

*THE FURMAN*  
**ADVANTAGE**

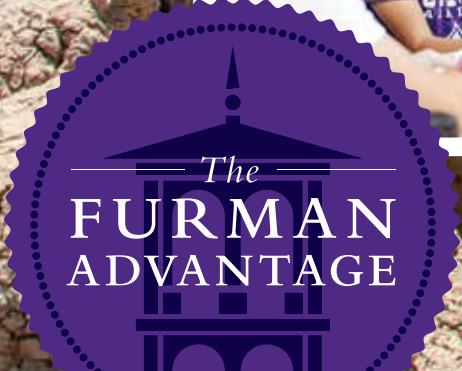






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# WE ARE THE FURMAN ADVANTAGE



**In 2016, Furman set an ambitious new course. We promised every student the opportunity to engage in real-world experiences that connect back to classroom learning.** Our aim was nothing less than to transform the educational experience for our students and provide them a pathway to a life of purpose after Furman, whether they pursue graduate school or a job. We called this vision The Furman Advantage.

More than five years later, The Furman Advantage is the woven fabric of our university. It strengthens and brightens everything we do.

Our students will tell you that The Furman Advantage lies in the opportunities to engage in study away, research, internships, and a plethora of campus and community activities that provide leadership experience. They'll say it's the resources available to help them understand their strengths and how they fit into the world, to become better students, to get coveted employment and prestigious graduate school positions. Our faculty and staff say they see The Furman Advantage at work in our students' remarkable accomplishments.

The Furman Advantage shows up in data, like the 83% of students who participated in study away, research or internships and the 60% who participated in at least two of these engaged learning experiences. We also see The Furman Advantage at work in our Pathways program, which has erased gaps between majority students and students from low-income families, first-generation college students and students of color in a number of measures that increase their success as students.

In the following pages you'll learn about the programs that make up The Furman Advantage. You'll also read about students who have excelled because of it. Choosing which students to highlight was difficult. We could have featured every student on campus, because every student's success is in some way due to The Furman Advantage.

We hope you enjoy learning about The Furman Advantage as much as we enjoy living it.

Elizabeth Davis  
President





# IT'S IN EVERYTHING WE DO

## WHAT IS THE FURMAN ADVANTAGE?

Simply put, it's everything we do at Furman – a world-class undergraduate education that creates a pathway for students to determine who they want to be and how they want to contribute to the world after they leave campus.

## SPECIFICALLY, THE FURMAN ADVANTAGE IS:

- A personalized four-year pathway to graduation
- High-impact, engaged learning through research, internships and study away
- A team of advisors and mentors to help students find their path
- Leading institutes where students explore and tackle important issues

## THE REAL MAGIC OF THE FURMAN ADVANTAGE

The commitment of The Furman Advantage to reach every student is unique, says Brandon Busteed, president of University Partners and global head of Learn-Work Innovation at Kaplan.

“I can’t think of a single university who has committed to making sure that internships, study away and research are available to every single student,” says Busteed, who previously served as Gallup’s executive director of education and workforce development. “That commitment continues to be the real magical element of The Furman Advantage, in my opinion.”



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**THE DUKE ENDOWMENT** believes in this vision and has dedicated more than \$52.5 million to The Furman Advantage, starting with an initial grant of \$25 million that launched the initiative in the fall of 2016. In 2017, a \$2.5 million grant funded a partnership with Gallup to help assess the impact of The Furman Advantage. Another \$25 million grant in March 2021 helped expand The Furman Advantage and its Pathways program.

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Data show The Furman Advantage is helping draw students to Furman. In 2019, nearly 45% of women and 35% of men who enrolled said The Furman Advantage strongly influenced their decision to attend. Data from the first three years also point to many successes for students, including:

- funding support for all students who applied for summer research and internships,
- increased need-based funding for study away,
- increased participation in engaged learning experiences, and
- increased participation in multiple engaged learning experiences.

All these factors add up to students who are more likely to graduate, to think their education was valuable, to feel more affinity for Furman, and to start their post-graduate careers in jobs or graduate studies that they find fulfilling.

Also key to The Furman Advantage's success is the integration of academic affairs and student life. For example, in the Pathways program, students are

encouraged from early on to think of their career potential by considering what they learn in classrooms and in their extra- and co-curricular activities.

Likewise, engaged learning experiences, such as internships, study away and undergraduate research, are extensions of academic study. And, what students learn about themselves, through mentoring and advising, and through intentional reflection exercises, informs the kinds of engaged learning experiences in which they participate, as well as major and career choices.

Above all, Furman has developed The Furman Advantage in much the same way the university encourages its students to approach learning and life.

**"We learn, we experience, we reflect and we adapt," says Furman University President Elizabeth Davis. "We have applied the same hallmarks of a liberal arts and sciences education to the way we provide an education. We are excited about the progress we've seen so far, and about where the next five years take us."**





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# ENGAGED FOR SUCCESS

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**W**hen we announced The Furman Advantage in 2016, we also re-envisioned the Center for Engaged Learning (CEL) to house three programs that were excelling on their own – study away, research and internships.

