

The River Program

Helping students navigate the headwaters of college, community, and career.

The River program is intended to engage students in a meaningful way across their first two years as CSU students. In their first semester, students will experience RIVR 1101 and PERS 1506: Charting Your Course. Building upon these two courses, students will participate in RIVR 2101 in the first semester of their second year at CSU.

The River program will help students:

- Build a network of friends, community collaborators, and professional mentors
- Chart a course for their academic and professional goals
- Widen educational experiences beyond the classroom
- Develop and apply critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills
- Develop essential career competencies and life skills

Courses Available

- [Arts Focus Area](#)
- [Business Focus Area](#)
- [Education Focus Area](#)
- [Health Professions Focus Area](#)
- [Humanities Focus Area](#)
- [Fully Online Degree Programs Only](#)
- [Social Sciences Focus Area](#)
- [STEM Focus Area](#)

Arts Focus Area

While these sections are tailored to support Arts Area students, all students are encouraged to select the RIVR1101 topic that most interests them.

(Arts Focus Area majors include degrees in Art, Music, Theatre, Film, and other creative or performance-based programs.)

Artists on Art and the Creative Impulse (80371)

How have artists used one art form to explore truths about another art form? How have artists explored the creative impulse itself, either by writing about it or by commenting on/communing with other artistic disciplines? This course will explore these questions through the experience of an opera, a musical, a film, poetry, paintings, essays, and books. Students will use these works to explore their own philosophy(ies) of the creative impulse. They will also explore how the arts can be part of a feedback loop that helps them understand themselves and their own creative impulses. The course will culminate with a public presentation of a project by each student on a work of art or commentary that connects to their thoughts about "the art of making art."

Creative Voices: Art & History (80370)

This section dives into whether artists mirror history or inspire fresh viewpoints. You'll explore how creative expression shapes society, leading to an exciting project that showcases art's power in driving social change.

Life through the Lens (80363)

The media and film we consume forms our view of the world around us in small and profound ways. We will explore how media shapes our perceptions of a given place or people. Learn how film impacts you, your community, and your world. Develop tools and skills to engage with the messages in media and film and to help others do the same.

Mind Matters: Building Wellbeing through Art (80368)

Mind Matters: Building Wellbeing through Art is an interdisciplinary course for first-year students that explores how art shapes how we understand ourselves, others, and the world. Through hands-on projects, discussions, and collaborative work with campus and community partners, students will use creative practices to reflect on mental health, challenge stigma, and build empathy and resilience. The course emphasizes personal growth, creative problem-solving, and learning to critically engage with the messages we see in art.

Wellness in the Arts (80372)

What does the term 'wellness' mean to you? How does our health and wellness impact our craft? In this course, students will be introduced to and investigate wellness components that encompass a holistic sense of health and wellness which may help or hinder our ability to create art.

Business Focus Area

While these sections are tailored to support Business Focus Area students, all students are encouraged to select the RIVR1101 topic that most interests them.

(Business Focus Area majors include Accounting, Finance, Marketing, Management, and related business programs.)

Big Data for Global Business (80350)

Big Data for Global Business explores how organizations use data to compete in global markets. Students cover essential analytical concepts, Excel skills, and real-world applications of data-driven decision-making. The course enables students to interpret global developments, evaluate global business strategies, and transform data into meaningful insights into market trends at regional and global levels.

Big Data for Global Business (80357)

Big Data for Global Business explores how organizations use data to compete in global markets. Students cover essential analytical concepts, Excel skills, and real-world applications of data-driven decision-making. The course enables students to interpret global developments, evaluate global business strategies, and transform data into meaningful insights into market trends at regional and global levels.

Community Robotics Management (80348)

This section will focus on community engagement with local interdisciplinary robotics teams. In preparation to do so, we will learn soft skills (such as agile leadership, team management, presentations, time management, and conflict resolution) and how to program LEGO robots. These skills will be applied immediately as you serve as an assistant coach to a robotics team. You will get to spend a significant amount of time helping a team and reflecting on your experiences to hone your team management skills.

Community Robotics Management (80358)

This section will focus on community engagement with local interdisciplinary robotics teams. In preparation to do so, we will learn soft skills (such as agile leadership, team management, presentations, time management, and conflict resolution) and how to program LEGO robots. These skills will be applied immediately as you serve as an assistant coach to a robotics team. You will get to spend a significant amount of time helping a team and reflecting on your experiences to hone your team management skills.

Digital Battlefield: Fighting Deception (80349)

This section addresses the ongoing battle against misinformation and online manipulation in our tech-driven world. As social media evolves, misleading tactics become more sophisticated, highlighting the need for critical thinking and discernment. This course encourages students to stay sharp and informed in navigating the complexities of the digital age.

