

JOIN US AT

FOCUS

AN ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR FAMILY MEMBERS/GUESTS

WELCOME TO
VALPO

Dear Family Members:

Valparaiso University proudly welcomes you and your new Valpo student to FOCUS!

FOCUS provides you and your student with the knowledge and support necessary to ensure a successful transition to Valparaiso University. Activities have been carefully planned to enhance your total orientation experience; we encourage you to attend every session. Meet and greet as many other family members as possible. Take this time to inform and prepare yourself for this big transition.

The FOCUS staff is committed to facilitating your student's orientation, and we are available to help you throughout your visit.

Your student is now an important part of Valpo's close-knit community – and so are you. We're excited to welcome everyone to Valpo!

Sincerely,



Ryan Bye

Director of Student Involvement & New Student Programs

PARENT/FAMILY MEMBER ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Campus Offices Open

8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Bookstore Open

8–8:45 a.m.
FOCUS Check-In
Harre Union, Atrium

Students check their guests in for FOCUS. You can help by taking your student's OneCard ID photo before FOCUS. They need a head and shoulders photo against a white background (like a passport photo). They then upload their photo prior to FOCUS at apps.valpo.edu/idExpress (log in with Valpo username/password).

8–8:45 a.m.
Visit a Residence Hall

Tours leave continuously. Meet the Residential Life staff in Grand Lounge (first floor near Founders Table) for a brief escorted visit to Brandt Hall, a first-year residence hall.

9–9:30 a.m.
Opening Welcome
Harre Union, Ballrooms

Valpo staff and Orientation Assistants (OAs) officially welcome you to campus as we kick off FOCUS together!

9:50–10:35 a.m.
Introduction to the colleges
Various locations

Now that your student has chosen Valpo, there are details to learn that are more in-depth than anything covered during a visit day. Representatives from the Colleges talk about curricular expectations, academic resources, and students' transition to academics at Valpo.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Harre Union, Ballroom C

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Urschel Hall, Room 202

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Gellersen Hall, Room 120

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS
Neils Science Center, Room 234

PARENT/GUEST ORIENTATION SCHEDULE CONTINUED

10:45 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

CAMPUS RESOURCE PRESENTATION 1

Choose one of the following. Families with more than one person in attendance today should split up to experience multiple sessions at the same time. Staff from most sessions will be available at the Student Resources Fair later this afternoon if you cannot attend a session or have additional questions.

1 Lead, Serve, Join, Network ... Get Involved!

Christopher Center, Community Room

Why? Students who are involved on campus are more likely to persist to graduation, get good grades, build skills employers want, and make phenomenal college memories! Learn about student activities, volunteerism, leadership programs, multicultural programs, fraternities/sororities, and more!

2 Campus Services Overview

Neils Science Center, Room 234

This session introduces basic information regarding OneCard, Dining, Transportation, Mail Services, and more. Come learn about the different ways you can support your student as they navigate these campus resources.

11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.

Christ College Meeting *Mueller Hall, Refectory*

Family members of Christ College – The Honors College students learn about the academic environment that your student will experience as part of Christ College.

11:35 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

CORE First-Year Seminar Overview *Harre Union, Ballroom C*

Every student who is not in Christ College is in CORE first-year seminar. Learn about this foundational course sequence that your student will take as they begin their Valpo academic journey.

12:05–12:20 p.m.

Your Student's Life at Valpo *Harre Union, Ballroom C*

Immediately following the CORE First-Year Seminar presentation, the Vice President of Student Life will share information about the Division of Student Life and what your student can expect from our team.

12:30–1:20 p.m.

Lunch *Harre Union, Founders Table*

Dine with and introduce yourself to other family members of new Valpo students.

1:25–2:25 p.m.

Supporting Your Student *Neils Science Center, Room 234*

How do you support your student without doing things for them? The Dean of Students Staff will share several campus resources such as Residential Life, Counseling Services, and the Health Center.

2:25–2:55 p.m.

Student Account, Billing, and Payment Plan Overview *Neils Science Center, Room 234*

We understand that you may be graciously helping to cover your student's Valpo payments. Student Accounts presents an overview of Student Account Self-Service, billing information, payment plans, and more.

3–4 p.m.

