

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCES

FALL 2026 COURSE GUIDE



WELCOME TO CU DENVER

Welcome to CU Denver, and to your next exciting journey!

Your college years provide immense opportunity for self-exploration, intellectual discovery, relationship-building, and career foundations. We encourage you to seize these opportunities and to craft a path that speaks to you and the person that you want to become.

While this is incredibly exciting, it may also be a little overwhelming. Don't worry - we've got your back! First-Year Experience (FYE) courses are designed to ease your transition to university life and guide you into this world of social, academic, and professional possibilities. We have an amazing network of dedicated faculty, supportive staff, and enthusiastic peer leaders that are 100% committed to your success.

As you explore the following pages, our registration specialists and academic advisors look forward to working with you to select the best FYE option for your schedule, needs, and interests. Whether you choose a unique First-Year Seminar course, a weekly College Success class, or a two-course Learning Community, all FYE programs provide built-in opportunities for your path to graduation and beyond. We cannot wait to welcome you to CU Denver!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emilie Waggoner".

Emilie Waggoner
Director of Student Transitions
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FYE COURSES

In any of the FYE courses they choose, first-year students acclimate to the rigors of college-level work, engage in the active social and intellectual life of our campus, work closely with faculty and peer leaders, and make close friends and study partners.

UNIV 1110 COLLEGE SUCCESS

Ease your transition to CU and make your first semester the best it can be. Make close connections with up to 26 other first-year students and share this journey together!

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR (FYS)

FYS courses have it all - the best faculty, interesting topics, fun events, and the support of the whole campus. Each FYS course is a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity - only available your first semester!

LEARNING COMMUNITIES (LC)

LCs include two courses that are linked together (gotta sign up for both!) In these courses, professors tag team to deliver an experience that goes beyond the classroom with interdisciplinary themes, shared assignments, and a fun field trip. The best part is the bond you'll create with your classmates from spending all that quality time together.

BENEFITS OF FYE



HIGHER RETENTION RATE

Historically over time, the retention rate of FYE students has been higher than those who did not enroll in an FYE course.

90%

OF STUDENTS RECOMMEND

an FYE course to incoming college students.



HIGH PROFESSOR RATING

FYE students consistently rate their FYE professors and UNIV Educators highly in terms of mentorship and support.

GPA

HIGHER FIRST-SEMESTER GPA

The average FYE student has a higher first-semester GPA than students who did not take an FYE course.

WHY WE LOVE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCES

I love FYE because it allows for us to make holistic connections with new students while supporting their academic and career goals in a fun environment!

Side note- I've been working with one of my UNIV students to get him to Japan for study abroad and he leaves in 3 weeks! woo!!! FYE is the real deal y'all!

– Brie Mondragon
UNIV Educator

I'm an FYE teacher because I remember just how monumental my first year in college was in my path to who I am now. I love to celebrate the highs of our students' greatest moments at the beginning of a new journey, and I want to be there to support them through the challenges. My FYE class is consistently the best part of my week!

– Liz Berry
UNIV Educator

I teach in the FYE Program because I love working with first-year students! I thrive off the energy and enthusiasm our new students bring into the classroom! Additionally, as an alumna of CU Denver, I also see my involvement in FYE as a way to give back to the institution that has presented me with so many wonderful opportunities and has catalyzed SO MUCH of my personal and professional growth.

– Kristen Fukumoto
UNIV Educator

COLLEGE SUCCESS

ABOUT UNIV

College Success is our university boot camp, though a lot more fun. Learn about what it takes to succeed in college and how to make the right choices to get you there.

Here's How We Do It:

1

Polish Your Skills

Practice strategies for success! We'll fine-tune the essentials - writing, critical thinking, and research - and work on college survival skills like time and stress management.

2

Get Connected; Be Supported

This is your home base to explore the campus and discover all that CU has to offer. You'll also learn from the experts all over campus, including the Writing Center, Auraria Library, Learning Resource Center, Lynx Center, Career Center, and more!

3

Be The Best You

College isn't all about learning stuff - it's also a lot of learning about YOU. We'll work on self-exploration so you can discover your interests, leverage your strengths, define your path, and achieve your goals.

4

Discover Community

CU Denver is immensely diverse and, hence, immensely awesome. You will learn to appreciate the diversity of people and perspectives that make CU Denver truly special, and your place within it all.

