

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

# *FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCES*

FALL 2025 COURSE GUIDE





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# *WELCOME TO CU DENVER*

Welcome to CU Denver, and to your next exciting journey!

Your college years provide immense opportunity for self-exploration, intellectual discovery, relationship-building, and career foundations. We encourage you to seize these opportunities and to craft a path that speaks to you and the person that you want to become.

While this is incredibly exciting, it may also be a little overwhelming. Don't worry - we've got your back! First-Year Experience (FYE) courses are designed to ease your transition to university life and guide you into this world of social, academic, and professional possibilities. We have an amazing network of dedicated faculty, supportive staff, and enthusiastic peer leaders that are 100% committed to your success.

As you explore the following pages, our registration specialists and academic advisors look forward to working with you to select the best FYE option for your schedule, needs, and interests. Whether you choose a unique First-Year Seminar course, a weekly College Success class, or a two-course Learning Community, all FYE programs provide built-in opportunities for your path to graduation and beyond. We cannot wait to welcome you to CU Denver!



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# *FYE COURSES*

In any of the FYE courses they choose, first-year students acclimate to the rigors of college-level work, engage in the active social and intellectual life of our campus, work closely with faculty and peer leaders, and make close friends and study partners.

## **UNIV 1110 COLLEGE SUCCESS**

Ease your transition to CU and make your first semester the best it can be. Make close connections with up to 26 other first-year students and share this journey together!

## **FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR (FYS)**

FYS courses have it all - the best faculty, interesting topics, fun events, and the support of the whole campus. Each FYS course is a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity - only available your first semester!

## **LEARNING COMMUNITIES (LC)**

LCs include two courses that are linked together (gotta sign up for both!) In these courses, professors tag team to deliver an experience that goes beyond the classroom with interdisciplinary themes, shared assignments, and a fun field trip. The best part is the bond you'll create with your classmates from spending all that quality time together.

# *BENEFITS OF FYE*



## **HIGHER RETENTION RATE**

Historically over time, the retention rate of FYE students has been higher than those who did not enroll in an FYE course.

**90%**

## **OF STUDENTS RECOMMEND**

an FYE course to incoming college students.



## **HIGH PROFESSOR RATING**

FYE students consistently rate their FYE professors and UNIV Educators highly in terms of mentorship and support.

**GPA**

## **HIGHER FIRST-SEMESTER GPA**

The average FYE student has a higher first-semester GPA than students who did not take an FYE course.



# WHY WE

# LOVE

# FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCES

I love FYE because it allows for us to make holistic connections with new students while supporting their academic and career goals in a fun environment!

Side note- I've been working with one of my UNIV students to get him to Japan for study abroad and he leaves in 3 weeks! woo!!! FYE is the real deal y'all!

– Brie Mondragon  
UNIV Educator

I'm an FYE teacher because I remember just how monumental my first year in college was in my path to who I am now. I love to celebrate the highs of our students' greatest moments at the beginning of a new journey, and I want to be there to support them through the challenges. My FYE class is consistently the best part of my week!

– Liz Berry  
UNIV Educator

I teach in the FYE Program because I love working with first-year students! I thrive off the energy and enthusiasm our new students bring into the classroom! Additionally, as an alumna of CU Denver, I also see my involvement in FYE as a way to give back to the institution that has presented me with so many wonderful opportunities and has catalyzed SO MUCH of my personal and professional growth.

– Kristen Fukumoto  
UNIV Educator



# COLLEGE SUCCESS

## ABOUT UNIV

College Success is our university boot camp, though a lot more fun. Learn about what it takes to succeed in college and how to make the right choices to get you there.

### Here's How We Do It:

1

### Polish Your Skills

Practice strategies for success! We'll fine-tune the essentials - writing, critical thinking, and research - and work on college survival skills like time and stress management.

2

### Get Connected; Be Supported

This is your home base to explore the campus and discover all that CU has to offer. You'll also learn from the experts all over campus, including the Writing Center, Auraria Library, Learning Resource Center, Lynx Center, Career Center, and more!

3

### Be The Best You

College isn't all about learning stuff - it's also a lot of learning about YOU. We'll work on self-exploration so you can discover your interests, leverage your strengths, define your path, and achieve your goals.

4

### Discover Community

CU Denver is immensely diverse and, hence, immensely awesome. You will learn to appreciate the diversity of people and perspectives that make CU Denver truly special, and your place within it all.

