

Philosophy Statement and Guiding Principles for the First-Year Experience at Illinois State University

Philosophy Statement:

We at Illinois State University believe that the first year of college is a critical time in students' lives. We work as a diverse community of learners to provide a supportive environment for our first-year students during their transition to higher education. We promote courses, programs and services that engage students with the intellectual, social and cultural dimensions of learning while challenging them to develop the skills and the sense of responsibility needed to be successful at the University and as citizens.

Guiding Principles:

First-year students ...

- Benefit greatly from substantial faculty interaction, both inside and outside the classroom
- Who are actively involved in the campus community are more likely to persist to graduation
- Benefit from being challenged and supported while making their transition to college by academic advisors who help them understand academic policies, curriculum and how to direct and manage their education effectively and responsibly
- Should develop pride, spirit and a sense of student community and responsibility
- Should be encouraged and given opportunities to make civic engagement a valued part of their educational experience
- Benefit from the impact that partnerships between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs have on the quality of the first-year experience
- Must be informed about campus services and how to use them
- Benefit from living in the residence halls
- Should experience diverse world-views through the curriculum and co-curriculum
- Must be provided with tools and information needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Are ultimately responsible to engage themselves in the learning process