General Sections

Open to All Majors

UNIV 1110-001

— In-Person —

Days: Tuesday/Thursday

Times: 9:30AM-10:45AM

*Condensed 8-Week Course

UNIV 1110-004

— In-Person —

Days: Thursday

Times: 9:30AM-10:45AM

UNIV 1110-002

— In-Person —

Days: Tuesday

Times: 2:00PM-3:15PM

UNIV 1110-017

— In-Person —

Days: Thursday

Times: 9:30AM-10:45AM

UNIV 1110-003

— In-Person —

Days: Wednesday

Times: 11:00AM-12:15PM

UNIV 1110-E21

— Online —

Days: Thursday

Times: 9:30AM-10:45AM

SPECIALIZED SECTIONS

UNIV 1110-007

Business Majors Only

— In-Person —

Days: Tuesday

Times: 9:30AM-10:45AM

UNIV 1110-008

Business Majors Only

— In-Person —

Days: Monday

Times: 11:00AM-12:15PM

UNIV 1110-009

Business Majors Only

— In-Person —

Days: Tuesday

Times: 12:30PM-1:45PM

UNIV 1110-011

Business Majors Only

— In-Person —

Days: Tuesday

Times: 9:30AM-10:45AM

UNIV 1110-013

Business Majors Only

— In-Person —

Days: Tuesday

Times: 2:00PM-3:15PM

UNIV 1110-014

Business Majors Only

— In-Person —

Days: Thursday

Times: 11:00AM-12:15PM

UNIV 1110-E19

Business Majors Only

— Online —

SPECIALIZED SECTIONS

UNIV 1110-005 **CRJU***

— In-Person —

Days: Tuesday

Times: 11:00AM-12:15PM

UNIV 1110-006 **CURIOUS TEACHER LC ***

— In-Person —

Days: Monday

Times: 3:30PM-4:45PM

***Must take CLDE 2000 HL1 Monday
5pm-7:45pm**

UNIV 1110-015* **Engineering-Computer Science**

— In-Person —

Days: Tuesday

Times: 11:00AM-12:15PM

***Computer Science Majors Only**

UNIV 1110-016 **CAP***

— In-Person —

Days: Tuesday

Times: 9:30AM-10:45AM

***Only open to all College of
Architecture and Planning majors**

UNIV 1110-018 **CAP***

— In-Person —

Days: Thursday

Times: 2:00PM-3:15PM

***Only open to all College of
Architecture and Planning majors**

UNIV 1110-E20 **Business Majors Only**

— Online —

FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

Monday/Wednesday

9:30AM-10:45AM |

COMM 1111-001 **In-Person**

What Are You Really Saying? The Power of Non-Verbal Communication

We will analyze significant research concerning non-verbal signals such as clothing and appearance to elements of body, face, and eye movements using observation activities. Particular emphasis will be placed on engagement and distress signals applicable to the world of business and mental health.

Core Area: Behavioral Sciences | Professor: Yvette Bueno Olson

9:30AM-10:45AM |

FITV 1111-001 **In-Person**

Anime Goes to College: Analyzing Anime Characters Through a Sociological Lens

This is a first-year experiences (FYE) seminar designed to help students understand, and appreciate, and analyze character development in Japanese anime. Japanese manga and anime has quickly risen in the United States as a popular storytelling format, with many large companies like Netflix and Hulu beginning to release anime titles on their streaming platforms. The purpose of this course is to provide a history to Japanese anime while focusing on character stereotypes, identities, and development in a variety of popular anime shows, and how that connects to student development theories.

Core Area: International Perspectives | Professor: Emilie Waggoner

This course is open to both incoming Fall 2026 first-year and transfer students.

12:30PM-1:45PM |

ETST 1111-001 **In-Person**

American Indian Experiences

This course examines tribal identities and the cultural retention of American Indian traditions. Course readings by American Indian scholars examine a wide range of terms and theories regarding myths about American Indian cultures and history that have misinformed multiple generations. The course emphasizes how these ideas, roles and relationships evolved and are rooted in the fears and prejudice of European settlers and in the larger political agendas aimed at acquiring Indigenous land and creating the impression of cultural erasure and disappearance.

Core Area: Social Sciences | Professor: Cynthia Rice

This course is open to both incoming Fall 2026 first-year and transfer students.

FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

Monday/Wednesday

11:00AM-12:15PM | Transfer Seminar Course

ETST 3111-001 In-Person

Ethnicity and Race in Contemporary American Culture

This course introduces students to creative works by people of color, including African American, Native American, Latino, and Asian Americans. This class explores theoretical concepts about racial and ethnic identities and encourages students to think critically about the construction and representation of race, class, and gender in modern American life.

