



What is FYE?

An *Honors University Experience* for all students

First-Year Experience (FYE) = semester-long, small-group, academic experience that includes community building and transition support

Current FYEs:

- Introduction to an Honors University (IHU)
- First-Year Seminars (FYS)
- Transfer Student Seminars (TRS)
- Collegiate Success Institute (CSI)
- Living-Learning Communities (LLC)

In the future:

Departments and programs may apply to have their semester-long, credit-bearing, small-group academic experience certified as an FYE.

These might include:

- Departmental courses
- Scholars program courses
- Academic Learning Communities of linked courses taken by a cohort of students
- UGC-approved, credit-bearing service learning and leadership engagement courses



Who needs FYE?

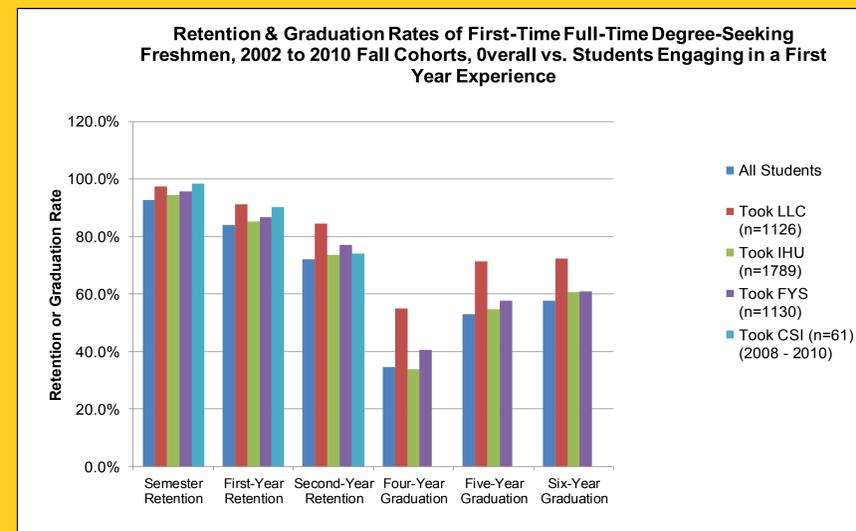
All incoming freshmen and transfer students

Number of Incoming Freshmen and Transfer Students by Year				
Year	Freshmen	Spring Transfers	Fall Transfers	Total
2008	1557	515	1066	3138
2009	1524	528	1121	3173
2010	1485	648	1186	3319

Data from OIR retention tables www.umbc.edu/oir

“A Forty-Credit Milestone”

Preparing students to define their own distinctive undergraduate education at UMBC



Why FYE for all?

Engaging in a First-Year Experience:

- Increases student success
- Reduces transfer shock
- Facilitates transition from HS or CC to UMBC
- Helps students develop attitudes and behaviors that are key to a successful undergraduate experience
- Improves retention and graduation rates

UMBC's current and aspirational peer institutions offer robust First-Year Experience programming.

A 2010 survey found the following among public universities:

- 95.4% offer a First-Year Experience
- 21.7% offer a Transfer Seminar
- 64.4% offer a Summer Bridge
- 73.8% offer Learning Communities

John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. (2010). Enhancing Student Success and Retention throughout Undergraduate Education: A National Survey. Brevard, NC: Barefoot, B.O.; Griffin, B.Q.; Koch, A.K.



When FYE for all?

After approval by Faculty Senate and Undergraduate Council, a First-Year Experience milestone will be phased in over a five-year period. During the phase in, the FYE will become a requirement for specific groups agreed upon through campus discussion. Once the milestone takes effect, all entering students will be required to participate in an FYE in their first 40 credits at UMBC.

At full implementation, an FYE for all incoming students will cost about \$500,000 above current base budgeting. With all incoming students enrolled in an FYE, we anticipate that about 80 additional students from each cohort will reach graduation within six years. Revenue from these successful students far outstrips the cost of the program.

Retention and Graduation Rates for Full-Time Non-Affiliated New Freshmen by IHU Participation in Matriculation Term

Cohort Term	N		Graduated within Six Years		Percentage-Point Change
	NO IHU	IHU	NO IHU	IHU	
Fall 2002	1137	59	55.1%	54.2%	-0.9%
Fall 2003	1227	80	56.6%	58.8%	2.2%
Fall 2004	1079	131	53.3%	58.8%	5.5%
Fall 2005	1017	200	51.2%	61.0%	9.8%

Source: isa_undergraduate_cohort table Prepared by OIR, Jan 2012.

