



PRACTICING RADICAL HOPE IN CLIMATE CRISIS

An Independent Study of Climate Degradation and Maintaining Hope at Drake

What does it mean to face the climate and biodiversity crisis with a sense of “radical hope”? LPS Major Sydney Dvorak and Professor Purdum asked this question in their independent study this semester, inspired by the University of Texas Radical Hope Syllabus.

Sydney defines radical hope as maintaining hope in the face of possible, even likely, failure, and persevering to fight for what is important. To complete the class, she decided to assess the state of sustainability at Drake and present ideas for improvement to University leadership. These ideas included decreasing Styrofoam use, increasing native planting, implementing the Sustainable Events Guide, and increasing involvement in sustainability across campus.

Sydney will continue this work after graduation as the next Sustainability Coordinator at Drake!

Hope plays an important role in movements for change in our society. A Radical Hope framework, instead of despair, helps us recognize the progress that is made on a small scale and to connect with the many people who have clear solutions ready for implementation.



Note to 2025 LPS Graduates

Completing a bachelors degree is no small feat--the dedication you have given to your education throughout your time at Drake does not go unnoticed. The LPS department is proud of your accomplishments and is eager to see you grow as you embark on the next phase of your life.

Congratulations & good luck!