

FIRST-YEAR INTEREST GROUPS

Learning communities for first-year (freshman & transfer) students

In 2016, **155** FIGs were offered, enrolling **48%** of the freshman class (3,104 students).

FIGs are centered around **GEN ST 199**, a two-credit seminar taught by an upperclass student called a **FIG Leader**. Students can pick from a variety of FIGs that may or may not include 2-3 other courses. Students find FIGs valuable in making friends and learning about campus resources.

“It was a such a friendly way to start my college life.”
—2016 FIG Student

GEN ST 199 COURSE ASSIGNMENTS



Mapping Your UW Experience

Identify potential majors, plan course sequences for them, attend a related campus activity, write and reflect.



Projecting Forward

Connect with a UW alumnus or other individual who is currently working or has worked in a career you want to learn more about.



CoRe: Seattle Communities and Research

Explore a Seattle neighborhood and use UW Library resources to research issues of population health that affect residents in the area. Topics may include: affordable housing, business and industry, development and changing demographics, homelessness and homeless encampments, minority/ethnic populations and their culture, public art, public parks and green spaces, transportation and urban planning.



Second-year re-enrollment rates

Non-FIGs: 90.9%

FIGs: 94.1%

Six-year graduation rates

Non-FIGs: 75%

FIGs: 81.5%

Pending publishing. L Aulck, J Mathers, C Lee, G Mancinelli, A Lau, M Sun, J West. Target journal: AERA Open.

“Having to complete these projects gave me a more concrete sense of what I want to accomplish in the coming few years”

—2016 FIG Student

In its 30-year history, the FIG program has enrolled over **70,000** students



90% of students say their FIG leader is “open and approachable,” “provided useful guidance,” and “knew a lot about the UW.”

—2016 FIG Student Experience Summary

FIG Leaders take a 10-week training course prior to teaching their GEN ST 199 course where they design twelve unique lesson plans. Topics include time management, finances, academic preparation, diversity and inclusion, library resources and health and wellness.

FIG Leaders are upperclass students who have a passion for supporting the transition of first-year students.

FIG leaders have a wide variety of majors, representing nine different colleges/schools on campus, with the most popular majors being Biology, Business Administration, Communication, Informatics and Public Health.



“I loved being able to help students adapt to their first year at UW in the best way possible.”

—2017 FIG Leader

Students who enroll in a FIG return for their second year and graduate at higher rates than other students

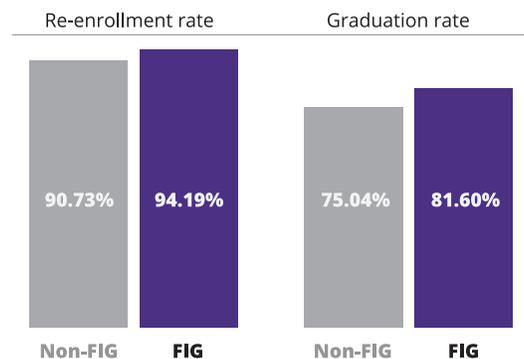
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While FIG enrollment significantly increased the re-enrollment and graduation percentages for all under-represented students, the highest gains were seen among Hispanic students with a nearly 6% increase in second year re-enrollment and a 8% increase in graduation rates.



“I enjoyed seeing familiar faces in my 400-person lectures.” —2016 FIG Student

ALL STUDENTS



UNDER-REPRESENTED STUDENTS

