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

**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

**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.