The new structure helped centralize and streamline processes and funding, establish shared standards for high-quality experiences, and promote regular, collaborative conversations among the program directors. The result is a holistic approach to creating opportunities and identifying and removing barriers to participation.

**“That’s a much more strategic and effective way of ensuring that students get those experiences,” says Beth Pontari, associate provost for engaged learning, professor of psychology and head of the CEL.**

“When you have The Furman Advantage as your vision, it’s really easy. We know what our job is,” Pontari says. “Our job is to ensure that students have access to these experiences and that they’re high quality.”

Among the Class of 2021, 83% of students engaged in at least one experience, 60% engaged in two and 38% engaged in three or more.

Students start hearing about engaged learning experiences during their first year at Furman. Their advisors talk with them about research and study away possibilities. They’re encouraged to get familiar with the Internship Office to start learning what their interests and passions are.

“Then we start providing ‘scaffolding experiences’ to support their interests, Pontari says. These can be informational interviews with alumni, help with putting together a resume or LinkedIn profile, self-exploration to discover the skills they’re interested in, and figuring out how to get those skills, maybe through job shadowing.

“Those conversations start early across the campus – in the residence halls, in academic advising, in the CEL, where students have the opportunity to start intentionally thinking about what they want to experience and when,” Pontari says. “We want to make sure we’re helping them make the right connections and have the right experiences on and off campus.”

Engaged learning experiences stretch students beyond the classroom, Pontari says. They learn how to develop resilience and problem-solving skills, and how to work in teams. “These can be life changing, both for who our students are and their worldviews but also for concrete opportunities after Furman.”

The bottom line is that if students have a sense of what they want to do, “we are here to help facilitate that, and there are no bounds,” Pontari says. “We really can help them connect with the people and the opportunities that might serve to move them forward in life.”





# THE FURMAN ADVANTAGE

## YEAR ONE: EXPLORE & DISCOVER

- Settle into a new environment and gain a sense of belonging
- Connect with your advisor
- Begin to discover skills, interests and goals through academic coursework and activities

## YEAR TWO: EXAMINE & DECIDE

- Prepare for engaged learning opportunities through coursework and conversations with advisors and mentors
- Begin to explore opportunities in engaged learning
- Select a major that meets life and career goals

## YEAR THREE: CONNECT & REFINE

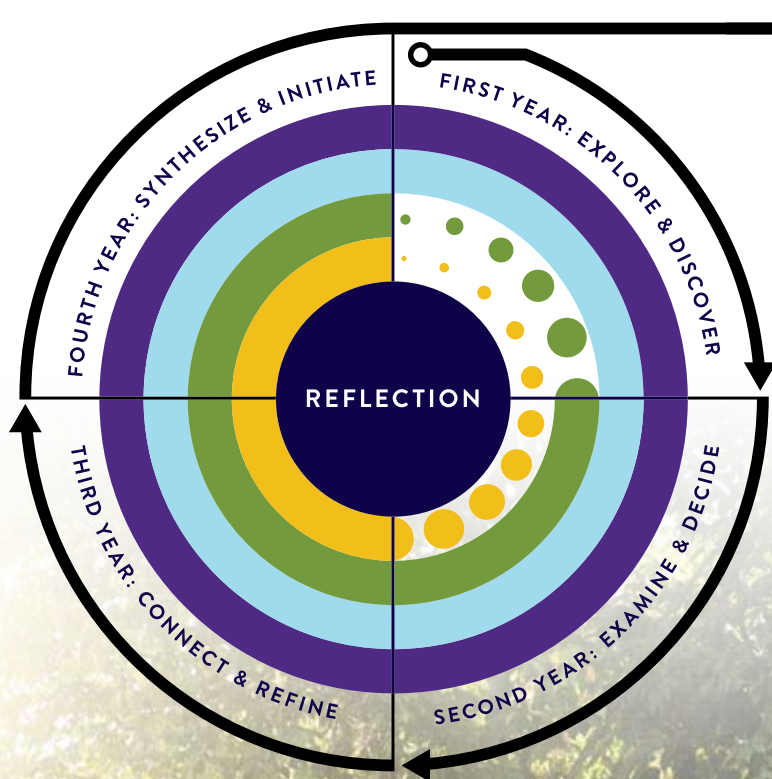
- Focus area of study through classroom learning, reflection, mentors and advisors
- Select engaged learning such as an internship, study away, research or community project
- Apply knowledge and skills to meet real-world challenges

## YEAR FOUR: SYNTHESIZE & INITIATE

- Reflect upon experiences
- Integrate all you have done to create your narrative for employers and graduate schools
- Graduate ready to pursue a meaningful life and career







STUDENTS GRADUATE READY  
TO PURSUE MEANINGFUL  
LIVES AND CAREERS.

