

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE



With the overarching goal of effectively integrating all new students into The Ohio State University community, and ultimately leading them to graduation, First Year Experience (FYE) focuses on providing a helping hand, rounding out the academic experience, and making sure the first year at Ohio State is as successful as it can be.

First Year Experience

■ fye.osu.edu

National research and our own experiences suggest that a great first year goes a long way toward helping students get what they go to college for: a degree and learning that lasts a lifetime. First Year Experience (FYE) leads campus-wide, collaborative efforts to give new students the resources and support they need to make a smooth transition to Ohio State, return the next year, and ultimately graduate and become happy Buckeye alumni. FYE programs help students learn to navigate campus and available resources, join the conversation, and become Buckeyes.

Learn to navigate the university

Navigating campus doesn't just mean learning the bus routes and where classes are. FYE helps students learn about the resources available to them and where to turn for help.

Join the conversation

FYE strives to expose students to the many conversations that are happening all the time on this campus—to really drive home the point that this is a place of intellectual inquiry. We want students to converse not just among themselves but with their resident advisors, with their faculty, and with other staff. This is a learning community, and one that thrives on a diversity of opinion. We want students to feel a part of that right from the start.

Become Buckeyes

We know we have something special going on here—and it's not just in the stadium on football Saturdays, and it's not just knowing that the answer to a stranger's "O-H" in an airport halfway around the world is, of course, "I-O." We are a community that is proud

of our traditions, our marching band, our campus, our academic programs, and, most importantly, the experience that students have here. Becoming a Buckeye also means contributing to our community—it's the volunteer work that our students do, it's the appreciation of diversity that we have, it's the way we treat each other, and it's the spirit of togetherness that makes our campus special.

By reaching out to the university and Columbus communities, FYE facilitates special programs and opportunities to help first-year students find friends among new and returning undergraduates; to help students adjust to college-level course work; and to help them discover the academic, social, and personal balance that leads to graduation. The following programs are a sampling of FYE initiatives designed to promote these Buckeye success stories.

AskFYE

■ askfye@osu.edu

Want to know how to declare a major? A minor? Want to know where to work out? Where a certain building is located? Where to get a haircut or where to take special visitors for dinner when they come to town? AskFYE!

A cyberspace source for answers to nearly every question about all things Ohio State, AskFYE is an invaluable resource for all members of the Ohio State community. Any new student seeking an answer to a question about the university or its programs, services, resources, or opportunities is encouraged to send an e-mail to askfye@osu.edu. The experts at AskFYE will provide a speedy reply, either answering the question or pointing the curious student to the appropriate person or campus resource.

Buckeye Book Community

■ fye.osu.edu/book.html

In what may amount to one of the nation's biggest book clubs, each autumn FYE invites all new students to be a part of the campus-wide Buckeye Book Community (BBC). Students are introduced to the selected book at summer orientation. Participants come to campus with a shared experience and some common ground. They discuss and debate what they have read in faculty- and staff-led discussion groups during the early part of fall quarter. Some may meet the author during his or her campus visit.

Participants in the BBC, including fellow first-year students, professors, advisors, and upperclass Buckeyes, not only have the extraordinary opportunity to read the renowned works and perhaps meet their equally renowned authors, but they engage in lively discussions and debates around campus. Whether in a professor's office or in a late-night discussion in the residence halls, the selections provide first-year students with a connection to literally thousands of other students, as well as faculty and staff.

Buckeye Lunches

New transfer students are invited to lunches throughout the year to interact with new and current Ohio State students.

First-Year Connections Team and Transfer Student Activities Board

■ fye.osu.edu/connectionsteam.html

The First-Year Connections Team and Transfer Student Activities Board (TSAB) is made up of a select group of students enthusiastic about Ohio State and the continued success of first-year students. Connections Team and TSAB members serve as an extension of the FYE staff and receive a unique opportunity to develop professional public speaking and event organization skills. Members also have the chance to interact with nationally and internationally renowned personalities.

