

SUNY OLD WESTBURY



FIRST-YEAR
EXPERIENCE

FALL 2023

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WHAT IS THE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE PROGRAM?

The mission of the First-Year Experience Program (FYE) is to provide first-year students a supportive environment, rigorous curriculum and enriching educational experiences that foster their personal growth and active engagement in Old Westbury's richly diverse learning community.

Our goal is to promote academic success, college persistence and classroom and community engagement, by helping first-year students to become intentional learners and develop the intellectual, civic and study skills required to tackle the challenges of college learning and campus living in a multi-cultural environment -- critical thinking, problem-solving, time-management, teamwork, financial literacy and self-reflection. The FYE provides advising, mentoring, workshops, speakers, trips and an innovative year-long curriculum that includes a common First-Year Seminar, FY1000 The Ethics of Engagement: Educating Leaders for a Just World and CL2000 Civic Engagement, a course-embedded community-based learning and action experience for all first-year students. Both fall and spring seminars are linked to General Education courses in Learning Communities.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Read this information package and the course descriptions.
- Reply to the student orientation survey you received via your Old Westbury (OW) email.
- Further details regarding your first year and your course schedule will be discussed at your New Student Orientation (NSO) session.
- Please email FirstYear@oldwestbury.edu if you have any questions.

FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM (REQUIRED FALL SEMESTER)

FY1000 Ethics of Engagement 4 cr. This course introduces students to academic and campus life at Old Westbury, emphasizing the themes of self-discovery, the meaning of a liberal education, the relationship of the individual to society and the nature of values and of personal and social responsibility. By situating the major intellectual and emotional challenges students confront in their first year of college within the framework of ethics, the course encourages students to evaluate their ideas and assumptions, and the impact of their decisions on themselves, their community and the world. Organized around a series of ever-widening concentric circles, the course moves from a discussion of the role of ethics in individual life, to ethics in personal relationships, to ethics in the Old Westbury community and culminates in the quest for social justice and sustainability in the American and global context. In the process, students are challenged to consider multiple perspectives and to reflect upon their identities, values and aspirations within the larger common good. The course fosters critical thinking and the effective articulation of ideas by introducing students to the close reading of texts and the writing of substantive analytical essays that are the basis of most college learning. Students will also be expected to write weekly reflective journals and papers. (Humanities and Diversity designation)

FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM (REQUIRED SPRING SEMESTER)

CL2000 Community, Action, Learning and Leadership 2cr. Integrates community-based learning and action into the first-year curriculum, challenging students to confront the big questions facing the world today by participating in and reflecting upon civic engagement activities. By engaging students both personally and intellectually at the very beginning of their academic journey in structured service-learning activities and reflective projects, this course introduces students to Old Westbury's social justice mission and encourages their college and community involvement. The goal of this class is to encourage active learning, to promote intercultural understanding, and to build academic, interpersonal, organizational and leadership skills. Students may be expected to attend mandatory workshops and campus events.

“SAMPLE” FIRST YEAR PLAN OF STUDY

FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR

<u>Sample Schedule for Fall Semester</u>			<u>Sample Schedule for Spring Semester</u>		
Course#	Course Name		Course#	Course Name	
*FY1000	Ethics of Engagement	4 cr.	*CL2000	Community Learning	2 cr.
*000000	General Education	4 cr.	*000000	General Education	4 cr.
EL1000	English Comp. I	4 cr.	EL2XXXX	English Comp. II	4 cr.
MAXXXX	Math Selection	4 cr.	MAXXXX	Math Selection	4 cr.
			XX0000	Elective Selection	4 cr.
Total Credits:		16 cr.	Total Credits:		18 cr.

* Students have over 26 General Education courses to choose from- see PDF for course descriptions.

Please note: All students, regardless of major, have to complete Liberal Education Curriculum (LEC) that includes a Diversity course, Math and Writing Proficiencies, and all the General Education domains which parallels to SUNY General Education.

Please note- Courses can take different forms: On-Campus, Hybrid, Remote or Online. Please see COURSE MODALITIES under College Terminology 101.

CONTACTS

The First-Year Experience Program is in the Student Union building.

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FAQ'S

1. How do I register for my first-semester schedule?

You will be registered for your courses prior to New Student Orientation (NSO). During your New Student Orientation (NSO) you will meet with an advisor to verify your schedule.

