been learning so much about Fairfield University, the curriculum, student life, and sometimes when all of this information comes to you quite quickly, it just seems like things are just so complicated. It's hard to get some traction. So, what I want to do is help provide some of that traction for you and this is something that, really, all of us professors do when we're meeting with our advisees on every time we're getting ready for classes, is we go over this checklist, right? This is our undergraduate graduation requirement checklist. So, every time we're going to meet with you, when you were thinking about new classes, or maybe thinking about a new minor or things like this, we're going to start off by just pulling up your record with you.

Something you can do anytime you want, but this is when we do it with you. And we're just going to mark your progress to make sure every semester you're getting the progress you need to be on Bellarmine Lawn. Just like that picture you see on the screen right now, in the four years. The one thing we're going to look at the top level, the thing that you're here to essentially do at the meta, meta level is to complete 120 total credits. Now, that sounds like a bunch when you have zero in the bank, but let me tell you, it's really going to go faster than you think, because it's ultimately only around 38 courses. Some people end up doing a little bit more, but 38 courses is generally what's going to get you to your

120 credits. We also, to get on that stage there at Bellarmine Lawn, you're going to need a 2.0 cumulative GPA and a major GPA.

And that's something that your professors in your major department are going to be helping you with, and that's something that we in the dean's office and your advisors are going to be helping you with. And if you're having a little bit of trouble, we have all sorts of support systems set to make sure that you don't even have to worry about that third requirement, the 2.0. The other thing that I know you've heard about a lot already is the Magis Core. So, I won't talk so much about that today because that's something that everyone in the university is taking, and I know you've had plenty of information on that. However, we'd be happy to answer questions about that in the Q and A. Now, the one part that I want to take a little time to discuss with you before I turn it over to my colleague, would be the required major.

So in order to graduate, you're also going to need a major. So, let's start thinking about that major, and I imagine many of you already have. This is a list of our 31 majors right now. The exciting thing for us is some of these on this list are actually quite recent. And the reason I highlight that is because this is a curriculum that evolves with the time and grows with the time, and when we see new opportunities for curricular advancement, we make sure it happens. And so, take a look down here at some of these, for example, the communication, digital journalism, film, television, and media. We've had all kinds of wonderful majors launch all kinds of wonderful careers in those majors, but one thing we haven't been able to do yet is to offer a sports media major. And that's something that's for the first time ever going to be on the books when you arrive on campus this September. We're very proud of that.

So, you could see a constellation around that area. We also can take you over to the sciences, where we're very proud of a fairly recent major that we've added, behavioral neuroscience. And for those of you that are with us on the sciences side, I know you are aware of the fact that neuroscience has just been ... There's just remarkable discoveries in neuroscience are really transforming the way we understand ourselves and far out of just science. And so, in this case, not only can you focus on neuroscience, but you can actually understand how neuroscience can help us better understand what we do and who we are as humans. I'm not going to go through this whole list, but I tell you what, I know somebody who could, and that's the department chair for every single one of these departments.

If you have an interest on this list that you're thinking about, maybe you're an undeclared student, which by the way, is my favorite major. Go ahead and think about some of these that might fit, it's okay if you don't know that you're going to do it or not, maybe public relations is something you're interested in because you want business, but you want something that's a little different than a traditional B school. Well, check out public relations and check in with our public relations department or with our comm department to understand what is public relations all about. Our chairs, as well as our dean's office will be more than happy to talk to you about that. Let me go a little bit further though. It's not just about your major here, right? We also are going to offer you all sorts of minors.

Now, pretty much for all of those majors that you saw on the list in the previous slide, you can get a major in those. So, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, where I work, you can get a sociology minor, you can get a sociology and anthropology minor, but there's some minors up here on this list that you might not have seen in the majors. What I'd like you to imagine, and this is for parents too, so students and parents, think about what you do or what you hope to do, in your one and precious life. And think about it, like maybe I am interested in being a teacher, for example, take a look at this list, and I think you can already start to imagine some of the sub areas that you could look to, to actually round yourself out, to be a distinguished teacher, somebody that is a bit different from all of the others in your cohort.

