

First-Year Seminar (FYS)—The Advantages That This Course Offers

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Abstract

First-Year Seminar (FYS) is an introductory class offered to first-year students to help them acclimate to the

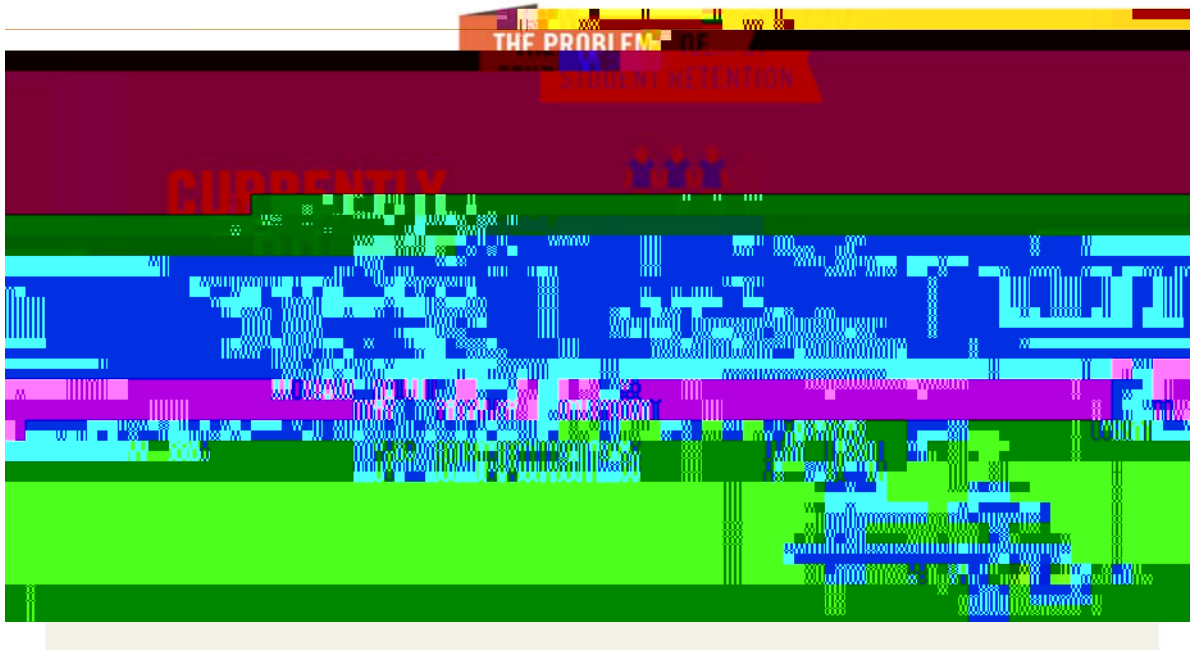


Figure 1. Difficulty in adapting to college life

At many colleges and universities, there are approximately 20-30 FYS courses given each semester taught by professors from various academic departments. These courses are structured to provide students with an exposure to specific academic areas such as business, history, science, and the arts and to improve their development skills such as time management, coping with stress, and interviewing skills (Padgett, 2013). The major learning goals of these FYS courses include foundations for global learning, campus & community connections, life skills, life 697()TJET1 g6

