

QEP for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
University-wide First-Year Seminar: The Cajun Connection

The mission of the University's QEP, "First-Year Seminar: The Cajun Connection" is to stimulate first-year students' intellectual curiosity and social responsibility, and to provide them with the knowledge and insights necessary for fulfillment and success in college and in their subsequent careers. Student learning outcomes addressing this mission were developed in response to data gathered from the NSSE, BCSSE, and university constituencies. The First-Year Seminar (FYS) will be offered as a 2-credit hour interactive experience led by faculty facilitators and supported by peer mentors, and was developed as a hybrid FYS seminar, combining elements of the academic and extended orientation models. The FYS encourages first-year students to develop into more committed and engaged participants in their education using activities such as shared readings and campus interactions, service learning, and structured self-exploration experiences.

The six learning outcomes of the FYS are for first-year students to:

1. Know and apply time management techniques and effective learning strategies.
2. Select, locate and evaluate information resources held in Dupré Library and in digital formats.
3. Identify available student services and locations of support units offering services and resources.
4. Determine occupational interests, and research and evaluate information about career paths.
5. Realize the advantages of student engagement and become involved in campus life.
6. Demonstrate techniques for establishing and maintaining a balanced budget.

Assessment will be an ongoing process that encompasses embedded and external assessments, and direct and indirect measures. Best practices will be employed to assure student accomplishment of the seminar student learning outcomes.

For more information, please contact:

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