

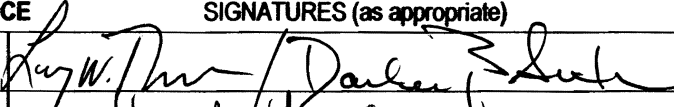
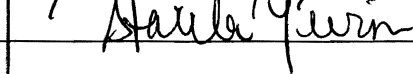
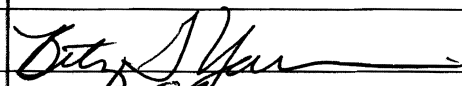

**UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE
Academic Policy Cover Sheet**

(See Process for Academic Policy Development, Revision or Discontinuance)

INITIATING GROUP / UNIT: LAW <input type="checkbox"/> MSB <input type="checkbox"/> YGCLA <input type="checkbox"/> UFS <input type="checkbox"/> Office of the Provost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT NAME: Peggy Potthast (originating with Provost) PHONE: x5342
POLICY TITLE: Students Admitted under Freshman Standards; the Freshman Experience
APPLIES TO: LAW <input type="checkbox"/> MSB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YGCLA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SPECIFIC PROGRAM (if applicable): students admitted under freshman standards
PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE / SEMESTER: fall 2010

Box 1: ACTION ITEM (check appropriate box)	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED (see box 2 below)	REVIEW / APPROVAL SEQUENCE (see box 3 below)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. New Policy	AB – others as appropriate	ABCDE – varies
X 2. Policy Revision	AB – others as appropriate	ABCDE – varies
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Discontinuance of Existing Policy	AB	ABCDE – varies

Box 2: DOCUMENTATION (check boxes of documents included) (may include documents in addition to required ones)			
X	A. AP Cover Sheet (this document)	D. Additional Forms (as may be needed to support procedures)	F. Other (please list)
X	B. AP Proposal Summary	E. Samples of Similar Policies	
	C. Procedures (as appropriate)		

Box 3: REVIEW / APPROVAL SEQUENCE	SIGNATURES (as appropriate)	DATE
A. School / College Dean		3/30/10
B. Policy Coordinator		3/31/10
C. Academic Policy Review Committee Chair (optional UFS subcommittee)		
D. University Faculty Senate Chair (UFS option)		
E. Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs		3/23/2010
F. Attorney General's Office	Signature not required. If AG review is necessary, the date of approval may be received via e-mail and would be added by the Policy Coordinator.	
G. 10-Day Open Comment Period		
H. President		
I. USM / Board of Regents – approval	Signature not required. If USM review is necessary, the date of approval would be added by the Policy Coordinator.	

Academic Policy Proposal Summary

INITIATING GROUP / UNIT:	LAW <input type="checkbox"/> MSB <input type="checkbox"/> YGCLA <input type="checkbox"/> UFS <input type="checkbox"/> Office of the Provost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT NAME:	Peggy Potthast (originating with the Provost) PHONE: x5342
POLICY TITLE:	Students Admitted Under Freshman Standards: The Freshman Experience
APPLIES TO:	LAW <input type="checkbox"/> MSB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YGCLA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SPECIFIC PROGRAM (if applicable)	students admitted under freshman standards
PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE / SEMESTER:	fall 2010

I. Statement of Purpose:

This policy (catalog copy) describes the guiding principles underlying the freshman experience, the framework surrounding its delivery and content, and special educational requirements for those admitted under freshman standards.

II. Policy (including authority for policy waiver, exclusions, or sanctions, if any) can be attached if too lengthy for this box.

III. Reason(s) for Proposed Policy

We want to update requirements and policies for the freshman experience based on the first two years of working with the FSP Program. We desire a simplified policy for students admitted under freshmen criteria. We would like the policy about the freshman experience to be broad so that those responsible for implementation can exercise creativity and provide innovative direction as our experience continues to evolve.

Academic Policy Proposal Summary (Page 2)

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CONTACT NAME:	Peggy Potthast	PHONE:	x5342
POLICY TITLE:	Students Admitted Under Freshman Standards: The Freshman Experience		
PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE / SEMESTER:	fall 2010		

IV. Current Policy (if proposal is a revision or discontinuance), including date of adoption if available, can be attached if too lengthy for this box.