## General Sections

### UNIV 1110-001

— In-Person —

**Days:** Tuesday

**Times:** 9:30AM-10:45AM

### UNIV 1110-004

— In-Person —

**Days:** Thursday

**Times:** 9:30AM-10:45AM

### UNIV 1110-002

— In-Person —

**Days:** Tuesday

**Times:** 2:00PM-3:15PM

### UNIV 1110-E18

— Online —

**Days:** -

**Times:** -

### UNIV 1110-003

— In-Person —

**Days:** Wednesday

**Times:** 11:00AM-12:15PM



# ***SPECIALIZED SECTIONS***

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## **UNIV 1110-009** **Business Majors Only**

— In-Person —

**Days:** Tuesday

**Times:** 9:30AM-10:45AM

## **UNIV 1110-015** **Business Majors Only**

— In-Person —

**Days:** Tuesday

**Times:** 2:00PM-3:15PM

## **UNIV 1110-E17** **Business Majors Only**

— Online —

## **UNIV 1110-010** **Business Majors Only**

— In-Person —

**Days:** Monday

**Times:** 11:00AM-12:15PM

## **UNIV 1110-016** **Business Majors Only**

— In-Person —

**Days:** Thursday

**Times:** 11:00AM-12:15PM

## **UNIV 1110-017\*** **Computer Science**

— In-Person —

**Days:** Tuesday

**Times:** 11:00AM-12:15PM

**\*Computer Science Majors Only**

## **UNIV 1110-013** **Business Majors Only**

— In-Person —

**Days:** Tuesday

**Times:** 9:30AM-10:45AM

## **UNIV 1110-E16** **Business Majors Only**

— Online —

## **UNIV 1110-018** **CAP\***

— In-Person —

**Days:** Tuesday

**Times:** 9:30AM-10:45AM

**\*Only open to all College of  
Architecture and Planning majors**



# FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

Monday/Wednesday

9:30AM-10:45AM |

COMM 1111-001 **In-Person**

## ***What Are You Really Saying? The Power of Non-Verbal Communication***

We will analyze significant research concerning non-verbal signals such as clothing and appearance to elements of body, face, and eye movements using observation activities. Particular emphasis will be placed on engagement and distress signals applicable to the world of business and mental health.

**Core Area:** Behavioral Sciences | **Professor:** Yvette Olson

9:30AM-10:45AM |

SOCY 1111-002 **In-Person**

## ***Crime and Justice in the Centennial State***

Misconceptions about crime can lead to interventions that make social problems worse. In addition to supporting students' successful transition to university, this course provides a broad overview of sociological topics related to crime and justice, such as violent crime, property crime, policing, courts, corrections, criminal justice, victimology, community justice, systemic oppression, and transformation.

**Core Area:** Social Sciences | **Professor:** Keith Guzik

Students must be enrolled in the Crime and Justice LLC to enroll in this course.

11:00AM-12:15PM |

WGST 1111-002 **In-Person**

## ***Queer Histories, Queer Lives: Introduction to LGBTQ+ Studies***

As an introduction to LGBTQ/queer studies, this class will give students the opportunity to engage in the histories, experiences, and perspectives of various queer people, communities, and ideas. We will focus on identity and politics in relation to gender and sexuality and other social categories such as race/ethnicity, socio-economic class, nationality, dis/ability, and religion. We will also explore together what it means to "be queer" and what it means to view history, culture, and politics from a queer perspective.

**Core Area:** Humanities | **Professor:** TBA

11:00AM-12:15PM | **Transfer Seminar Course**

ETST 3111-001 **In-Person**

## ***Ethnicity and Race in Contemporary American Culture***

This course introduces students to creative works by people of color, including African American, Native American, Latino, and Asian Americans. This class explores theoretical concepts about racial and ethnic identities and encourages students to think critically about the construction and representation of race, class, and gender in modern American life.

**Core Area:** Cultural Diversity | **Professor:** Angie VanDijk

This class is hybrid and meets on Zoom on Mondays and in-person on Wednesdays; must be transfer student in order to enroll in this course.



# FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

Monday/Wednesday

12:30PM-1:45PM |

ETST 1111-001 In-Person

## *American Indian Experiences*

This course examines tribal identities and the cultural retention of American Indian traditions. Course readings by American Indian scholars examine a wide range of terms and theories regarding myths about American Indian cultures and history that have misinformed multiple generations. The course emphasizes how these ideas, roles and relationships evolved and are rooted in the fears and prejudice of European settlers and in the larger political agendas aimed at acquiring Indigenous land and creating the impression of cultural erasure and disappearance.

