



First Year Seminar Research

introduction

This is a summary of several pieces of research gathered by RUEC with regards to FYS.

Includes links to some articles and a Resource Center.

What does a first year seminar provide?

- Promote close interaction between faculty and students in a relatively small setting.
- Provide students with an understanding of the broad set of values, skills, and knowledge central to navigating cultural norms and roles.

Research findings

- FYS participants are significantly more likely to persist than similar students who do not participate.
- Higher GPAs
- More credits earned

Key Features & Best Practices

- Focus in depth on a question or topic in a disciplinary or interdisciplinary context;
- Enable incoming students and faculty to exchange ideas and information in a small, discussion based setting;
- Introduce and welcome students to UVU as an academic community, and to the many resources that will support their study (including Library resources, etc.);
- Aid in the transition to UVU by developing students' understanding of college-level work: the types of assignments they might encounter in courses, the need to prepare for seminar discussions, faculty's expectations about written communication, and the necessity of being able to work both independently and interdependently;
- Engage students through appropriate academic challenges and faculty support;
- Provide structured opportunities for students to develop confidence and key skills for success beyond the course, including critical inquiry, the ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing, and the ability to collaborate effectively with peers;
- Provide frequent and significant feedback regarding academic performance;
- Offer an introduction to the ways in which faculty pursue scholarship in their respective disciplines, including fieldwork, laboratory work, and other applied or hands-on projects;
- Develop a sense of community among students with similar interests.

Articles/Resources

- [National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition](#)
- [First-Year Experience: A Comparison Study on JSTOR](#)
- [Implementing and Assessing First-Year Seminars](#)
- [Exploring the Evidence. Volume III: Reporting Research on First-Year Seminars. The First-Year Experience Monograph Series No. 42](#)

Ideas

- Include information literacy
 - Do we already have a “typical” profile of completers?
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