- Classroom learning
- Mentoring and advising
- Engaged learning
- Career/post-grad exploration and preparation

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*Adi Dubash, the Henry Keith and Ellen Hard Townes Assistant Professor of Biology, discusses research with Tucker Shelton '22.*

## RESEARCH

**F**or Tucker Shelton '22, a neuroscience and German double major, doing research as an undergraduate was a dream come true.

“Going through the college application process, I was looking for a school where I could do research not only as an undergrad, but as a first-year student,” Shelton says. “The availability of research for undergrads was a major reason I chose to come to Furman.”

At Furman, education is experience. **The Office of Undergraduate Research helps students integrate immersive experiences in our nationally awarded research program with knowledge gained inside the classroom.** This deliberate approach enables students to tailor and refine their education to match their personal and professional goals – and learn from the entire experience.

Through the Summer Research Fellowship Program, opportunities for research exist in every department, from music to chemistry and from

earth, environmental and sustainability science to politics and international affairs. To remove any financial barriers, Furman provides summer research fellows a stipend of \$3,500. All fellows are also eligible to receive a significantly reduced price for on-campus summer housing.

Furman also provides funding for students to travel nationally and internationally to present their work.

Shelton, who plans to go to medical school, spent the summers after his first and sophomore years in the lab of Adi Dubash, the Henry Keith and Ellen Hard Townes Assistant Professor of Biology, studying a protein complex called desmosomes that are involved in cell growth and migration. The research has implications for understanding how cancer spreads, and Shelton was first author on a peer-reviewed journal article based on the work.





“I have always been interested in cancer because of how complex the disease is,” Shelton says. “So I knew coming into college I wanted to do cancer-related research.”

The summer before his senior year he did neuroscience research at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine.

“When I worked in my lab at Philadelphia, all of the doctorate students and post-docs were shocked that I already have a first-author publication as a senior in college. You just don’t get those opportunities at other schools,” Shelton says.

**“When I hear ‘The Furman Advantage,’ I think of the ability to have the impact you want on the world. Even as a (first-year student), you can come to Furman and immediately get involved on campus through whatever means you want, whether it’s doing research, starting an organization, or even starting a company. I do not think I would have been able to have the great research experience I’ve had without The Furman Advantage.**

“Many people have asked me if I’m nervous about the transition from undergrad to medical school, and I have no worries whatsoever because of the experiences I’ve had at Furman,” Shelton says. “From the organization and creativity necessary to lead an independent project to how to communicate in a professional setting, I know I have the tools to be successful in whatever I choose to pursue. I hope to use what I’ve learned at Furman to continue to have an impact in my community.”



## HOW TO ADD RESEARCH TO YOUR PATHWAY

### FIRST YEAR

- Visit [furman.edu/undergraduate-research](http://furman.edu/undergraduate-research) to learn more about the program.
- Talk with your academic advisor and/or meet with the Office of Undergraduate Research.
- Talk with the Center for Engaged Learning Peer Ambassadors about their experiences.
- Talk with faculty members who do research in an area that interests you about what courses you could take to prepare for a research experience.
- Attend Furman Engaged to see a wide range of possibilities.

### SECOND YEAR

- If you want to do research as a rising junior, talk with prospective faculty mentors in the fall about applying in the spring.

### THIRD YEAR

- If you had a summer research experience, reflect on it and practice articulating your experience in interviews.
- If you want to do research as a rising senior, talk with prospective faculty members in the fall about applying in the spring.
- Attend and/or present at Furman Engaged.

### FOURTH YEAR

- If you had a summer research experience, reflect on it and practice articulating your experience in interviews.
- Consider submitting an abstract to present at a professional conference or authoring a paper with a faculty member.
- Present at Furman Engaged.



# ASHA MARIE LARSON-BALDWIN '22

MAJOR: ADVOCACY AND JUSTICE STUDIES  
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA



"Yes. And?"

Every time Asha Marie Larson-Baldwin '22 asked her advisors if she could pursue a different path or add another leadership task to her plate, her advisors always said, "Yes. And?"

They were always willing to help her achieve her goals, and go beyond them.

Nobody embodies The Furman Advantage more than Larson-Baldwin. She's done several research projects, two internships, studied away in India and Rwanda, and been active in many organizations and movements on campus, serving as president of three groups including the Student Government Association.

"I think of The Furman Advantage as access. If I went to a different school, I would not have had access to all the opportunities I've had, especially when it comes to financial support. I wouldn't have been able to do study away, I might not have been able to do research, I might not have had summer housing. I see it as building a foundation for me to do the work I need to do," Larson-Baldwin says.

"I have been able to build a strong support system of professors, and they have supported me in getting lots of opportunities," she adds.

"The Furman Advantage has been central to my thriving at Furman."

## ASHA'S FOUR-YEAR PATHWAY

Summer intern with Momentum Bike Clubs, co-leading an eight-week program for youth from marginalized identities.

