No doubt you expect the College of Charleston to be a different experience. Classes may be tougher, you’ll be exposed to new and different subject matter and have more work to do. Time management might become an issue. You also might have to learn your way around a strange city and create a new circle of friends.

The FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE is designed to help you make a smooth transition to the College.

To make the most of your first year at the College, you should enroll in a FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR or a LEARNING COMMUNITY.

FYE BENEFITS

Through these courses you will:

1. Meet other students who share similar intellectual pursuits.
2. Develop the skills that will help you succeed academically.
3. Work closely with top-level faculty.
4. Learn in depth about the campus and the city.
5. Form strong peer support systems.
6. Become familiar with campus resources.

FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS (FYSM) combine academics with social events and introduce new students to a variety of campus resources. Classes are small (generally 20-25 students) and are taught by roster faculty. The focus in a FYSM is on group work, class discussion and debate.

First-year seminars focus on specific topics within a particular discipline or more than one academic discipline. If you combine a FYSM with other courses, you will have an excellent introduction to the academic life of the College of Charleston.
A LEARNING COMMUNITY links two or more courses. Faculty teaching the courses work together to set the curriculum, schedule joint class activities and explore the ways in which the subjects are interrelated.

The weekly synthesis seminar is another component of a learning community. Because the seminar is led by an upper-level peer facilitator, you will have the advantage of getting the perspective of and advice from a successful upperclassman.

The way in which you set your academic and social priorities will determine, in part, how successful you will be at the College of Charleston. You’ll find that college schedules tend to be less structured than what you’ve been used to. You’ll also be expected to complete a greater volume of work outside the classroom.

Therefore, it is important that you make good decisions by thinking critically, asking questions, and seeking out campus resources when needed.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR OR A LEARNING COMMUNITY

These courses are open to all majors. A limited number of seats are available.

To participate in either option:
• When you register for orientation at https://cougartrail.cofc.edu/, select a first-year seminar or learning community from the list of options.
• If you decide to participate after you have registered for orientation, send your full name and the FYSM or learning community you have selected to the Academic Advising & Planning Center at advising@cofc.edu through your campus e-mail account.
• If you have questions about the first-year experience, use the contact information below.

For course descriptions and program information visit www.cofc.edu/fye.

www.cofc.edu/fye | fye@cofc.edu