



University of Pittsburgh

Division of Student Affairs

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New System Designed by Pitt Alumni Will Make Tracking and Completing OCC Easier for Students

The Outside the Classroom Curriculum (OCC) has launched a new system that will make tracking and completing Pitt's innovative cocurricular program easier than ever before for students.

Designed by Pitt alumni, Mark Visco (CBA '14) and his brother, Dominic Visco (A&S '13)—based on student feedback on how to improve the OCC tracking system—the “Suitable” management system was piloted in the College of Business Administration the past two years, and introduced to new Pitt students during Orientation week.

Students are now required to use the “Suitable” system to track their attendance at events and programs that fulfill OCC requirements in 10 goal areas. There are two ways to access the system: students may log in to the my.pitt.edu portal and click the OCC tab in the right hand column, or students may download the Suitable mobile app from Google Play or the Apple Store on their phone.

OCC program coordinator Amy Lavallee said the new and improved OCC system has many benefits for students.

“Our goal in switching to a new OCC management system was to provide students with an easy way to report events and programs that they have attended, and to provide students with access to a calendar of upcoming events for which they can receive OCC credit,” said Lavallee. “We also wanted to create an incentive program to reward students when they achieve certain levels in the OCC, such as completing 50 or 75 percent of the program.”

Lavallee said that the CBA pilot program using the Suitable system the past two years was well-received by students; therefore, the decision was made this summer to utilize the system for all Pitt students.

Lavallee said that students should enter the Suitable system for the first time through the my.pitt.edu portal by clicking the OCC tab in the right column. Students will receive an e-mail from Lavallee with more detailed instructions on how to log in to the mobile app, how to change their passwords, and how to continue recording participation.

“We realize that the system will be unfamiliar to students the first time they log in and begin to use the features, so I am available to provide individualized support, along with our OCC ambassadors, for any student who has questions or concerns,” said Lavallee.

For example, when students' log in they will see a new feature of the OCC program, a monthly leaderboard that shows participation by other students. OCC events are now assigned a “level” of difficulty

with corresponding points. For example, a student attending a level 1 career fair will receive 10 points, while a student attending a program that requires deeper engagement, such as a level 2 networking event, will receive 20 points. Prizes will be awarded at the end of each month for students in the Top 20 on the leaderboard.

The OCC will hold drop-in hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Office of Career Development and Placement Assistance (second floor of the William Pitt Union). Students also may reach out via e-mail at occ pitt@pitt.edu, or via phone at 412-648-7130.

MORE ON THE OCC: The Outside the Classroom Curriculum (OCC) is a campus-wide program that was developed at the University of Pittsburgh and launched in 2008 to provide students with a structured way to receive a well-rounded education. The OCC features 10 specific goal areas to assist students in their personal and professional development, through participation in programs and activities outside the classroom that complement their academic studies.

The OCC helps connect new students to programs and services at the University, as well as their peers. Students who are fully engaged in the OCC can gain a competitive advantage in their quest to land quality internships and full-time employment, or gain admission to graduate and professional schools. Students who complete all of the OCC requirements are eligible for induction into the OCC Honorary Society and PittAdvantage grants for study abroad, unpaid internships, or service learning opportunities.

The 10 OCC goal areas include:

- Leadership Development
- Pitt Pride
- Communications Skills
- Career Preparation
- Developing a Sense of Self
- Global and Cultural Awareness
- Wellness
- Service to Others
- Appreciation of the Arts
- Demonstrating Initiative and Drive

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