

First Year Experience and Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS)

What is the First-Year Experience (FYE)?

FYE is designed to support first-year students as they transition to college life. The program *engages* and *encourages* students to become active members of the larger MCC community. Making new students aware of academic and co-curricular opportunities helps them become more *involved* and *successful* in their studies. First-year students also work with advisors to create a unique academic and financial plan for their education and future.

Benefits of the First-Year Experience

National research has shown what we at Middlesex have intuitively known all along: *Students are more successful in completing courses, in graduation rates, and in overall achievement when they are personally engaged with their college.*

The First-Year Experience introduces the following Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLOs):

- Written and Oral Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Quantitative Literacy
- Multicultural and Global Literacy
- Social Responsibility
- Personal and Professional Development

Interdisciplinary Studies

Interdisciplinary Studies courses incorporate a wide variety of concepts and experiences and are meant to lead and support the overall First-Year Experience at Middlesex Community College. One-credit high impact practices courses are now offered under the umbrella of “The First-Year Experience”. Within their first 30 credits, students will be advised to complete three, one-credit experiences, which will be combined to form a three-credit General Education elective. For students completing the Mass Transfer block, these credits will be transferable.

IDS Course Offerings

- IDS101- First-Year Experience
- IDS102 - Service Learning
- IDS103 - Leadership
- IDS105 - Bridging Cultures
- IDS106 - Career Exploration
- IDS108 - Wellness
- IDS 110 - The Choices We Make
- IDS 115 - STEM Explorations
- IDS 117 - Entrepreneurial Thinking
- IDS 119 - Diversity Summit
- IDS 120 - Money Matters: Personal Finance

Career Exploration IDS Courses for Pathways

- IDS 130 - Arts, Humanities & Communication Career Exploration
- IDS 131 - Business Career Exploration
- IDS 132 - Health Career Exploration
- IDS 133 - Public Service Career Exploration
- IDS 134 - Social Science Career Exploration
- IDS 135 - STEM Career Exploration