



Green and Grey Café decorated for the spring

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Students enjoying open space on the third floor.

## Immerse Yourself in the Ambience

By Esha Shinh

As soon as you enter through the two sets of grand, glass doors in the Fernandez Center, the scent of buttery croissants and freshly brewed coffee greets your nose. The seating area buzzes with chatter; every table holds a laptop decorated in greyhound stickers in one corner and a sugary pastry in another. The sounds of food sizzling at the back of [Green and Grey Café](#) and people catching up with their friends are like music to your ears, providing the perfect level of noise needed to complete that last-minute assignment due next class. The massive wall of aesthetic greenery with water droplets slowly dripping down to the bottom creates a soothing environment in the midst of a chaotic day. Open your eyes and ears. Welcome distractions. Romanticize the studying experience; it is the key to surviving.

We enter college with incredibly high expectations for our social life: wild Friday night raves flooded with red Solo cups, hammocks strung across the trunks of cherry blossom trees, movie nights with roommates who inevitably become your best friends. It is an idealistic viewpoint. While some of your college experiences will feel as if they came straight out of a movie, most do not. In fact, you will quickly discover that college is a fixed routine of gathering the strength to go to class and slaving away at homework while Starbucks is still open to supply you with artificial energy. Hours and hours. You will read textbooks until your eyesight begins to blur and write essays to the point of hand paralysis, but this does not have to dampen the college experience. Studying can be enjoyable—opinions may vary for STEM majors—if you can find that special place.

## Feed Your Brain

To romanticize your studying experience, you must leave your dorm room. Explore every level in each building; you will uncover a myriad of hidden nooks and collaborative environments from the top floor of Sellinger Hall to the outdoor ledge overlooking the turf field. Attached to Beatty Hall, the Fernandez Center provides a contemporary and technologically advanced area with various settings to fit your ideal study space. If you prefer a café or coffee shop setting, Green and Grey offers an aesthetically pleasing experience with a beautifully bright eating area in addition to some secluded tables off to the side. Moira Broomfield '22 takes pleasure in spending her mornings studying at the café: "I love being near food and coffee while I am doing my homework because they boost my work ethic. The enormous windows and greenery all add to the ambience." Green and Grey's naturistic atmosphere and moderate noise levels serve as an encouraging environment that heightens students' motivation. The powerful aroma of coffee beans wafts through the air, energizing hard-working students. If feeding your caffeine addiction is a means of survival while studying, Green and Grey will become your new home for the next four years.

## Innovative Learning

Built with floor-to-ceiling windows, the third floor of the Fernandez Center supplies an open and spacious study area. This floor particularly appeals to students because of the high-rise views and abundance of light that shines through the glass walls. The third floor contains a variety of dry-erase compatible tables, from standard low tables to bar-like workspaces. Drawing on these tables with brightly pigmented markers as opposed to the traditional pen and paper enhances the studying experience by providing a refreshing method to complete homework. There is no greater sensation than feeling the tip of the marker smoothly glide across the whiteboard. This unique and innovative design allows students to engage with their work in a stimulating way, contributing to their productivity.

## Studying with a View

Across campus, a glass-paned building quietly sits on the edge of Loyola: the [Loyola Notre Dame Library](#). Underneath the library's ground floor exists a sequestered spot, isolated and hidden away from the general library goers. Facing the panes of glass, you can watch the peaceful scenery of mallard ducks swimming through tranquil waters and people walking their furry companions along the hills of Notre Dame's campus. Observe the water ripple as ducks tread by. Hear the leaves rustle in the wind. Unlike the lively nature of the Fernandez Center, this secret gem allows you to focus on challenging assignments while fully immersing yourself in a serene environment. Genevieve Torkornoo '25 unearthed this secluded space while exploring the library. She explains, "I always do work there because it is a quiet area with limited distractions. There are no roommates there to divert my attention, and I can go with the intention of getting work done." The library serves as an escape from our hectic lives. Hunched over the computer with your headphones glued to your ears and blasting your Spotify playlist, you will savor each minute spent in your own world. The plethora of books perfectly aligned on each shelf produce an academic atmosphere, inspiring you to be intricate and thorough with your handwritten notes. In addition to its architectural beauty, Drew Fitzpatrick '24 found that the library was easily accessible his freshman year. He describes, "Going to the library was especially convenient as a first-year because it was across from my residence hall." Locating a study space has never been easier. This three-tiered building is within two minutes of east-side residence halls; I urge you to take advantage of its immediate vicinity. Ultimately, the library's hidden beauty will enthrall you, and its proximity will invite you.

Spending hours buried in homework and reading dry, mundane textbooks exhausts every student, but studying is a part of college life. Loyola is filled with nooks and corners that you can claim as your dedicated workspace. Explore the campus. Surrender yourself to the atmospheres that appeal to you. I am confident that you will discover the perfect place to build your education and launch your career.



The library



A beautiful and bright space

The view from the ground floor of the library

