FOCUS is a curriculum-based cohort program for students interested in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) from historically under-represented backgrounds (based on gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, first-generation status, and disabilities).

FOCUS supports students through their entry into science/math study at Carleton by creating a cohort of peers which enrolls in classes together (in so far as this makes sense), meets regularly in a colloquium throughout the first and second year, and has an opportunity for work study in the sciences. Cohort activities continue throughout a student’s four years at Carleton.

Program Overview

Program Success!

- 96% graduation rate.
- 85% of FOCUS students graduate with majors in STEM.
- 18+ faculty have been involved with the teaching program so far and the program is growing.

Apply Today!

Visit https://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/information_students/FOCUS/ for more information and links to the online application.

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FOCUS Coordinator: Ernesto Polania-Gonzalez ’17, Educational Associate, Old Music Hall 312, x6205
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Contact Information

**Mentorship**

- Each cohort of 16 students is lead by a **cohort mentor**, a tenured Science/Math faculty member who is typically their academic advisor for the first 2 years. This targeted advising provides greater student familiarity with STEM faculty and insider insight in navigating the challenging and fast-paced STEM courses at Carleton College.

- **Peer mentorship** is also provided for all 100 and 200 level STEM courses, with mentors available upon request for 300 level courses. The FOCUS mentor program matches students in STEM courses with other FOCUS students with previous experience in the course. This provides a peer support network throughout FOCUS, with mentors serving as touch-stones and success coaches.

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**Colloquium Benefits**

- **First-Year**: meets once a week
- **Second-Year**: meets once every-other week

**First-Year Schedule**
- Priority registration math or science course - 6 credits
- FOCUS Colloquium - 2 credits
- 2 additional courses of student’s choice - 12 credits

**Second-Year Schedule**
- 3 courses of student’s choice -18 credits
- FOCUS colloquium - 1 credit

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**Work-Study Opportunities**

Work-study opportunities in science and math areas are available for up to 50% of a student’s work contract.

**Opportunities Include**

**The FOCUS Mentor Program**
- Mentors serve as success coaches for other cohort students in a science or math course they have previously completed. A great way to experience teaching as learning. Typically 1-2 hours/week.

**The FOCUS Scholars Program**
- Scholars attend seminars or other events in the science and math departments and write brief papers about the experience. Great for gaining informal science writing skills and getting connected with STEM departments while learning about research developments in the field. Typically 4 hours/week.

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**Fall Term**

- A science based Argument and Inquiry Seminar - 6 credits
- FOCUS Colloquium - 2 credits
- 2 additional courses of student’s choice - 12 credits

- 3 courses of student’s choice -18 credits
- FOCUS Colloquium - 1 credit

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**Spring Term**

- Priority registration math or science course - 6 credits
- FOCUS Colloquium - 2 credits
- 2 additional courses of student’s choice - 12 credits

- 3 courses of student’s choice - 18 credits
- FOCUS Colloquium - 1 credit

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**Winter Term**

**First-Year Schedule**
- Priority registration math or science course - 6 credits
- FOCUS Colloquium - 2 credits
- 2 additional courses of student’s choice - 12 credits

**Second-Year Schedule**
- 3 courses of student’s choice -18 credits
- FOCUS colloquium - 1 credit

Year-long interdisciplinary Academic Civic Engagement research project, culminating in a published magazine.