Becomes Momentum Bike Clubs' assistant director of student engagement and programming.



In her second year, becomes president of the College Democrats.



Chosen as a student representative on a committee of a university task force to erect a statue of Joseph Vaughn '68, Furman's first Black undergraduate student.

Wants leadership experience, so in her first year she joins the two-year Shucker Leadership Institute. Also joins the student NAACP, Student League for Black Culture, admissions ambassadors, MOSAIC multicultural ambassadors and orientation staff.



Through the Individualized Curriculum Program creates her own major: Advocacy and Justice Studies. Double minors in Poverty Studies and African American Studies.





Goes on a MayX Study Away to Kigali, Rwanda, to study conflict, reconciliation and transformative justice.

As a junior and senior, serves as president of the Furman Justice Forum.



Studies away in India learning the history and politics of that country, child development and poverty, and global health inequities. Does an internship while she's there.

Serves as a summer research fellow studying the impact of gentrification on small business owners in West Greenville, South Carolina.



Her senior year, becomes president of the Student Government Association after petitioning to change the SGA constitution to allow students without SGA experience to run for office.

Wins a Mitchell Scholarship to Northern Ireland for a master's degree in public history.



Applying to graduate schools. Wants to become a sociology professor and advocate for social justice.





*Lindsey Cottle spent the fall of her senior year in Costa Rica.*

## STUDY AWAY

**L**indsey Cottle '22 wanted to learn French and Spanish, so she spent the fall of her junior year in Versailles, France, and the fall of her senior year in San Jose, Costa Rica.

But she's fluent in more than languages.

"There is so much to be learned through interaction with people and places who are different from what you're used to," Cottle says. "And nothing enables a person to grow and mature as an individual quite like being responsible for themselves in a foreign country."

Cottle's study away experiences have done exactly what they're designed to do for students: engage with difference, contemplate new perspectives, value intercultural dialogue, and hone skills for success in our increasingly interconnected world. Those lessons are what make study away a key component of The Furman Advantage.

**At Furman, more than 500 students study away each year through the Rinker Center for Study Away and International Education.** More than 59% of all students study away, and although students can choose an exchange program or a program led by an affiliate partner, one-third are led by their own Furman professors. The majority of study away programs are interdisciplinary in nature and open to students of all majors.

Cottle's study away experiences pushed her out of her comfort zone. "They forced me to grow as a person more than I ever thought I could. I've learned to be more flexible, open-minded and willing to try new things.

"However, my favorite part of study away by far has been the lifelong relationships I've formed abroad – from my host families to friendly locals to the international students abroad with me, nothing brings people together like cultural exchange!"





Cottle is planning to study away again, during a MayX, or May Experience, in 2022. Then she's planning a career helping other students have meaningful experiences in study away. Ultimately, she wants to work for a university's study away program.

Cottle says The Furman Advantage has given her opportunities to find out what really interests her, and what doesn't. In addition to studying away, she also conducted research and she did two internships.

**"None of my friends at other universities have had anywhere near the quality and sheer volume of opportunities that I've had here at Furman. These experiences have been essential to the quality of my college experience," she says. "They will allow me to graduate with more real-world experience than most people my age. The Furman Advantage truly is a significant advantage for graduates as we enter the workforce or continue in our education."**



## HOW TO ADD STUDY AWAY TO YOUR PATHWAY

### FIRST YEAR

- Attend the Study Away Fair to explore upcoming semester, MayX and summer programs.
- Talk to your academic advisor about your interests and meet with a study away advisor.
- Talk with Center for Engaged Learning peer advisors about their study away experiences.
- Possibly apply for a MayX, summer or semester study away program or scholarship.
- Attend Furman Engaged to see a wide range of possibilities.

### SECOND YEAR

- Apply for a Center for Engaged Learning peer ambassador position.

### THIRD YEAR

- Connect with study away about reflection opportunities.
- Sponsor a Cultural Life Program event around global experiences.
- Engage in opportunities that connect your study away experience with professional development on campus.
- Attend resume review sessions.
- Present your study away experience at Furman Engaged.

### FOURTH YEAR

- Possibly apply for a MayX program.
- Meet with the Malone Center to connect your study away experience to career competencies.
- Mentor underclass students on global opportunities.



# ADDISON SMITH '22

**MAJORS: SPANISH AND  
POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
MOBILE, ALABAMA**



When Addison Smith '22 came to Furman for a tour of the campus, he “just fell in love with it,” he says. “I could feel the sense of community when we drove in the gates. I’ve felt that every day since I’ve been here.”

He knew he wanted to be part of a tight-knit community, and he wanted to be active in student organizations. “I wanted to be able to know people and to be known by my professors,” Smith says.

“There are so many opportunities at Furman. You just have to apply to them,” he adds. He jumped in right from the start, becoming a fellow in the two-year Shucker Leadership Institute and joining Heller Service Corps. And when he started to feel overwhelmed, his team of mentors and advisors helped him dial back and become a more balanced leader. “They taught me that it is OK not to do everything, to take a step back and prioritize what you enjoy.”