For example, especially in the moment that we find ourselves in today, the, for example, peace and justice studies, leadership and ethics, I could see those being fantastic minors for just about any major you could imagine. I'm going to go ahead and turn this over though, to my dear friend, Glenn Sauer, the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, because he's going to show you one more major that wasn't on the list, and again, this one, I want you to pay attention because if none of those majors or minors was really ringing your bell yet, know that we still have a place for you. What do you think, Glenn?

Dr. Glenn Sauer:

Thanks, Scott. Yeah. Hi, my name's Glenn Sauer. I'm a member of the biology department and associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. My research area is biochemistry, specifically the biochemistry and physiology of bone formation. I'm also, in the past few years, I've been very engaged in the interdisciplinary study of science and religion. And so, that is a category that wouldn't necessarily fit in one of our majors. Many of you will find a very comfortable home in one of those 31 different majors, but we also like to encourage originality and creativity. And so, a number of years ago, we created what's called the Individually Designed Major, which allows qualified students to really design their own course of study. Just as an example in this most recent year, 2020, we graduated a student in environmental education who hopes to work in zoos and museums.

And we also graduated a student in the field of international security analysis. So, not the sort of thing you normally see on a list of majors, but nevertheless, these were our recent graduates. We've also, this year, developed new majors in industrial design. Sounds like it's not in a College of Arts and Sciences, but yet it is, and also an Individually Designed Major in Irish studies. So, if you are interested in those kind of majors, once you arrive on campus, we do have a majors and minors fair, and I will see you there at my table, and I'll be happy to begin those discussions with you. So, we have a wide range of studies available to you, but the other place that we really encourage originality and creativity of our students is in our research labs. Can I have the next slide, Scott? So, if you are here at the university, you get to participate, if you choose, in undergraduate research.

And this slide just shows a couple of recent examples, the Greenfield Village Initiative, which some students were participating in. We have a research program in tumor cell growth and then also a very highly acclaimed project, which was completed just a year ago, the Fairfield Slavery Project, where a couple of students in the college dug through historical records, going way back, to document the history of slavery in Connecticut. You don't think Connecticut normally as a state in which slavery happened, but nevertheless it is there historically. And so, they documented these individuals back through the 16th and 17th century. So, this gives you some example of the types of studies, and I wanted to add that whether you're in history, whether you're in psychology, whether you're in communication, sociology, or one of the sciences, there are places to do research here.

Our science program, in particular, is very active with students doing research. I would add that most of the undergraduate programs here do not have corresponding graduate programs and so, it's the undergraduates that are working with our faculty, doing the research projects. And so, it's a way that you can engage very early or later in your undergraduate career and be involved in doing undergraduate research. Our undergraduates frequently will publish with their faculty mentors. And so, in that sense, they're really creating new knowledge. They're adding articles out there into professional journals and are advancing the fields in which they're studying. And so, this is a rare opportunity at many schools, many larger schools that have a lot of graduate programs. Those sorts of opportunities are not really available to undergraduates, they're primarily the graduate students, but here the undergraduates get involved in research.

So, if you engage in these various activities, as much as we would love you to stay here forever, one of the stories I tell my students sometimes if they ask me why I chose to be a college professor, and really the truth of the matter is I loved college so much, I never wanted to leave. We know that you will eventually finish your days at Fairfield and complete your undergraduate degree, but I just want to add a reminder that we do have a number of graduate programs that are here in the college.

Many of these are in so-called four plus one programs, in which you can sign up for them while you are an undergraduate and then complete your master's degree within five years. However, there's also many other places, many other graduate schools, medical schools, and professional careers that our undergraduates go on to. If you are interested in one of the health related fields, whether it's being a physician, a physician's assistant, veterinary science, whatever that may be, we have an outstanding undergraduate pre-health advisor, Dr. Jeff Church, who really works with you from the day you arrive on campus to make sure you have the various things in place, the various coursework, the various knowledge that you will need to go on to a medical or other health related career.

