

FIG (First Year Interest Group)

What is a FIG?

- First-Year interest groups began with a pilot group of four FIGs in Fall 2001. The program has continued to grow. There are 28 FIGs in Fall 2007 enrolling about 520 students.
- FIGs offer new students the opportunity to be part of unique learning communities that help to make a smooth transition to UW-Madison.
- A typical FIG is a learning community of about 20 first-year students who live near each other in the residence halls and co-enroll in three courses.
- Each FIG has a theme that connects the courses.
- Each FIG is led by a faculty member who teaches the “synthesizing” course and who integrates material from the collateral courses.

Who teaches a FIG?

- Teaching FIGs seminars is something that faculty ASK to do.
- FIGs faculty must submit their proposals to the FIGs Planning Committee which selects which FIGs will be offered each fall.
- FIGs faculty are generally senior professors well-known and respected in their fields.
- FIGs faculty have been evaluated highly by their students.

Why?

- Students sharing a common academic and social frame of reference in a small community are more likely to feel connected to the institution and are more likely to succeed.