



**PASSION +
PERSEVERANCE =
SUCCESS**

**2018 NYU Tandon School of Engineering
First-Year Dialogue**

Sponsored by:
The Office of Student Affairs



GRIT: 2018 DIALOGUE

The first-year or “freshmen” dialogue is a summer reading program which was launched in 2011. It was inspired by the educational paradigm i2e that brings innovation, invention and entrepreneurship to the NYU Tandon School of Engineering and academic experience. Over the years as Tandon has transformed into a hub for Technology in Service to Society, and launched its premier MakerSpace, the first-year dialogue has aligned with these important School priorities.

During the summer, all incoming students read a text chosen to explore a particular theme that showcases alignment with this paradigm and the school’s mission. This year’s dialogue text is “*Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*” by Angela Ducksworth, and the theme this year is “**Passion + Perseverance = Success.**”

2018 FIRST-YEAR DIALOGUE BOOK & THEME

As an incoming student beginning your engineering education, “*Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*,” is an inspiring read that examines the powerful secret to outstanding achievement ... it is a proven combination of passion and persistence! The author, Angela Duckworth, who is a renowned psychologist, takes readers into the field, interviewing dozens of high achievers whom she describes as “gritty people.” All of these individuals possess the ability to maintain their determination and motivation over long periods, despite experiences with failure and adversity.

Angela suggests that “grit” can certainly be learned, even for the “non-geniuses” of the world. She characterized herself as one! Her father was very disappointed that she did not pursue a career as a medical doctor, but she always assured him that she would indeed find a rewarding career, along with great success. There’s no doubt that this relationship inspired her to pursue with “grit” the research, which ultimately earned her a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship!

THOUGHTS & QUESTIONS AS YOU READ

- Are there high achievers who were interviewed throughout the book that you identify with, and if so, why?
- A first step to unlocking your passion is, to begin with, discovery; as you read the book, ask yourself these six simple questions:
 - Why do I like to think that?
 - Where does my mind wander?
 - What do I really care about?
 - How do I enjoy spending my time?
 - What matters most to me?
 - What do I find absolutely unbearable?
- Take the **GRIT** scale inventory (pg. 55) taken by new West Point cadets. Respond to the 10 questions and calculate how “**gritty**” you are! Are you surprised at your “**grit**” score?
- Can you think of a challenging situation when you used “**grit**” to pursue a seemingly and seemingly insurmountable goal?
- Given that “**grit**” can be learned, how might this change the way you view your engineering education and your ultimate career goals?

ORIENTATION & CONVOCATION

All incoming students begin their School of Engineering orientation with the Annual Convocation Ceremony on **Monday, August 27th, 2018 at 10:30AM**. At the ceremony, the Dean of Engineering, Jelena Kovacevic, will welcome the entering 2022 class.

Please note that the Convocation ceremony is MANDATORY for all incoming students.