First Year Experience (FYI) exists to support a diverse group of students in their academic and social transition into the university by fostering community building, personal growth, and life-long learning through a variety of beneficial courses, programs and services.

Through active participation in the First Year Experience program, students will:
- Identify meaningful connections they have made with faculty, staff and peers.
- Understand and articulate their responsibility to engage academically and socially.
- Identify and locate resources that are available within the university, local and global communities to support their academic goals.

The First Year Experience program facilitates academic and social skill building both important to making your college experience more successful and enjoyable.

Summer Orientation Advisement and Registration (SOAR)
SOAR is the day-long orientation for new first year students. During SOAR, students attend a variety of educational and informational sessions that help acquaint them with university life. In addition, students are connected with upperclassmen who lead them through the orientation. Before heading home, students will be advised and register for their first semester courses.

Parent and Family Program
First Year Experience also offers support for parents and families of first year students. Concurrent to SOAR, we offer our Parent & Family Program. Sessions for parents and families are created to provide participants with the information and tools they need to support their student's transition to, and success in, college.

Weekend of Welcome (WoW)
Prior to fall and spring semesters, new students attend WoW, a program made up of a variety of events and activities designed to welcome and assist them with their transition to UW-Superior.

During WoW, students will have a chance to meet many other new students and participate in campus traditions. In addition, students get connected with Team Leaders who are current upperclassmen. Team Leaders are available throughout WoW to assist with navigating the campus and the WoW schedule, as well as answering any questions students may have about campus.

Living-Learning Community (LLC)
Our Living-Learning Community (LLC) involves a select group of students who opt to live together in a residence hall, share a common interest, participate in common courses and have access to special resources and activities. This approach integrates in and out of classroom learning and helps lay the foundation for students’ success in college. Participants have the chance to really get to know their instructors and develop strong friendships with fellow students. LLC members will have access to reserved space in one of two required General Education Writing courses (Writing 101 or 102) as well as a 1 credit course designed to help with career and major exploration.

For more information, contact:

We invite you to visit
A campus visit offers an opportunity to tour our campus and meet with an Admissions counselor. We can arrange for you to meet a professor and visit a class in any area you choose.

To arrange a visit
Online: www.uwsuper.edu/admissions
Email: admissions@uwsuper.edu
Phone: 715-394-8230
Peer Mentors

Peer Mentors are experienced upperclassmen who provide information, support, and encouragement to our new students. While Peer Mentors are paired with some of our First Year Seminars as well as our Living-Learning Community (LLC), they are also available to all students to answer questions or helpful advice. Whether students just need someone to talk to or need help with a question, Peer Mentors are a great tool for incoming students. Peer Mentors also provide several programs on useful topics throughout the year.

First Year Seminars (FYS)

Another aspect of the First Year Experience program is the seminars offered. The First Year Seminars offer exciting and diverse topics that will both challenge and engage students. The seminar classes have a maximum of 15 students to enhance the interactive class discussions. These seminars are offered to incoming first year freshmen, and incoming students with 20 or less credits, for Fall and Spring semesters. While participating in the First Year Seminars, students are encouraged to:

- Value learning in its own right and see themselves as having the ability and right to invest in this learning.
- Pursue learning collaboratively – formally and informally.
- Actively question previous knowledge and examine new ideas and multiple perspectives.

Courses Offered

A few courses that were offered during Fall 2014 semester at UW-Superior in the First Year Experience program were:

FYI – COMM110 – LOL – OMG! – :-) In the 21st century, communication has expanded into previously unknown dimensions. Hand-held digital devices and smart phones are the new normal. We will explore the range and impact these devices are having on the “millennial” generation and try to understand where this technology may be taking us. This seminar will require you to use your cell phone, both in class and while working through projects and assignments. We will also spend time on general Internet communication and related subjects while exploring the broad field of communications.

Team-Based Knowledge Games

Create your own Family Feud while gaining new information about the world around you. Join your classmates to practice team learning, increase your information evaluation skills, and then challenge yourselves with knowledge games. Together, you will be learning about: who are we (as students and a community); what is going on (current events); and where are we (local environment and geography). Each team will create and host a knowledge game. Yes, there may be prizes.

What students say about First Year Seminars

- The idea is great, and the small academic classes with just freshmen are awesome!
- It’s a great place to meet and learn about people.
- Great way to start college.
- I really liked how class was built around discussion and not lecture.
- This class was really different from my other courses and fun!