

## *What is the First-Year Experience?*

At Madonna University, we place particular emphasis on the first year of study.

We recognize that students experiencing their First Year of College are in a unique time of transition.

Madonna University is people – and to help students make new friendships, form relationships with faculty and staff members, and make the adjustment to a new community and environment, the University sponsors a first-year-of-college program.

### Contact us!

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**THINKFIRST-YEAR**



Office of the  
First-Year  
Experience



## *What is the First-Year Experience at MU?*

- Pre-Orientation Advising
- New Student Orientation
- College Prep Days
- Common Reading Assignment
- Collaborative Studies
- UNV 1010: Transitions to Higher Education Course
- Service Learning Project
- Social Activities



## *FYE at MU Components:*

**UNV 1010: Transitions to Higher Education:** this 1-s.h. course is required of all incoming students who are less than 24 years old and have fewer than 13 college transfer hours. It is designed to address transition issues that first-year students face when entering the University setting; introduce them to thought-provoking, challenging, and interesting ideas to enhance their critical thinking, research, writing, and presentation skills; engage them in a community of learners; and incorporate a service learning experience that fulfills the University's mission of service.



**Collaborative Studies:** incoming students also participate in the Collaborative Studies program, which typically links one or two General Education courses with a section of UNV 1010. The faculty members create learning experiences in which students work collaboratively; cross the boundaries of different academic disciplines; and engage in discussion and conversation about relevant ideas and issues. The linked courses also integrate reflection on the service learning project conducted in UNV 1010.

## *What makes MU an excellent choice for first-year students?*

- Nationally recognized, award-winning, first-year program
- First-Year friendly faculty and staff who believe in and advocate for students' needs (Institutional Standing Committee on the New Student Experience)
- Small, family-like atmosphere where we know students' names
- Most classes seat 24 or fewer
- One-on-one pre-orientation meeting with Academic Advisor to create initial course schedule
- Required New Student Orientation program with maximum of 50 students per session
- Required first semester seminar course (UNV 1010)
- 100% of FYS are enrolled in learning communities (Collaborative Studies) with ten hour service-learning component during first semester
- "Forced Fun" philosophy encourages student participation
- All FYS complete Noel-Levitz College Student Inventory (CSI) and are invited to meet with a CSI Agent to receive guidance and moral support