Campus Resource Presentation 2

Choose one of the following. Families with more than one person in attendance today should split up to experience multiple sessions at the same time. Staff from most sessions will be available at the Student Services Fair later this afternoon if you cannot attend a session or have additional questions.

1 Faith Life Meet & Greet

Chapel of the Resurrection

Meet Chapel staff to learn about myriad ways students can explore their faith during their time at Valpo. Lutheran traditions, other faith resources, and programs will be discussed. Families of all faiths are welcome and encouraged to learn about opportunities on campus and in the region.

2 Real World 101: Internships and Career Planning

Center for the Arts, Theatre

Career Center representatives share the resources that can be used beginning the first year at Valpo through graduation.



PARENT/GUEST ORIENTATION SCHEDULE CONTINUED

4:15–5:30 p.m.
Student Resources Fair
Harre Union, Ballrooms A&B

This is your chance to ask all the questions that would embarrass your student. Talk with representatives from various campus departments and gather resource information. See the list of participants in your FOCUS folder.

5 p.m.
Campus Offices Close

5:30–6:30 p.m.
Dinner
Harre Union, Founders Table

Relax at the end of the day knowing you are prepared for the next steps at Valpo!

5:30–6 p.m.
Student-Athlete Information Session
Christopher Center, Community Room

All NCAA athletes from all sports are required to attend. Family members are welcome as well. Meet with compliance staff to go over information for this stage in your transition to Valpo Athletics and get questions answered.

6:30–7:30 p.m.
Parent & Family Reception
Harre Union, President's Foyer

We are excited to welcome you to the Valparaiso University family and as a token of our appreciation, we invite you to join members of the University's President's Council for a reception to celebrate your new journey as a Valpo family member!

WELCOME WEEK 2021

Encourage your student to participate in Welcome Week 2021! It will begin with new student move-in day on Saturday, Aug. 21, and continue through the first week of classes. Details will be announced by the end of July. See last year's schedule for a sampling of events that happen during Welcome Week. Valpo students are very involved in and out of the classroom. Your student should plan to start their Valpo experience the same way by enjoying all the Welcome Week activities and Valpo will feel like home quickly!

See valpo.edu/registrar/calendar for 2021–2022 dates including:

Aug. 21–24	Required Welcome Week Activities (Move-In Day is Saturday, Aug. 21)
Aug. 25	First Day of Classes
Aug. 25–29	Welcome Week Events Continue
Oct. 14–15	Fall Break – No Classes, Residence Areas Remain Open
Nov. 20–28	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes, Residence Areas Close
Dec. 13–17	Final Exams
Dec. 18	Residence Areas Close for Semester Break

ROOMMATE REQUEST AFTER FOCUS

Did your student meet someone with whom they'd like to room? They can submit this request when they complete their housing application after registering for classes. If they meet someone after FOCUS, they can log into datavu.valpo.edu – Students Menu – Housing Self Service to update their housing preferences. The roommates need to confirm each other via the online housing system in order to be matched. **All roommate confirmations must be completed on DataVU Housing Self-Service no later than noon on Wednesday, June 30, 2021.** If your student has questions, they should contact Residential Life at 219.464.5413 or email reslife@valpo.edu.

CAMPUS OFFICES

Campus offices are open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday throughout the summer, including on FOCUS days. If you need directions to a campus office, ask any FOCUS staff member or stop by the Harre Union Welcome Desk for assistance. Locations of frequently visited offices include:

Dining Services
Harre Union, suite 170

OneCard, Parking, and Transportation Services
Harre Union, suite 244

Financial Aid
A counselor is available in Harre Union Conference Room 231 during FOCUS or you can book an appointment for any day before or after FOCUS at vufinancialaid.youcanbook.me.

Residential Life
Harre Union, suite 250



WHAT TO BRING TO CAMPUS

NECESSITIES

- Back-up contact list
- Alarm clock with battery back-up
- Book bag/backpack
- Desk supplies – pens, highlighters, pencils, erasers, scissors, glue, stapler, paper clips, folders, note pads, theme books, organizers, rulers, tape
- Dishes – mugs, bowls, silverware, plates
- Fan
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Hangers, laundry bag/basket, supplies
- Portable phone charger(s)
- Basic tools (e.g., hammer, screwdriver)
- Storage containers, paper towels
- Toiletries – soap, shaver, shaving supplies, Band-Aids, toothbrush, dental accessories, hair products, deodorants, hair dryer, cotton balls, safety pins, eyecare products, make-up, face cleaning products, tissue, sunscreen, etc.
- Twin-size bedding: pillows, blankets, sheets, comforter, bedspread, mattress pad (Note: we recommend extra-long length)
- Umbrella/raincoat
- Wastebasket
- Face masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes

