

South Mountain College (draft catalog description)

South Mountain College is a residential academic program designed to bring together a community of students and faculty dedicated to the exploration of ideas and issues. Working in a fluid, interactive environment, students in South Mountain College are challenged to assume responsibility for their educations and make connections across disciplinary barriers. Assisted by the faculty associated with the program, South Mountain students also draw from the curricular resources and intellectual capital of the University. South Mountain College consists of a physical place (a dedicated residence), a curriculum (a unique set of programs and activities), and an intellectual community. Its guiding philosophy is devoted to the dynamic exploration of ideas, combined with a pragmatic emphasis on the relevance of these ideas to issues and problems confronted by individuals and society.

Participation in South Mountain College (SMC) involves residence in its dedicated living space, pursuit of a major, enrollment in SMC courses (described below), participation in SMC activities such as the annual planning retreat and extracurricular events, and completion of free electives to meet University graduation requirements. Students work closely with their traditional major advisors, an advisor within SMC, and also peers having a range of experience in the program. As outcomes of their South Mountain experience, students will experience a strong liberal education focused on the connections between disciplines, and they will gain tangible skills in critical analysis, grappling with complex issues and problems, and managing their own work and those of others to make timely progress on difficult issues.

Students who have joined South Mountain College will spend roughly one third of their credits pursuing a traditional major, one third sampling free electives, and one third in the formal South-Mountain curriculum. This curriculum has two components, augmented by formal and informal extracurricular activities and events. First, in all semesters, students will join a section of an ongoing multidisciplinary seminar devoted to the discussion and analysis of important ideas; in consultation with their faculty mentor, students will participate in selecting both the topics to be considered and the works through which to examine them. Second, in all semesters, students will work either in groups or alone on work related to the annual South Mountain theme chosen in the August retreat. Again, the nature of this work, how goals will be achieved, and what products or end-result is desired will be determined by students working with faculty mentors devoted to each theme. A strong focus on writing and communication skills is an important part of both the South Mountain seminar and investigations courses, and the theme-based work is aimed at concrete outcomes no matter what path a student or group of students chooses to take in working on the theme.

When taking free electives or courses in their declared major, South Mountain students will earn letter grades and accrue a grade-point average like any other Lehigh student. However, all South Mountain courses will be offered on a modified pass-fail basis (Distinguished Performance, Continuing Competency, or Failure), with this grade being

supplemented by detailed narrative assessment provided by the faculty members involved. To continue in South Mountain College, students must remain in good academic standing in the University and also in good standing within the program, as determined by the detailed summary assessments, and development of a portfolio that incorporates their written and other work as well as specific assessments of this work.

Students will generally apply to South Mountain College in parallel with application for admission to Lehigh and participate in the program throughout their four years at the University. It is possible to join the program after the first year, and interested students should contact the Faculty Master for information about procedures. Students who choose to leave the program before graduation can do so without penalty, given that they will already be completing a major and accruing credits towards graduation; students in this situation should contact their South Mountain advisor for information about returning to the traditional Lehigh curriculum.

Degree Requirements for South Mountain College

1. Residence in the South Mountain College house for at least 4 semesters, two of which must include the first year.
2. Participation in the August planning retreat, each year
3. Participation in end-semester workshops, each semester
4. Completion of any Lehigh B.A. or B.S. major (*Note: most B.S. majors will require careful planning in order to meet all requirements in a timely fashion*)
5. Completion of South Mountain College Curriculum (32-64 credits):

Year 1 fall:	SMC 050 Investigations (2-6) SMC 010 Seminar (2)
Year 1 spring:	SMC 050 Investigations (2-6) SMC 010 Seminar (2)
Year 2 fall:	SMC 200 Seminar (2) SMC 250 Investigations (2-6)
Year 2 spring:	SMC 200 Seminar (2) SMC 250 Investigations (2-6)
Year 3 fall:	SMC 200 Seminar (2) SMC 250 Investigations (2-6)
Year 3 spring:	SMC 200 Seminar (2) SMC 250 Investigations (2-6)
Year 4 fall:	SMC 200 Seminar (2) SMC 250 Investigations (2-6)
Year 4 spring:	SMC 200 Seminar (2) SMC 250 Investigations (2-6)

Note: Two credits of SMC Seminar are required each semester for a total of 16 credits. A minimum of two credits of SMC Investigation are required each semester a student is

enrolled on-campus, for a minimum total of 16 credits. If a student is involved in Study Abroad or another off-campus activity, they must still meet the minimum total of 16 credits for SMC Investigation. A maximum total of 48 credits of SMC Investigation may be applied to University graduation requirements.

6. Completion of free electives, so as to meet the minimum University graduation requirement of 121 credits.
7. Maintenance of good standing in the South Mountain College program.

South Mountain Courses

SMC 10. South Mountain Seminar (2)

The subject of this multidisciplinary seminar is the critical analysis of significant ideas. Each offering is organized around the discussion of books, articles, compositions, performances, films, and artworks selected by the students in consultation with their faculty mentor. May include associated workshops that provide a special focus on writing and communication skills. May be repeated once for credit. (ND)

SMC 050. South Mountain Investigation (2-6)

Studies related to the annual theme under investigation by members of South Mountain College. Can involve individual or group work, weekly meetings and discussions, and written, artistic, technical or other work as required to explore or make progress on the issue under study. The advising and mentoring associated with this course includes coverage equivalent to Arts 001 (Choices and Decisions). May be repeated once for credit. (ND)

SMC 200. South Mountain Seminar (2)

The subject of this multidisciplinary seminar is the critical analysis of significant ideas. Each offering is organized around the discussion of books, articles, compositions, performances, films, and artworks selected by the students in consultation with their faculty mentor. May be repeated for credit. (ND)

SMC 250. South Mountain Investigation (2-6)

Studies related to the annual theme under investigation by members of South Mountain College. Can involve individual or group work, weekly meetings and discussions, and written, artistic, technical or other work as required to explore or make progress on the issue under study. Maybe repeated for credit. (ND)