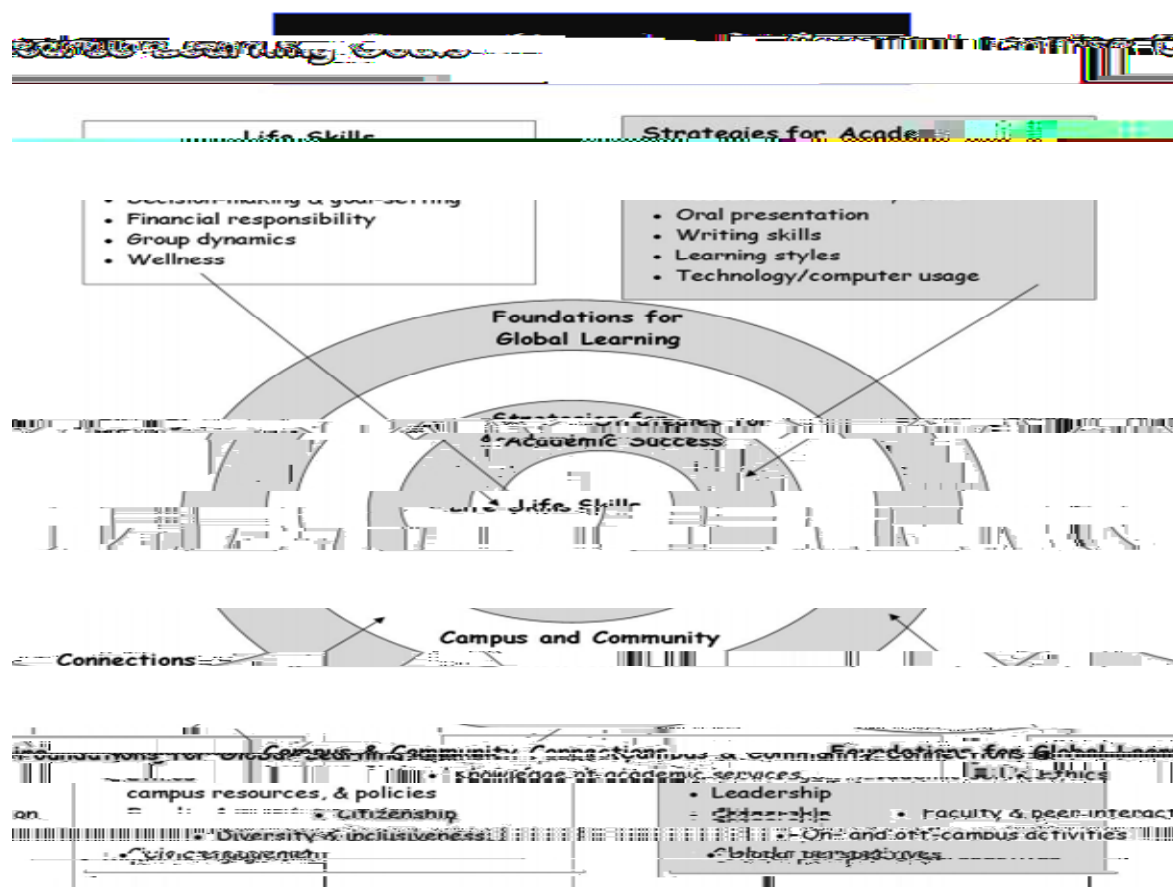


Figure 2. FYS major learning goals

2. Core Areas Covered in the FYS Course for Freshman Students

2.1 Credit Hours

One of the first things a FYS professor will teach in class is the number of credits a student needs in order to graduate. A professor may offer handouts that specify the maximum amount of courses that can be taken during each semester. Furthermore, the professor might help students decide how many classes to take per year by recounting the experiences of other students.

2.2 Grades

If the FYS course relates to a certain major or a branch of the school, the teacher will likely specify the minimum grades that the student needs to receive in order to major in that curriculum. The professor will also advise first-year students in determining the courses that they must take, if required, for their minors.

Student mentors might assist students in the calculation of their overall grades by analyzing the scores for tests, homework, and presentations. When explaining each major, these seasoned students may provide information that they gained from first-hand experience.

2.3 Resources

Professors and student mentors will also provide first-year students with information about the school’s library, the college’s bookstore, or the main newspaper on the campus (Cooper, 2002). New students are guided about the computers or types of equipment that are rarely used, sections of the library that contain books that are related to a particular course or locations on the campus that are optimal for studying. Student mentors can also help first-year students use vital features of the university’s website in order to sign up for classes or to modify their information. Professors, in turn, can also help students effectively scan books for important ideas and to find newspapers with articles that relate to their homework.

