Located in Pritchard Hall, this inclusive community is open to all academic majors, all class years, and all religious and non-religious identities. Centered on interfaith dialogue and cooperation, Aurora provides you space to learn and grow as you reflect on values, learn about diverse worldviews, engage across differences, and develop leadership skills to serve the common good. We envision a vibrant community, affirmative of diverse worldviews, rooted in community service, academic excellence, and Ut Prosim (That I May Serve).

**Community Overview**

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Students will work with the local community to co-create goals with common purpose for positive impact.

**Learning Experience**

Students in Aurora will take a one-credit course in the fall semester. The Aurora Community and Discussion Seminar was designed to encourage communication, collaboration, and connectivity. Students will be tasked with improving their community building and interfaith learning skills through presentations, facilitated discussion, and a group showcase project.

**Living Experience**

The Aurora experience includes participation in social and community-building engagements, weekly meetings, service-oriented experiences and experiential learning. Opportunities for interfaith development, exploring civic pluralism, and connecting on-campus experience to academic coursework will consistently occur. Students will also help to co-create the community and propose new projects & events.

Apply to live in Aurora in 2021-22. Visit llp.vt.edu/llc/aurora
Why is interfaith engagement on college campuses important?
Let’s hear from interfaith student leaders at Virginia Tech

"For most people, religious/ non-religious identities are key to their individual beliefs and hence a huge part of them. However, it is almost taboo to talk about something that is so important to people. In my belief, conflicts due to different identities arise due to the lack of knowledge and mutual understanding. Since college is the phase of life where people get loads of exposure, it is the perfect time for students to explore other views and share their own."

Shikhar Kashyap
PhD student in Curriculum and Instruction, member of Synergy: Interfaith Collective at VT & Common Ground interfaith leader

"Interfaith engagement opens up an extremely important dialogue that is hard to access anywhere else. The space interfaith engagement creates is of respect and acceptance, which everyone needs, especially in college as you begin to think more about your own beliefs."

Michelle Morris
Junior Biomedical Engineering Student, member of Aurora Steering Committee and Synergy: Interfaith Collective at VT

"I find it interesting just learning about different cultures, different religions, and different types of people. That’s one of my passions- just seeing how the differences in people make us who we are and how that can also bring us together."

Kaycie Lassiter
Junior, International Studies and French, member of the Interfaith Advisory Council

"I think that interfaith engagement is an important aspect of the college experience because it encourages people to learn from each other and to value different viewpoints. College is a diverse environment and I believe interfaith engagement is a platform that can be used to embrace such diversity and to help it flourish while working to break down barriers, eliminate preconceptions, and provide a space for people to unite."

Amina James
Sophomore in Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise Science, member of Synergy: Interfaith Collective at VT

"Interfaith engagement on college campuses is important because dialogue between people of different worldviews is essential to reducing conflict, building understanding, and reducing prejudice."

Alyssa Jorgensen
Senior in English and Technical Writing, member of VT Interfaith Advisory Council & Common Ground interfaith leader

"Interfaith engagement on college campuses is important because it fosters a sense of community. College can be a scary place, and the transition to a new university can be difficult. People tend to cling to others that are just like them. Interfaith gives the opportunity for students to expand their circle and learn more about others while making lifelong friends and experiencing things they otherwise would not and might not get the opportunity to do again. It makes college less scary."

Shan Askari
Sophomore in Civil Engineering, member of Synergy: Interfaith Collective at VT

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*pre-COVID images