Core Area: Cultural Diversity | **Professor:** Gabriel Nelson

This class is hybrid and meets on Zoom on Mondays and in-person on Wednesdays; must be transfer student in order to enroll in this course.

2:00PM-3:15PM |

MUSC 1111-001 In-Person

The Beatles, Popular Music, and Society

Explore the impact of the Beatles and their music on popular music, our culture, and society, both in their time and today. The academic content portion of the course is an introduction to the music of the Beatles and their influence on culture. The academic skills portion of the course is designed to assist students in making a successful transition from high school to college.

Core Area: Arts | **Professor:** Storm Gloor



FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

Tuesday/Thursday

11:00AM-12:15PM |

FINE 1111-001 In-Person

Your Photographic Journal

Improve your photographic skills while creating several dynamic, personal projects. Using a camera phone, learn basic camera functions, digital formats, visual journaling, as well as fundamental principles of light and composition. Investigate photography as a mode of visual communication while examining its creative possibilities and exploring the history of the medium.

Core Area: Arts | Professor: Carol Golemboski

2:00PM-3:15PM |

PSYC 1111-001 In-Person

How to Think Like a Psychologist

We will explore how psychologists apply critical, empirical, and ethical thinking to a variety of issues. We will develop and apply thinking skills and will assess learning by participating in class discussions, graded exercises, writing papers, and collaboration with one another to address complex problems.

Core Area: Behavioral Sciences | Professor: Mitch Handelsman



FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

Friday

9:00AM-11:45AM

ETST 1111-002 In-Person

Food Culture and Asian American and Pacific Islander Identity

This course provides a better understanding of the historical, social, and cultural aspects of the AAPI community specifically through food culture. Students will be able to investigate the politics and address critically, AAPI foodways by examining social habits, rituals, private versus public venues, and the connections to the AAPI identity. The AAPI community have always been intimately connected to food practices and institutions in the American imagination.

Core Area: Social Sciences | **Professor:** TBD

9:30AM-12:15PM

LDAR 1111-001 In-Person

The Place of Food

In this highly experience-focused class, we will explore the place of food in culture, in the city, in the global economy, in history, and - most importantly - in our lives. Activities will include farm and food industry tours, growing and cooking food, and traditional academic research focused on the students' lived experiences.

Core Area: Humanities | **Professor:** Jenna Smith

Students must be in the "In the Place of Food" LLC to enroll in this course.



LEARNING COMMUNITIES

CURIOUS TEACHER LEARNING COMMUNITY

Curiosity, the heart of great teaching, is the focus of this learning community. See the world through the eyes of a learner and nurture a curiosity about children, adolescents, families and communities. This learning community is for EDHD majors.

COLLEGE SUCCESS **In-Person**

UNIV 1110-006

Monday | 3:30PM-4:45PM

(First-Year Students and Transfer EDHD Majors)

CLDE 2000-HL1 **In-Person**

Monday | 5:00PM-7:45PM

**Foundations of Culturally & Linguistically
Diverse Education (Hybrid Course)**

WORLD POP AND RESEARCH LEARNING COMMUNITY

Interested in exploring the world pop music scene through a research lens? This learning community engages students in understanding the foundations of research and college success resources at CU Denver through the UNIV 1111 College Success course, while focusing on a contextual survey of musical styles as well as a historical survey and analysis of popular music around the world through the PMUS 1011: World Pop course. This learning community is open to all majors.

UNIV 1111-111 **In-Person**

Monday/Wednesday | 2:00PM-3:15PM

College Success Must also take **PMUS 1011-111**

PMUS 1011-111 **In-Person**

Monday/Wednesday | 3:30PM-4:45PM

WORLD POP *Counts as a three credit hour Core Arts
requirement

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

MAJOR-BASED

BUSINESS LEARNING COMMUNITIES

First-year business majors are required to take a UNIV 1110 Business section in their first fall semester. Many of our first-year business majors also tend to still need their MATH 1060 class requirement.

THIS LEARNING COMMUNITY IS FOR BUSINESS MAJORS.

OPTION #1

MATH 1060-106 **In-Person**

Tuesday/Thursday | 2:00PM-3:15PM

Finite Mathematics

UNIV 1110-009 **In-Person**

Tuesday | 12:30PM-1:45PM

Business College Success

THIS LEARNING COMMUNITY IS FOR BUSINESS MAJORS.