First-Year Distinguished Speaker

■ fye.osu.edu/speaker.html

Each year, first-year students are given the opportunity to be addressed by someone who has shaped and influenced the world. Previous speakers have included Academy Award nominated director Morgan Spurlock and the authors of the best-selling novel *Freakonomics*, Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner.

First-Year Success Series

■ fye.osu.edu/success.html

New students have the opportunity to attend special lectures, seminars, and events that complement their one-credit-hour 100 survey course. These programs, available to first-year students during the fall, winter, and spring quarters, address common issues students face in the transition to university life at Ohio State: separation from family and distance from home, new temptations and fewer rules, rising expenses, new and unfamiliar surroundings, the rigor of the curriculum of a major research university, the diversity of the university population, and a large number of choices and decisions to be made.

The topics for the Success Series revolve around nine themes: Academic Engagement and Exploration, Alcohol and Other Drug Awareness, Anxiety and Mental Health, Current Issues, Diversity, Financial and Debt Management, Health and Wellness, Leadership, and Sexual Health. Experts from across campus facilitate most of the events. Past Success Series events have featured football legend Archie Griffin, astronaut and senator John Glenn, and founder of Teach for America Wendy Kopp.

Success Series Themes

Academic Engagement and Exploration

Encompasses a wide variety of topics such as improving study and note-taking skills, tackling procrastination, exploring career options, learning about math resources, and study abroad options. Previous seminars:

- Secrets of Academic Success
- Navigating Career Options
- Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Procrastination, But Haven't Gotten Around to Asking
- OSU Study Abroad
- Creative Note-Taking
- The Science Under the Shoe

Alcohol and Other Drug Awareness

Looks at the effects and consequences of alcohol and other drug abuse. Sessions aim to correct misperceptions regarding norms, guide students in evaluating their motivations for high-risk drinking and other drug use, and encourage low-risk, responsible drinking. Previous seminars:

- Choices About Alcohol
- Caring Friends: Helping a Friend with a Substance Abuse Problem
- Kickin' Butts: Successful Strategies for Tobacco Cessation
- MyStudentBody.com: An Online Alcohol and Drug Educational Program
- Generation Rx: Abuse of Medications in a Drug-Taking Society

Anxiety and Mental Health

Provides strategies for leading a healthy, balanced life. The topics range from addressing test anxiety and stress management to dealing with prejudice and discrimination. Previous seminars:

- Leading a Balanced Life
- Overcoming Test Anxiety
- Managing Parents When You're Away at College
- Mental Skills for Stress Management
- Coping with Discrimination and Prejudice
- Ask a Question: Save a Life

Current Issues

Created in response to student feedback and interest. Topics include governmental and legal issues, politics, international affairs, and social issues that have particular relevance for first-year students. Previous seminars:

- Free Speech on Campus: How Much Should There Be?
- International and Homeland Security
- Preventing Identity Theft
- How Safe Is Your Social Networking?
- The "Facebook Effect": A Look at the Online Identity

Diversity

Explores how diversity affects individuals and groups in society and what it means to work and live with people from differing backgrounds. Sessions look at issues of diversity in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, class, and gender. Previous seminars:

- Don't Box Me In
- Spirituality in College
- Guess the Straight Person
- Asian and American
- La Fiesta in the Fall
- The Humor of Diversity

Financial and Debt Management

Designed to increase students' understanding of financial matters. Topics include the consequences of and alternatives to buying on credit, tips for living cheaply, and strategies to ensure a secure financial future. Previous seminars:

- Understanding and Using Credit
- Checking Accounts 101
- Landlords, Leases, and Liabilities
- Work Hard But Smart...How to Be Successful in School and Graduate on Time
- Show Me the Money (or at least how to get it)

Health and Wellness

Informs students on ways to weave wellness practices into their daily routines and make healthier choices. Topics include illness prevention, student assistance, and wellness resources. Previous seminars:

