

Designation of Courses to be Considered as New Freshman Seminar (NFS)

Component Content/Methodology

Courses designated as New Freshman Seminars (NFS) are designed to encourage student success by integrating students, intellectually and culturally, into the SIUE community. As presented in the New Student Seminar Task Force Report and Recommendations, the goals of all New Freshman Seminars are: 1) to assist new freshmen in making the transition to college level work and expectations; 2) to orient students to the resources and culture of the University; and 3) to engage students in an intellectual community of students and faculty. The content and subject matter of NFS courses are not prescribed; however, such courses are distinguished by a unique set of experiences, oriented toward the needs of new students and meeting the goals of the NFS experience. NFS courses may also satisfy other general education requirements (Foundations, Breadth Areas, Cultures, Health, etc.), major, or minor requirements.

Course Goals

- focus on academic content, which is defined as instruction in, and application of, academic skills, including reading, writing, computation, or critical analysis (including scientific investigation), which is also linked to either discipline-specific or interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary content;
- experience with group learning or group work activities or assignments involving collaboration among a set of students;
- development of written communication skills, by means of a significant writing component;
- development of information literacy skills, by means of a significant information literacy component;
- familiarity with at least two of the following three types of university and community resources, by means of incorporating these resources into required coursework or assignments:
 - University academic support services.
 - University non-academic social and cultural resources.
 - Local or regional social and cultural resources.

Additional Requirements

To promote the learning outcomes of an NFS course, there are additional requirements:

- a value of 3-credit hours;
- an enrollment cap of 25 students.