

Strategic Planning for Yale College 2023–2028

May 2026



Overview

*An update on challenges,
opportunities, and achievements*

“Yale’s...existing strengths and ability to identify and direct new resources give us opportunities shared by few other institutions to shape a liberal education for this century.”

– Dean Pericles Lewis, *Strategic Planning for Yale College*, December 2023

The strategic plan for Yale College, developed in the 2022-2023 academic year, is informed by four pillars of emphasis designed to ensure the university’s continued leadership in undergraduate education: *Educational Opportunity, Curricular Innovation, A Community of Learning, and Shared Mission.*

This report provides updates on our progress in each of these areas and previews several points of focus for the next year as the college charts its course forward amid new financial constraints and emerging challenges and opportunities.

Looking Back

Key achievements of the past year

Educational Opportunity: Zero-contribution financial aid extends to students with family incomes up to \$100,000, with tuition-free guarantee for those up to \$200,000.

Curricular Innovation: Transformed course scheduling matrix will improve opportunities for registration.

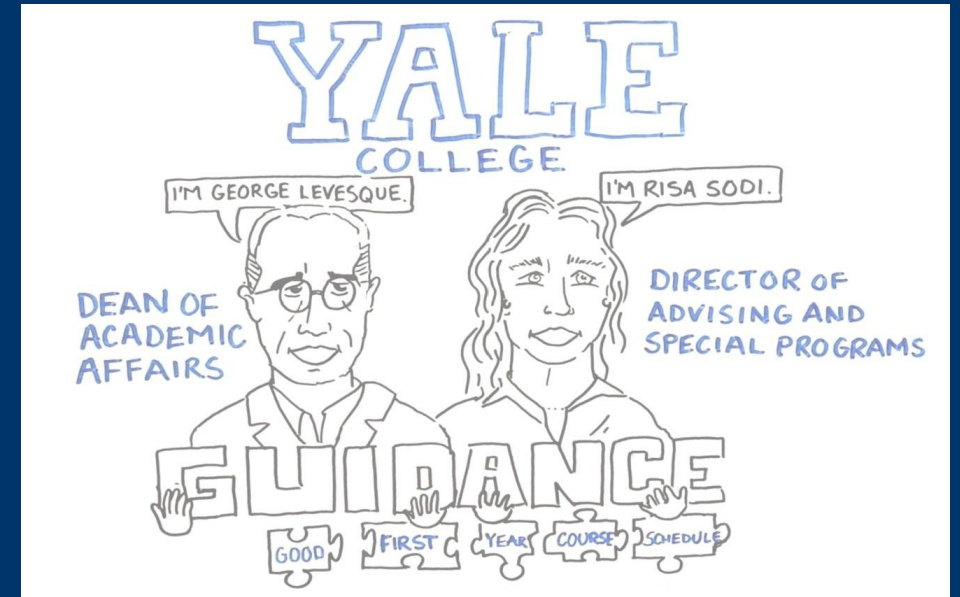
A Community of Learning: Orientation programming helps students listen and connect across differences.

Shared Mission: The college's new long-range plan meets current budgetary challenges and supports future success.

Educational Opportunity

Increased the family income threshold for “full-ride” financial aid to \$100,000 and set a full-tuition income threshold at \$200,000, effective with the Yale College Class of 2030.

- Developed the suite of “Yale 101” advising videos and made online advising a mandatory activity for all incoming first-year students beginning with the Class of 2029.
- Offered two synchronous online sections of the ENGL 1014 academic writing seminars for incoming students who were invited to but unable to attend the on-campus First-Year Scholars at Yale program in summer 2025; this alternative will be continued in summer 2026.
- Sent the inaugural CCAM Media Fellow, Elora Sparnicht '27, to the Sundance Film Festival in January 2026. The fellowship, a joint effort of the Center for Collaborative Arts and Media and the Office of Career Strategy, supports a student journalist interested in covering film and media.



Above: A scene from “Course Selection in Your First Year,” one of the Yale 101 series of advising videos.

At left: Elora Sparnicht '27 receives her media credential as the CCAM Media Fellow: Sundance 2026.

Curricular Innovation

Developed new course meeting matrix with consistent time blocks across all days, reducing the number of meeting patterns from more than 100 to roughly 25 and enabling more efficient use of classroom space while increasing cross-registration opportunities with the professional schools.

- Continued to expand first-year seminar offerings and course enhancement, including field trips, guest presentations, experiential learning, and engagement with the collections.
- Expanded study-abroad eligibility to include the first term of senior year as well as the ability to study in non-Yale programs across multiple summers; developed new Yale Summer Session courses, including programs in South Africa and Georgia, with an expanded emphasis on experiential learning.
- Began active planning for more civic education options in response to the recommendations of the Committee on Trust in Higher Education.



From top: Faculty in the First-Year Seminar Program visit the Yale University Art Gallery for a workshop on collections-based teaching (credit: Jessica Smolinski/Yale University Art Gallery); advanced language study participants and Yale Summer Session staff in Batumi, Georgia, in 2025.