Core Area: Social Sciences | Professor: Duane Bird Bear

This course is open to both incoming Fall 2024 first-year and transfer students.

2:00PM-3:15PM |

INTB 1111-001 In-Person

## *International Social Entrepreneurship*

The end of the 20th Century saw the rise of a powerful new force: the International Social Entrepreneur. Leveraging the power of market forces, social media, the Internet, and the desire to make the world better, these people have developed powerful ways to tackle the social, economic, and environmental problems that confront us all. In this class, we will study the rise of international social entrepreneurship and the innovative tools international social entrepreneurs have developed to address some of our most dire challenges.

Core Area: International Perspectives | Professor: Jon Wilkerson

2:00PM-3:15PM |

MUSC 1111-001 In-Person

## *The Beatles, Popular Music, and Society*

Explore the impact of the Beatles and their music on popular music, our culture, and society, both in their time and today. The academic content portion of the course is an introduction to the music of the Beatles and their influence on culture. The academic skills portion of the course is designed to assist students in making a successful transition from high school to college.

Core Area: Arts | Professor: Storm Gloor





# FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

Tuesday/Thursday

11:00AM -12:15PM |

**HIST 1111-001** **In-Person**

## ***The History of Pirates***

Piracy is often thought of as occurring in fairy tales with swashbuckling heroes that look like Johnny Depp and who live in the past. However, piracy is far from the past and does not apply only to illegal films or stolen information on the computer. This class introduces pirates from the past and present, what caused them to be pirates, how and where they “pirated”, and what they have (or don’t have) in common.

Core Area: Humanities | Professor: Chris Sundberg

11:00AM-12:15PM |

**FINE 1111-001** **In-Person**

## ***Your Photographic Journal***

Improve your photographic skills while creating several dynamic, personal projects. Using a camera phone, learn basic camera functions, digital formats, visual journaling, as well as fundamental principles of light and composition. Investigate photography as a mode of visual communication while examining its creative possibilities and exploring the history of the medium.

Core Area: Arts | **Professor:** Carol Golemboski

2:00PM-3:15PM |

**PSYC 1111-001** **In-Person**

## ***How to Think Like a Psychologist***

We will explore how psychologists apply critical, empirical, and ethical thinking to a variety of issues. We will develop and apply thinking skills and will assess learning by participating in class discussions, graded exercises, writing papers, and collaboration with one another to address complex problems.

Core Area: Behavioral Sciences | Professor: Mitch Handelsman

3:30PM-4:45PM |

**FITV 1111-001** **In-Person**

## ***Anime Goes to College: Analyzing Anime Characters Through a Sociological Lens***

This is a first-year experiences (FYE) seminar designed to help students understand, and appreciate, and analyze character development in Japanese anime. Japanese manga and anime has quickly risen in the United States as a popular storytelling format, with many large companies like Netflix and Hulu beginning to release anime titles on their streaming platforms. The purpose of this course is to provide a history to Japanese anime while focusing on character stereotypes, identities, and development in a variety of popular anime shows, and how that connects to student development theories.

Core Area: International Perspectives | **Professor:** Emilie Waggoner

This course is open to both incoming Fall 2025 first-year and transfer students.



# FRIDAY-ONLY SEMINARS

9:00AM-11:45AM

ETST 1111-002 **In-Person**

## ***Food Culture and Asian American and Pacific Islander Identity***

This course provides a better understanding of the historical, social, and cultural aspects of the AAPI community specifically through food culture. Students will be able to investigate the politics and address critically, AAPI foodways by examining social habits, rituals, private versus public venues, and the connections to the AAPI identity. The AAPI community have always been intimately connected to food practices and institutions in the American imagination.

Core Area: Social Sciences | **Professor:** Sothary Chea

9:30AM-12:15PM

LDAR 1111-001 **In-Person**

## ***The Place of Food***

In this highly experience-focused class, we will explore the place of food in culture, in the city, in the global economy, in history, and - most importantly - in our lives. Activities will include farm and food industry tours, growing and cooking food, and traditional academic research focused on the students' lived experiences.

Core Area: Humanities | **Professor:** Jody Beck & Jenna Smith

Students must be in the "In the Place of Food" LLC to enroll in this course.