2.4 Language

The majority of universities typically require students to take at least two foreign language courses, and according

3. Important Factors That Help in Implementing the Overall FYS Process and Success

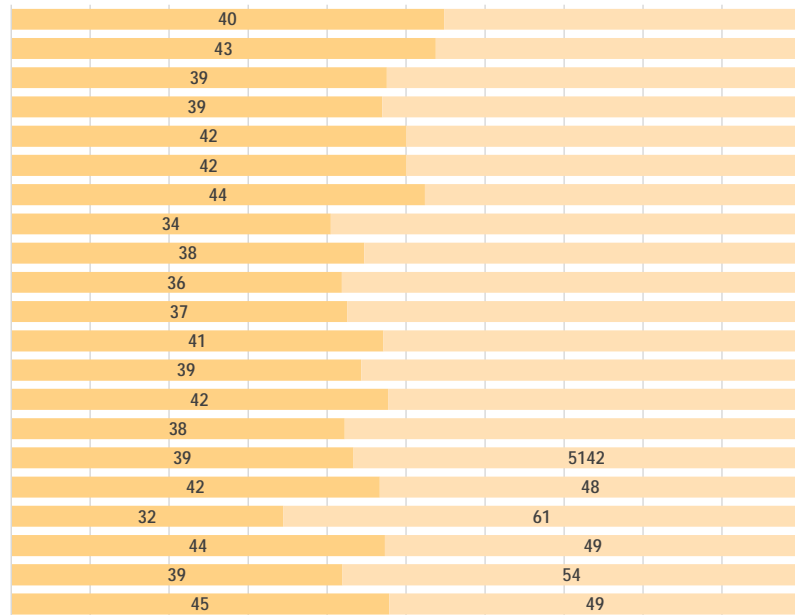
3.1 Mentors

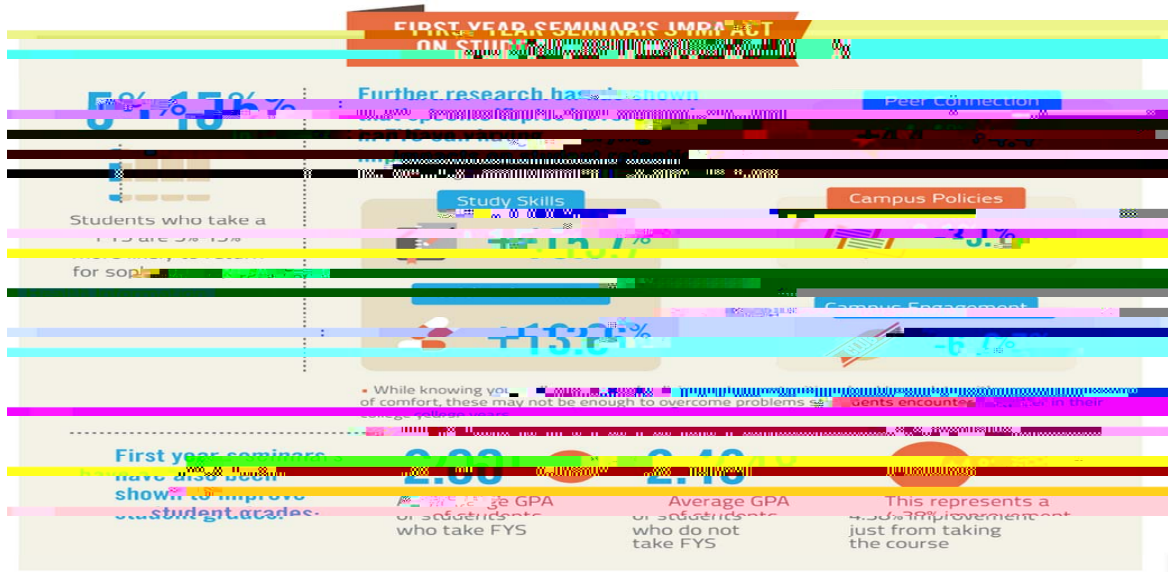
A wide range of college and universities are allowing mentors to participate in the class, and in some cases, each mentor may be assigned to a group of students. These experienced students help FYS students to find services on the campus, to meet friends who share similar interests and to use new technology to finish homework. One analysis indicates that new students are substantially more likely to ask important questions when they are talking to a FYS mentor (Tucker, 2014).

The course's mentor will teach students to utilize the syllabus that each professor provides. The freshmen may also be taught to use online resources that are created by the college, and these platforms will offer the dates of tests, the due dates for homework and lists of upcoming projects. Some of these software programs also allow students to see their overall grades in a class and to determine the scores that they received on exams or presentations.

A comprehensive study showed that students who have a mentor are 37 percent less likely to miss a class than the

In the last decade, approximately 72 percent of college students changed their majors at least one time. To help





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