Faculty Discussion: First Year Initiatives
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Overview & Purpose
To discuss the overarching role of first year initiatives, specifically the Cornerstone Program, the First Year Experience Program, and Living & Learning Communities.

Retain, Connect, and Persist are the goals that Academic Affairs and Student Affairs share as we implement our first year programs/initiatives.
- **Retain**: students staying at our university
- **Connect**: students feeling a strong sense of belonging
- **Persist**: students growing, transforming, and thriving at Fairfield University

To discuss faculty members’ opinions, roles, and experiences with these initiatives and generate ideas for alignment, enhancement, and support for these programs

Cornerstone Program
Goals: Help students integrate their experiences inside and outside the classroom; deepen / extend / reinforce student learning; introduce new students to college skills and the values of the Core curriculum; and promote interaction with faculty members and peers
- Each student is placed in a cornerstone class – a major or a Core course – before arriving for Orientation
- Taught by a faculty member with a special interest in working with first year students
- Students live in the same residence hall as their classmates (except if they are living in LLC)
- Enhancement activities

Living & Learning Communities
Goals: Help students connect quickly with other students who have similar interests while settling into life on campus - in and out of the classroom. The programs provide a fun and engaging way to jump start the Fairfield experience.

- Types: Healthy Living / Leadership Through Service / Man 2 Man / Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (WiSTEM)
- The Area Coordinator and RAs primarily support and implement these programs
- Voluntary and based in residence halls (one LLC in each first year residence hall)
- Each LLC had at least 1 FYE seminar associated with the community
- Students’ choice of LLC takes priority over their cornerstone for housing placement

First-Year Experience Program (FYE)
Goals: Teach Fairfield’s core Jesuit values, cultivate student self-discovery, and explore the importance of community. This year-long program includes a weekly fall seminar, designated campus events for students to attend, and a mentoring program.

- Each new student must take an FYE seminar
- Taught by a staff/faculty member with a New Student Leader
- Students are required to attend a number of FYE events
- Thematic sections were piloted this past year (LLCs, music, sports, service learning, ePortfolio, etc.)