Coming into Furman, Smith knew he wanted to do an internship with Carly Fiorina Enterprises. The group had never had an internship, and they didn’t offer pay. With funding through The Furman Advantage and diligence by Diane Iseminger, director of the Internship Office, Smith convinced Fiorina’s group to bring him on as its first intern. Before his senior year, Smith again worked with Iseminger to land an internship with the lobbying group McGuire Woods Consulting. “I got to see federalism in action, lobbying for international and domestic issues,” Smith says.

“I wouldn’t have been able to have these experiences,” he adds, “if it wasn’t for The Furman Advantage.”

Summer after first year, becomes the first intern with Carly Fiorina Enterprises in Alexandria, Virginia, with financial support from the internship office.



First year, joins the two-year Shucker Institute for leadership development, serves as programs and events coordinator his junior year.

Joins orientation staff to extend his leadership experience, named an orientation leader his sophomore, junior and senior years.



Becomes an admissions ambassador, giving tours of campus to prospective students.

## ADDISON'S FOUR-YEAR PATHWAY



Joins The Riley Institute's Advance Team, helping plan and organize the campus visits of high-level national speakers.



Sophomore year was elected Student Government Association president of his class.



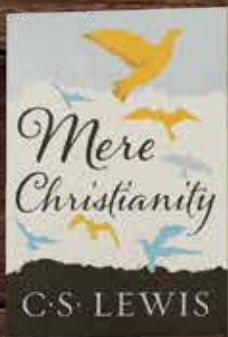
Joins Heller Service Corps, a volunteer public service organization with more than 800 student members. Joins the leadership team in his sophomore year. His junior year, becomes director of programs. As a senior, becomes student director of the organization.



The summer between sophomore and junior years, volunteers with the Greenville Hispanic Alliance, serving as a translator and helping migrants complete naturalization paperwork.



Mentors and tutors Hispanic youth in Greenville.



The same summer, is a research fellow investigating the effects of COVID-19 on immigration to the United States.



Summer before senior year works at the lobbying firm McGuireWoods Consulting in Washington, D.C.

Applying to law school and to teach English in Spain.





# INTERNSHIPS

**F**or Oscar Guillen '22, The Furman Advantage means an extensive alumni network willing to help students gain valuable experience as interns.

Oscar connected with Furman's Internship Office in his sophomore year. An Asian studies major, he wanted to stretch out with an internship in finance. Within days, the office connected him with an alumnus who works for JP Morgan, which resulted in Guillen's landing a highly competitive summer internship in Denver, Colorado, with the finance firm.

"The fact that Furman has so many alumni willing to take time out of their busy schedules just to talk to Furman students, that is something you don't see at most other schools," Guillen says.

**The Internship Office works with students across all majors to help them make connections, build their resumes, find job shadowing opportunities, write cover letters, create LinkedIn profiles and prepare for interviews.**

The process can start as early as a student's first year, when they start exploring their career interests, passions and goals. "I always tell other students, the best thing you can do is get your foot in the door early. Use the network to your advantage," Guillen says. "You want to build your resume over four years, not wait until your senior year and wonder what you're going to do."

*A local internship led Oscar Guillen to a second, highly competitive internship with JP Morgan in Denver.*



The Furman Advantage helps to ensure this happens. The Internship Office works with each student to develop a plan to take advantage of resources and to find and apply for an internship that matches their interests – locally, nationally and internationally.

More than 600 organizations in the Greenville, South Carolina, area and 150 organizations nationwide, representing business, government, arts and nonprofits, work with the Internship Office to offer opportunities to Furman students part-time during the school year and full-time during the summer. Students who have full-time, unpaid summer internships can apply for fellowship funding to help support their experience.

Oscar's first internship was with a local construction company, where he worked on financial projects and data analytics. "That was good experience to have under my belt and have it on my resume." When he applied for the JP Morgan internship, his resume showed that he had already done similar work, which gave him an advantage.

**"Furman has everything you need to be successful," Oscar says. "The resources, the connections, the network. It just takes reaching out to people and telling them, 'Hey, I want to do this, who should I talk to?'"**



## HOW TO ADD AN INTERNSHIP TO YOUR PATHWAY

### FIRST YEAR

- Talk with your academic advisor about your interests and meet with the Internship Office to learn more about their services and about yourself.
- Talk with Center for Engaged Learning peer advisors about their experiences.
- Do an informational interview with someone who works in an area you're interested in.
- Attend Furman Engaged to see the range of opportunities you can get involved in.

### SECOND YEAR

- Attend the Opportunity Fair in the fall and network with organizations about internships.
- Sign up for information interviews and other networking opportunities through the Internship Office.
- Develop a resume, cover letter and LinkedIn profile.
- Go on a Career Trek with the Malone Center for Career Engagement.