2. Who is my advisor?

You will meet with an advisor at NSO who will assist in verifying your schedule. During your first year you may seek advising from anyone in the First Year Office, the Academic Advising Center or EOP.

3. How many credits/courses will I be taking my first-semester?

You will usually take 4 classes your first semester, which are 4 credits each, totaling 16 credits.

4. What is Common Hour?

Common Hour is at 2:40 pm - 3:40 pm, Monday through Thursday. There are no classes scheduled for this time period. The college uses this time for programming by clubs and departments.

5. Will I be able to receive AP credit?

Yes. You must score a 3, 4, or 5 to receive AP credit. An Official Score Report must be sent to the Registrar directly from College Board.

6. Is it possible to receive credit by examination for IB scores?

Yes. The grade must be a C or better and you must transfer the scores to Old Westbury. Please see Transfer Services for assistance.

7. When will I receive my Fall 2023 schedule?

You will be able to print out your Fall 2023 schedule after you complete your NSO. It will be posted to your SUNY OW Connect portal. Instructions will be given out during NSO.

8. Can I change my schedule once I receive it?

Yes. Your schedule will be verified during your NSO. For additional changes after NSO, you must contact an advisor in the First Year Office, the Academic Advising Center or EOP to make any changes.

FAQ'S CONT.

9. What if I want to declare a major that is different from the major I listed on my Old Westbury application?

Instructions to change your major, or explore other majors will be given out during NSO.

10. If I have any questions, who can I contact?

Please contact the First Year Office by email: FirstYear@oldwestbury.edu

College Terminology 101

APPLICATION: The first step to enroll is to complete and submit the College's application form.

BLACKBOARD: Old Westbury's online learning management system.

BURSAR: The office that coordinates the billing process, handles student accounts and processes financial aid and other financial functions.

CATALOG: The catalog provides information you need know about enrolling, college policies, curriculum, and courses.

CREDIT HOUR: College classes are measured by credit hours. One credit hour equates to one classroom hour per week. Most classes are worth three to four credit hours.

COURSE MODALITIES: There are 4 common types of course delivery:

On-Campus- A face-to-face course that meets on campus as scheduled.

Hybrid- A distance course that meets half the time in an assigned classroom as scheduled and has asynchronous online work.

Remote - A distance course with all instruction conducted during scheduled class times via an online conferencing platform.

Online - A distance course with online asynchronous instruction via an online conferencing platform with no scheduled meeting times.

CURRICULUM: A curriculum is the set of courses required to complete a program.

ELECTIVE: A class of your choosing taken to meet the credit-hour graduation requirement.

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid- at fafsa.ed.gov - is the first step to receiving federal aid or consideration for scholarships or state aid.

FINANCIAL AID: The office that assists with services and resources available to help applicants with the financial aid process.

FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME: A full-time student is enrolled in 12 or more credit hours in a semester, about four to five classes. A part-time student is enrolled in less than 12 credit hours in a semester, or generally one to three classes.

GPA: The Grade Point Average is an average of a student's grades based on a 4-point scale. An A is a 4.0, B is a 3.0, C is a 2.0 and D is 1.0.

HUMANITIES: Humanities courses include literature, philosophy, fine arts, foreign language, and other related areas.

LIBERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM: A core curriculum that provides students with a broad multidisciplinary liberal arts education.

MAJOR/MINOR: A major is a student's chosen field of study for a degree. A minor in a secondary field requires fewer credit hours.

PREREQUISITE: A course required before taking another course.

REGISTRAR: The office is responsible for registration records, transcripts requests, transfer credit evaluation, declaration of majors, processing of grades and other related functions.

SOCIAL SCIENCES: Social science courses include history, psychology, sociology, criminology, and geography.

SYLLABUS: The instructor's outline of important information about the expectations of a course, including exams, readings, and the professor's contact information.

TRANSCRIPT: The permanent academic record of courses taken and grades received at a college.

TRANSFER: If a student moves, or transfers, from one college to another, accumulated credit hours can also be transferred. The new institution decides which credits apply toward a degree. Generally, a grade of D or lower does not transfer.

TUITION: The cost of each credit hour. Tuition varies based on residency in a state, and does not include the cost of books, fees, or room and board.