

Doing things I've never done

All smiles outside her dorm room, Catherine Lin admitted later to her pal Hannah Craighton that she felt nervous about her new situation: living on campus. Not to worry, Craighton told Lin, predicting her nerves would vanish like Craighton's did the year before when *she* was new to dorm life.

Lin and Craighton are among the students pioneering the [Career and Life Studies Certificate's \(CLSC\)](#) new residential program, an option for individuals with intellectual disabilities enrolled in UD's two-year program that offers academic, life skills and career development opportunities. "I can have a hard time making decisions," Lin said. "So did I," said Craighton, when she lived in a UD dorm the year before. "But on campus, you have the freedom and flexibility to make decisions."

The residential program's goal, says [CLSC Director Brian Freedman](#), is to "create opportunities for CLSC students to take the next steps in living independently and interdependently." It offers the typical college experience – from the joys and challenges of greater autonomy to living with roommates. By immersing themselves in everyday life at UD, CLSC residential students, supported by staff and mentors, encounter opportunities to balance responsibility and recreation on top of studying and developing their skills alongside non-residential CLSC students.

Craighton and her boyfriend Spencer Haber, another CLSC residential student, seized every opportunity to venture into the community. Elected president of [Going Social](#), a club open to the entire student body, Haber expanded the club's events calendar and was, with Craighton, an avid participant.

Lin prefers the low-key approach, spending the time between classes and her internship watching TV and exploring campus with friends. But she noted she's already benefiting from the greater freedom and flexibility that Craighton spoke of. "I'm more confident now. I'm doing things I've never done," she said. "It's the new Catherine."

[CLSC applications](#) are open year-round. To apply, or learn whether dorm life is right for you, [contact Candy Greenleaf](#).



The "new" Catherine Lin (right) and pal Hannah Craighton, pioneers in the Career and Life Studies Certificate's residential program.