

**Indiana University East
Faculty Senate**

First Year Seminar Policy

- A) The First Year Seminar is a required course for all beginning freshmen at Indiana University East. Beginning freshmen must take this course in their first semester at Indiana University East. Beginning freshmen entering in a summer term must take the course during the next fall semester. For the purpose of this policy, beginning freshmen include transfer students with no more than 12 credit hours of transferring course work.

This requirement does not apply for graduate students, non-degree seeking students and transient students.

- B) The course will be delivered under UCOL-U101 First Year Seminar for 2 credit hours. Alternatively, students admitted into the Honors Program can fulfill their first year seminar requirement by taking HON-H100 Freshman Honors Seminar for 3 credit hours.

The course schedule listing of the seminars may include designators that a certain seminar is intended for students who wish to major in a specific discipline. However, this designation is a recommendation only. Admission to an academic program may not be contingent on a student having completed a specific section of the seminar.

- C) The primary objectives of the course are to create a supportive environment in which students

- Engage students in academic activities;
- build an academic work ethic;
- create community;
- explore various aspects of human diversity; and
- develop strategies for success in college and in life.

- D) Instructors are encouraged to meet these objectives through their own pedagogical style; therefore, no explicit syllabus for the seminar course is provided. There are however some aspects that should be addressed in the seminar. These common content aspects are not intended to be the entire course but need to be covered:

1. Mission of IU East and Use of campus resources;
2. Library and information literacy;
3. Professionalism and ethics in college and careers;
4. Students' rights and responsibilities;

5. Financial Literacy;
 6. Goal setting for achieving in college and career planning.
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- E) All sections of the seminars will undertake one common field trip during the semester.
 - F) Each section of the Freshman Seminar will consist of an instructional team, including a faculty member and a peer mentor. Joining this team for at least part of the course will be a librarian.
 - G) To conduct thorough and adequate assessment, there needs to be an evaluation of each objective for the course. However, not every objective needs to be evaluated each time there is an assessment. Given the need for timely feedback on the first year seminar, it is recommended that this assessment focus on what are perceived to be the most important components of the First Year Seminar: 1) coping skills, 2) community building, and 3) knowledge of resources available to students.
 - H) Effective Date
This policy is effective for all beginning freshmen who begin classes in Summer 2010 and after.

Passed Faculty Senate Oct. 7, 2008; revised 4/27/10