

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
INTEGRATED FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Announcement to University Senate
December 20, 2006

The Integrated First Year Experience Program has received UPBC and CUCAS approval and is strongly endorsed by University Administration; it will be phased-in over three years beginning in **fall 2007**, with a goal of being mandatory for all first year students by fall 2010. The program is based on the concept of First Year Seminars, both as they have been implemented on this campus (PSY120) and how they are implemented at other institutions.

Description of program:

Regularly taught 100-level general education courses throughout the curriculum will be transformed into First Year Experience ("FYE" or "FY") courses, much like the current "W" courses. Faculty will propose to teach these courses on a section-by-section basis, and students will be required to take at least three (3) of these courses within the first 30 credits of their academic career.

Distinguishing characteristics of an "FY" course:

- Capped at 22 students per section
- First year students only
- Taught by full-time faculty (ideally)
- Sections meet more than once per week
- Taught in a seminar style; students are provided with frequent performance feedback
- Sections include some elements from two categories – Academics Skills and Methods, and University Success Factors (see reverse for more details)

WE NEED FACULTY!

**JOIN US FOR A
Q&A SESSION**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2007
1:00 – 3:00 PM
WARNER HALL**

BRING YOUR 100-LEVEL GEN ED COURSE SYLLABUS!
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE COURSE ELEMENTS

Category 1: *Academic Skills and Methods*

Defined as the course elements that will contribute significantly to the development of an Educated Person, and that will prepare students for increasing academic rigor. **Each FYE section must contain a minimum of three (3) of these elements.**

- Critical thinking
- Writing
- Information literacy
- Primary research
- Oral communication
- Ethics

Category 2: *University Success Factors*

Defined as the course elements that will contribute not only to the development of an Educated Person, but also to the development of creative, well-rounded students who are connected to the university community and who become responsible, concerned, productive global citizens. **Each FYE section must contain a minimum of two (2) of these elements.**

- Co-curricular involvement
- Support services
- Organizational skills
- Technology skills
- Working in groups

For more information, including:

- **full description of the program,**
- **full description of course elements,**
- **original UPBC and CUCAS proposals,**
- **meeting agendas and minutes,**

visit the General Education Committee website:

<http://www.wcsu.edu/committees/gened>

Or contact any member of the Committee:

Daryle Brown, Nursing
Ron Drozdenko, Marketing
Robin Flanagan, Psychology
Veronica Kenausis, Library
Paula Secondo, Chemistry
Linda Vaden-Goad, Dean A&S
Abbey Zink, English