The Dornsife Toolkit (MDA 300) is a series of two-unit classes that provide practical skills for students looking to prepare themselves for the workplace, graduate school or life beyond college. Each class focuses on a specific topic and teaches useful, transferable skills that are valued by employers and academic institutions alike.

These once-a-week classes can be integrated easily into a regular course schedule. Capped at 25 seats, they are graded Credit / No Credit. The Dornsife Toolkit is ideal for students of the liberal arts and sciences who wish to complement their intellectual interests with practical learning.

Spring 2020 Schedule

**ACTIVISM AND ADVOCACY**
Wendy Abrams  
Mondays, 2 to 3:50 pm

This class explores activism with a focus on tangible steps to create real change. Students will learn how to match their skills and passions within existing channels and to develop new organizations and movements. We will host guest speakers who have led political campaigns and organizations, created movements, participated in civil disobedience, engaged celebrities, utilized art, and led corporate social responsibility efforts.

Wendy Abrams is an environmental and social activist. In 2006 she established Cool Globes, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of climate change. A graduate of Brown and Northwestern universities, she is a trustee and board member of many other public interest organizations.

**EVERYDAY ELOQUENCE – EXPRESSING YOUR PROFESSIONAL SELF**
Amanda Bloom  
Wednesdays, 4 to 5:50 pm

This course will explore methods for expressing one's professional values more eloquently on the job market and while professionalizing post-college. Students will develop strategies for parlaying the words that represent them on the page (cover letters for jobs, research proposals) into eloquent spoken interactions that increase their likelihood of achieving success.

Amanda Bloom is an Assistant Professor of Writing and serves as the Fisher Fellowship’s main faculty advisor. As well as foregrounding critical reasoning, her pedagogy aims to equip students with co-curricular skills that set them apart as young professionals.
GRANT-WRITING
Mandy Hobmeier
Wednesdays, 5 to 6:50 pm

This course will focus on grant and proposal writing, guiding students through the refinement of their projects, the prospect identification process, and tailoring their writing to fit specific audience needs. Structured workshops will introduce practical rhetorical tools designed to help students in identifying goals and mobilizing projects toward funding.

Professor Hobmeier received her Ph.D. in English from The University of Washington and currently is an Assistant Professor in The Writing Program. Her areas of emphases include business and professional writing as well as interdisciplinary and cross-cultural contexts. She has been funded in numerous ways, and supports students in their pursuits through mentoring and the teaching of writing.

MANAGING THE WORK/LIFE BALANCE – A BLUEPRINT FOR VITALITY
Stephanie Eggert
Tuesdays, 8 to 9:50 am

In a world undergoing the quantum effects of information overload, this class provides an environment for students to increase their personal vitality. Activating the resources to balance ourselves neurologically and emotionally, students will gain energy and learn to balance life with work, improving their ability to maneuver successfully through the college experience and beyond for optimum personal success.

Stephanie Eggert is a Senior Lecturer in Physical Education. She teaches Stress Management for Healthy Living, Kundalini Yoga and Meditation, Humanology, and Principles of Athletic Coaching.

LAUNCHING A START-UP
James Bottom
Fridays, 10 to 11:50 am

This class provides an introduction to startup culture and an overview of the skills necessary to be successful in building a startup idea for a business or NGO. The goal is for students to prototype an idea from conception through the alpha testing stage in a single semester.

James Bottom is the Project Director of Blackstone LaunchPad USC. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, was a former Team Captain of the National Champion Rose Bowl Team in 2003, and has an MBA from the Marshall School of Business. James’ expertise is in startups, incubators, mentors, crowd funding and crowd sourcing.

PERSONAL ECONOMICS
Malgorzata Switek
Mondays, 4 to 5:50 pm

This course combines economic and financial concepts to help students navigate the complexities of the economic system and make informed financial decisions. Students will become acquainted with the insights of saving, investing, and personal economics through lectures and in-class exercises that apply the knowledge learned to a practical situation.

Professor Switek will combine her professional experience in consulting with her life experiences as an economist making personal financial decisions to provide the students with a dynamic learning experience.