

University Studies Component Form: Freshman Seminar

I. Rationale

Please provide a rationale for the course which explains how the course being proposed fits into this component based on the component's description. For your convenience, the overall description and rationale for this component are included below.

Overall Description and Rationale for Freshman Seminar

Justification for a required Freshman Experience course is derived from the first goal set forth in the UNCW Strategic Plan to “Create the most powerful learning experience possible for our student” and objective five, to “Improve experiences for students during initial entry into campus life and at critical junctures in their education.” These courses help students achieve success from their first semester forward by:

- Providing a small class environment conducive to students forming a sense of belonging to an academic cohort;
- Ensuring students receive instruction in transitional issues such as accessing university resources, skills necessary for communicating at the college level, study skills required in higher education, and personal health and wellness;
- Providing a learning experience in which students can develop their skills in critical thinking, academic discourse and information literacy within a course specifically designed to meet their academic transitional needs.

The small class size, content and personal attention from instructors committed to involvement in the Freshman Experience concept enhance the likelihood that students will enjoy a successful transition to the intellectual and cultural life on campus.

Brief Statement of Rationale for Course's Inclusion in *Freshman Seminar*

II. Common Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Each course must address all of the Common Student Learning Outcomes for the component, and list these Common SLOs along with course-specific SLOs in the model course syllabus (to be attached). For each Common SLO, list the course SLOs that address the common SLO, describe the opportunities which will be provided for students to learn the outcome (readings, class discussion and/or activities, applied projects), and list the means of assessment (exams, papers, projects, quizzes, etc.) that will be used to determine the level of student understanding.

FS 1. Demonstrate the ability to identify, locate and use reference sources and materials necessary for success in a higher education experience.

Course SLO(s) to Address FS1

Opportunities for Student Learning

(reading, researching, discussing, listening, viewing, etc.)

Means of Assessing Course SLO(s)

(exams, papers, projects, quizzes, etc.)

FS 2. Participate in discussion of real-life issues as informed, critical members of the group.

Course SLO(s) to Address FS2

Opportunities for Student Learning

(reading, researching, discussing, listening, viewing, etc.)

Means of Assessing Course SLO(s)

(exams, papers, projects, quizzes, etc.)

FS 3. Demonstrate ability to identify and apply academic strategies for analyzing, synthesizing, and critically evaluating information from all courses.

Course SLO(s) to Address FS3

Opportunities for Student Learning

(reading, researching, discussing, listening, viewing, etc.)

Means of Assessing Course SLO(s)

(exams, papers, projects, quizzes, etc.)

FS 4. Compose purposeful, reflective, written responses related to transitional issues.

Course SLO(s) to Address FS4

Opportunities for Student Learning

(reading, researching, discussing, listening, viewing, etc.)

Means of Assessing Course SLO(s)

(exams, papers, projects, quizzes, etc.)

Submission instructions:

Please submit cover form, all component forms, a model syllabus, and College/School's course action form (if needed) to your department chair. Department chairs should then submit these forms, syllabus, and course action form (if needed) in one email message to universitystudies@uncw.edu from their UNCW email address.