Credit-Bearing New Student Experience Courses

You are invited to consider offering a credit-bearing New Student Experience (NSE) course. NSE courses help students transition to college life and connect with the Baylor community. Students form meaningful connections with each other and with faculty through small class sizes. All Baylor students are required to take at least one NSE course, whether through UNIV 1000, BU 1000, or a credit-bearing NSE course.

These courses are designed to improve student success by engaging students academically, socially, and spiritually in the earliest stages of student development. Come and be a part of this exciting opportunity for transformational education at Baylor!

What are the goals of the New Student Experience?
By the end of the first year, each student will:
1. Understand Baylor’s mission and learning outcomes
2. Connect to Baylor
3. Engage in spiritual formation
4. Develop personal and professional goals
5. Succeed academically
6. Develop autonomy through caring community

What do NSE courses look like?
- Departments may create new courses or offer NSE sections of existing courses
  - May offer to any first-semester freshmen
  - May limit to majors, residential communities, etc.
- Integrate the NSE learning outcomes into a credit-bearing course (1-4 hours)
  - Flexibility to be creative and appropriate to the course’s discipline
  - Flexibility to utilize UNIV 1000 materials as appropriate for the discipline and nature of the course
- Optional Peer Leader to assist instructor
- MAP-Works Primary Direct Connect

What are the benefits of credit-bearing NSE courses?
- Small class sizes facilitate meaningful connections between students and faculty
  - Larger NSE courses may use peer mentors to help provide these connections
- Strong sense of community among students from the beginning of the semester
- The opportunity to introduce key values of a liberal education (critical thinking, integration of faith and learning, social responsibility, etc) through the lens of the course’s discipline
- The opportunity to engage students intellectually, socially, and spiritually in the earliest stages of student development
- The opportunity to engage freshmen and invest deeply in their success at Baylor and beyond

http://www.baylor.edu/nse
• Improve student engagement and retention for your department and for Baylor
• Recruit majors and/or minors
• Peer leaders can assist you with the course and serve as an additional resource and role model to your students

What resources are in place for me as I develop and implement my NSE course?
• Training workshop
• Community of NSE instructors
  o Brainstorming Forums
  o Sample syllabi
  o Troubleshooting and support
• Academy for Teaching and Learning resources and opportunities including a workshop on revamping your current course for NSE credit
• Coaching and ongoing support for those utilizing peer leaders
• Asst. Director of Student Success

How can I get approval for offering my course for NSE credit?
• Please contact Sinda Vanderpool if you have any questions or would like additional support while setting up your NSE courses.
• For consideration for Fall 2016, please submit all application materials to Sinda_Vanderpool@baylor.edu (x 6024) by January 25, 2016.

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