WHAT IS A FIG?

One of the best ways to get started at the university is to join a First-Year Interest Group (FIG) for fall term. A FIG consists of 20 first-year students who take three courses together. Two are regular general-education courses also open to non-FIG participants at all class levels, but FIG students are linked through College Connections, a seminar limited to FIG students and typically taught by the professor of one of the regular general-education courses in the FIG.

What do students do in a College Connections class?

They engage in projects and assignments specific to each FIG; they get to know their professor and their FIG academic assistant, an advanced undergraduate who helps them navigate the university. They may participate in informal out-of-class events such as hikes, dinner with the professor, or an excursion to a concert or play.

Beginning May 15, 2015, choose your FIG at duckweb.uoregon.edu. Once you’ve submitted your Intent to Register form, accompanied by your advance tuition deposit, you are eligible to reserve your space in one of our many FIGs. Requests will be accepted until spaces are filled. The online option will end on or before June 12, 2015.

FIGs: First-Year Interest Groups
We save spaces for FIG students in some of the most popular courses at the UO. There are many different kinds of FIGs, so you’re sure to find one that appeals to you. The courses in a FIG will count toward your degree, no matter what major you choose. FIG options will be posted at fyp.uoregon.edu on April 15, 2015.

Students who start out in a FIG earn significantly higher grades throughout their first year and beyond. FIGs guarantee your enrollment in popular courses, create a coherent educational experience, and give you access to small classes with outstanding teachers. FIGs create an atmosphere like that of a small liberal arts college but make use of the many resources of a major research university.

Oregon Outside

GEOL 101 Earth’s Dynamic Interior
GEOL 141 The Natural Environment
GEOL 199 Special Studies: College Connections

Students take it outside to explore Oregon’s unique geology through overnight camping trips.

GET INVOLVED: JOIN A FIG
HOW A FIG FITS INTO YOUR FIRST TERM

Hip-Hop and the Politics of Race
MUS 360: Hip-Hop Music
History, Culture, Aesthetics
EIS 101: Introduction to Ethnic Studies
MUS 199: Special Studies
College Connections
Students organize an annual hip-hop jam with musicians, dancers, poets, and artists.

Requesting a FIG in May allows you to choose two courses that will secure half of your fall term schedule even before summer orientation. Then, when you come to IntroDUCKtion in the summer, you’ll meet with an advisor to review your FIG selection and choose additional courses to complete your schedule.
Students in FIGs are co-enrolled in two lecture courses and the College Connections course, which meets weekly with a professor and a FIG academic assistant. FIG students take part in various activities outside class. We have 50 FIGs for you to choose from for fall 2015.

Students in most FIGs may live in any hall or even off campus, if they choose, since these FIGs are not connected with a particular campus residence. Students in a residential FIG live in the residence halls near each other and the FIG academic assistant, but intermingled with other students as well. Residential FIG selection will supersede your housing preferences for special-interest halls and room types.

Challenge FIGs give students a distinctive academic experience. One of the courses in a challenge FIG is at the intermediate level; they are smaller than the courses in many of the other FIGs and are intended to encourage motivated students to explore subjects in depth.

FOR A LIST OF FIGS GO TO FYPUIOOREGON.EDU   APRIL 15
FAQS ABOUT FIGS

Should I register for a FIG if I’m coming to IntroDUCKtion? Yes, as soon as possible. First-Year Interest groups have limited space and we register students in the order we receive requests. Some FIGs fill even before IntroDUCKtion begins. We will save your space by enrolling you in the two lecture courses plus the College Connections course.

What if I can’t come to IntroDUCKtion? A FIG is an excellent choice for you. If you can’t attend IntroDUCKtion, reserve your space in a FIG and the associated courses now for next fall.

Can I change my mind later about the FIG I’m requesting? Yes. When you meet with your academic advisor, you can stay in the FIG in which you’ve been enrolled, choose another, or decide not to be in a FIG. FIGs are not required, but choosing a FIG now provides a framework that you can build on or revise when you come to campus.

May I request only one of the courses in the FIG? No. FIGs are made of two lecture courses and a College Connections course. Students in the FIG learn to think across disciplines by exploring the related themes of the two courses.

Should international students request a FIG online? No. You will meet with an academic advisor during International Student Orientation before choosing a FIG.

What FIGs should science students take? Biology, chemistry, environmental science, or human physiology majors should choose a FIG that includes Chemistry 221 and 227 (General Chemistry and General Chemistry Laboratory) or Chemistry 224H and CH 237 (Honors General Chemistry and Advanced General Chemistry Laboratory).

Hidden History

HIST 201 United States Ethnic Studies
ES 101 Introduction to Ethnic Studies
HIST 199 Special Studies: College Connections
Students immerse themselves in UO Special Collections, and University Archives, reading old diaries, letters, and photos of students 100 years ago.
What if I’m a student in the Robert D. Clark Honors College? To avoid duplicating course work, honors college students may enroll in one of two FIGs. If you are planning to major in biology, chemistry, or human physiology, we encourage you to take the Honors Chemistry FIG. The Carnegie Global Oregon is open to students interested in ethics.

Can students who major in music or dance take FIGs? The Moving to the Beat FIG is recommended for dance majors. However, students in the music degree program should consult with an advisor before requesting a FIG.

What about students seeking a bachelor of architecture degree? If you have already been admitted to the program leading to the BArch degree, follow its highly structured curriculum instead of taking a FIG.

Can students in the Undergraduate Support Program enroll in FIGs? No. Your advisor will contact you directly about the FIG-like course of study that has been designed for you.

What is the Carnegie Global Oregon FIG? The Carnegie Global Oregon FIG is the only FIG that continues for three terms. After the fall FIG courses, students enroll in 1-credit seminars in winter and spring, and the majority of its students remain active in this vibrant learning community throughout their years at the university. This provides a supportive mix as sophomores and juniors meet weekly for class and a meal to explore areas of ethical concern. Also open to honors college students. carnegiegloba.uoregon.edu

Can I choose a FIG if I’m also in the College Scholars program? Yes, the two programs are mutually supportive. Many students in FIGs also choose to be college scholars.

What FIG should an education premajor choose? If you’d like to enter elementary education, we encourage you to choose a FIG with a science course. For middle or secondary education, find a FIG related to your possible major.

Which FIGs do you recommend for journalism and business premajors? Any FIG will work, and your advisor will help you plan for the introductory courses in your major.

Can a student in the Robert D. Clark Honors College avoid course work by taking a FIG instead of enrolling in the required courses for their major?
Check Out First-Year Seminars also Small Courses, Big Impact

First-year seminars (FSEM) offer first-year students insight into engaging and unique topics. Each FSEM satisfies elective requirements for graduation, and enrolls a maximum of 23 students to provide personalized learning through direct faculty interaction and support.

Enroll in fall 2015 FSEMs during IntroDUCKtion or Week of Welcome orientation. Fall term students may take both a FIG and a FSEM.

Fall First-Year Seminars
Writing for Art: Art of Writing
Buddhism through Art
Raku
Nutrition: Concepts and Controversies
American Sports Poetry: Let the Games Begin!
The Evolution of Vampires in the Popular Imagination
Japanese Popular Culture
The Pacific Northwest: Present and Primeval
We Are the World: Global Health and Development

Check out FIG options starting April 15, 2015 at fyp.uoregon.edu

For a list of FIGs, visit fyp.uoregon.edu April 15

Explore More Opportunities
Online request for FIGs
May 15, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Now that you're ready to start your educational adventure at the University of Oregon, go online to choose a FIG at duckweb.uoregon.edu.