OPTIONAL

- Athletic equipment – tennis racket, racquetball paddle, rollerblades, baseball/softball glove, Frisbee, soccer ball, basketball, football, golf clubs
- Bicycle
- Bookends
- Collapsible drying rack for laundry
- Computer and supplies*
- Mounting tape for hanging pictures on walls (3M strips work well)
- Entertainment equipment – radio, stereo, TV, video games, musical instruments, board games, cards, portable speaker
- Pictures and posters for walls
- Plants, plant food, watering can
- Shelves – crates, bricks, cinder blocks, and boards can all be used to make shelves anywhere in residence hall
- Shower tote
- Throw rug/carpet remnant
- Wipe-away message board and markers

*Note: Computer required for engineering majors

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMPUS

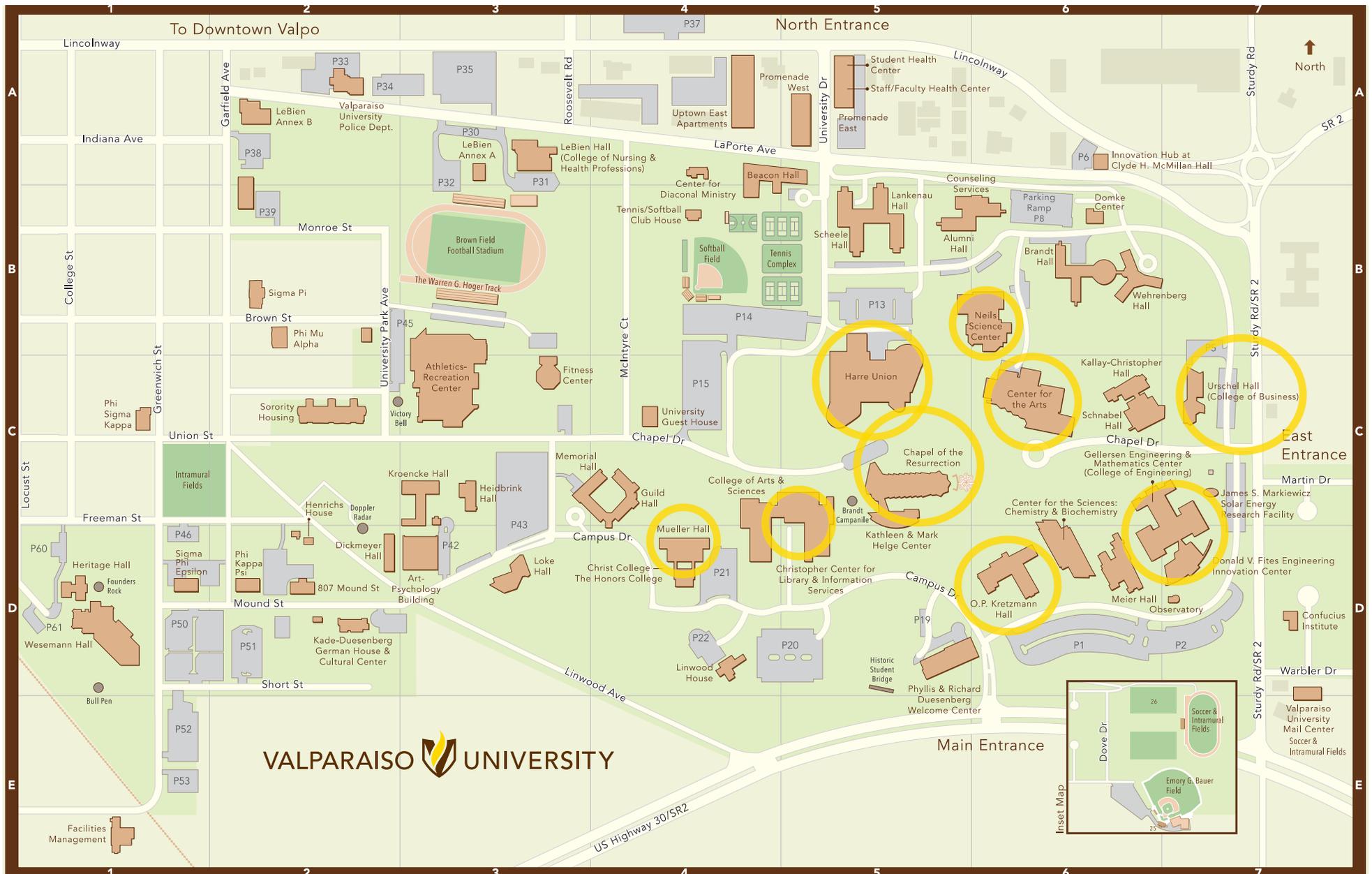
- Duplicate TVs, carpets, etc. You'll find out your roommate's name and contact information in mid-July. We suggest you contact them, not only to introduce yourself, but also to make arrangements as to who will bring what items.
- Nails or tacks for hanging posters. Although you may hang up or tack them down with double-faced tape, you may not use nails or tacks on the residence hall walls.
- Pets, unless they're fish (aquariums limited to 10 gallons)
- Halogen floor lamps
- Candles
- Microwaves (each floor lounge has a microwave)