### THIRD YEAR

- Meet with the Internship Office to target where you want to intern either during the academic year or following summer.
- Keep your resume and profile updated.

### FOURTH YEAR

- Begin networking with faculty, alumni, parents and other key Furman stakeholders in the field you want to enter.
- Develop your strategy for transitioning from Furman.
- Practice articulating your experiences in interviews by presenting at Furman Engaged and other university signature events.
- Attend the Opportunity Fair in the fall and network with organizations about full-time jobs.



# HANNAH NODAR '22

**MAJORS: MATH-ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**MARIETTA, GEORGIA**



As a high school senior, Hannah Nodar thought she wanted to go to a big university in a big city. So, she visited one. Then, she visited Furman. "Since summer orientation I've never thought about leaving."

At Furman, she found a community. Not only on the women's lacrosse team, where she's a four-year player,

but among the faculty, whose open-door policies she takes advantage of as a double major in math-economics, and politics and international affairs. She's also helping create a sense of community as president of the pre-law society and president of the economics society, where she often interacts with alumni and other professionals.

For Nodar, The Furman Advantage means resources to help her thrive. The university "is academically rigorous, but there are so many resources to help you." She appreciates being able to talk with her professors one-on-one. "I meet with them during their office hours all the time."

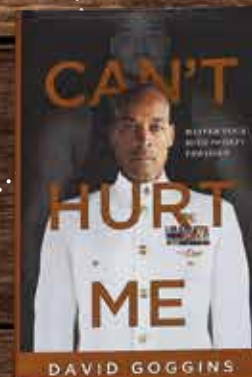
Nodar has also leaned on the Internship Office to gain real-world experience. Coming into Furman, she knew she wanted to go to law school. She worked with the Internship Office to find experiences she knows will pay off as she applies to law school. As a junior, Nodar interned with the Medical Legal Partnership, a program that helps people navigate the healthcare system when legal or social problems are involved. Then, in the summer before her senior year, she interned with the DeKalb County, Georgia, public defender's office.

Nodar says her time at Furman has given her a lot of confidence. "With this sense of community, I feel like I'm prepared going into the workforce or law school. By being involved and seeing the outcomes, I know what to expect of myself and what to expect going forward. I feel like I have a lot of people in my corner."

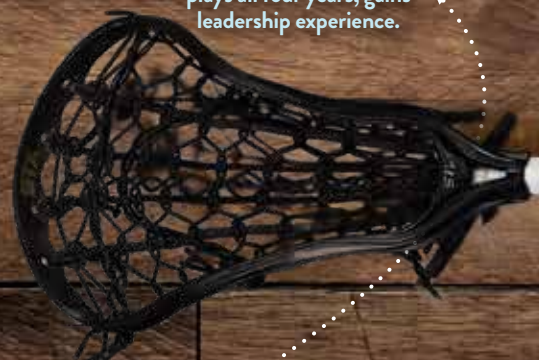
## HANNAH'S FOUR-YEAR PATHWAY



Serves on the  
Student Athlete  
Advisory Committee.



Comes to Furman as a  
women's lacrosse player,  
plays all four years, gains  
leadership experience.

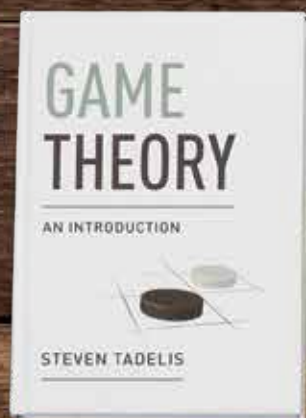


Attracted to Furman's  
sense of community.



Interns with the Medical Legal Partnership helping low-income people navigate healthcare hurdles.

Tutors students in Calculus 1 and 2 and U.S. Government.



Interns with the DeKalb County, Georgia, public defender's office.



Serves as president of the pre-law society, gaining confidence by working with professionals in a field she's interested in pursuing.



Serves as president of the economics society, gaining more experience by working with alumni and other professionals.

Applying to law school with a ton of experience under her belt.





# FORGING A PATHWAY

RUNNING THROUGH THE CENTER OF THE FURMAN ADVANTAGE  
IS A FOUR-YEAR PATHWAY THAT BEGINS WITH REFLECTION  
AND INTROSPECTION AND ENDS WITH DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC SKILLS  
THAT PREPARE STUDENTS FOR LIVES OF PURPOSE  
AND ACCELERATED CAREERS.



**A**long this pathway, advisors and mentors help students think about what they want to do with their lives, how to integrate their academics, their engaged learning experiences such as study away, research and internships, and their career goals, says Michelle Horhota, associate dean for mentoring and advising and professor of psychology.

“It’s a developmental process,” Horhota says.

After a four-year pilot phase, the Furman faculty voted to make the two-year Pathways program a requirement for all students, starting Fall 2022.