And so, I would encourage you to engage with Dr. Church very quickly when you arrive on campus, and it is the type of research opportunities and engagement with faculty mentors, which really works to your advantage if you graduate from Fairfield, because you are well prepared to go into these medical or other types of programs that you are interested in upon graduation. So, I am going to turn it over to my colleague, Colby Lemieux, one of our assistant deans who will talk with you about some of the support services that are available within the college.

Colby Lemieux:

Thank you, Glenn, and welcome everyone. Good afternoon. It's my pleasure to be here with you today and I'm thrilled to share some of the academic resources that are available to you, when you embark on your journey here at Fairfield. I have been with Fairfield for seven years, and as Glenn was saying earlier, sometimes you just don't want to leave. I am a Fairfield alumni, received my master's degree here and loved it so much that it made me want to pursue a career in higher education and I couldn't think of a better place to do that than Fairfield University. So, I am glad and happy to be joining you on this journey and to share our passion for the liberal arts education with you. As you know, there are a plethora of academic resources available to you, Fairfield, and especially the College of Arts and Sciences, wants to support you both personally and professionally, as you become on your journey to becoming informed global citizens. The College of Arts and Sciences has many different resources for you, some specific to the college and some university-wide.

To name a few, we have the math center, the writing center, the office of accessibility, the office of academic support and retention, study abroad, or as we like to call that at Fairfield, global engagement, which has many great opportunities for you to explore. And some that are specific to the College of Arts and Sciences, but I'm really happy to share with you we have the new Innovation Lab. We have a career center that is specific to the college, as Dean Greenwald alluded to earlier. We also have a faculty advising model. I particularly am fond of this because this allows you the opportunity to meet and connect with a faculty member in your field of study, who's passionate that you get to build a rapport with and work with throughout your time here at Fairfield to explore your journey.

Not only to work on course sequencing, but as my colleagues were mentioning, the opportunity to do wonderful things like publish or have independent studies, many endless opportunities, the faculty advising model is something that I'm always thrilled to talk about. Of course, you have us in the dean's office and we are here to support you. We have a plethora of resources here, but to share a little bit about what the assistant deans do, in our role, we actively track students and their degree completion.

Anything from students who are academically at risk, to ensuring that those 120 credits are being met and in a timely manner, all while pursuing your academic interests.

If your academic interests change along the way, which many times they do. I know for me, I changed my major twice before I found my niche and it was one of the best experiences I've had. We have exploratory conversations with our students to make sure that we're finding out what you excel in, so that you're firing from all cylinders and having thoughtful conversations that aid to the development of you as a person and a future professional. The college also has an advisory board that's made up of alumni who act as a fantastic sounding board for all of the college initiatives for growth and innovation.

Last year we developed a Dean's Student Council Advisory Board, which is made up of students who exemplify leadership qualities and who engage and provide critical feedback to our senior staff, so that we can continue the growth and success of the College of Arts and Sciences. These students are nominated by their faculty and their peer and provide a lot of important feedback for us, so that we can continue serving our student body. I certainly look forward to working with all of you in the class of 2024, and with that in mind, I'm going to go ahead and pass it over to my colleague, Ms. Kim Nickolenko, the director of career engagement.

Kim Nickolenko:

Hi, everyone. Good afternoon. My name is Kim Nickolenko, I'm the director of peer engagement here at Fairfield University. I'm another member of the team who hasn't wanted to leave Fairfield, and I've been here for 22 years. I've been in different roles, but right now here in the office of career and professional development, we're very lucky to have your own career center right in the college. We are here as a team, my colleague, Steph Gallo, and I are here to help you figure out where you want to go and what you want to do. It's a four year process, as I'm sure you heard in your last session, we want you to start early. We know you're coming in at different levels. Some of you may know what you want to do, what you're thinking about doing, some of you may come in with a major, some of you may be undecided, and we're here to help you discover where you want to go.

Explore the options that are available to you. Think about the choices that you have over the next four years and explore those options and help you take action to figure out what is the best career path for you. What you'll be going on to do, whether that's going on to graduate school, a professional opportunity, a volunteer service, whatever might be the right path for you. Scott, you can move onto our next slide. The office of career and professional development is here to help you leverage that liberal arts Jesuit education, help you figure out what it is that you want to do in your career, graduate school, and setting that career path. We want you to help develop your strong leadership identity by getting involved on campus in the classroom and outside.