- Wellness BINGO
- Stress 101
- Body Image and Health
- Vocational Discernment: Faith and Meaningful Work
- Progressive Muscular Relaxation
- How to Avoid the Freshman 15

Leadership

Explores how to get involved on campus and how to use Ohio State resources to develop leadership skills. Also features leadership speakers—visiting local, state, and national leaders who share their personal leadership experiences. Previous seminars:

- 5 under 25: Young Alumni Panel
- Everyone Can Be a Leader
- How to Get Involved at Ohio State
- There Are Too Many Big Fish in This Pond

Sexual Health

Addresses choices regarding sexual activity, birth control methods, and abstinence. Students learn about the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases and how they can be prevented or addressed, and how drug and/or alcohol intoxication factors into decision making. Previous seminars:

- Safe, Sane, and Sexy
- Let's Talk About Sex
- STD Jeopardy
- HIV 101
- Latex and Safe Sex

Leadership Speakers

In conjunction with the Success Series, FYE brings notable speakers to campus to address the first-year class on career development and leadership in the workplace. Focusing on their own career paths and experiences, speakers—including community and government leaders, executives from renowned organizations and companies, and successful alumni—serve as inspirations to our newest Buckeyes. The following are some previous leadership speakers:

- Robert H. Schottenstein, president and CEO, M/I Homes
- Dr. Kathy Sullivan, former president and CEO, COSI, and first woman to walk in space
- Janet Jackson, president and CEO, United Way of Central Ohio
- Jo Ann Davidson, co-chair, Republican National Committee

FYE-News

FYE keeps each new Buckeye informed throughout the first year with an e-newsletter about campus resources, services, and events. Students can also visit the FYE web site at fye.osu.edu to get information about FYE events and programs.

Picnic with the Buckeyes

The Picnic with the Buckeyes is part of the university's Welcome Week that introduces incoming students to university resources, college life, and each other during the first week of classes. The picnic features a Columbus area orchestra on the South Oval for a free concert. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to bring a picnic basket and enjoy a picnic and their favorite Buckeye tunes, along with some musical standards. Past performances have featured the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and the Columbus Jazz Orchestra (CJO). More information is available at fye.osu.edu in the weeks prior to Welcome Week.

Welcome Programs

The President's Convocation

■ fye.osu.edu/convocation.html

In the autumn, convocation is the first official academic welcome for new freshmen to the Ohio State family, and, along with commencement, serves as a "bookend" to the Ohio State experience. At convocation, students are officially "inducted" as new Buckeyes; at commencement, the class reconvenes to consider its accomplishments.

Held in historic St. John Arena on the Monday before the start of autumn quarter classes, convocation is the official welcome from the campus and Columbus communities to Ohio State's newest Buckeyes. Several speakers offer words of advice and inspiration at the symbolic ceremony, including the university president, the Undergraduate Student Government president, and surprise guests. Buckeye spirit is led by The Best Damn Band in the Land (TBDBITL), The Ohio State University Marching Band. Students are introduced to Ohio State history and traditions; learn "Carmen Ohio," Ohio State's alma mater; and receive symbols of their membership in the Ohio State family.

After the academic ceremony, students are led by the marching band out of St. John Arena and through celebrated Ohio Stadium, surrounded by cheering university faculty and staff. After viewing themselves on the stadium's huge scoreboard, the new Buckeyes head to the President's Picnic and Student Involvement Fair.

To view pictures of convocation, go to fye.osu.edu/convocation.html.

Buckeye Welcome

■ fye.osu.edu/buckwelcome.html

Buckeye Welcome introduces transfer students and regional campus change students to the Columbus campus. In addition to ushering in students in the Buckeye tradition, Buckeye Welcome is designed to address the unique needs of students not entering the university as traditional autumn quarter first-year students. This fun event also includes a casual reception and the opportunity for students to meet and connect with both new and continuing students.