

*Intentional Planning and Assessment
of the First-Year Experience: Your
Key to Success!*

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*Key Questions to Initialize the FYE
Assessment*

- How does your FYE support institutionally defined student learning outcomes?
- What are the benefits for the student in participating in your FYE?
- What are the benefits to faculty for participating in your FYE?
- What elements make your FYE unique?

*A Systematic Approach to FYE Planning
and Assessment*

Practice the *8 Habits**

- Be proactive
- Begin with the end in mind
- Put first things first
- Think win/win
- Seek first to understand, then to be understood
- Synergize
- Sharpen the saw
- Discover your voice

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and The 8th Habit. Covey, Stephen R.
New York: Free Press (A Division of Simon & Shuster). 2004

A Systematic Approach to FYE Planning and Assessment

Be proactive

- Know your mission and vision
- Conduct a needs analysis
- Meet with multiple constituencies
- Gain an understanding of all pertinent assessment issues
- Gather appropriate extant data (e.g., NSSE)

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A Systematic Approach to FYE Planning and Assessment

Begin with the end in mind

- Know your goals
- Write SMART student learning outcomes
- Determine your assessment measures
- Create an assessment matrix
- Ensure compliance with accreditation standards

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A Systematic Approach to FYE Planning and Assessment

Put first things first

- Begin with the institutional and FYE mission
- Utilize the student learning outcomes that have been created
- Establish assessment measures based upon best practices
- Determine missing measures and implement
- Create a framework

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A Systematic Approach to FYE Planning and Assessment

Think win/win

- Fulfill the institution's needs
- Ensure compliance with accreditation standards
- Determine benefits for students
- Determine benefits for faculty
- Position the FYE centrally in the institution

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A Systematic Approach to FYE Planning and Assessment

Seek first to understand, then to be understood

- Use the ABCD planning model (UNC/Greensboro) for your student learning outcomes
 - ✓ **Audience** – who will be learning?
 - ✓ **Behavior** – what behavior should the learner be able to do?
 - ✓ **Condition** – under what conditions do you want the learner to be able to do it?
 - ✓ **Degree** – how well must it be done?

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The ABCD information is from a presentation by Stephen C. Zerwas and Sarah Carrigan at the University of North Carolina Greensboro and adapted by Deborah Vaughn at College of Charleston.

A Systematic Approach to FYE Planning and Assessment

Synergize

- Include representatives of all constituencies
- Conduct a best practices analysis
- Speak with outside colleagues
- Bring everyone to the table
- Brainstorm
- Prioritize
- Decide

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Sharpen the saw

- Constantly review your work
- Revise
- Ask new questions
- Add new information
- Update your best practices
- Participate in professional development

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A Systematic Approach to FYE Planning and Assessment

Discover your voice

- Understand your accomplishments

Express your voice

- Communicate with all constituencies
 - Disseminate drafts, interim reports, email updates
- Present information to the upper administration and to the Board of Trustees
- Participate in national conferences

Constantly focus and refocus

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Data....Data....Data....Data....Data....Data....

- Provide data in support of choosing your key question (use extant data)
- Include institutionally defined core competencies
- Assess achievement of clearly stated FYE student learning outcomes
- Include both direct and indirect measures
- Integrate data from other projects

*The College of Charleston:
An Institutional Perspective*



- The initial impetus: creating a response to the SACS QEP requirement
- Selection of an institutional topic: Extant data from faculty forums, strategic planning, the Faculty Senate, campus-wide discussions
- The QEP: *Going Further Faster: College of Charleston's First Year Experience*
- The resolution
- Student learning outcomes
- Benefits for the students and faculty members
- Unique elements
- Assessing the FYE

Questions and Answers



Thank you for
coming!
