

Academic *Innovation* Fund

AIF First Year Experience – Guide for Proposals Curricular Project Examples

In 2013 the First Year Experience Working Group created a report *A Case for Change: A First Year Experience Framework at York University*, http://www.yorku.ca/vpstdnts/initiatives/firstyearexperience/files/FYECASEFORCHANGE_FINALE.pdf.

Part of the vision for the First Year Experience (FYE) at York is that by 2018 “York is well recognized for delivering a comprehensive, high-quality experience to new students.”

The vision is rooted in language drawn from a model developed by Alf Lizzio (2006) describing student success in the context of social and academic integration. Those interested in submitting Category I proposals addressing FYE from within the curriculum should ground those proposals in Lizzio’s transition framework below.

The examples provided are for illustration only. Successful proposals will suggest projects that:

- build constructively on activity that is already underway at York;
- will be curricular based; and
- will illustrate creative and thoughtful approaches to engaging first year students and launching them successfully on their program of study.

The ‘Five Senses’ of Successful Transition

Lizzio’s Five Senses of Student Success describes a student lifecycle model which suggests that successful transition to university-level study is based on five core aspects: purpose, connectedness, capability, resourcefulness, and culture.

Sense of Purpose

1. New students will develop personal and academic competence, and a sense of purpose

Definition: Helping new students to be clear about and committed to their educational and career goals.

Project Examples:

- Design of course projects to help students understand how a particular course or program fits within cutting edge research and wider societal concerns that link to students’ wider aspirations and that strengthen their identify as a member of x discipline i.e. thinking like an economist, chemist, sociologist etc.; maybe have top researchers present an overview of their research to first year students

Sense of Connectedness

2. *New students will make meaningful connections with peers, faculty, staff and York University*

Definition: Helping students develop relationships and connections that will support their success and enhance their satisfaction at university.

Project Examples:

- Design of a Supplemental Instruction or tutoring program in first year introductory courses (i.e. intake courses into the discipline)
- Explore video-based supplemental instruction (VSI)
- Create teaching resources that intentionally use teaching and learning approaches that build a sense of community in the classroom (even large lecture halls) and that encourage students to make meaningful connections with one another, York faculty and York staff; design collaborative learning activities for TAs to use in tutorial sections;
- Create a peer mentor program within the degree program

Sense of Capability

3. *New students will understand and live their rights and responsibilities as members of an inclusive, engaged learning community*

Definition: Help new students to develop the skills and attitudes needed to be successful learners.

Project Examples:

- Create a learning community for First Year students as part of a course or program
- Create resources for creating and integrating study groups into a course or program
- Create resources to explore student issues (such as access, first generation participation and success rates, mental health) within the curriculum

Sense of Resourcefulness

4. *New students will be supported by policies, programs, systems and spaces that intentionally develop a sense of resourcefulness and promote success.*

Definition: Help new students to develop resources they will need to support their success at university

Project Examples:

- Create a module to be used in introductory/intake courses to alert students in a first year course to the skills that they will be building incrementally throughout their program; flag opportunities (EE, undergraduate research, York U abroad, capstone) that will be available to them at different levels of the program

Sense of Academic Culture

5. *New students will understand the core scholarly values and ethical principles of the university*

Definition: Help new students to understand the core scholarly values and ethical principles of the university.

Project Examples:

- Design a module that helps students explore culture and perspectives and worldviews different from their own
- Design an Academic Integrity and/or Human Rights module into the course

Lizzio, A. (2006). Designing an orientation and transition strategy for commencing students: Applying the five senses model. Griffith University: First Year Experience Project.