

FIRST YEAR PROGRAMS

MISSION STATEMENT

First Year Programs, a part of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, fosters a successful undergraduate student experience through strategic programming that focuses on positive academic transitions and the development of learning communities. Through partnerships with faculty, staff, alumni, and student leaders, our programs create the space for students to define how they will engage, learn, and thrive at the University of Washington.

GUIDING PHILOSOPHIES

Our work is guided by the following methods:

- **Intentionality.** We use current assessment, research, and best practices to make decisions.
- **Collaboration.** We develop transparent and collaborative relationships with campus and community partners.
- **Diversity & Inclusion.** We understand that all students have unique stories, and we support their individual learning paths.

First Year Programs supports student learning through several programs including: Advising and Orientation, Parent Orientation, Domestic & International Outdoor Adventure Programming, Dawg Daze Welcome Week, First-year Interest Groups (FIG), University & Collegium seminars, and the Commuter & Transfer Commons.

Learn more: fyp.washington.edu

RACE & EQUITY INITIATIVE

In 2015, President Ana Mari Cauce established a Race & Equity Initiative to support and sustain diversity at the UW. In our role as a public university, we must understand, support and foster many perspectives and individuals' narratives, and create an academic environment that benefits everyone on UW campuses. The Race and Equity Initiative builds upon ongoing efforts of the University to center diversity and inclusion by:

- Enriching the personal UW experience. The Race & Equity Initiative enhances individual development and provides greater resources and opportunities for teaching and learning around race and equity.
- Addressing institutional bias. Improving inclusion and fairness at all levels of the UW is a key goal of the Initiative. We are identifying and revising policies that are barriers to equity and justice and that prevent student, faculty and staff success.
- Engaging our communities. The UW is engaging with local citizens, community-based organizations, businesses and alumni to understand and address the problems that impede the health, well-being and safety of everyone in the Husky family – at home and around the world.

The Race & Equity Initiative is a high priority for the University as we continue our work to foster a welcoming and inclusive campus so that all students have the opportunity to grow, learn and lead at the UW and beyond.

Learn more: washington.edu/raceequity/



RACE & EQUITY INITIATIVE INTEGRATION FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

Advising & Orientation (A&O) sessions provide new students and their parents with an introduction to the people, places, and programs that will help shape their Husky Experience. We provide specific orientations for all new undergraduate students (freshman, international, transfer) and new husky parents.

- Implemented enhanced training elements with orientation leaders to strengthen facilitation skills for conversations around equity, difference, and inclusion on campus.
- Integrated Race and Equity Initiative key messages within publications (Husky Guide) and programming model. Focused primarily on individual identities through "I am" poems and discussions about community.
- Distribute buttons with various identities listed (pronouns, first gen, Spanish speaking).
- Encouraged students to visit [identity.uw](http://identity.uw.edu) to change preferred name on class rosters.
- We acknowledge communities during our welcome sessions for A and O.

"The University of Washington acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations."

First-year Interest Groups (FIG) are a pre-packaged cluster of high-demand first year courses coupled with a peer-taught transition course called GEN ST 199. The 199 course is designed to help students adjust to life on campus both socially and academically while introducing them to campus resources, academic study skills, and creating opportunity to develop a peer community on campus. Approximately 50% (3200) of all entering students register for a FIG.

- Partnered with Center for Communication, Difference, and Equity (Dr. Ralina Joseph) to develop a two-hour interactive Interrupting Micro-Aggression Training and Curriculum Development Plan.
- Completed two-hour training with Health and Wellness around mental health issues, suicide awareness and supporting students in distress.
- Each Gen St 199 section will do an activity that supports their interest around diversity, equity, race, and/or inclusion.

Dawg Daze is a long-standing tradition of the University of Washington and one of the nation's largest weeks of welcome. During Dawg Daze, the entire community comes together to provide new opportunities for interaction, community-building, and fun. Several departments and units across campus participate and host dawg daze events.

- Host various workshops and events that support diversity and inclusion. (e.g. "Best Sex Ever-Laci Green" or "The Wedding Band: A Love Story in Black and White" play)

University & Collegium Seminars are discussion-based seminars designed to introduce first-year students to the excitement of ideas and the richness of academic discovery. Seminars are taught each quarter and feature some of the best faculty and staff on campus. Collegium seminars are offered in collaboration with the Husky Leadership Initiative.

- Support various classes led by faculty that address various topics around diversity and inclusion (e.g. GEN ST197B: Hip Hop and the Black Lives Matter Movement).

