

First Year Experience and First Year Seminar

<http://www.pacificu.edu/as/fye/index.cfm>

At Pacific, we recognize the transformative potential the first year of college holds. That's why we've put a great deal of thought and resources into our First-Year Experience program, consciously designed to welcome our newest Boxers to the Pacific family.

From [Voyage](#) trips beginning before school to our [First Year, First Served](#) programming in the spring, the First-Year Experience provides a sequenced model that supports both the transition and transformation that takes place across the entire first year.

[Orientation](#) is a program created to help ease your transition to college life. Pacific's Orientation experience is designed to help new students make connections to university staff, faculty, resources, and of course, other students. It also introduces you to the expectations of service to the community, academic commitment and genuine social engagement that are part of being a member of the Pacific University community. The activities during Orientation are designed to help you meet new people, get familiarized with campus and its services, and gain a better understanding of yourself as an individual.

To help acclimate to the demands of college, all first-year students are enrolled in a [First-Year Seminar](#) (FYS) course, which provides the skills needed to succeed at the college level in thinking, reading and writing. First-Year Mentors, generally upper-classmen, are assigned to each FYS section where they serve as liaisons to campus resources and well-being. Additionally, any questions you have—where's the best wi-fi on campus, when is the gym the least crowded, whatever—can be answered within 24 hours on [Ask Boxer](#), staffed by upper-class students.

We keep First-Year Seminar, as or it is more commonly known, FYS classes small, capped at 20, which allows our faculty to design a unique experience with new students in mind. FYS courses are topically diverse, ranging from discussions on animal rights to prison reform, but they all work to develop a foundation of learning that will prepare you for your four years at Pacific. We seek to cultivate writing, reading and critical engagement at the college level, providing approaches on *how* to think more than what to think, which will empower you well beyond FYS. Our Student Learning Outcomes that address these approaches are listed below.

FYS is also unique in that you have a say in your FYS topic, indicating your top five preferences if completed by June 1. Also distinct to FYS are **co-curricular events** in Portland—attending plays, art exhibits, and other cultural riches distinct to a thriving urban center less than an hour away. These, along with our [summer reading program](#) and [FYS Final Showcase](#), provide a common learning experience for each incoming class.

Finally, each FYS section includes a [First-Year Mentor](#), generally an upper-class student who acts as a liaison to campus services and as an advocate for first-year student success. They, along with our faculty and staff, provide a wonderful support network for you, our newest Boxers.

We hope you will feel welcomed and supported as you begin your first year at Pacific. If you have any questions, please contact Brent Johnson, Director of First-Year Experience, at bjohn@pacificu.edu.