

1. First-Year Seminars and Experiences

Definition: This approach brings first-year students and faculty together on a regular basis in a seminar format allowing faculty to assist students in learning how to develop critical inquiry, writing skills, information literacy, collaborative learning and other skills that develops students' intellectual and practical competencies.

Example: First-year students can be enrolled in a one-hour seminar based on common educational interests where the faculty incorporate readings, discussion points, group activities, and test taking strategies to help students understand what is required of them beyond high school expectations for successful completion of college.

Other Examples: Extended orientation and basic study skills seminars

2. Common Intellectual Experiences

Definition: This concept evolved from the idea of a "common core" into common experiences that include student goals and learning outcomes that often involve broad themes, such as technology and society and global interdependence, with a variety of curricular and co-curricular options for students.

Example: Faculty can help students utilize common courses such as composition, history, mathematics, etc. to help them better understand their educational interests and how these common courses impact other aspects of life.

3. Learning Communities

Definition: Two or more courses that are linked together based on a common intellectual theme that are taken together or students that are linked together in a cohort. This allows for the exploration of topics and readings through the lenses of different disciplines. Service learning may also be a component of learning communities.

Example: Paired or clustered courses, student cohorts

4. Writing-Intensive Courses

Definition: Writing should be implemented at all levels of instruction and across multiple disciplines within the curriculum. Students are encouraged to create a variety of forms of writing with different audiences in mind.

Example: Engage students in a writing assignment which helps to create meaning. Must provide clear expectations and a grading rubric is recommended.

5. Collaborative Assignments and Projects

Definition: Collaborative assignments and projects serve to teach students how to work as part of a team effort. In addition, they help students see different perspectives outside of their own.

Example: Course-based study groups, group writing assignments, projects, research

6. Undergraduate Research

Definition: A longstanding staple in the science disciplines, undergraduate research is now being used in various disciplines to help students learn the process of inquiry and observation.

Example: Research projects with the goal of exploring answers to real-world questions

7. Diversity/Global Learning

Definition: These assignments allow students to learn about world views that differ from their own. Common topics include racial and ethnic differences or gender inequality.

Example: Study abroad or Collaborative Online International Learning, (COIL)

8. ePortfolios

Definition: ePortfolios allow students to create an electronic representation of their learning and experiences over the course of their time at the college. ePortfolios can be especially beneficial to employers when seeking

to hire recent graduates. They are also helpful in allowing students to reflect on their learning over time.

Example: ePortfolio of student experiential learning

9. Service Learning, Community-Based Learning

Definition: Service learning is a form of experiential learning where students are involved in some community program often related to their area of study. They help students gain valuable experience while also teaching them the benefit of giving back to their communities. Application of concepts and reflection on learning are key components.

Example: Helping a local community-based program, working with a community partner

10. Internships

Definition: Internships are designed to give students practical experience while learning on the job. Students have the added benefit of working closely with mentors and possibly future employers.

Example: Assignments with business or industry affiliated with a student's course of study

11. Capstone Courses and Projects

Definition: Also called "senior capstones" these experiences allow students to create a project that integrates and applies their learning.

Example: Research projects, portfolio, performance, or art exhibit