

ESFY Mission and Goals

The University of Wisconsin Colleges' first year of college experience will focus on first year students as they make the transition from their high school or post high school experiences to the college experience. This intentional, comprehensive curricular and co-curricular initiative will promote an understanding and appreciation of liberal education, and will assist students with developing strategies and attitudes that will maximize academic success. It will familiarize students with campus resources and how to use them, foster the development of positive relationships between and among students, faculty, staff, and administrators, and prepare students to become life-long learners, responsible citizens and leaders.

Goals and Strategies:

Goal 1. Promote an Understanding and Appreciation of Liberal Education.

➤ **Sub-goals:**

- a. Fostering an aesthetic appreciation of the liberal arts
- b. Fostering an understanding of the liberal arts tradition
- c. Providing a liberal education
- d. Promoting the appreciation for the importance of the college experience
- e. Fostering a joy and respect for learning

Goal 2. Engage Students in Academic Pursuits.

➤ **Strategies that could be used by UW Colleges' faculty and staff to achieve this goal:**

- a. Promoting active learning (students need to be actively engaged in the learning process)
- b. Offering First-Year Seminars
- c. Offering Learning Communities
- d. Offering interdisciplinary studies opportunities
- e. Promoting student involvement and responsibility in the learning process
- f. Defining institution-wide expectations for first year students
- g. Providing study abroad opportunities
- h. Providing students with opportunities to share what they are learning
- i. Providing students with opportunities to actively apply knowledge to life experience
- j. Investigating individual learning styles
- k. Assisting students with learning how to learn

Goal 3. Engage Students on the Campus.

➤ **Strategies that could be used by UW Colleges' faculty and staff to achieve this goal:**

- a. Encouraging involvement in athletics and intramural sports
- b. Encouraging involvement in campus committees, clubs, and societies
- c. Encouraging involvement in the Student Government Association
- d. Providing an organized, structured Mentoring Program that promotes faculty-student interaction
- e. Encouraging participation in study groups
- f. Providing Convocation activities

- g. Providing orientation activities
- h. Developing and implementing opportunities for collective student experiences (i.e., with a work of art, theatre production, musical production, film, or common reading)

Goal 4. Engage Students in the Community.

- **Strategies that could be used by UW Colleges' faculty and staff to achieve this goal:**
 - a. Providing opportunities for service learning
 - b. Providing opportunities for volunteerism
 - c. Providing opportunities for field trips
 - d. Providing internship opportunities
 - e. Involving students in campus-community projects and partnerships
 - f. Participating in government-related activities

Goal 5. Provide Students with the Skills Necessary for Academic and Life Success.

- **Strategies that could be used by UW Colleges' faculty and staff to achieve this goal through teaching:**

Academic Success Skills:

- a. Reading skills
- b. Writing skills
- c. Listening skills
- d. Speaking skills
- e. Library skills (i.e., information literacy, online search techniques and tools, and the ability to critically evaluate information resources)
- f. Researching skills
- g. Note-taking skills
- h. Test taking skills
- i. Problem-solving skills
- j. Goal setting skills
- k. Organization skills
- l. Setting priorities skills
- m. Small group skills
- n. Reading and following directions skills
- o. Time management skills
- p. Critical thinking skills
- q. Technology skills

Life Management Skills:

- a. Enhancing students self-understanding
- b. Providing assistance for life planning
- c. Promoting open-mindedness
- d. Assisting with value clarification
- e. Assisting students in developing personal values
- f. Providing opportunities for leadership training
- g. Instilling a commitment to health and wellness
- h. Providing guidance for managing a budget
- i. Providing opportunities for financial planning

Tools Necessary for Navigating University Culture:

- a. Providing financial aid information
- b. Providing opportunities for career and major exploration
- c. Advising students as to how to register for classes
- d. Understanding university policies and procedures
- e. Providing student learning support centers