

REAL-WORLD EDUCATION

Defiance College offers students a distinctive education that combines high quality classroom instruction with hands-on experiences that link the classroom and the real world.



Academics at Defiance College support the school's mission of educating students "to know, to understand, to lead, and to serve." A rigorous learning atmosphere based in the liberal arts emphasizes leadership, communication skills, critical thinking, moral reasoning, global awareness, and respect for diversity.

But DC's model goes much further, providing countless opportunities for students to apply academic content knowledge to real-world situations, preparing them to be competitive in the job market or when applying to graduate or professional schools. Whatever their major, students take their learning from the classroom into the community.

- ◆ Students majoring in forensic science, digital forensic science and criminal justice can investigate cold cases for the Wayne County (Detroit) Prosecutor's Office.
- ◆ Business majors get first-hand experience in developing business plans (including marketing, human resources, and analysis) by setting up their own businesses on campus. Some of the same students have also been involved in the start-up and operation of a nine-hole disc golf course on campus.
- ◆ Accounting students provide fraud analyses to local community-based nonprofits. In the winter months, business students offer their services in preparing tax returns for local residents in need of assistance.
- ◆ Science students and others recognize a need to address the dwindling honeybee population by starting a beekeeping operation.
- ◆ Students interested in careers in medicine and social work give their time and attention to running a free monthly health clinic for local uninsured residents, managing the clinic while also shadowing doctors, nurses and social workers.
- ◆ Students in the natural sciences participate in an ongoing project to monitor water quality of the New River Lagoon in Belize, working with community partners from the Programme for Belize and the village of San Carlos.
- ◆ Social work students collaborate with their partner in Cambodia, the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center, to provide training in areas of domestic violence and stronger families, among others.
- ◆ Students in communication arts, sport management, and graphic design have opportunities in video production, filming, editing, programming, and creating content through a partnership with DCTV, a local television station. They can learn lighting and sound set-up as well as create and produce their own programming.



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Mark C. Gordon, Defiance College President





These are just a few of the many opportunities in which DC students are involved on a daily basis. What better way to prepare oneself for a chosen career path than to road-test the theories and concepts that are learned in the classroom? These experiences – whether internships, research projects, class assignments, or volunteer efforts – help to build an impressive resume upon graduation and give an advantage when applying for jobs or graduate school.

“You can look across the curriculum and see amazing faculty-led initiatives that link the classroom with the real world,” says DC president Mark Gordon. “These experiences set the education at Defiance College apart from other schools.”

One of the college’s most recent initiatives is the groundbreaking Project 701, which combines theory and practice. As a one-of-a-kind, student-run nonprofit organization, Project 701 gives students opportunities to create and develop a wide range of businesses and services related to their programs of study.

Students are managing and running:

- ◆ A free primary-care clinic for local residents
- ◆ A computer repair business
- ◆ A Backpack Buddy program to provide nutritious weekend food for local children in need
- ◆ Loans to microbusinesses in Jamaica
- ◆ A graphic design studio
- ◆ A reading and writing center for local children
- ◆ Campus recycling

Defiance’s McMaster School for Advancing Humanity plays an integral role in linking the college’s mission to the student experience. Entering its second decade, the McMaster School has seen more than 200 students address research projects around the globe. Their projects have ranged from assisting a group of Belizean women to start a restaurant to training rural health care providers in Cambodia to use microscopes in diagnosing malaria and tuberculosis.

In addition to the impact the McMaster School has had on people and villages around the world, it has provided career- and life-changing experiences for Defiance students. Beyond the McMaster Scholar initiatives, it also provides leadership for new programs such as Project 701, DC’s student-run nonprofit; the Partnership for Jobs and Work Experience Program, helping students gain work experience both on- and off-campus; and exciting new Imagine Initiatives which commit the College to providing a range of life-changing domestic and international cultural and travel opportunities for all students.

You can learn more about the McMaster School and its tenth anniversary celebration on Page 18. ◆