

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD0423F

Date of Senate Approval 11/02/2023

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 2 (FYS): Require the First-Year Seminar to be taken during the first semester, and revise the FYS 178 description to reflect the change

Effective Date: Fall 2024

1. Delete: On page 56, the first paragraph under **First-Year Seminar:**

The First-Year Seminar, FYS 178, introduces students to education in a liberal arts environment, assisting them in making the transition to UNC Asheville. ~~FYS 178 is required for all incoming first-year students and must be taken within their first two semesters at UNC Asheville.~~ To facilitate the first-year college student's transition to UNC Asheville, FYS 178 will address topics that are important to a "first year experience," including academic advising, effective use of college resources, and an appreciation of the rhythms of the academic year.

Add: On page 56, in place of deleted entry:

The First-Year Seminar, FYS 178, introduces students to education in a liberal arts environment, assisting them in making the transition to UNC Asheville. FYS 178 is required for all incoming first-year students and must be taken during the first semester of enrollment at UNC Asheville. To facilitate the first-year college student's transition to UNC Asheville, FYS 178 will address topics that are important to a "first year experience," including academic advising, effective use of college resources, and an appreciation of the rhythms of the academic year.

0. Delete: On page 169, the entry for **FYS 178:**

178 First-Year Seminar (3-4)

The First-Year Seminar, FYS 178, introduces students to education in a liberal arts environment, assisting them in making the transition to UNC Asheville. FYS 178 is required for all incoming first-year students and must be taken within their first two semesters at UNC Asheville. To facilitate the first-year college student's transition to UNC Asheville, FYS 178 will address topics that are important to a "first year experience," including academic advising, effective use of college resources, and an appreciation of the rhythms of the academic year. The First-Year Seminar is open to first-year students only. May not be used to fulfill major or minor requirements. Students may receive credit for only one section of FYS 178. Fall and Spring.

Add: On page 169, in place of deleted entry:

178 First-Year Seminar (3-4)

The First-Year Seminar, FYS 178, introduces students to education in a liberal arts environment, assisting them in making the transition to UNC Asheville. FYS 178 is required for all incoming first-year students. The class must be taken during the first semester of enrollment. To facilitate the first-year college student's transition to UNC Asheville, FYS 178 will address topics that are important to a "first year experience," including academic advising, effective use of college resources, and an appreciation of the rhythms of the academic year. The First-Year Seminar is open to first-year students only. May not be used to fulfill major or minor requirements. Students may receive credit for only one section of FYS 178. Fall and Spring.

Impact: This update will allow us to ensure that all first-year students who are required to enroll in the class do so during their first semester, when the transition-focused content of the FYS will be most meaningful for them. Additionally, with the current [Quality Enhancement Plan](#) and its associated goals, it's crucial that students participate in the FYS in their first semester of enrollment. Students who don't successfully complete the class during their first term of enrollment must repeat it during their second term.

Rationale: This update aligns the language in the catalog with our current practice of requiring students to take their FYS class during their first semester at UNCA.

During AY 2020-21 and 2021-22, in an effort to increase student choice, we provided students with the option of taking their FYS in either semester of their first year at UNCA. However, this increased choice did not positively impact our Fall-to-Fall retention, and students who did not take their FYS during the first semester were more likely to be on Academic Warning during their second semester compared to students who took their FYS during their first semester. Hence, we stopped this practice and returned to the practice of offering the majority of our FYS classes in the fall semester, which is the most common start term for our first-year students.

Being able to enforce a students' enrollment during their first semester at UNCA is important because of the institution's focus on increased retention and long-term success for first-year students and will help achieve the goals set out by the current [Quality Enhancement Plan](#).