

FYS By the Numbers

Did you know that the FYS program at WOU is almost three years old?

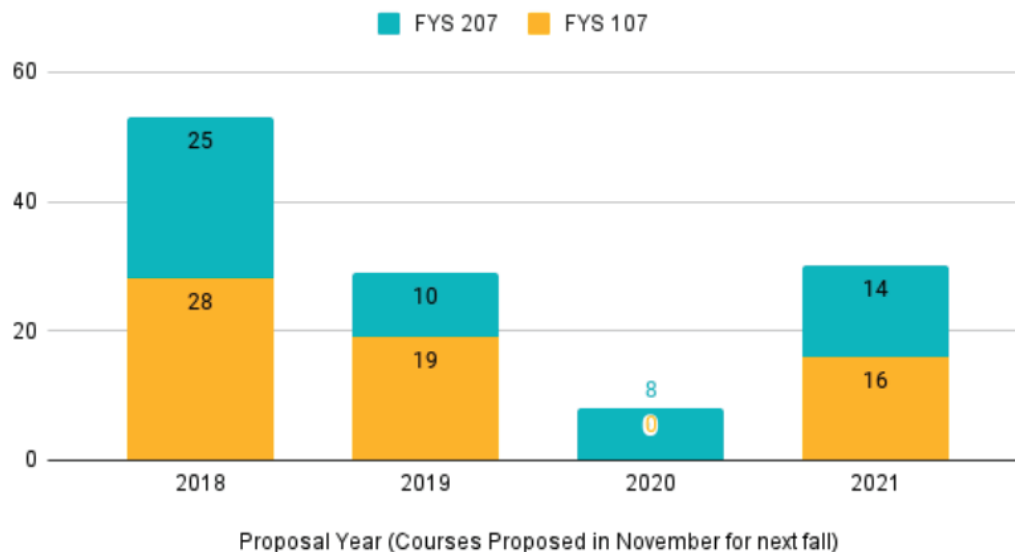
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Really! By the end of AY 2021-2022, we will have offered three full years of FYS courses at WOU. This program, which premiered as part of the new General Education Curriculum in Fall 2019, continues to grow and change as we learn what best supports academic and social student success for our first-year students. As the second-ever FYS coordinator, I have the opportunity to build on the amazing work done by Dr. Shaun Huston, who preceded me in this role and now serves as General Education Director, as well as the foundation laid by the original General Education Task Force, chaired by Dr. Breeann Flesch, and continued under the leadership of the previous General Education Director Dr. Erin Baumgartner.

As a mathematician, I look at numbers to help me understand how things develop. With the help of Shaun, Camila Gabaldón, Sue Monahan, and Colton Christian, I've compiled all of the available FYS data about our historical offerings, and I am so impressed at the diversity of offerings, the participation level of faculty and staff across campus, and the flexibility and commitment to the growth of the FYS program. This level of engagement would be impressive in any situation, but when I add in the context of the pandemic, I am truly floored by the work of the faculty and staff at WOU to get this program off the ground and allow it to thrive.

The most basic data I can share is the total number of FYS proposals in each of the last four years. Each one of these proposals, counted in the graph below, represents an investment of faculty or staff labor towards creating a transformative experience for our first-year students.

Total proposals by Year



Speaking of threes – FYS courses are unique in that they “expire” after 3 years. Thus, after 3 years, an FYS must be renewed in order to continue being offered after the initial approval cycle.

The first round of those “renewal” proposals occurred this fall, and those are counted in the 30 total Fall 2021 proposals above. Thus, 20 out of 53 (37.7%) of proposals from the original 2018 proposal cycle were renewed this year. While the renewal proposals asked for slightly more information than the original proposals, including a syllabus and reflections on experiences teaching in the FYS, most faculty reported the process was not onerous.

Looking ahead, we can begin to predict, using this data, what our needs in the future look like. Assuming no renewals or new proposals (which is unlikely, given the data above!), we will have the following courses approved for the next two academic years:

AY	Number of approved 107s	Number of approved 207s	Total approved FYS
23-24	35	32	67
24-25	16	22	38

This points to a need to recruit more FYS 107s in the future, as well as continuing to encourage renewals. I am confident that our faculty and staff will continue to contribute to our robust program in the next three years, and I look forward to shepherding the growth and efficacy of this program.

To celebrate the successes we’ve had so far, and to encourage collaboration, evolution, and improvement of the FYS program, April 25-28 will be FYS Week at WOU.



FYS WEEK

4/25-4/28



Happy Third Birthday FYS!

Monday 4/25 1:00-2:30pm

Party with FYS Faculty and Students. Cake and beverages provided. WUC Willamette Room.



Course Behavior and Early Action (re)Launch

Tuesday 4/26 10:00am-11:00am

Paige Jackson, Director of Student Success and Advising. WUC Metolius Room + Zoom.



FYS Instructor Panel

Tuesday 4/26 1:00pm-2:00pm

Experienced FYS instructors share their thoughts on teaching in FYS. Welcome Center 132 + Zoom.



FYS Resource Session

Tuesday 4/26 2:00-3:00pm

Meet campus contacts who want to help your FYS students succeed and learn about ways to connect your FYS with resources. Welcome Center 132 + Zoom.



Don't Sell Yourself Short

Wednesday 4/27 1:00-2:00pm

How to Stand out from the PACK in a forest of FYS offerings with Megan Habermann, Director of New Student and Family Programs. WUC Metolius Room + Zoom.



FYS Proposal Workshop

Wednesday 4/27 3:00-4:00pm

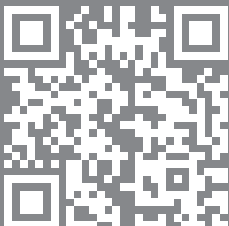
Learn about proposing a new or renewal FYS course and workshop your ideas with the FYS Coordinator.
Zoom only.



FYS Great Ideas Symposium

Thursday 4/28 10:00am-12:00pm

Join past, present, and future FYS instructors for an idea-sharing and vision-generating session.
Location: WUC Columbia Room + Zoom.



JOIN US VIA ZOOM

<https://wou-edu.zoom.us/j/86435159179>