In their first and second years, students take a one-credit class that builds a foundation of self-awareness, helping students learn who they are, what they value and where their interests lie. “Students learn to reflect,” Horhota says. In their sophomore year, they also build a resume, have an informational interview with an alumnus, learn other basic career skills and learn to tell their story.

Libby Hamilton ’24, a vocal performance and music theory major, says, “Pathways teaches you about yourself and your classmates and how to grow in the community. One of the things we did was a strengths assessment, and I found out that one of my strengths is empathy. We had a presentation about what the strengths meant and how to work in a group. It was practical. It will 100 percent help with my career.”







#### MY ADVANTAGE

DELILAH EVELYN '23

*“Pathways and my Pathways mentor taught me how to be a student and build good study habits, and encouraged me to reach my full potential. I feel confident and prepared to take on any challenge and make the most of my education.”*

Students in the Pathways pilot reported higher satisfaction scores for advising than students not in Pathways. The early data also suggest that Pathways benefits students from low-income families, first-generation college students and students of color in terms of

- increased retention,
- increased participation in engaged learning experiences, and
- earlier and more frequent appointments with career counseling.

For juniors and seniors, the pathway continues at the department level, where information builds on what students learn in years one and two, tailored to their specific majors. Students reflect on what they’re learning through their major classes and related experiences, and how that is preparing them for opportunities after Furman, whether it be a job, an internship, graduate school or professional school.

*“You’re learning about career opportunities within that discipline, and you’re learning the discipline-specific norms,” Horhota says. Students learn the culture within their chosen discipline, the expectations in different fields, and what the workplace environment may be like.*

Every student has a chance to learn what careers or graduate school options are available to them,

whether they’re majoring in chemistry or theatre, economics or health sciences. Each department provides these experiences differently. Multiple departments host a series of events aimed to help their majors reflect on their academic pathways, including graduate school nights, alumni panels and sessions about engaged learning opportunities or career competency development. Other departments, such as Earth, Environmental, and Sustainability Sciences, hold mini-retreats for students at different stages of their Furman career. Health Sciences and English have created required courses to continue these lessons within their curricula. And yet others, such as Theatre Arts, bring in alumni to provide workshops to learn specific techniques and share their professional journeys, with topics ranging from mask making to set design.

*“Exposing students to possibilities while they are undergraduates gives them a more concrete idea of what they want to do,” Horhota says. “At graduation they have a better sense of how what they have learned at Furman informs what they want to do next, and the steps they need to take to get there.”*

So Furman graduates are prepared to continue down their own pathways.

# PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

REFLECTION, LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND LIFE AFTER FURMAN ARE ALL KEY COMPONENTS OF THE FURMAN ADVANTAGE, AND OUR STUDENTS EXPLORE THESE IDEAS THROUGH CENTERS OF SUPPORT.

## THE SHUCKER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Shucker Leadership Institute offers a two-year program designed to help students explore their passions, strengths and values; experience personal, professional and team-based contexts for leadership development; and engage with the community through collaborative partnerships and meaningful service.

Becoming a Shucker Fellow is a competitive process. Each year, 25 to 30 first-year students are welcomed into the program. During the first year, fellows focus on personal development and reflection, participate in direct service, and learn what it means to seek root causes of issues when engaging in the community.

During the second year, sophomore fellows put this knowledge into action, working in small groups with a mentor to take the skills and tools they have developed and apply them to a Leadership Challenge Project. Working within a specific “track” of the program, sophomores will seek to engage and make an impact at Furman, in Greenville, nationally and globally. In keeping with The Furman Advantage, the Shucker Leadership Institute strives to give fellows high-impact experiences and opportunities to engage with the greater Greenville community.



### MY ADVANTAGE

CHARLES MILES II '23

*“The Shucker Leadership Institute has been monumental in my growth, as a leader and a person. Shucker gave me the opportunity to work with like-minded individuals who want to be a voice of change in the community, and together we were able to learn how one may impact those around them and so much more.”*





## COTHRAN CENTER FOR VOCATIONAL REFLECTION

As part of The Furman Advantage, the Cothran Center facilitates exploration of purpose and calling among members of the Furman community. It provides resources, space and experiences through which discernment and open dialogue across differences can lead to a clearer sense of what constitutes a meaningful life.

- **Summer Connections**

Each summer, the Cothran Center gathers a group of thoughtful, mature and open-minded first-year students who are willing to be stretched beyond their individual comfort zones. Students learn to appreciate their own “life stories” as they discover that personal vocation yields authenticity and fulfillment.

- **FOCUS in Northern Ireland**

For the past several years, the Cothran Center has offered sophomores an opportunity to participate in an international travel program to Northern Ireland called FOCUS. By the end of the program, students feel more attuned to conflict and injustice and more comfortable engaging in dialogue.

- **Retreats and Hikes**

Retreats and reflective day hikes in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains focus on vocational reflection. Students interact with peers, faculty and staff to discuss and explore issues of calling in a space away from day-to-day life on campus.

