

# **First Year Experience Program Georgia State University**

**Ronald J. Henry**

# Academic Advisement

- Academic guides offer information about college programs, class schedules, and career opportunities
- [http://www.gsu.edu/degrees\\_programs\\_undergraduate.html](http://www.gsu.edu/degrees_programs_undergraduate.html)
- Academic guides provide milestones for end of freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years

# Academic Advisement

- **Freshman Milestones:**

- Complete all Area A requirements
- Take and pass Regents' Test if not exempted
- Attend major fair and declare major

- **Sophomore Milestones:**

- Complete all lower level prerequisites to be eligible for upper division courses
- Meet with your Advisor in Arts & Sciences  
(after 42 earned credit hours)

# Academic Advisement

## Example: Biology

### Freshman Year

● Term 1 Course Hrs	Term 2 Course Hrs
● Engl 1101 (3)	Engl 1102 (3)
● GSU 1010 (3)	Biol 2107K (4)
● Math 1113 (3)	Area B Elective (2)
● Chem 1211K (4)	Area F Elective (2)
● Area B Elective (2)	Pols 1101 (3)
● Total Hours (15)	Total Hours
(14)	

# Freshman Learning Community (FLC) Example: Biology

**Fall semester: An introduction to the  
science of life**

- **Engl 1101 (3)**
- **Math 1113 (3)**
- **GSU 1010 (3)**
- **Chem 1211K (4)**
- **Area B Elective (2)**
- **Total Hours (15)**



# Freshmen Learning Communities (FLCs)

- **OVERVIEW:** 25 students take five courses together centered around a theme
- **THEMES VARY:** Pre-med, Law and Society, Internet and the Information Age, Quantitative Sciences, Strategic Thinking and Learning
- **FLC COURSES:** General Education Core Courses that apply to any major; Linked courses and Integration of the curriculum

# Freshmen Learning Communities (FLCs)

- **ANCHOR COURSE IN EACH FLC: GSU 1010 New Student Orientation Course (70% Academic Theme, 30% Orientation Topics)**
- **GSU 1010 INSTRUCTORS: 60% Taught By Tenure-Track and Senior Faculty Members of the University**

# Outcomes of FLCs

## GPA

- 1<sup>st</sup> term GPA significantly higher ( $p < .001$ )
- Cumulative GPA usually higher even after 2+ years

## Retention

- Greater Freshmen to Sophomore retention (7-8%) for FLC cohort
- Significantly greater retention (6-8%) 2-4 years out

## Progress towards graduation

- More hours earned per semester

## Graduation rates

- 6 year graduation rate 7-11% higher

# First Year Retention Rates

Fall	# FLC	FLC %	Non-FLC	Diff. %
1999	295	78.6	71.9	6.7
2000	432	86.6	77.9	8.7
2001	572	86.5	78.9	7.6
2002	677	83.9	76.2	7.7
2003	754	86.6	79.4	7.2
2004	943	81.3	78.6	2.7
2005	1020	80.6	78.8	1.8
2006	1115	83.0	77.4	5.6

# Six-Year Rates

Fall cohort	6-yr grad	6-yr grad	6-yr retention	6-yr retention
	FLC	Non-FLC	FLC	Non-FLC
1999	45.1%	38.3%	51.9%	47.3%
2000	50.9%	38.5%	55.1%	48.8%
2001	53.8%	43.8%	62.2%	53.2%

# Six-Year Rates

	2000	2001
Graduated from Georgia State	45.5%	47.0%
Graduated from another institution	15.0%	11.5%
Total 6-year graduation rate	60.5%	58.5%
Still enrolled at Georgia State	4.3%	8.6%
Still enrolled at another institution	5.9%	5.7%
Total 6-year graduated or enrolled	70.7%	72.7%

# Investigated Influence of FLC Membership on:

- Student/Professor Connections
- Student Collaboration
- Engagement with University and the City
- Friendships

# Supplemental Instruction (SI)

- Targets difficult gateway courses (>30% of students receive grades of D, F, W) as opposed to targeting high-risk students
- SI leader is hired based on his or her grade in that class and the recommendation of the professor
- SI leaders are trained in non-directive leadership skills, group process skills and learning skills
- Students attend at least 2 SI sessions

# Supplemental Instruction ABC %

