

## Academic *Innovation* Fund

### AIF First Year Experience – Guide for Proposals Curricular Project Examples

In 2013 the First Year Experience Working Group created a report *A Case for Change: A First Year Experience Framework at York University*, [http://www.yorku.ca/vpstdnts/initiatives/firstyearexperience/files/FYECASEFORCHANGE\\_FINALE.pdf](http://www.yorku.ca/vpstdnts/initiatives/firstyearexperience/files/FYECASEFORCHANGE_FINALE.pdf).

Part of the vision for the First Year Experience (FYE) at York is that by 2018 “York is well recognized for delivering a comprehensive, high-quality experience to new students.”

The vision is rooted in language drawn from a model developed by Alf Lizzio (2006) describing student success in the context of social and academic integration. Those interested in submitting Category I proposals addressing FYE from within the curriculum should ground those proposals in Lizzio’s transition framework below.

The examples provided are for illustration only. Successful proposals will suggest projects that:

- build constructively on activity that is already underway at York;
- will be curricular based; and
- will illustrate creative and thoughtful approaches to engaging first year students and launching them successfully on their program of study.

#### The ‘Five Senses’ of Successful Transition

Lizzio’s Five Senses of Student Success describes a student lifecycle model which suggests that successful transition to university-level study is based on five core aspects: purpose, connectedness, capability, resourcefulness, and culture.

#### Sense of Purpose

##### **1. New students will develop personal and academic competence, and a sense of purpose**

Definition: Helping new students to be clear about and committed to their educational and career goals.

Project Examples:

- Design of course projects to help students understand how a particular course or program fits within cutting edge research and wider societal concerns that link to students’ wider aspirations and that strengthen their identify as a member of x discipline i.e. thinking like an economist, chemist, sociologist etc.; maybe have top researchers present an overview of their research to first year students

### **Sense of Connectedness**

#### **2. *New students will make meaningful connections with peers, faculty, staff and York University***

Definition: Helping students develop relationships and connections that will support their success and enhance their satisfaction at university.

Project Examples:

- Design of a Supplemental Instruction or tutoring program in first year introductory courses (i.e. intake courses into the discipline)
- Explore video-based supplemental instruction (VSI)
- Create teaching resources that intentionally use teaching and learning approaches that build a sense of community in the classroom (even large lecture halls) and that encourage students to make meaningful connections with one another, York faculty and York staff; design collaborative learning activities for TAs to use in tutorial sections;
- Create a peer mentor program within the degree program

### **Sense of Capability**

#### **3. *New students will understand and live their rights and responsibilities as members of an inclusive, engaged learning community***

Definition: Help new students to develop the skills and attitudes needed to be successful learners.

Project Examples:

- Create a learning community for First Year students as part of a course or program
- Create resources for creating and integrating study groups into a course or program
- Create resources to explore student issues (such as access, first generation participation and success rates, mental health) within the curriculum

### **Sense of Resourcefulness**

#### **4. *New students will be supported by policies, programs, systems and spaces that intentionally develop a sense of resourcefulness and promote success.***

Definition: Help new students to develop resources they will need to support their success at university

Project Examples:

- Create a module to be used in introductory/intake courses to alert students in a first year course to the skills that they will be building incrementally throughout their program; flag opportunities (EE, undergraduate research, York U abroad, capstone) that will be available to them at different levels of the program

**Sense of Academic Culture**

**5. *New students will understand the core scholarly values and ethical principles of the university***

Definition: Help new students to understand the core scholarly values and ethical principles of the university.

Project Examples:

- Design a module that helps students explore culture and perspectives and worldviews different from their own
- Design an Academic Integrity and/or Human Rights module into the course

*Lizzio, A. (2006). Designing an orientation and transition strategy for commencing students: Applying the five senses model. Griffith University: First Year Experience Project.*