Teaching a First-year Seminar Course and Retaining College of Agriculture Undergraduate Students

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Our Goals and Objectives around This Presentation...

1. Share our experiences with teaching a first-year experience course;

2. Working diversity, equity, and belongingness into the course;

3. Share processes from retention initiatives;

4. Consider some opportunities;

5. Open the presentation up for discussion and sharing amongst the attendees.
Total Student Enrollment
Undergraduates
11% Underrepresented Minority Undergraduate Students
Indiana Residents
47%
Out of State
42%
International
11%
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
BY THE NUMBERS
50,884
37,949
2,823
Undergraduates

10%
Underrepresented Minority Undergraduate Students

62%
Female Students

75%
Indiana Residents

21%
Out of State

4%
International

BY THE NUMBERS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
Total First-Gen Student Enrollment: 6,375
Ag First-Gen Undergraduates: 686
Non-First Gen 1-Year Retention Rate: 92.5%
First-Gen 1-Year Retention Rate: 86.5%
Non-First Gen Four-Year Grad Rate: 65.9%
First-Gen Four-Year Grad Rate: 60.9%
AGR 10100 COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Learn important information about the College of Agriculture and Purdue University.

2. Understand academic policies and procedures, and how to use educational resources as you begin your Purdue experience.

3. Evaluate programs and activities that you can integrate in developing your educational plan to prepare for a future profession.

4. Expose students to information literacy resources.
AGR 10100 WEEKLY FOCUS

Week #1  AGR 101 Intro; Dean’s Welcome, and College Overview & Mission
Week #2  Purdue, Indiana’s Land-Grant University; “Your Purdue Plan”
Week #3  150th Anniversary Professor
Week #4  Academics, Advising & Your Curriculum
Week #5  Career Exploration; Academic Success & Support
Week #6  Co-Curricular Experiences; Health & Counseling Services
Week #7  Multicultural and International Understanding
Week #8  The Grand Finale, Challenge & Charge; Course Final Exam
AGR 10100 FIRST-GEN/DEB INITIATIVES

Meet & Greet with Agriculture Instructors:

- For first-generation college students and students who are members of underrepresented groups
- Designed to connect and network with College faculty and staff
- Students recognize these faculty and staff as a resource
- Continuing the College of Agriculture’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence.
Teaching and Retaining Undergraduate Students

AGR 10100 FIRST-GEN/DEB INITIATIVES

Lunch and Learn

- Part of Purdue First-Gen Celebration Week (November 7 – 11)
- Lunch, Laughter, and Learning with first-gen faculty member, Dr. Marcos Fernandez
- Reconnect with first-generation college students and students who are members of underrepresented groups
- Campus resources invited to attend or provide handouts
AGR 10100 FIRST-GEN/DEB INITIATIVES

- Statement in Syllabus...“The College of Agriculture at Purdue strives to integrate diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence into the living culture of the College. More information about the work being done in these areas and additional resources can be found at the Office of Multicultural Programs.”
- Invited speakers from diverse backgrounds
- Asked speakers to include diversity in their presentations
Retention Specialist

- Promoting student success and retention
- Focus on:
  - Students on academic probation
  - Students who have been readmitted
Retention Specialist

- Email from Purdue Agriculture Retention Specialist
  - Invitation to meet to develop plan for academic success
  - Connect with campus support resources
  - Set goals and action steps for classes
Retention Specialist

- Email from Purdue Agriculture Retention Specialist
- Initial Meeting:

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<th>Class</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Actions to achieve goals</th>
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Retention Specialist

- Email from Purdue Agriculture Retention Specialist
- Initial Meeting
- Monthly Follow Up Meetings
Retention Specialist

- Email from Purdue Agriculture Retention Specialist
- Initial Meeting
- Monthly Follow Up Meetings
- Common Themes:
  - Every student and meeting is unique
  - You belong here/deserve to be here
  - Identify what went well along with areas for growth
  - Help seeking strategies
  - Support networks
  - Accountability
  - Self-care
  - Strengths
Opportunities

• Peer Mentoring
• Activities for all Ag First-Gen students
• What’s worked for you?
THANK YOU!

Questions?