Seminar instructors who are privileged to teach LC 101 and/or FYE 101 must be aware of and integrate the goals and objectives of the First-Year Experience Program into their seminar courses.

Goals

The First-Year Experience Program has three specific goals. All aspects of the program, including seminars, work toward these goals.

1. The First-Year Experience Program will help ORIENT students to the community.
2. The First-Year Experience Program will assist students as they DEVELOP critical academic and personal skills necessary for academic success.
3. The First-Year Experience Program will encourage students to EXPLORE major and career possibilities.

These goals were selected not only because they are fundamental to success, but because they present critical opportunities for instructor-student relationship and mentorship building. Mentorship – this critical one-on-one relationship building – must be at the center of the course, as well as the entire FYE program.

Consider each goal in more depth.

1. The First-Year Experience Program will help ORIENT students to the community.

Students can learn better when they are in a more comfortable environment; not just in terms of the immediate location where they live, but when they are part of a community. For that reason, our first goal is to help make them welcome in our community. The first priority is comfort with the UNA community, including where things are, how to solve problems, and overall how to participate with its membership, including faculty, advisors, administrators, staff, and other students. After that, we take an interest in the Shoals community, and the many events, sights, and opportunities that come with living here.

2. The First-Year Experience Program will assist students as they DEVELOP critical academic and personal skills necessary for academic success.

It is impossible to learn and develop to high proficiency all the skills needed for academic success in only one semester. Therefore, this goal really prioritizes the continued progress of that development; we encourage growth in these many areas, with the understanding that the goal is improvement, not perfection. Personal and study skills that might be addressed in achieving this goal include Note-Taking Skills, Textbook Reading Skills, Networking / Human Relationship Skills, Personal Safety Skills, Stress Management Skills, Test-Taking Skills, Decision-Making Skills, and Academic Planning Skills.

3. The First-Year Experience Program will encourage students to EXPLORE major and career possibilities.

Where the first goal is to help students become immediately comfortable with UNA, and the second focuses on their personal skills to help them succeed in the present, this third goal encourages them to explore a vision for their future. For students who know what they want, it is a chance to learn more about their chosen paths; for those who don’t, it’s an opportunity to see what paths are out there, and perhaps to explore a few. Remember that the goal here is exploration, not decision or selection. There is no mandate that students choose a major by the end of the semester, but they should at least have some more ideas about what they do – or don’t – want to do.
Objectives

Each Goal is accompanied by certain objectives that must be met in the seminar course. Seminar instructors have access to a range of assignments and assessments that might be useful in achieving these goals and objectives, and instructors are always welcome to submit assignment and assessment ideas and documents to the FYE Program director and advisory board for approval and distribution via the web and in annual training.

1. The First-Year Experience Program will help ORIENT students to the community.

Objective 1.1. Students will demonstrate proficiency in identifying and communicating with course instructors and advisors.

Objective 1.2. Students will identify inhibitors or obstructions to personal academic success and use appropriate university or community resources to begin establishing goals or plans to address these inhibitors or obstructions.

Objective 1.3. Students will commit to the life of the community by routinely participating in or attending extra-curricular academic, athletic, artistic, or cultural events.

2. The First-Year Experience Program will assist students as they DEVELOP critical academic and personal skills necessary for academic success.

Objective 2.1. Students will demonstrate awareness of critical thinking and academic success skills, with preferred emphasis on close reading, note-taking, test-taking, and/or study-habit development.

Objective 2.2. Students will demonstrate awareness of external stressors to personal academic success, with preferred emphasis on time and resource management, campus safety, and/or stress management.

Objective 2.3. Students will develop mutually supportive relationships with peers, faculty, advisors, and other members of the university community.

3. The First-Year Experience Program will encourage students to EXPLORE major and career possibilities.

Objective 3.1. Students will examine personal strengths and weaknesses with regard to possibilities and opportunities in majors or professional careers.

Objective 3.2. Students will propose an academic plan that establishes undergraduate goals and objectives, and which may also account for extra-curricular, co-curricular, research, service, or other enrichment activities.