

# OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES

A top quality undergraduate experience holds great value for a student's future success.

#### **About our Office**

The Office of Student Services helps students with transition into campus life. Through an educational lens and student-centered approach, this is achieved with a focus on athletics, counseling, housing, and student activities.

One of the benefits of Americanstyle education is the multifaceted approach to student learning. The American University in Dubai embraces *liberal* education as the context within which the university provides students with a 360-degree wholeperson education.

A liberal education teaches students how to think and learn rather than what to think and learn, and it produces graduates who are better able to adapt and respond to the demands of a fast-changing economic and social environment.

AUD offers students access to great experiences, the finest resources in the region, and the promise of success. Realizing that promise; however, will depend on you - the student.



Many of the services we provide are confidential, as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). To release confidential information or records, students must sign a consent form.

### **Student Services Office Divisions**

The Office of Student Services is a vital part of the AUD campus community. The divisions within the office were carefully designed to suit the evolving needs of students.

These divisions include:

- Dean's Office;
- Athletics;
- Personal Counseling;
- Housing; and
- Student Activities.

The Office of Student Services works in collaboration with AUD faculty to create a welcoming and supportive environment.

Our goal is to provide students with the tools they will need to maximize their potential and achieve both personal and professional success in school and in life.





The Dean of Student Services personally provides guidance and support for students as they explore, understand, and adjust to university life.

The Dean, in support of AUD's Mission, manages all divisions of Student Services, which are dedicated to enhancing the academic, personal, and professional development of students.





Maintaining an open door policy, the Dean is available to meet with students and parents as needed or upon request. In compliance with university policies and procedures, the Dean also helps students interpret, clarify, understand, and resolve concerns or complaints.

In addition, the Dean serves on all honor, conduct, and grade appeal councils as outlined in the AUD Student Handbook.





Students who engage in sports work as part of a team, develop leadership skills, and maximize their potential for success.

AUD Athletics accommodates all students at various fitness levels, ranging from beginners to advanced, and more competitive athletes.



#### **Athletic Facilities**

AUD has some of the best sporting facilities in Dubai, open to all AUD students, alumni, faculty and staff, and their families:

- Soccer field;
- Outdoor track;
- Tennis courts;
- Volleyball court;
- Indoor and outdoor basketball courts;
- Squash courts; and
- Outdoor swimming pool.

#### **AUD Sports Teams**

Regular tournaments, games, friendly matches, and trainings are held for our competitive teams in basketball, soccer, volleyball and swimming.

#### **Intramural Sports**

These activities include squash, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, beach volleyball, water games, and tennis.

#### **Drop- In Sports, Sport Clubs** and Fitness Programs

Drop-in sports, clubs and fitness programs are designed for AUD students, alumni, faculty, and staff who wish to enjoy social interactions in an athletic environment.



### Personal Counseling

When faced with new challenges, it is not uncommon for students to seek extra support to help them achieve academic and personal success.

The Personal Counselor is a trained professional who is committed to helping students identify, understand, and develop skills to increase their self-awareness and resolve their personal concerns.



#### Counseling is a confidential

**process.** Students are encouraged to speak freely and trust that their personal information will remain private. In the rare case that the Personal Counselor must speak with a student's family member(s) or the Dean of Student Services, the student will be notified. Making the transition to university life is not always easy nor is it the same experience for every student. Students face a variety of challenges which may affect their personal growth, emotional well-being, and their ability to succeed. Some of these challenges include, but are not limited to:

- Test anxiety;
- Issues with alcohol or drug abuse;
- Depression, grief or trauma;
- Relationship difficulties; and
- Learning difficulties;
- Self-esteem issue, and
- Special needs.



Any of these issues may prevent students from reaching their full potential. Students may find that their previous methods of handling problems are not working for some reason. They may find, for example, that talking to friends or relatives about their concerns does not seem particularly helpful. Counseling is an educational process that students are encouraged to pursue, as needed or desired.



**Residentially-based**, community learning and living is one of the major components of university life at AUD.

AUD offers housing to over 500 students in four non-smoking residence halls. Each residence hall has a laundry room, study area, TV lounge, fully-equipped kitchen, and a dining room.



Resident students are Assistants supported by the Housing Manager, Housing Controller, and student

leaders known as Resident Assistants (RAs). The RAs are committed to answering residents' questions, explaining housing rules and

regulations, as well as helping students address any issues or concerns they may have.

