100 FOUNDERS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD
At the University of Austin (UATX), we know that liberal education is good for its own sake as well as for its consequences. Aristotle rightly observed that human nature desires knowledge. We might add that human beings also desire to put that knowledge into practice. Liberal education opens minds, uplifts aspirations, cultivates self-knowledge, and prepares students to become builders, leaders, and citizens who contribute to the common good.

As an academic community, we respect both the wisdom of the past and the transformative potential of novel ideas. Students who are well versed in history’s rich intellectual, scientific, artistic, and cultural inheritance are better equipped to pursue the discovery and creation of new frontiers. But these endeavors depend on fostering a free and pluralistic intellectual environment that is open to the lively clash of ideas. At UATX, we are building such an environment. By enshrining intellectual freedom and protections against discrimination and indoctrination in our constitution, we offer a new model for institutions of higher education.

Our ultimate goal is to graduate students who are well prepared to advance individual liberty and contribute meaningfully to society. To our students, we proudly proclaim—

“OUR EXCELLENCE IS OUR HIGHEST PURPOSE.”
WHAT MAKES UATX DIFFERENT?

We pursue truth fearlessly.
We accept the existence of objective truth as a precondition for a flourishing society. The pursuit of truth is seldom easy and always ongoing, but it is also ennobling, liberating, and productive.

We champion academic freedom.
We see the university as a place for exploration and the advancement of knowledge. UATX students, faculty, and scholars pursue their academic interests and debate freely, supported by an open and curious intellectual culture that allows ideas to rise or fall based on their merits.

We are committed to liberal education.
We preserve and pass on to our students humanity’s rich intellectual, scientific, artistic, and cultural inheritance. We know that we are in conversation not just with each other, but also with history’s greatest thinkers, innovators, and leaders. As we address fundamental human questions, we free our minds from dogmas and biases, and open ourselves to enduring sources of truth and meaning.

We aspire to build and innovate.
We pursue vigorously the discovery, creation, and communication of new knowledge in order to tackle today’s challenges. We take inspired ideas and apply them to the world outside the classroom.

We practice and cultivate wisdom.
We recognize that now more than ever, when we are bombarded with information and sensory overload, we need prudence and sound judgment to discern fact from fiction, true from false, and the best course of action.

We make excellence our guide.
We recognize that a commitment to excellence is not for the faint of heart. It takes time, hard effort, and dedication to hone a craft, master an academic discipline, build a new endeavor, and respond to challenges. We inspire our students to strive for excellence and proudly recognize their achievements.

WHAT OUR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING

“I truly feel like I’ve learned more here than I’ve learned in my undergraduate experience in college.”

“There is an alternative path. There is a way that you can get to your goal without having to conform. Conformity is easy. Orthodoxy is easy, but nobody wants to actually live that boring, dull life.”

“I feel that my beliefs were genuinely challenged in a way that they haven’t been before.”

“My favorite part about the UATX experience was the atmosphere created for free inquiry of thought to flourish ... I am highly encouraged to see the amount of learning that is produced when those spaces can exist. This course ... has given me hope for humanity that I didn’t know I desperately needed.”

“So many people have expressed discontent with the way universities are now run, but not many people have come forward with a solution.”
At this time, students graduating from the University of Austin will earn a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Liberal Studies. The core of our liberal studies program, the Intellectual Foundations, challenges students to confront timeless questions, beginning in antiquity and culminating in the present day. As they advance into their junior and senior years, students become Junior Fellows where they develop specialized knowledge in an academic Center of Inquiry. Over the four-year program, students create and build a Polaris Project—a unique, individualized project that enables them to cultivate skills, discipline, and prudence while confronting real-world challenges.

**OUR INSPIRED CURRICULUM**

"Intellectual Foundations helps students become conversant in the various languages of understanding and teaches them to advance arguments logically and lucidly. Students will learn to see things whole, make connections, and sort signal from noise across multiple domains of experience."

**JACOB HOWLAND**
Provost and Dean of Intellectual Foundations

Through close reading and analysis, freshmen and sophomores learn to advance ideas and understand complex problems. Small, discussion-based seminars cultivate a shared intellectual culture, while weekly lectures encourage students to synthesize ideas across epochs and disciplines. **Intellectual Foundations** is an intense exploration of fundamental human questions that cultivates a virtue that is as necessary today as it is rare: sound judgment. By grounding students in a shared past, our curriculum inspires them to live good, happy lives that exemplify and advance human flourishing.

