First-Year Experience

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What is FYE:

General Info

• FYE (First-Year Experience) courses are counseling courses designed to assist students in discovering what programs are best for them, build connections, and offer strategies for work/school/life balance.

• These courses are degree requirements that can be offered as a 1 credit or 3 credit course in Maricopa Community Colleges as an online or in-person course.

• It is a program designed to help students transition from high school to college and familiarize students with FOI’s (Field of Interest) and student resources.
What I’ve Learned

• Coming into college, I had no idea what I wanted to choose as far as my career and was unsure about the different fields of interest.

• From my FYE103 course, I’ve developed better organization skills, communication, and study habits that have been effective in all of my courses.

• I’ve learned about:
  • Scholarship Opportunities
  • Campus Resources
  • Career Exploration
  • Strategies to Maintain an Infectious Positive Mindset
FYE Tests

• Upon taking an FYE course, first-year students are responsible for taking the following assessments:
  i.  AZ Pipeline Assessment
  ii. Truity-Myers Briggs Personality Assessment

• These assessments ask students a series of questions to determine careers that may be suitable for the student and their character strengths.
Test Results

• As a simple example, I use my results from these two assessments.

• Below are images of my results from the assessments, showing potential suitable fields of interest and percentages in some of my character traits.

• These results were accurate to how I would describe myself and matched my personal FOI, behavioral sciences.
Personal Experience

• I then asked my FYE103 class 3 questions to determine how other students felt about the course.

• These questions are shown in charts to analyze the data as followed:
Students: Prior to the FYE course, did you have a career in mind? If yes, is this still the career you are trying to pursue? If not, has this course helped you explore any careers?

- Yes: 51%
- No: 31%
- Course Caused a Switch in Career Choice: 12%
- Still Exploring: 6%
Were the assessment results from Pipeline/Truity accurate to how you would describe yourself?
Class Data: Question 3

Students: What is one thing that you have taken away from this course to improve your college experience or perspective?

- Time Management: 50%
- Importance of Building Connections: 19%
- Significance of Attendance: 12%
- Career Exploration/Finding Yourself: 12%
- Other: 6%
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Data Explained

• As the data shows, more than half of my classmates already had a career in mind prior to the course. For those who didn’t they were provided the opportunity to explore careers throughout the course to determine the best fit for them. Several students even explained that this course has caused a switch in their mind for career opportunities. (Question 1)

• Question 2 asks students if the character assessment results taken in the course were accurate representation of their individual. The data shows that students believe the results were overall accurate, with not a single student from my class responding to the results as completely inaccurate.

• In question 3, students were asked to list one thing that they have taken away from the course. It is evident (50%) that students learned time management through the course to determine how they will further pursue their studies.
Other Maricopa FYE Results

• After researching the success rates of other Maricopa schools that provide this course, I’ve concluded that even with their differences, each school that provides this course has one common goal.

• The big slogan throughout for this course is “Your Education...Your Story.”

• Maricopa Community Colleges including SMCC, MCC, GCC, CGCC, and others of the 10 campuses push students toward this common goal and help students to critically think about their careers and self-evaluate.

• This course is proven to push students and answer these goal-based critical questions:
  a. “Am I ready for college?”
  b. “Is this the right place for me?”
  c. “What’s my purpose?”
Transfer Opportunities

• During this course, I’ve also gathered useful information about transfer opportunities and where I can seek guidance for this on campus.

• At the community college level, many students seek this opportunity after their 2 years of community college.

• This course provides necessary information on how credits transfer over, what to expect out of each university, and the different courses that universities may provide.
More About FYE

• In addition to what I’ve described thus far, students are also challenged in FYE to explore:
  • Scholarship Opportunities
  • Resources
  • Self Value
  • Library
  • Opportunity to Meet with Advisor
  • Build Connections
  • Learn about Health
  • Gain Knowledge about Degree Requirements
Conclusion

• FYE courses are designed to assist first-year undergraduate students while they adjust to the college environment and prepare them to be successful in their balance of college and life.

• It is an effective course for students to discover who they are and what college life will be like.

• Proven by my research and data, FYE is a successful counseling course that calls for student exploration and health to support first-year students in their educational journey.