Throughout the year, the RAs organize a series of events, which encourage students to begin forming lasting friendships, while fostering a sense of community. Past events have included:

- Welcome and theme parties;
- Karaoke nights;
- Movie nights;
- Cooking competitions;
- Sports tournaments; and
- Video game tournaments.

Cleaning services are complimentary and compulsory for all rooms to maintain the highest hygiene standards and encourage clean living.



## Student Activities

Engagement in student governance, clubs, and activities is an essential part of student life at AUD. Students are encouraged to socialize with classmates from other cultures, to engage in team-building and get involved in organizational and event planning.

The Student Activities Division is committed to and empowers students to become strong leaders, build networks, and make new friends while discovering mutual interests.

AUD has a number of student-focused and student-led clubs, which include:

- Leadership Clubs
- Departmental Clubs
- Cultural Clubs
- Special Interest Clubs



Beyond club membership, AUD offers extensive leadership opportunities, which are carefully

and intentionally designed for students to develop important skills in management, communication, public speaking, and public relations.

**Orientation Leaders (OLs)** A select group of students who welcome new students to AUD and help them make the transition into university life;

The Student Government Association (SGA) An elected group of students who represent the entire AUD student body and serve as a voice and mediator between the students and the university administration.



### Student Programs

#### Orientation

All new students are required to participate in orientation activities. During orientation, student orientation leaders acquaint students with the campus environment and the city of Dubai, explain policies and procedures; explain AUD's Honor Code, and conduct a variety of activities to introduce the students to the university experience.

#### **Student Forum**

The AUD Student Forum is designed, executed and managed by the AUD Student Government Association, under the guidance of the Student Activities division. The Forum is held during the Spring semester and is a means by which the university collects student feedback.

#### **General Housing Meetings**

General housing meetings are held once per semester for all of AUD's housing residents. All residents have the opportunity to freely voice their concerns and ask questions.

#### AUD Student Leadership Programs

AUD is pleased to offer students a number of programs through which opportunities are provided to develop their leadership, management, and public relations skills.

- Student Orientation Leaders (OLs)
- Peer Health Educators (PHEs)
- Resident Assistants (RAs)
- Study Abroad Mentors (SAMs)

#### AUD Annual Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony

The Annual Gala Dinner and Award Ceremony is held in the spring semester. This special occasion recognizes students, faculty, and staff who have exceptional achievements and contributions that bring glory and honor to the AUD community.





### Student Government

The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as a liaison between university staff and students and plays an active role in planning and coordinating student activities.

Recognized as the official representative voice of the student body, students are encouraged to freely and openly express their views to SGA officers who will ensure appropriate follow-up.

The SGA is composed of executive and representative members. Specialized committees are created to focus on particular tasks and operations in regularly scheduled meetings throughout the academic year.

Important SGA responsibilities include:

- Representing students' interests to the AUD administration;
- Supporting the Student Activities Division in facilitating campus activities;
- Assuming financial responsibility for SGA funds and financial records;
- Operating the SGA Bookstore; and
- Striving to uphold and promote the AUD Honor Code and Conduct Code.

All AUD students are eligible for membership.





### **AUD Health Center**

The AUD Health Center provides services, which are free of charge for all students, faculty, and staff.

Services provided include:

- The evaluation, treatment and dispensing of medication for minor health conditions;
- Providing medical referrals for more serious conditions; and
- Promoting health awareness and educational programs and events throughout the academic year.

### AUD recognizes and values the importance of good health. As a

result, health services are available 24 hours per day, via clinic office hours, with on-call access after hours. To provide high-quality services, AUD has medical personnel who live on campus to address any immediate needs or concerns.



Since health-related information is highly private and confidential, a student's health record(s) is not released to anyone who does not have permission from the student.

## PHE

The Health Center also supports a number of student leaders known as *Peer Health Educators (PHEs)*. The PHEs organize, coordinate, and cosponsor a series of health-related events throughout the year.

Visit AUD Health Center A Building, office 116 04 318 3200 | healthcenter@aud.edu EMERGENCY HOTLINE 04 318 3555



#### **Mission**

The Office of Student Services, in support of the university's mission, provides a wealth of resources, facilities, events, and programs designed to encourage and enhance the holistic development of AUD's diverse student population, with careful and intentional consideration for opportunities existing outside of the classroom.

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