# LEARNING COMMUNITIES

## MAJOR-BASED

### CURIOUS TEACHER LEARNING COMMUNITY

Curiosity, the heart of great teaching, is the focus of this learning community. See the world through the eyes of a learner and nurture a curiosity about children, adolescents, families and communities. This learning community is for EDHD majors.

**CLDE 2000-H01** **In-Person**

**Thursday | 4:00PM-6:45PM**

**Foundations of Culturally & Linguistically  
Diverse Education (Hybrid Course)**

**COLLEGE SUCCESS** **In-Person**

**UNIV 1110-008**

**Tuesday | 3:30PM-4:45PM**

*(First-Year Students and Transfer EDHD Majors)*

### BUSINESS LEARNING COMMUNITIES

First-year business majors are required to take a UNIV 1110 Business section in their first fall semester. Many of our first-year business majors also tend to still need their MATH 1060 class requirement.

*THIS LEARNING COMMUNITY IS FOR BUSINESS MAJORS.*

**MATH 1060-106** **In-Person**

**Tuesday/Thursday | 2:00PM-3:15PM**

**Finite Mathematics**

**UNIV 1110-011** **In-Person**

**Tuesday | 12:30PM-1:45PM**

**Business College Success**

*THIS LEARNING COMMUNITY IS FOR BUSINESS MAJORS.*

**MATH 1060-101** **In-Person**

**Monday/Wednesday | 11:00AM-12:15PM**

**Finite Mathematics**

**UNIV 1110-012** **In-Person**

**Wednesday | 9:30AM-10:45AM**

**Business College Success**



# LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

## **VISUAL ARTS LLC**

This Visual Arts LLC is to help first-year Visual Arts Department students connect with like-minded visual arts career-focused students. Students must be either Visual Arts majors or minors to be eligible for this LLC.

Students must be living in the “Visual Arts” LLC in City Heights to enroll in the courses below:

**FINE 2600-002** **In-Person**

**Tuesday/Thursday | 12:30PM-1:45PM**

**UNIV 1110-114** **In-Person**

**Friday | 9:30AM-10:45AM**

## **MUSIC INDUSTRY LLC**

This Music Industry LLC is to help first-year MEIS Department students connect with like-minded music industry career-focused students. Students must be either MEIS majors or minors to be eligible for this LLC.

Students must be living in the “Music Industry” LLC in City Heights to enroll in the courses below:

**MUSC 2700-001** **In-Person**

**Monday/Wednesday | 3:30PM-4:45PM**

**UNIV 1110-115** **In-Person**

**Friday | 9:30AM-10:45AM**

## **CRIME, JUSTICE, & THE CENTENNIAL STATE LLC**

This LLC is intended to introduce first-year and transfer students to the lived presence of sociological topics in the Denver metropolitan and broader Colorado community.

Students must be living in the “Crime and Justice in the Centennial State” LLC in City Heights to enroll in the course below:

**SOCY 1111-002** **In-Person**

**Monday/Wednesday | 9:30AM-10:45AM**

*Satisfies the Social Sciences Core Area Requirement*

## **THE PLACE OF FOOD LLC**

The main goal of this LLC is to create a connected community around food. Students will explore how food influences our lives, fostering critical thinking skills as a lens through which to better understand society, landscapes, politics, and philosophy.

Students must be living in the “The Place of Food” LLC in Lynx Crossing to enroll in the course below:

**LDAR 1111-001** **In-Person**

**Friday | 9:30AM-12:15PM**

*Satisfies the Humanities Core Area Requirement*



# LEARNING COMMUNITIES

## BIOLOGY & PRE-HEALTH MAJORS

### ENTERING BIOLOGY LC 1

**BIOL 2010-111**

Tuesday/Thursday | 9:30AM-10:45AM

**BIOL 2011-111**

LAB

Monday | 2:00PM-4:45PM

**UNIV 1110-111: College Success**

Thursday | 11:00AM-12:15PM

### ENTERING BIOLOGY LC 2

**BIOL 2010-112**

Monday/Wednesday | 9:30AM-10:45AM

**BIOL 2011-112**

LAB

Thursday | 8:00AM-10:45AM

**UNIV 1110-112: College Success**

Monday | 11:00AM-12:15PM

### ENTERING BIOLOGY LC 3

**BIOL 2010-113**

Tuesday/Thursday | 11:00AM-12:15PM

**BIOL 2011-113**

LAB

Tuesday | 2:00PM-4:45PM

**UNIV 1110-113: College Success**

Thursday | 12:30PM-1:45PM







# Student Transitions & Family Engagement

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**