# FIRST YEAR INITIATIVES

## COMMON GOALS

- **Retain**: students staying at our university
- **Connect**: students feeling a strong sense of belonging
- **Persist**: students growing, transforming, and thriving at Fairfield University

## Common Values:
- Engagement, Mentorship & Community, and Jesuit Mission & Identity

## Cornerstone Program

### (Course Credit)

#### (University Requirement)

**GOALS:**
- Accelerate & intensify student academic engagement
- Promote greater connection of students with academic life (individual courses, programs of study, and faculty)
- Encourage greater initiative by students in planning their academic journeys
- Integrate students' intellectual and social lives

### Students to Do:

- How and when to contact faculty – for academic advising, for support in courses, and for general mentoring
- How to collaborate with other students on academic assignments – and when it is appropriate (or not) to do so
- What expectations faculty have of college students

### Students to Know:

- How to manage their time and cope with stress
- How to be an active community member
- How to reflect in action on their experiences
- How to select & register for classes
- How to make the most of the Core curriculum
- How to cultivate relationships with faculty
- How to plan financially during college
- How to write a resume & cover letter and interview for student leadership positions
- The necessary resources on campus
- How to develop an academic plan
- How to develop a co-curricular plan
- How to be ethical students and maintain integrity (including academic integrity)
- How to navigate the alcohol & hook up culture

### Implementation

- Students complete academic interests questionnaire prior to Orientation
- Students are pre-registered for Cornerstone course prior to Orientation
- Courses are core and/or major courses
- After Orientation students are housed according to Cornerstone (in most cases)

### Human Resources & Funds

- Director of Undergraduate Academic Planning & other staff and administrators in Academic Affairs
- Registrar’s Office staff
- Director of Residence Life
- Area Coordinators/RAs
- Cornerstone Faculty
- Funds: Academic Affairs

## Living & Learning Communities

### (optional)

**GOALS:**
- Develop stronger relationships with faculty, staff, and students
- Promote student engagement (curricular/co-curricular)
- Create a sense of belonging
- Cultivate strong interpersonal skills
- Integrate learning through a variety of fun activities/programs

### Students to Know:

- Explore their passions/interests around the specific LLC
- How to build relationships with faculty, staff, and students
- Resources for their sophomore year
- How to be an active community member

### Students to Do:

- Attend LLC events
- Engage in co-curricular opportunities – e.g., clubs, leadership positions, Residential Colleges
- Cultivate/connect/maintain relationships with roommates, faculty, friends, etc., especially across lines of differences
- Participate in programs that help in transition and connection with other residents

### Students to Know:

- Engagement
- Mission and identity
- Social justice (appreciate differences)
- The meaning of community

## First Year Experience

### (University Requirement)

**GOALS:**
- Engage in college experience
- Create/cultivate an inclusive community
- Gain the skills & knowledge to make the most of their college career
- Develop a curricular/co-curricular plan, to be life/career ready
- Develop an understanding of a Jesuit education/Fairfield education

### Students to Know:

- Manage their time and cope with stress
- How to be an active community member
- How to reflect in action on their experiences
- How to select & register for classes
- How to make the most of the Core curriculum
- How to cultivate relationships with faculty
- How to plan financially during college
- How to write a resume & cover letter and interview for student leadership positions
- The necessary resources on campus
- How to develop an academic plan
- How to develop a co-curricular plan
- How to be ethical students and maintain integrity (including academic integrity)
- How to navigate the alcohol & hook up culture

### Students to Do:

- Attend campus-wide events
- Complete 4-month Planner
- Begin their academic and co-curricular plan
- Maintain/cultivate relationships with faculty, staff, and students
- Be an active/healthy community member
- Embrace differences
- Apply for leadership positions on campus & get involved in clubs and organizations
- Practice skills for coping with stress
- Reflect on integrity & ethical behavior
- Support each other’s goals
- Meet with their advisor, register for academic classes, run degree evaluations, etc.

### Students to Know:

- Inclusion & embracing of differences
- Integrity & ethical decision making
- Willingness to step out of their comfort zone
- Balance
- The meaning of a Jesuit education
- Reflection

### Implementation

- Students complete FYE group interests on their Orientation registration form
- SPLD assigns students into FYE sections based on their Cornerstone class and athletic schedule
- Students are pre-assigned, not pre-registered
- Pre-assigned FYE groups are their Orientation groups

### Human Resources & Funds

- Director of SPLD
- Director of Undergraduate Academic Planning
- Office of Residence Life
- CA/NSL/OSTs
- Registrar’s Office
- Funds: Student Affairs & Academic Affairs