



Philosophy of the First Year at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne

The first year for students new to IPFW is a period of transition to the university and, for many, to higher education. The first-year experience at IPFW is designed to encourage students to become independent learners able to articulate and successfully pursue their own educational and personal goals. IPFW programs and services for first-year students are intended to promote student success through to graduation.

Using the *Framework for the IPFW Baccalaureate Degree* as a guide, IPFW fosters the intellectual and social growth of first-year students. With respect to intellectual growth, students are challenged to develop the skills and abilities necessary to acquire knowledge, apply knowledge, demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving, and communicate with others. With respect to social growth, students are challenged to develop the skills and abilities necessary to evidence personal and professional values and serve as productive and responsible members of complex, multicultural, and globalized communities. Students are supported in their efforts to achieve their goals for intellectual and social growth, and their accomplishments throughout the learning process are celebrated.

IPFW encourages a culture of success among first-year students by emphasizing and encouraging the development of a sense of connection between first-year, first-time students and the institution through an integrated program of: a) rigorous and challenging academic experiences, b) co-curricular activities that augment ability and achievement, and c) extra-curricular activities designed to enrich the overall educational experience. The first-year experience at IPFW begins with the university's initial contact with a potential first-year student to that student's successful completion of 30 hours of study.