First-Year Programs

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The University of Oregon's nationally recognized first-year programs for freshmen offer

- Coherent, high-quality class experiences shaped by the student's interests and imagination
- The environment of a fine small college with the courses and resources of a major research university
- Opportunities early in the college career to get to know a small group of students and faculty members who share particular interests

First-Year Interest Groups (FIGs)

In a FIG, as many as twenty-five freshmen jointly take two group-satisfying courses and a faculty-led College Connections seminar during fall term. Students engage in projects and assignments specific to each FIG as faculty members offer mentoring and advising. The seminar may also include informal out-of-class events such as hikes, dinner with the professor, or excursions to concerts or plays. Each group has a FIG academic assistant—an advanced undergraduate student—who assists in the seminar to help new students navigate the university. There are more than sixty FIGs to choose from each year. In residential FIGs, the participants live near other students from their FIG in a university residence hall.

First-Year Seminars

These small discussion-oriented courses (eighteen to twenty-three students) are taught by outstanding university instructors. Offered fall, winter, and spring terms to first-year students, freshman seminars provide opportunities for intellectual challenge in a supportive environment.