If you or someone in your household is showing symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home and consult your health care provider.

Visit valpo.edu/reslife for details.



VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Visit valpo.edu/about/maps-directions.



#11

EMMETT TWOMEY

Emmett Twomey '23, a meteorology major with a history minor from Orland Park, Illinois, is in his second year as an Orientation Assistant. Emmett holds many leadership positions on campus including working as an Ambassador in Admission; is involved with VUDU Comedy, the storm intercept team, and public relations for Interfraternity Council; and serves as a resident assistant. Emmett's favorite thing about Valpo is the hands-on experiences he has received since he was a freshman. If Emmett could choose his dream job, he would love to be a master LEGO builder.



#12

JACKIE SEPULVEDA

Jackie Sepulveda '23, a meteorology major from Des Plaines, Illinois, is in her second year as an OA. Jackie's most memorable moment here at Valpo was serving as an Orientation Assistant last year, as she was able to be a resource for the new students and watch them grow! If she could travel anywhere in the world, she would like to travel around Europe, but specifically Greece and Italy. Some of Jackie's hobbies include drinking iced coffee, going on nature walks with her dog, listening to music, and hanging out with friends.



#13

CAMERON BOBOS

Cameron Bobos '22 is a psychology major on the pre-physical therapy track from Griffith, Indiana. This is Cameron's third year as an Orientation Assistant. His most memorable moment was during his second-ever FOCUS when he lost one of his group members, which turned out to be a really good laugh and allowed for his group to bond. Cameron holds leadership positions in his fraternity, he works as an Ambassador in Admission, and is involved with a cappella groups on campus. Cameron's dream job is to be a screen actor or to perform in a theatre.



#14

LIZZY MESSERSCHMIDT

Lizzy Messerschmidt '24 is a communication and German double major from Barrington, Illinois. Lizzy chose Valpo because it really felt like home and there are so many opportunities for students here. Lizzy loves doing any type of craft and loves anything Star Wars or Marvel. She is involved in Dance Marathon, Lumin, and a sorority here on campus. Lizzy's favorite place she has ever traveled to was Germany where she was able to visit family.



#15

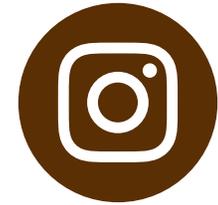
TAYLOR AUSTIN

Taylor Austin '22, a theatre and communication double major from Plainfield, Illinois, serves as the Lead Orientation Assistant. Taylor likes to spend most of her time backstage in the theatre. Taylor serves as vice president of recruitment for her sorority, is public relations chair for the theatre honorary fraternity, and works in the Scene Shop on campus. Her most memorable moment was meeting her best friend during Valpo's production of "Pippin." Taylor's dream job is to become a professional stage manager on Broadway.

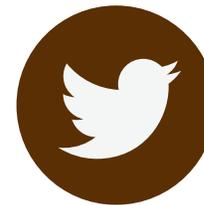
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WHO IS YOUR ORIENTATION ASSISTANT?