Retention and Graduation Rates for Full-Time Non-Affiliated New Freshmen by FYS Participation in Matriculation Term

Cohort Term	N		Graduated within Six Years		Percentage-Point Change
	NO FYS	FYS	NO FYS	FYS	
Fall 2002	1102	94	55.1%	55.3%	0.2%
Fall 2003	1204	103	56.6%	58.3%	1.7%
Fall 2004	1081	129	53.2%	59.7%	6.5%
Fall 2005	1060	157	51.5%	61.8%	10.3%

Note: Unduplicated headcount; deceased excluded

For more information about supporting the future of FYE at UMBC please contact us.

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<http://www.umbc.edu/oue>

For more information about our programs, visit our site.





Introduction to an Honors University (IHU)

Current: IHU seminars reinforce the work in a content course and build academic skills while focusing on engagement and a successful transition to UMBC. Seminars are linked to introductory courses taken by first-year students. Fall 2012: offering 26 sections in 15 departments as well as three sections of PHED 202.

Next Step: Attach the IHU "Y" section to additional courses that freshmen often take in their first semester.

Major Challenge: First-year students do not do optional, making it a challenge to assure that the students who most need this support register for the course.



First-Year Seminar (FYS)

Current: These are three-credit seminars that meet General Education requirements. They offer an active-learning environment enriched by field work, original research, and group projects while including traditional college reading, writing, and lectures. Fall 2012: offering 14 FYS courses in 13 departments.

Next Step: Build to 22 FYS courses annually, delivered by faculty from a broad mix of academic departments.

Major Challenge: Departments are limited in their ability to release faculty members to teach a 20 person seminar.



Collegiate Success Institute (CSI)

Current: The CSI program, piloted in 2008, starts with a six-week summer bridge experience and includes advising throughout the students' first year at UMBC. CSI incorporates academics, campus exploration, self-discovery, and social activities.

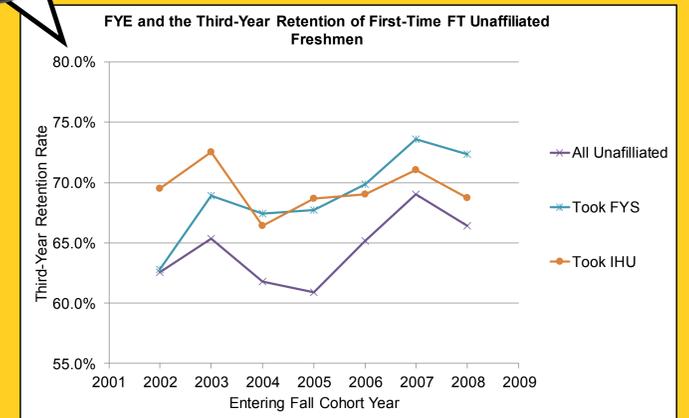
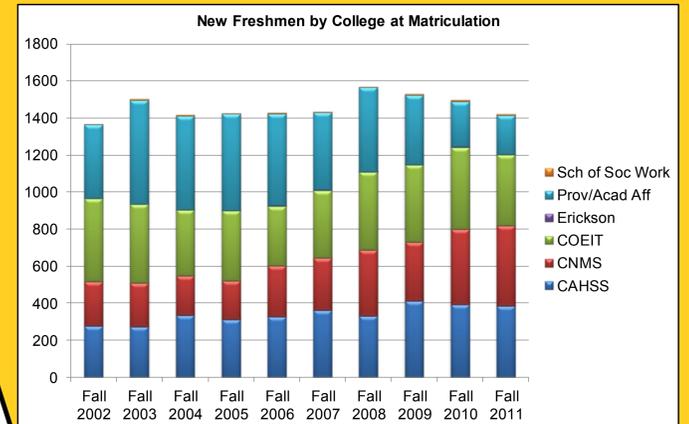
Next Step: Continue exploring ways to increase the number of participants, reduce the overall cost of participation, and determine which courses and activities are the best fit for the program.

Major Challenge: The high cost to participants continues to be the greatest barrier for students and their families.

