

2012-2013 Annual Update

Strategy - First Year Seminars	
Intended outcomes	Status/Progress
Prepare to offer 20 pilot sections during the fall 2013 semester.	In Progress. Scheduled 22 First Year Seminar (FYS) sections for fall 2013. The strategy team has been collaborating with Marketing Services and Academic Advising and Counseling Services to enroll students in these sections.
Offer professional development sessions for pilot instructors.	In Progress. The team offered three professional development sessions: Shaping the Theme of Your Course; Contextualized Learning; and Teaching Seminar Style. FYS instructors who are teaching the pilot sections attended these sessions.
Develop the FYS curriculum and receive approval from the curriculum committee.	In Progress. The team prepared a draft course outline and solicited feedback from instructors and the curriculum committee.
Share the progress of FYS development across campus.	In Progress. The team has provided updates to and gathered input from the Deans' Council and Faculty Senate.
Develop an assessment plan for the FYS pilot.	In Progress. The team's assessment subcommittee is developing an assessment plan for the FYS pilots. The subcommittee has reported back to the strategy team and team leaders regularly. The assessment plan is near completion and will be in place prior to pilot implementation.
Overall accomplishments	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled 22 FYS pilot sections for fall 2013. • Provided professional development for pilot instructors. • Drafted a course outline to be presented to the curriculum committee in fall 2013. • Continued to gather input and share information about FYS with the Harper community. • Addressed and will continue to address administrative processes that are associated with implementing FYS. 	
Strategy impact on goal achievement	
<p>First Year Seminars support the goal “Decrease student achievement gaps of developmental, young male and black non-Hispanic students, while increasing academic achievement for all” by providing first-year college students with strategies that assist them in making a successful transition to college life, understanding their academic responsibilities and appreciating diverse perspectives. The context of the seminars also develops critical thinking, problem solving, information literacy, learning strategies and communication skills needed to adapt to the rigors of college life through a single seminar theme.</p> <p>Each FYS explores a different topic, which serves as the thematic foundation for the seminar. Students may choose a seminar based on their program of study or general interests. To decrease student achievement gaps, certain FYS sections will be developed and targeted to specific populations of students who are most affected by the achievement gaps. The thematic model of FYS allows for the unique needs of these populations to be addressed.</p>	