## THE MALONE CENTER FOR CAREER ENGAGEMENT

At Furman, 94% of our graduates are employed or in graduate school six months after graduation. That’s thanks in part to the Malone Center for Career Engagement, where students prepare for their path after Furman.

Career advisors meet with students throughout the year, connecting them with an extensive network of alumni and other career professionals. They also assist with career exploration, resume and cover letter writing, graduate school applications and job searches.

Advisors also take students on the road with Paladin Career Treks, visiting top companies across the nation. Treks typically visit several organizations in a specific industry and network with alumni in that area. These trips may include alumni panels, facility tours, presentations by human resources professionals, and other opportunities for students to learn about career paths and to connect with professionals.

# OPENING DOORS TO THE WORLD

IT'S UNUSUAL FOR A LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES UNIVERSITY TO HAVE AN EXTERNAL-FACING INSTITUTE. FURMAN HAS FOUR, WHERE STUDENTS GAIN VALUABLE REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE IN COMMUNITY INITIATIVES, RESEARCH, OUTREACH AND MORE. THEY WORK HAND-IN-HAND WITH FACULTY AND STAFF EXPERTS WHO ARE CONNECTED LOCALLY, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

## THE SHI INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

A bottomless think tank where students, educators and leaders work to address the largest sustainability questions facing humanity, The Shi Institute provides students a chance to contribute to world-changing research and life-changing outreach, like through our student fellows program that partners with more than 30 community partner organizations to provide opportunities for students to facilitate real, sustainable change in our local community. Just how important is this to us? More than two-thirds of Furman courses integrate sustainability content.

## THE RILEY INSTITUTE

Learn how to be a thought leader from a man named by TIME magazine as one of the 20th century's top presidential cabinet members. The Richard W. Riley Institute grows leaders among students, empowers them to drive positive change, and broadens their perspectives about critical issues. Whether hosting acclaimed speakers on the Advance Team, representing the United States at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, participating in service learning through Advantage Scholars, or interning with one of the Institute's many programs, students can make an impact with The Riley Institute.







## THE INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

Often, patients face health problems that aren't easily solved at the physician's office. Through the Institute for the Advancement of Community Health, students have opportunities to engage with comprehensive health collaboration across campus and community partners, as well as internship, research and mentoring opportunities on social issues such as diversity and food insecurity. IACH is also home to the only Medical Legal Partnership program in the country that formally partners with an undergraduate university.



## THE HILL INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Students have ideas. Some of them will solve a problem in society. The Hill Institute serves creatives, innovators, disruptors and founders who challenge the status quo. Through workshops, pitch competitions, boot camps, speaker series, internships, mentoring and co-working space, The Hill Institute equips students to transform communities and change the world.



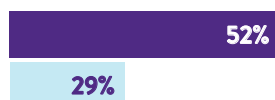
# MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

So how do we know whether we are fulfilling the promise of The Furman Advantage and providing lifelong value to our students? With help from Gallup, we have assessed the impact of The Furman Advantage on the entire Furman family – students, faculty, staff and alumni. The key finding: Our approach is working.

**FURMAN UNIVERSITY SURPASSES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE IN GALLUP'S "BIG SIX" COLLEGE EXPERIENCES. POSITIVE EXPERIENCES IN THESE SIX AREAS MEAN THAT OUR ALUMNI ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE ENGAGED AT WORK AND THRIVING IN THEIR LIVES.**

**FURMAN ALUMNI** **NATIONAL AVERAGE**

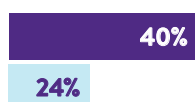
Strongly agreed they had “professors who cared about me as a person”



Strongly agreed they “had at least one professor who made me excited about learning”



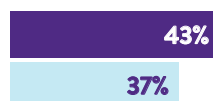
Strongly agreed they “had a mentor who encouraged my goals and dreams”



Strongly agreed they “had a job or internship that allowed me to apply what I was learning in the classroom”



Strongly agreed they “worked on a project that took a semester or more to complete”



Strongly agreed they were “extremely active in extracurricular activities”



**FURMAN GRADUATES ARE THRIVING IN ALL WELLBEING ELEMENTS.**

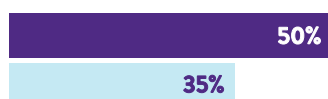
Purpose



Social



Financial



Community



Physical







**3.4x**

MORE LIKELY FOR ALUMNI  
TO BE ENGAGED AT WORK

**3x**

MORE LIKELY FOR ALUMNI  
TO BE THRIVING IN LIFE

*Furman students like Aiyana Taylor are  
thriving under The Furman Advantage.*





# — The — FURMAN ADVANTAGE

*The Furman Advantage guarantees every student an unparalleled education that combines classroom learning with real-world experiences and self-discovery.*

*This integrated four-year pathway, guided by a diverse community of mentors, prepares students for lives of purpose and accelerated career and community impact—demonstrating in concrete terms the value of a Furman education.*

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