First Year Experience:  
Mission, Goals, and Outcomes

Mission: The First Year Experience program guides your transition into Otterbein College classrooms and communities. Through a network of supportive resources, including a First Year Seminar, FYE nurtures your academic skills and passions, and immerses you in the life of the college. The program encourages you to explore your self and world, your beliefs and values, and your educational and professional goals. It also asks you to think about what it means to be responsible to yourself, to Otterbein, and to local and global communities.

Goal one: To connect you to the resources that promote belonging, wellness, and success in the first year.

- You will establish a productive relationship with a peer mentor and an advising team
- You will connect with faculty in Integrative Studies, in other academic departments, and with student affairs staff.
- You will encounter resources that promote academic success and personal wellness (physical, emotional, social, environmental, spiritual, financial, and intellectual).
- You will investigate different student organizations, social events, and involvement opportunities
- You will investigate a major, a minor, and other possible fields of study

Goal two: To inspire intellectual curiosity and to introduce you to the richness and rigor of an Otterbein education.

- You will engage intellectually challenging issues and questions
- You will learn about the mission and learning goals of the Integrative Studies Program
- You will be introduced to the concept of integrative learning and knowledge
- You will understand the principles and practices of academic integrity
- You will begin to develop your e-portfolio

Goal three: To develop skills essential to academic success and lifelong learning

- You will read closely and critically
- You will gather, interpret, evaluate and integrate information
- You will identify, analyze, and synthesize distinct concepts and ideas
- You will communicate ideas in writing and speaking
- You will draw upon evidence to make an argument
- You will reflect on your learning style, study and time management skills, and your academic progress

Goal four: To promote engaged living and learning and to explore commitments to campus, local, and global communities.

- You will consider what it means to be an Otterbein student, as well as the history, culture, and values of the institution
- You will explore the Westerville and greater Columbus community
- You will encounter the forms of diversity—ethnic, gender, age, class, religious, sexual, national, regional, etc.—that shape identities, perspectives, and cultures.
- You will clarify your educational and professional goals
- You will reflect on your leadership strengths and cooperative style
- You will investigate the Five Cardinal Experiences