A Community of Learning

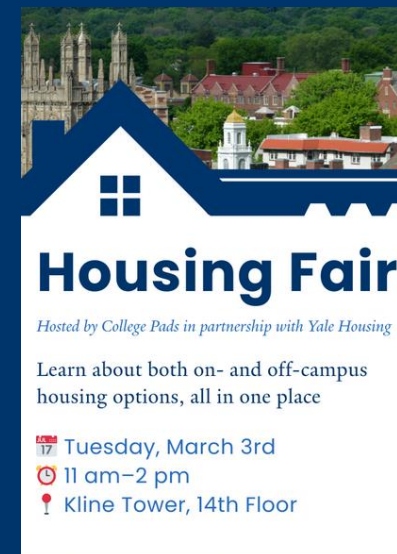
Incorporated *Perspectives*—a self-paced online program that helps students engage in meaningful conversations across differences—into new-student orientation, reaching a total of **1,185 participants.**

- Implemented a new secondary housing draw that gives more choice of location and suitemates to students who do not receive housing in the standard draw, as a part of our efforts to encourage juniors and seniors to live on campus.
- Created new YC3 offerings including a “Navigating Conflict” workshop; a “Seamless Transitions” series, in which students learn about healthy habits including setting up realistic schedules and how to use health insurance; and programming for reinstated students on transitioning back to campus life.
- Began work to strengthen the capacity of communal spaces such as Dwight Hall, Yale Schwarzman Center, and the Acorn Café, to serve as hubs for off-campus and commuter students.

Students’ Open-ended responses: “What’s the main benefit you gained?”




New Approaches to Conflict Resolution

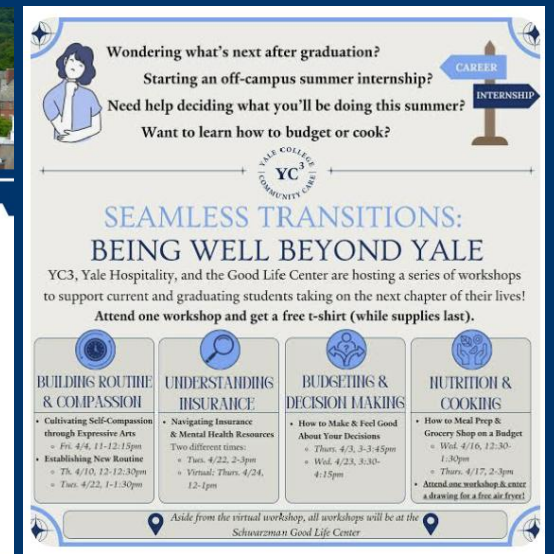
- “I gained practical strategies to communicate more empathetically and effectively across differences.”
- “I learned how to engage in meaningful dialogue with people I may disagree with.”
- “I learned how to lead an intelligent, civil conversation with persons who I would have previously avoided.”



Housing Fair
Hosted by College Pads in partnership with Yale Housing

Learn about both on- and off-campus housing options, all in one place

 Tuesday, March 3rd
 11 am–2 pm
 Kline Tower, 14th Floor



Wondering what's next after graduation?
Starting an off-campus summer internship?
Need help deciding what you'll be doing this summer?
Want to learn how to budget or cook?

**SEAMLESS TRANSITIONS:
BEING WELL BEYOND YALE**

YC3, Yale Hospitality, and the Good Life Center are hosting a series of workshops to support current and graduating students taking on the next chapter of their lives!
Attend one workshop and get a free t-shirt (while supplies last).

BUILDING ROUTINE & COMPASSION	UNDERSTANDING INSURANCE	BUDGETING & DECISION MAKING	NUTRITION & COOKING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultivating Self-Compassion through Expressive Arts<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fri. 4/4, 11-12:15pm• Establishing New Routine<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Th. 4/10, 12-12:30pm• Tues. 4/22, 1-1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navigating Insurance & Mental Health Resources<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tues. 4/22, 2-3pm• Virtual: Thurs. 4/24, 12-1pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to Make & Feel Good About Your Decisions<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thurs. 4/23, 3-3:45pm• Wed. 4/23, 3:30-4:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to Meal Prep & Grocery Shop on a Budget<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wed. 4/16, 12:30-1:30pm• Thurs. 4/17, 2-3pm• Attend one workshop & receive a t-shirt (while supplies last)

Aside from the virtual workshop, all workshops will be at the Schwarzman Good Life Center

From top: A sample of outcomes from the online Perspectives program; Yale College is newly represented at the university’s housing fair for off-campus students; YC3 offered a series of “Seamless Transitions” workshops.

Shared Mission

Completed the long-range planning process to address and prepare for current and future budgetary challenges; achieved unanimous strategy across the 14 residential colleges to meet the necessary budget reductions.

- Concluded the *For Humanity* campaign in support of Yale College priorities, surpassing campaign goals and raising more than \$350 million to strengthen undergraduate financial aid.
- Built a unified internal timeline for onboarding students that extends from the offer of admission through the end of orientation, streamlining communication among the more than 20 offices involved and paving the way for a planned transition to a single platform to track the pipeline of incoming students.
- Introduced professional development programs including the Yale College Staff Writing Seminar and a “Bring AI to Your Workday” webinar to help staff build new skills and confidence.



Clockwise from top left: Members of the team behind YaleSOAR, now in its third year; participants in the staff writing seminar find inspiration at the Yale Peabody Museum; Yale College colleagues gather with Dean Lewis.

Looking Ahead

Points of focus in the coming year

Educational Opportunity: A comprehensive review to improve academic support and advising is under way.

Curricular Innovation: Work continues to support faculty and students' teaching and learning in the age of AI.

A Community of Learning: Three new heads of college and six new deans will start July 1.

Shared Mission: Implementation of CampusESP platform will enhance communication with parents and families.



“Although, like our predecessors, we cannot know what the longer term may bring, our work today positions Yale to shape the conversation about liberal education for tomorrow and beyond.”