#1 RYAN DZIATKOWIEC
Ryan Dziatkowiec '23 is a Spanish and secondary education double major from Batavia, Illinois. Ryan is the fraternity educator as well as standards and expectations chair for his fraternity, is an Interfraternity Council general body representative, and serves as a resident assistant. Ryan's favorite thing about Valpo is the supportive community and how he was able to find a home here. Ryan loves to roller skate and bowl in his free time.



#2 FAITH BRIARS
Faith Briars '23 is a psychology and criminology double major from Toledo, Ohio. This is Faith's second year as an OA. Faith chose Valpo because it seemed like a home away from home! She works as an Ambassador in Admission and Fitness Center building manager, and she holds leadership positions within her sorority and Voices for Animals. Faith's most memorable experience in college was when she studied abroad in London. Faith's dream job is to be a prosecuting attorney for the juvenile justice system.



#3 ENZA FREDIANI
Enza Frediani '23, a communication and international business double major from Lindenhurst, Illinois, is in her second year as an OA. Enza holds a leadership position in her sorority and is a miracle maker for Dance Marathon, Torch journalist, Ambassador in Admission, and member of Voices for Animals. Enza chose Valpo because of the hands-on communication department, and she loves being a part of the University's success and passion. Enza loved traveling in Italy and she can't wait to study abroad in Cambridge for her junior year.



#4 MAIAH DEOGRACIAS
Maiah Deogracias '24 is a communication and art (photography focus) double major from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Maiah is a member of a sorority, Public Relations Student Society of America, The Torch, and the University symphony orchestra. Her favorite part about Valpo is that we are small enough that students pass familiar faces around campus but also big enough that they are always able to meet new people. Maiah's dream job is to be a photographer for National Geographic. In her free time, she enjoys photography, traveling, making music, and spending time with family and friends.



#5 HENRY DEBRUIN
Henry DeBruin '24 is a mechanical engineering major from Bloomingburg, Ohio. Henry's favorite part about Valpo is how personable and helpful the professors are. He loves how he is able to build strong relationships with his professors and how they support him in and out of the classroom. Henry chose Valpo because of the excellent engineering program and how welcoming everyone he met is, especially the professors. His favorite place he has ever been to is Costa Rica when he went during high school.



#6 LESLEY PADILLA
Lesley Padilla '23 is a social work major from Hammond, Indiana. As a first-generation college student, Lesley enjoys all of the opportunities Valpo has to offer. Taking on leadership roles has helped her make connections for her success. Lesley chose Valpo because it is very welcoming, instantly felt like home, and everyone here wants to see you succeed. She holds a leadership position in her sorority, serves as a resident assistant, and is a member of Latinx in Valparaiso for Excellence. Lesley loves to take care of plants and meditate.



#7 MERYN BURK
Meryn Burk '24 is studying health science on the physician assistant track. Meryn's favorite part about the Valpo experience is getting to meet so many new people and make many new friends while also getting involved on campus. Her role model is her mom who has shown her that she can do anything if she puts her mind to it. Meryn's dream job would be to be a professional cellist in any Broadway musical. If she could travel anywhere in the world, she would love to go to Greece.



#8 KOBE HAYWARD
Kobe Hayward '23 is a psychology major from La Porte, Indiana. Kobe is involved in fraternity and sorority life and is a part of the men's soccer club. He chose Valpo because he knew he would be receiving a great education while still being close to home. For Kobe, the best part of the Valpo experience has been seeing himself grow as a person and seeing how he has been able to choose his own path through college while staying true to himself.



#9 MARTHA APONBIEDE
Martha Aponbiede '24 is a computer science major from Abuja, Nigeria. Martha is a part of Alpha Phi Omega, Valparaiso International Student Association, African Student Association, Black Student Organization, and spectrum dance. As an international student, she loves how inclusive and welcoming Valpo has been. Since joining the Valparaiso University community in January 2021, Martha has been able to jump right in by getting involved, and she encourages all new students to do the same! Martha loves to be outdoors and spend time with family and friends.



#10 LANE MADSEN
Lane Madsen '24 is a civil engineering major from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Lane is a member of a sorority here on campus and the University Programming Council. Lane chose Valpo because they can not only pursue their engineering degree, but they can also have a little bit of everything because we are a liberal arts college. Lane's most memorable moments here at Valpo have been the small trips with friends, especially the Dunes! Lane loves spending time with friends in their free time, especially if being outside or coffee is involved.