OPTION #2

MATH 1060-101 **In-Person**

Monday/Wednesday | 11:00AM-12:15PM

Finite Mathematics

UNIV 1110-010 **In-Person**

Wednesday | 9:30AM-10:45AM

Business College Success

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

BIOLOGY & PRE-HEALTH MAJORS

ENTERING BIOLOGY LC 1

BIOL 2010-111

Tuesday/Thursday | 9:30AM-10:45AM

BIOL 2011-111

LAB

Monday | 2:00PM-4:45PM

UNIV 1110-111: College Success

Thursday | 11:00AM-12:15PM

ENTERING BIOLOGY LC 2

BIOL 2010-112

Monday/Wednesday | 9:30AM-10:45AM

BIOL 2011-112

LAB

Thursday | 8:00AM-10:45AM

UNIV 1110-112: College Success

Monday | 11:00AM-12:15PM

ENTERING BIOLOGY LC 3

BIOL 2010-113

Tuesday/Thursday | 11:00AM-12:15PM

BIOL 2011-113

LAB

Tuesday | 2:00PM-4:45PM

UNIV 1110-113: College Success

Thursday | 12:30PM-1:45PM



LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

VISUAL ARTS LLC

This Visual Arts LLC is to help first-year Visual Arts Department students connect with like-minded visual arts career-focused students. Students must be either Visual Arts majors or minors to be eligible for this LLC.

Students must be living in the “Visual Arts” LLC in City Heights to enroll in the courses below:

FINE 1100-001 **In-Person**
Monday/Wednesday | 12:30PM-3:15PM

UNIV 1110-114 **In-Person**
Monday | 3:30PM-4:45PM

MUSIC INDUSTRY LLC

This Music Industry LLC is to help first-year MEIS Department students connect with like-minded music industry career-focused students. Students must be either MEIS majors or minors to be eligible for this LLC.

Students must be living in the “Music Industry” LLC in City Heights to enroll in the courses below:

MUSC 2700-001 **In-Person**
Monday/Wednesday | 3:30PM-4:45PM

UNIV 1110-115 **In-Person**
Tuesday | 3:30PM-4:45PM

FILM AND TELEVISION LLC

This Film and Television LLC is to help first-year FITV Department students connect with like-minded film and television industry career-focused students. Students must be either FITV majors or minors to be eligible for this LLC.

Students must be living in the “Film and Television” LLC in City Heights to enroll in the courses below:

FITV 1040-002 **In-Person**
Monday/Wednesday | 9:30AM-12:15PM

UNIV 1110-116 **In-Person**
Monday | 3:30PM-4:45PM

Must be in CAM LLC and co-enrolled in FITV 1040-002

THE PLACE OF FOOD LLC

The main goal of this LLC is to create a connected community around food. Students will explore how food influences our lives, fostering critical thinking skills as a lens through which to better understand society, landscapes, politics, and philosophy.

Students must be living in the “The Place of Food” LLC in Lynx Crossing to enroll in the course below:

LDAR 1111-001 **In-Person**
Friday | 9:30AM-12:15PM

Satisfies the Humanities Core Area Requirement

LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES SEMINARS

Tuesday/Thursday

11:30AM-12:45PM |

INTS 1111-001 In-Person

Global Voices: Living and Learning Across Cultures

This seminar introduces students to the rich and complex ways people live, learn, and communicate across cultural boundaries. As an interdisciplinary course rooted in International Studies, it draws intentionally from communication, history, modern languages, political science, and related fields to help students understand how global forces shape everyday life. Students will explore how culture, identity, and power operate across local and transnational contexts, and how these dynamics affect the world they inhabit.

Core Area: International Perspectives | **Professor:** Soumia Bardhan

Students must be living in the “Global Voices” LLC in order to enroll in this course.

2:00PM-3:15PM |

HSPC 1111-001 In-Person

From Cells to Selves: What makes us human?

Who controls your body—and why does it matter? This course dives into the ethical and philosophical questions surrounding medicine, identity, and power. From reproductive rights and organ donation to pandemic policies and immigration, we’ll explore how bodies are governed, valued, and contested in today’s world. Using real-world case studies and philosophical texts, students will examine how race, gender, disability, and citizenship shape access to care and autonomy. We’ll also unpack the concept of bio-power—how institutions subtly control populations through health, surveillance, and policy. Expect lively debates, critical thinking, and a fresh look at the ethics behind everyday decisions. Come with curiosity and a willingness to challenge assumptions.

Core Area: Humanities | **Professor:** Jeffrey Golub

Students must be living in the University Honors and Leadership LLC in order to enroll in this course.





Student Transitions & Family Engagement

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**