Education Focus Area

While these sections are tailored to support Education Area students, all students are encouraged to select the RIVR1101 topic that most interests them.

(Education Focus Area majors include Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary, and Special Education, along with other teacher preparation programs.)

Ethics in Research (80362)

This section will explore ethical considerations in research with a focus on the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, including a visit to the Tuskegee History Center. Students will learn to critique research from the standpoint of rights of participants. Enrollment in this course entails participation in experiential learning activities, which may include field trips or community site visits. These activities could require students to arrange their own transportation via public or personal means. A detailed schedule and expectations will be provided in the syllabus and course calendar. While accommodations may be made when necessary, students are expected to prioritize attendance at all scheduled events. Students unable to attend a scheduled event should contact the instructor to discuss alternative assignments in advance of the event.

Street Smarts: Researching the City as a Living Lab (80443)

Each section of the course is themed around current concepts that spark curiosity and innovation. This is your chance to sharpen your critical and creative thinking, boost your professional communication skills, and thrive in collaborative learning environments. You'll also have the opportunity to get involved in research, to socially engage, and to develop community leadership skills. The course will culminate with you showcasing your learning through a dynamic hands-on project, giving a public presentation, or creating a display that highlights your passions and connects to your future career.

Sustainability in Our Community (80103)

Explore the ways in which our diverse community stakeholders address the issue of sustainability from their individual perspectives. Students will have the opportunity to dive deeper into a specific stakeholders position and develop an educational plan to further the organization's mission.

Fully Online Degree Programs Only

These sections are restricted to students enrolled in fully online degree programs only.

(Fully Online degree programs are those you can complete entirely online, without on-campus course requirements. Examples at CSU include online Information Technology, RN to BSN completion, etc.)

Design Thinking for Social Change (80375)

This online course introduces students to the fundamentals of design thinking, a human-centered, creative problem-solving approach for innovation and social change.

Digital Battlefield: Fighting Deception (80374)

This section addresses the ongoing battle against misinformation and online manipulation in our tech-driven world. As social media evolves, misleading tactics become more sophisticated, highlighting the need for critical thinking and discernment. This course encourages students to stay sharp and informed in navigating the complexities of the digital age.

Health Professions Focus Area

While these sections are tailored to support Health Professions Area students, all students are encouraged to select the RIVR1101 topic that most interests them.

(Health Professions Focus Area majors include Nursing, Kinesiology, Exercise Science, Health Science, and related healthcare or wellness programs.)

Communication Health Professions (80382)

This course will guide students towards becoming effective and engaging health promotion professionals, such as nurses, physical therapists, counselors, doctors, coaches, personal trainers, and public health officials. Students will learn and practice skills for self-regulation and interpersonal communication, leading to a capstone project where students engage in real-world interviews with working professionals to gather guidance and prepare for success in their future courses and careers.

Communication Health Professions (80585)

This course will guide students towards becoming effective and engaging health promotion professionals, such as nurses, physical therapists, counselors, doctors, coaches, personal trainers, and public health officials. Students will learn and practice skills for self-regulation and interpersonal communication, leading to a capstone project where students engage in real-world interviews with working professionals to gather guidance and prepare for success in their future courses and careers.

Intro to Population Health (80384)

This section explores the U.S. Public Health workforce and healthcare system, focusing on its implications for demographics and socioeconomic outcomes in Georgia.

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The Global Obesity Epidemic (80380)

Introduces students to the academic experience by focusing on the interdisciplinary topic of obesity. Students are tasked with exploring how multiple community factors like marketing, urban planning, food security, healthcare availability, wellness education, fitness center accessibility, etc., interlink to cultivate an obesogenic environment.

Humanities Focus Area

While these sections are tailored to support Humanities Area students, all students are encouraged to select the RIVR1101 topic that most interests them.

(Humanities Focus Area majors include English, History, Modern Languages, Philosophy, and related humanities programs.)

History, Memory, and Tourism (80387)

This engaging, hands-on, and experiential learning section partners CSU students with the National Civil War Naval Museum to explore numerous facets of museum work and public history: community and educational outreach, exhibit development and curation, event planning, marketing, social media, branding, fundraising, grant raising, and leadership.

Zine River (80389)

Let your creativity flow, find new currents of expression, and connection through the art of zine-making in this hands-on course. In Zine River, we will dive into DIY publishing while building real-world skills in communication, collaboration, and community engagement.

Social Sciences Focus Area

While these sections are tailored to support Social Sciences Area students, all students are encouraged to select the RIVR1101 topic that most interests them.