V. Other (who was consulted, definition of terms, etc.)

Current policy (attached) was developed by the Lower Division Education Initiative Committee (LDEIC). Based on what we have learned in the first two years we believe we can improve the experience for freshmen. Policy changes proposed now are a result of our experience over the last two years and cross-campus conversations at various levels related to these issues.

Students Admitted Under Freshman Standards: the Freshman Experience

Students admitted to UB under freshman standards must have earned fewer than 24 academic credits at another institution of higher education. These students participate in the freshman experience.

The work of the freshman experience takes place under a set of guiding principles:

- Provide small class experiences and common courses, linked to each other and to a relevant societal context.
- Develop students' learning abilities in key areas (effective communication, information literacy, technological competence, developing a knowledge and skills base, personal management and ethical discernment).
- Guide students regarding academic requirements, the resources and opportunities of the University, their social and academic responsibilities, and their future careers.
- Show respect for three dimensions of the student experience: students' struggles to attend college, to participate actively in the classroom and to understand a new standard for learning that involves ownership of their education.

In their early college curriculum students take general education courses in science, mathematics, composition, humanities, social sciences, information literacy, oral communication and IT fluency; a first-year seminar that provides a chance to practice academic success skills; 100- and 200- level courses in the majors or electives; and developmental courses in reading, writing and mathematics.

Students are encouraged to formally declare a major after they have completed 24 credits, and they must do so once they have completed 45 credits.

Components of the Freshman Experience

Learning Communities: are the centerpiece of the freshman experience. **All first-year students choose two learning communities, one each semester of the first year.**

~~and participation in at least one learning community is required for all students admitted under freshman standards although most students are expected to complete two.~~

The curricular coherence provided by thematically linked courses provides an excellent environment for student success. An important goal for learning communities is building social and intellectual connections from what students know when they come to UB, to what they learn in their first and second years, to what they learn in their major areas of study and eventually to how they act as responsible and educated professionals, citizens and family members.

Learning communities help students to participate more fully in their own learning, to interact more often and more deeply with faculty and staff and, most importantly, to develop academic maturity and self-confidence as they move toward their major fields of study. Critical thinking, reading and writing skills help students engage in Knowledge That Works.

In rare circumstances, students may withdraw from one or more learning community courses with the written approval of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences or designate and in consultation with the learning community faculty members. However, choosing to drop a course may require the student to take another learning community.

First-Year Seminar: The required IDIS 101 *First-Year Seminar: Applied Learning and Study Skills* is an innovative 2-credit course that combines classroom and online instruction with campus activities to give students practical, adaptable skills that help them to achieve their academic goals. In addition, it gives students opportunities to reflect and build on their understanding of themselves as students and their abilities to set and achieve personal, academic and professional learning goals. Finally, it serves as an extended orientation to facilitate their awareness of UB, its resources and its goals to support their learning experiences.

IDIS 102 *Critical thinking and Multicultural Awareness* is a 1-credit elective course that students can take after successfully completing IDIS 101. In this course students continue to build their skills in

systematically and creatively-analyzing and synthesizing information to solve problems. They focus this understanding on the knowledge, skills and personal attributes college graduates need to live and work in a diverse world.

The following principles apply to students in the freshman experience:

- All students admitted under freshman standards are required to successfully complete IDIS 101: *First-Year Seminar Applied Learning and Study Skills* prior to applying to declaring a major in either the Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Public Affairs or the Merrick School of Business.
- Students who have completed a credit-bearing learning styles and study skills course at another institution of higher education with a grade of C or better may request a waiver from the IDIS 101 requirement by providing appropriate documentation (transcript and course description) to the Office of Freshman Advising.
- Students may elect to take IDIS 102: Critical Thinking and Multicultural Awareness, but IDIS 102 is not a substitute for IDIS 101.

Co-curricular learning: UB students' undergraduate learning experiences are complemented by a calendar of out-of-classroom activities designed to help them to carry what they learn in the classroom into real-world environments. These activities include field trips, special speakers, leadership opportunities, and service learning experiences. These co-curricular activities reinforce classroom learning; they help students to become more proficient thinkers, communicators, problem-solvers, creative learners, and ethical decision makers. An important goal of co-curricular activities is to increase students' engagement; the more connected students feel to UB, the more likely they are to persist and succeed in their ambitions.