What is your student brand? What can we help you build and figure out who you want to be and who you want to present out to the world and the job market? Strengthen your professional network. You have heard, probably over the last several sessions, that once a Stag, always a Stag. We have so many Stags out there that want to help you, and we want you to help build that professional network and gain a competitive edge in today's job market. When you're working with us in our office, we're working with you one-on-one. We want to start thinking about the career tools that you're going to need over the next four years, and they are over the next four years. If you do them in piecemeal and a little bit at a time, it won't seem so overwhelming and you'll build those tools along the way. We have the opportunity to sit down and talk about resumes and cover letters.

Many of you have started a high school resume, and we're here to start thinking about what it means to have a college resume. And you might not think, I might need that right away, but we want to make sure that you have that, so that you can start applying to leadership positions, on-campus jobs,

and thinking about the internships, volunteer experiences and job placement that you'll be doing over the next few years. We have the opportunity to look at LinkedIn, helping you build your brand through that. The opportunity to do job search and internship searches, how we can have so many opportunities to interact with alumni over our career nights, our career industry nights and developing networking opportunities. We have the opportunities to attend companies virtually and in-person, hopefully one day, through our Stags in the City visits. And we also have what we'd like to talk about for the next few minutes is a leadership and professional development program.

This is a four year program that you can join as a first year student and think about the opportunities to develop those tools. In the first year, we want to start thinking about those things, about getting involved in clubs and organizations, and service on campus. Applying for internships on campus, in our Stags for the Field internship program, thinking about your student work study, how that applies, and thinking about what you might want to do about sitting down with us. We really do recommend thinking about making a one-on-one meeting with us and engaging in our workshops and our leadership and professional development program. As you go onto your sophomore year, we also offer a course, the sophomore success program, and they're offered both fall and the spring. So, as you start to contemplate what you're going to be doing over the next four years and study abroad, and through your internships, we want to think about and giving you the tools that you need.

We also want you to start the career exploration process and think about the career panels, the researching careers online, attending our career and internships fairs, and maybe even doing some assessments, we can offer those one-on-one with you in our office. We want you to also think about the internships, the research and volunteer experiences. We want you to think about the experiential learning opportunities for you and things that you can build your resume on, and we're here to talk with you about that one-on-one. As you approach your junior and senior year, these are the times that you're then going to start thinking about interviewing and really polishing up those resumes and cover letters. Preparing for mock interview days, meeting with alumni through our alumni job shadow program, preparing for entrance exams if you're thinking about graduate school. And then going on and attending our career fairs to really start networking with our employers that come to campus. As you see here, 40% of our graduating students are really graduating from the College of Arts and Sciences.

And as Glenn referenced, there's so many opportunities to do research projects in any major here on campus. And we also often talk about internships, but research is also a really great opportunity and thing that you can have on your resume, and we encourage all students to think about doing that through their time here at Fairfield. And in the bottom, you'll see most of our students are going on to get a job, go to graduate school, or in professional service as they leave the university. But we really hope that you'll take advantage of the networking opportunities that we provide here at Fairfield, the incredible Stag network. You can see a small list of companies and organizations that our students have gone on to, but we have so many, and we can help you network with those students and those alumnis that have graduated and are in those organizations. So, we thank you and we look forward to being with you in the fall, and I'm going to pass it back to Richard.

Dr. Scott Lacy:

Richard, we got you on mute.

Dr. Richard Greenwald:

You would think I would know that. I am sorry. So, one of the things I want to do is just highlight, one of the things that I think is so unique about what we do in the College of Arts and Sciences. And that is, when you join our family as a Stag, you're actually joining a much larger family of Stags who are out in

the workforce, who are engaged and want to come back to help you. So, we work, for the four years you're here, to help you launch successfully, whether it's to go to graduate school, law school or medical school or work, and we develop your skills. We also connect you to a really active alumni network. Kim spends a good deal of her time, as do I, meeting alum, bringing them to campus, bringing students to their workplaces, and really having that dialogue about how one could use and package your skills as an arts and science student for the workplace of not just today, but tomorrow.