"Intellectual Foundations helps students become conversant in the various languages of understanding and teaches them to advance arguments logically and lucidly. Students will learn to see things whole, make connections, and sort signal from noise across multiple domains of experience."

**JACOB HOWLAND**
Provost and Dean of Intellectual Foundations

Through close reading and analysis, freshmen and sophomores learn to advance ideas and understand complex problems. Small, discussion-based seminars cultivate a shared intellectual culture, while weekly lectures encourage students to synthesize ideas across epochs and disciplines. **Intellectual Foundations** is an intense exploration of fundamental human questions that cultivates a virtue that is as necessary today as it is rare: sound judgment. By grounding students in a shared past, our curriculum inspires them to live good, happy lives that exemplify and advance human flourishing.

**INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATIONS**

Through close reading and analysis, freshmen and sophomores learn to advance ideas and understand complex problems. Small, discussion-based seminars cultivate a shared intellectual culture, while weekly lectures encourage students to synthesize ideas across epochs and disciplines. **Intellectual Foundations** is an intense exploration of fundamental human questions that cultivates a virtue that is as necessary today as it is rare: sound judgment. By grounding students in a shared past, our curriculum inspires them to live good, happy lives that exemplify and advance human flourishing.

**STUDENTS COMPLETE 180 CREDIT HOURS TO GRADUATE**

**(45 PER ACADEMIC YEAR)**

**Intellectual Foundations** / 54 credit hours

Center Requirements + Center Concentration + Electives / 105 credit hours

**Polaris Project** / 21 credit hours

**TOTAL FOR DEGREE** / 180 CREDIT HOURS
Students must complete the requirements in any single Center of Inquiry in order to graduate. In addition, students may choose to specialize in a particular area of study, called a Concentration, offered by their Center. In lieu of a Concentration, students may elect an interdisciplinary course of study, which provides them the opportunity to pursue additional electives across Centers.

YEARS 1 & 2
+ Intellectual Foundations: 54 credit hours
+ Center Requirements: 18 credit hours
+ Polaris Project: 9 credit hours
+ Electives: 12 credit hours

YEARS 3 & 4
+ Center Requirements: 36 credit hours
+ Polaris Project: 12 credit hours
+ Center Concentration: 24-27 credit hours
+ Electives: 12-15 credit hours

As Junior Fellows, students specialize and focus on meeting their Center requirements.
The four-year Polaris Project infuses a student’s education with purpose and meaning by calling on them to build, create, or discover something that meets a pressing human need or addresses a social, political, or economic challenge. Projects provide students with opportunities to cultivate the skills, attitudes, and discipline that enhance their agency.

Students will draw upon their interests and aptitudes when undertaking an ambitious Polaris Project, which may be scientific, technical, entrepreneurial, scholarly, or artistic in nature. Students are constrained only by their own imagination and industry. Whatever their focus, Projects must be challenging enough to help students redefine the limits of what they believe is achievable.

Like the North Star by which seafarers have navigated for millennia, the four-year Polaris Project will orient our students through college and beyond.

YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF

→ Conducting archival research to discover a cache of influential letters
→ Developing a mobile game to help students cultivate financial literacy
→ Establishing a nonprofit to bring clean water to the developing world’s most remote communities
→ Launching a startup to help companies transform vacant commercial space into affordable housing
→ Writing a novel exploring the promise and perils of artificial intelligence

YEAR 1: Students examine the origin of ideas and the preconditions for successful innovation.

YEAR 2: Students analyze case studies and explore their personal project focus in a collaborative community.

YEAR 3: Students craft, refine, pitch, and defend their project plan and recruit an experienced mentor.

YEAR 4: Students finish building out their project and share it with the world.

To learn more about the Polaris Project, scan the QR code.

The Polaris Program encourages students to approach their education intentionally, inspires action, and shifts the focus to the outside world.
Our faculty are passionate educators who take seriously their commitment to prepare future generations for professional and personal success. Teaching excellence is essential to who we are.

TO SEE ALL FACULTY
Visit our website uaustin.org
Come to UATX and be part of a bold, new intellectual community in the heart of America's most enterprising city, where downtown Austin is your campus.

300+ Days of Sunshine a Year

In 2022, 400 Austin-area startups received $5 BILLION in venture capital funding.

#1 Live Music Capital of the World

1,000 Food Trucks

400 Miles of Urban Trails

Keep Austin Weird
The University of Austin’s Polaris Center helps students to find career-building opportunities, access student services, pursue their Polaris Program coursework, and advance their unique Polaris Projects.

