

FIRST-YEAR LEARNING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

First-Year Learning Communities Program Overview

As part of the First-Year Learning Communities Program, all full-time Texas A&M-Corpus Christi students are expected to enroll, in each of their first two semesters, in specially selected groups of two to four classes known as Dyad, Triads, and Tetrads, with the goal of helping students make meaningful connections with faculty, staff, and students at the University.

The students and teachers within each Dyad, Triad, or Tetrad form a learning community. The same group of students takes all of the classes within a given Dyad, Triad, or Tetrad together, which gives them many opportunities to work together, get to know each other, and learn together. The teachers in each learning community also work with each other to develop connections among the classes.

All of the learning communities include a First-Year Seminar (UNIV 1101 First-Year Seminar I (1 sch) or UNIV 1102 First-Year Seminar II (1 sch)) and many are linked to a Communication class (COMM 1311 Foundation of Communication (3 sch), ENGL 1301 Composition I (3 sch), or ENGL 1302 Writing and Rhetoric (3 sch)). These are small classes of 25 students or fewer. In addition, Dyads and Triads include a lecture class (such as History or Sociology), and Tetrads include two lecture classes. The classes within each learning community are "linked," in the sense that students enroll in all classes at once.

An example of a Dyad for students could include:

Code	Title	Hours
UNIV 1101 or UNIV 1102	First-Year Seminar I First-Year Seminar II	1
PHIL 1301	Introduction to Philosophy	3

Students who need credit for COMM 1311 Foundation of Communication (3 sch), ENGL 1301 Composition I (3 sch), or ENGL 1302 Writing and Rhetoric (3 sch) might enroll in a Triad that includes:

Code	Title	Hours
First Year Seminar		
UNIV 1101 or UNIV 1102	First-Year Seminar I First-Year Seminar II	1
Communication		
Select one of the following:		3
COMM 1311	Foundation of Communication	
ENGL 1301	Composition I	
ENGL 1302	Writing and Rhetoric	
Human Societies		
SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology	3

A Tetrad that the University frequently offers consists of the following courses:

Code	Title	Hours
First Year Seminar		
UNIV 1101 or UNIV 1102	First-Year Seminar I First-Year Seminar II	1
Communication		
Select one of the following:		3
COMM 1311	Foundation of Communication	
ENGL 1301	Composition I	
ENGL 1302	Writing and Rhetoric	
Biology		
BIOL 1406	Biology I	4
Chemistry		
CHEM 1411	General Chemistry I	4

First-Year Seminar

Learn what it means to be a student and member of the Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi community in the two-semester sequence of First-Year Seminar (FYS). FYS explores different facets of college knowledge for academic and social success. As the integrative engine of a learning community, FYS engages students in a collaborative learning experience. By attending learning community courses with students, FYS faculty facilitate meaningful connections between linked courses. FYS students gain confidence in their individual skills and develop abilities for use in the academic community and beyond. UNIV 1101 First-Year Seminar I (1 sch) familiarizes students with university-level expectations. Whereas, UNIV 1102 First-Year Seminar II (1 sch) emphasizes student success after the first-year.

Both UNIV 1101 First-Year Seminar I (1 sch) and UNIV 1102 First-Year Seminar II (1 sch) are degree plan requirements for all students who graduate from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Full-time First-year Students

First-year students are those who have never attended any college after graduating from high school. This includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term. It also includes students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school). Full-time first-year students are required to enroll in a First-Year Seminar during each of their first two semesters.

Transfer Students

Transfer students are those who have attended another college after graduating from high school. Transfer students who become full-time Texas A&M-Corpus Christi students after having completed less than 12 semester hours are required to take both UNIV 1101 First-Year Seminar I (1 sch) and UNIV 1102 First-Year Seminar II (1 sch). Students who become full-time Texas A&M-Corpus Christi students after having completed 12-23 semester hours are required to take only one First-Year Seminar. They may take either UNIV 1101 First-Year Seminar I (1 sch) or UNIV 1102 First-Year Seminar II (1 sch). Students who become full-time Texas A&M-Corpus Christi students after having completed 24 or more semester hours are exempt from the First-Year Seminar requirement.

Course Goals and Objectives

- Integrative Learning
- Learning to Learn

- Academic Development
- Higher Education Navigation

Student Learning Outcomes

- Synthesize connections between learning community courses by engaging in integrative experiences and assignments.
- Evaluate learning processes in learning community courses through self-reflection.
- Demonstrate academic development from learning community participation by completing integrative assignments and presenting in a public forum.
- Locate and utilize campus resources connected to learning community courses and university life.