And that whole network is important, that Stag network in the College of Arts and Sciences is important. But if you can go to the next slide, Scott. I mean, one of the things, I think, that I want to leave you with is, Fairfield, we're very proud of the work our faculty do, choosing some faculty to highlight here is very difficult to me because there are so many faculty who do so much. On average, the faculty in the College of Arts and Science publish between 120 articles and books a year and receive about \$800,000 in grants for research. And I say that because we're a small institution, with a faculty that has a national and international reach. You're going to be working with faculty who are on the top of their game. And here, what you're going to get is the personal attention, because they're going to work with you.

They're here for one reason, and that is to teach, and to mentor, and to educate you as undergraduates. And I think one of the hallmarks of an undergraduate education in the College of Arts and Sciences is this individualized attention. As Glenn mentioned before, our faculty work on all sorts of research projects, including in the sciences. We don't have graduate students, we have undergraduates working in the labs, doing research with our faculty, even in the humanities, and they're publishing articles with their faculty mentors in national journals. And that means that they've moved from just curating knowledge to actually creating knowledge, and that's why they're getting into top law schools, medical schools, PhD programs, and they're sought after by employers, because they know how to generate knowledge and to self-actualize themselves in that process.

And that also means that our faculty are constantly innovating their curriculum. So, there's no standing still or static norm in the College of Arts and Sciences. There's always revision and improvement and the associate deans are working with the faculty to do that. And that also means our facilities have to update to keep up with these curricular needs. So, we're constantly updating our science labs. Last summer we spent a good deal of time and attention and money rebuilding science labs and making room for new equipment in chemistry and biology, so that the students have access to cutting edge technologies in those labs. Last year, we also opened the Fredrickson Family Innovation Lab for the social sciences and humanities. This is a facility that's located in the library building, but it's a fairly big space that's designed as a big data hub for the social sciences and humanities, for the College of Arts and Sciences, because we are deeply involved in this.

We have faculty who are working with students in literature, coding medieval texts for a national project that's curating and creating new knowledge in literature. We have faculty in the social sciences who are working with community organizations, using big data to help and provide knowledge to the community as a whole. So, it's not just about running numbers, it's actually running numbers with a purpose. And one of the things that you'll notice about what we do, is we partner with students and respect them and meet them where they are, because we believe in the notion of the curation of education. It is not just a major. It is the whole journey, the whole package, the mind, body, spirit.

So, our faculty members, and our mentors, and our assistant deans, and associate deans get to know students, our directors of career office get to know students, understand where they are, where they want to be and help guide them along that journey and advise them about, not just what their major should be, but what a second major might look like, what a minor would look like, how to package their experiences in athletics. To be attractive to employers or internship opportunities because in this

global environment that we're in and especially more now than ever, it is the whole that is important, not just the pieces of the whole. I want to leave some time for Q and A, but I also want to finish where I started, and that is in the College of Arts and Sciences, we do believe that we operate as a family.

And really what that means is, we pay a lot of close attention and spend a lot of time getting to know students and we actually care about them as individuals. A perfect example is, I have the pleasure of serving on the Health Studies Committee. This is the committee that makes recommendations to medical schools and other health professional institutions, those committees discuss all of the students who are in that pipeline, every one of them, and every faculty member knows them personally. This is the kind of place where you will get that kind of individual attention, and they do deeply care about students' success. And as I said, the Stag family extends beyond just the campus itself into the alumni network, into different locations. We have meetings with alums in Washington, in Boston and Los Angeles, and all sorts of other places.

And one of the things that Stags do is hire Stags, and that's important to know that they're looking for current students for internship opportunities in their companies, and they're looking to hire students into their places of work, and we work very closely with them to provide new opportunities for students all the time. We also believe that we live the mission. We walk with the students and help them in their formation as a Jesuit institution, to be men and women for others. And in the spirit of Saint Ignatius, we believe that our graduates in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Stags that we have the privilege of working with for four years, will set the world on fire. And so far, the past has proven us correct. So, I'll stop here and we'll take some questions and I want to thank you for your attention.