The Talent Network brings together successful professionals and industry leaders committed to helping our students achieve their goals. Members provide opportunities for hands-on learning and skills development, internships, mentoring, and career counseling.

The Integrated Student Support Center is where students can access social and recreational activities, housing resources, and healthcare providers, as well as consult with Polaris guides to craft personalized growth plans. Here, students cultivate knowledge, habits, and attitudes essential for resilience.

The Polaris Program is a sequence of structured experiences interwoven into the academic program. It is designed to guide students through a process of discovery and discernment to create their Polaris Projects. The Polaris courses help students generate project ideas, formulate and advance plans, and formally present their finished project.
Our world-class Talent Network supports UATX students’ career aspirations. Its members include executives, entrepreneurs, and young professionals in finance, technology, media, government, and academia, among other industries.

Our students enjoy privileged access to the Talent Network. Benefits include:

- Building professional relationships and finding mentors
- Interning with a member to gain hands-on experience
- Attending industry-specific events to learn about potential career paths
- Hearing from successful entrepreneurs about their personal journeys
- Receiving feedback and guidance on their Polaris Projects

The Talent Network helps students catalyze their career growth and gain a competitive edge in the professional world. These valuable benefits will endure long after graduation and build a strong foundation for future success.

As they near graduation, students can interview for prospective jobs with innovative employers hiring in a variety of industries, propelled by the relationships they already built with key individuals at these companies and institutions.

To learn more about our Talent Network, scan the QR code.

SOME OF OUR TALENT NETWORK MENTORS

- REBEKAH GEE / Nest Healthcare
- BALAJI SRINIVASAN / Angel and Entrepreneur
- MARIA DAVIDSON / Kojo
- VITZ APPLBAUM / Mizmaa
- JOHN MACKEY / Love.Life
- PANKAJ PATEL / Nile
- EDDIE MARGAIN / Pixiu Investments, Austin FC
- NATHAN MINTZ / Spartan
- KERI FINDLEY / Tacora
The University of Austin is proud to announce the Founders Scholarship program, available to the Fall 2024 incoming class. Each member of the class will receive a scholarship worth approximately $130,000 covering the full cost of undergraduate tuition for four years, subject to terms and conditions.

Founders Scholars will be part of a unique cohort of builders and innovators who partner with UATX’s faculty and staff in building America’s next great university. These scholarships recognize the significant vision, character, and commitment required to establish a new institution.

Founders Scholarships are for those students who have what it takes to step forward and meet the challenges of both the University’s innovative curriculum and the rapidly-changing world around them. These students exemplify the University’s guiding entrepreneurial spirit.

Founders Scholars will have the unique opportunity to not only go to college, but to build one.

**AFFORDABILITY**

At the University of Austin, we want to ensure that every dollar spent advances student education. Building a university from the ground up is an opportunity to re-examine legacy practices and to dramatically reduce administrative and other costs, ensuring funds are directed as much as possible to academics. The University’s financial model avoids administrative excess, prioritizes student experiences and outcomes, and keeps fees to a minimum.

Our innovative curriculum design integrates the liberal arts tradition with a groundbreaking approach to cultivating leadership and entrepreneurship. We take seriously the obligation to deliver this education at an affordable cost. In addition, the University is committed to working with students to help them and their families meet demonstrated financial need. Our graduates will be prepared to thrive both professionally and personally, not saddled with heavy debt burdens.

**ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE**

- **Tuition for AY 2024-2025**: $32,500
- **Fees**: $1,050
- **Books**: $1,200*
- **Housing**: $16,500*
- **Meals**: $6,000*
- **Additional Costs**: $1,500**

*Provided for illustrative purposes only. Actual costs may vary.  
**Includes estimated costs for transportation and other miscellaneous expenses. Note, does not include the University’s health insurance plan, which is a separate, billable cost if the student cannot demonstrate coverage by a comparable insurance plan.

For eligibility information and terms and conditions, scan the QR code.
Please visit our website for instructions on creating an applicant profile and starting your undergraduate application. You will also find important information about the admissions process, helpful FAQs, and other resources.

HOW TO APPLY

A school that makes freedom of inquiry an essential part of its identity, selects students who show special promise as seekers of truth, orients and prepares those students for productive disagreement...such a school would be inspiring to join, a joy to attend, and a blessing to society.

— JONATHAN HAIDT AND GREG LUKIANOFF

The Coddling of the American Mind (2018)
Committed to the fearless pursuit of truth through open inquiry and civil discourse, the University of Austin prepares thoughtful and ethical innovators, builders, leaders, and citizens charged with bettering the world.

uaustin.org