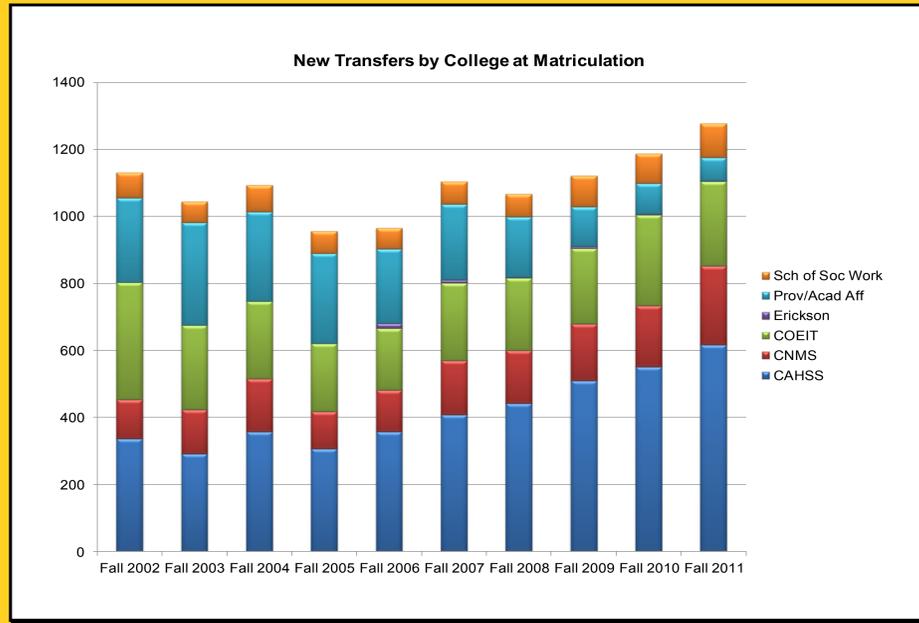


Partnerships

- Residential Life provides FYE opportunities through Living-Learning Communities. (LLC)
- Summer and Winter Programs has offered to include FYS and IHU courses.
- To explore: discipline-specific FYEs developed by academic departments



Our Transfer Students



Transfer Student Seminars (TRS)

TRS courses expose transfer students to the resources and skills needed to succeed at a research university. Sixty percent of the TRS content is identified by the academic department and focuses on skills needed to be successful in the discipline. Forty percent of the content addresses transitional skills, e.g., getting involved, study abroad, career planning, time management, etc. TRS helps to prepare transfer students for upper-level classes, connect them with fellow transfer students, and acclimate them to the intellectual community at UMBC.

Student self-assessment of 32 fall 2011 TRS students shows statistically significant positive change on all self-report measures, including directing a study group, preparing an annotated bibliography, locating key offices, identifying opportunities for tutoring and academic assistance, and writing a resume.

"Engaging, gets every student active."
-IS TRS 201 Student

"For a one-credit class that was awesome, more hands-on time for us could be better."
-CMSC TRS 201 Student

"I liked the small class size. I felt more comfortable talking and discussing things with the other transfer students."
-MLL TRS 201 Student

"Very beneficial class. I would recommend to all transfer CS students."
-CMSC TRS 201 Student

Our Transfer Students

A Comparison of Fall and Spring New Transfers (includes full-time and part-time students) Fall 2002 to Spring 2011				
(Approximately one third of new transfers enter in the spring each academic year)				
Trend in Fall Transfers	Fall	New Transfers Who Are:	Spring	Trend in Spring Transfers
Stable	80.7%	Full-Time	73.4%	Rising
Falling	18.3%	With Transfer GPA Under 2.5	19.7%	Variable
Falling	10.4%	Out-of-State	9.6%	Falling
Rising	71.8%	From Two-Year Institution	69.8%	Rising
Stable	21.9%	Age 25 and Over	26.6%	Variable
Variable	16.8%	Entering at Freshmen Level	21.8%	Stable
Falling	47.6%	Male	48.6%	Rising
Rising	37.2%	Entering in STEM Discipline	36.2%	Rising
Variable	78.0%	Average Retained after One Year	74.3%	Rising
Rising	60.4%	Average Graduated within Six Years	55.4%	Variable

Source: DW_LSA_UNDERGRADUATE_COHORT table

Fall 2009
Offered TRS courses for a second time in Computer Science and Information Systems

Fall 2011
Offered TRS courses in Computer Science; Information Systems; and Modern Languages, Linguistics & Intercultural Communication

Fall 2012
Offering TRS courses in Computer Science; Chemical Engineering; History; Information Systems; Modern Languages, Linguistics & Intercultural Communication; UMBC @ Shady Grove; and Visual Arts



Fall 2007
Transfer Seminars piloted in Computer Science and Information Systems; students said they needed academic advising, career counseling, and information about making connections to faculty and getting involved in major

Spring 2011
Received approval from the Undergraduate Council to officially offer TRS 201 as a variable one- or two-credit course

Spring 2012
Offered TRS courses in American Studies and History

- Next Steps:**
- Offer TRS courses in departments with high transfer populations.
 - Offer seven TRS sections in 2012 - 2013.
 - Develop additional "high impact" transfer-year initiatives that would fulfill the "first-year experience" milestone.

For more information about supporting the future of FYE at UMBC please contact us.

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