(Social Sciences Focus Area majors include Psychology, Sociology, Criminal Justice, Political Science, and related social science programs.)

AI Media Lab (80436)

This course introduces students to core concepts of AI literacy while exploring how generative AI tools can be used to create short-form media content. Through hands-on projects and critical reflection, students will learn how to evaluate, use, and question AI technologies in contemporary digital culture.

Cultures of U.S. and Americas (80432)

Explore the shared identities and cultures between the United States and Latin America. Engage with exciting contemporary topics through exploration, classroom discussions, contact with members of the Columbus community, and an excursion to Atlanta.

Freedom and the Jewish South (80450)

Students will explore how political ideas like freedom and authority guide our understanding of history and drive societal change. Our main testing ground will be the "Jewish South," a vibrant region with a complex cultural character.

From Cotton to Coca-Cola (80435)

This class is designed to spark students' interest in Columbus' rich historical past, current culture and promising future development. The students will explore local customs, geography, food, music, and art from the area.

Navigating, Networking, & Community Problem Solving (80431)

This immersive, interdisciplinary course invites students to explore the principles of servant leadership and community building through real-world engagement with local government and civic organizations.

Transforming Columbus (80391)

This section is designed for individuals passionate about creating positive change within their communities. It will delve into the power of grassroots activism, exploring how local efforts can spark larger movements.

Truth, Lies and the Internet (80438)

This section focuses on virtual communities. Students will critically examine the impact of misinformation, fake news, propaganda, and online harassment in order to navigate the treacherous cyberspace.

Waves of Change: Leadership, Service, and Social Impact (80444)

How can leadership create lasting change? This course introduces students to servant leadership (SL) as a practical framework for effective, transformational leadership.

STEM Focus Area

While these sections are tailored to support STEM Area students, all students are encouraged to select the RIVR1101 topic that most interests them.

(STEM Focus Area majors include Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, Robotics Engineering, Cybersecurity, and other science and technology-related programs.)

Building a Smarter, Safer Future (80579)

This section explores essential financial literacy skills and cybersecurity strategies to grow your finances and protect your digital assets. Learn how to manage your finances wisely while safeguarding yourself against online threats.

Building a Smarter, Safer Future (80580)

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Entering the Forge (80377)

This section focuses on introduction to the Army and basic Soldier skills. Students receive an introduction to the Army Profession and examine what it means to be a professional in the U.S. Army, committed to the ideal that America and its founding documents remain the most powerful force for good in human history. The overall focus is on developing basic knowledge and comprehension of the Army Leadership Requirements Model (LRM) while gaining understanding of the

Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program, its purpose in the Army as a commissioning source option. Students also will learn map reading and land navigation. Students will have initial classes on fieldcraft, first aid, and team building that will include a weekly lab facilitated by Junior Cadets and supervised by Senior Cadets and cadre.

Intro to Drones & AI (80577)

This section provides an understanding of how drones operate, foundational coding skills, and how AI empowers drones to navigate, recognize objects, and perform simple autonomous tasks.

Introduction to Water Quality (80575)

This section offers a comprehensive exploration of water quality, emphasizing its importance for health, environmental sustainability, and community engagement. Through hands-on activities, field trips, and collaborative projects, students will learn about water quality, pollution sources, and treatment options, ultimately empowering them to advocate for and implement positive changes in their local water resources.

Playing with Fire (Data) (80578)

Students will work with data from the Columbus Fire and Emergency Medical Services (CFEMS) in Excel. Students will learn how to use Excel to make meaningful conclusions from the CFEMS data and present results at the end of the semester.

Saving Endangered Species (80581)

In this section students will learn about the causes of population declines that have led to species being listed as endangered, the conservation efforts that are being taken to save them, and why it's not too late to save some of them. Students will learn about ongoing efforts to conserve rare species from guest speakers, they will explore natural areas on field trips, and they will work together to develop a conservation plan for a declining species in Georgia.

Think Smart like Albert Einstein (80584)

This section is designed to ignite curiosity and foster innovation through contemporary, inter-twined project-based learning. It offers a unique opportunity for students to enhance critical and creative thinking in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) while developing essential skills for professional and academic success.

Think Smart like Albert Einstein (80587)

This section is designed to ignite curiosity and foster innovation through contemporary, inter-twined project-based learning. It offers a unique opportunity for students to enhance critical and creative thinking in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) while developing essential skills for professional and academic success.

Waves of Change: Leadership, Service, and Social Impact (80586)

How can leadership create lasting change? This course introduces students to servant leadership (SL) as a practical framework for effective, transformational leadership.