

The First Year Matters

Assessing Lane's Readiness to Provide an
Excellent Learning Environment for
First-Year Students



Foundations of Excellence®

www.fyfoundations.org

What does a first-time student need to be successful?



Student Success Starts Here!

Foundations of Excellence®

The Foundations of Excellence® model is a blueprint for building the first year of college as the foundation for undergraduate education.

Institutions that strive for excellence in the first year will conduct a candid analysis of their strengths and weaknesses.

Based upon that analysis, they will then commit themselves to a course of action designed to improve first-year-student learning and success



Improvement

Philosophy

Organization

**Roles &
Purposes**

**Foundational
Dimensions[®]**

Learning

Diversity

**Campus
Culture**

All Students

Transitions

Philosophy

Intentionally cultivate learning environments that emerge from a philosophy of two-year colleges as gateways to higher education

- Philosophy
- Content
- Dissemination
- Suggested Review of Institutional Documents



Organization

Provide a comprehensive, coordinated, and flexible approach through effective organizational structures and policies

- First-Term Students
- Continuing Students
- Partnerships
- Financial Resources



Learning

Deliver learning experiences that engage first-year students in developing knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors that promote critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and the lifelong pursuit of knowledge

- Learning Goals
- Engaging Students
- Course Outcomes
- Courses with High DFWI Rates
- Placement
- Special Learning Opportunities



Campus Culture

Create a culture of responsibility for first-year students realized through high quality instruction, services and support through substantial interaction both in and out of the classroom

- Institution-level Encouragement
- Unit-level Encouragement
- Attention to New Students
- Expectations
- Retention



Transitions

Facilitate appropriate student transitions throughout the student experience by providing appropriate preparation and support for educational success

- Communications to Students
- Communications of the Student Experience
- Connections with Families
- Communication to Others
- Facilitating Student Connections
- Academic Advising



All Students

Effectively serve all first-year students by anticipating, identifying, and addressing their varied needs based on abilities, backgrounds, interests and experiences

- Identifying Needs of Individuals
- Addressing Needs of Individuals
- Student Experiences
- Subpopulations
- Physical and psychological safety



Diversity

Ensure first-year students consistently explore and experience diverse ideas, worldviews, and cultures as a means of enhancing their learning and participation in pluralistic communities

- Diverse Ideas
- Interactions
- Behaviors



Roles & Purposes

Promote understanding of the various roles and purposes of higher education by exposing students to the value of a general education and focused study in an academic or career field

- Purposes
- Motivation
- Rationale



Improvement

Conduct assessment and maintain associations with other institutions and organizations in order to effect improvement

- Assessment
- Use of Assessment
- Dissemination of Data
- Understanding
- Strategies

