

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

AN INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

GORDON
COLLEGE

Goals and skills that contribute to first-year success, and the departments and programs that provide support in each area.

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Includes Academic Advising/First-Year Experience, Career Services, Academic Support Center, Jenks Library.

FIRST-YEAR COMMON CORE

Courses in the common core curriculum.

OTHER COURSEWORK

Courses in the student's major or area of interest.

THE GREAT CONVERSATION

Our first-year seminar and writing course, taken by every student in their first year.

LA VIDA EXPEDITION OR DISCOVERY

Our outdoor education experience, taken by every student in their first year.

CHAPEL OFFICE

Includes worship, small group ministries, peer mentoring programs, missions.

COUNSELING CENTER

Available to all students, includes programs to help students navigate the challenges of the transition to college life.

RESIDENCE LIFE

All of our first-year students live in residence halls on campus (unless they live at home).

OTHER STUDENT PROGRAMS

Includes multicultural student development, intramurals, Gordon Athletics, student clubs, Office of Community Engagement and Health Services.

ORIENTATION

Our first-year transition program which includes the summer online GC101, five days of orientation at the start of the fall semester and a series of orientation convocations throughout the year.

ACADEMIC/INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

Skill Development

- Note taking/lecture listening ●●●
- Textbook reading/study strategies ●●●
- Critical thinking/critical reading ●●
- Writing mechanics ●●●
- Research paper ●●
- Oral presentation ●●●
- Information literacy ●●●●

CRITICAL COMPONENTS

- Service learning ●●●
- Small classroom community ●●
- College resource access (library, ASC) ●●●●●
- Cross-cultural engagement (linked to classroom) ●●●●
- Faculty connection (outside of class) ●●●●●

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

- Biblical knowledge ●●●●●
- Spiritual disciplines ●●●●
- Exposure to new worship traditions ●
- Experiencing familiar worship traditions ●
- Locating personal Christian perspective ●●●●●
within full spectrum of global Christianity

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

- Overview of Gordon history ●●●
- Interaction with mission/foundational statements ●●●
- Introduction to liberal arts education ●●●
- Introduction to selected majors ●●

INTERPERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Friendship formation ●●●●●●
- Conflict management ●●●●●
- Dating and relationships ●●●
- Leadership skill development ●●●●
- Multicultural awareness ●●●●●
- Small group community ●●●●●

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Identity Development

- Expanding perspective (big picture) ●●●●●●
- Appreciating/understanding difference ●●●●●●
- Examining values and beliefs ●●●●●●

Vocational Discernment

- Self-awareness ●●●●
- Career exploration ●●
- Choosing a major ●●

Maintaining Health and Wellness

- Time management and prioritization ●●●
- Money management ●●●
- Sleep ●●
- Exercise ●●●●
- Nutrition ●●
- High risk behaviors ●●●
- Mental health (depression and anxiety) ●●
- Stress management ●●●