

SVC Student Achievement Strategy: First Quarter Experience

First Quarter Experience (FQE) is a mandatory two-credit class for new degree-seeking students. Course activities include developing an academic plan, life/career plan, financial plan, college navigation skills, and a meaningful engagement experience with peers, faculty, and staff.

The FQE introduces students to the college experience at SVC and provides a solid foundation for students to meet their educational and career goals. In addition to classroom activities, students will be advised for second quarter classes with assistance from an advisor connected to the FQE.

First Quarter Experience is also referred to as *Freshman Experience* at other colleges and in higher education literature. SVC's FQE is also referred to as *CSS 103*.

Timeline for Implementation:

Currently, all new, degree-seeking students pursuing a workforce degree, or those students who place in pre-college English, are required to take CSS 103 to meet this requirement.

New, degree-seeking and certificate-seeking (45 credits and above) students will be required to take CSS 103 by Fall 2017.

Persons Responsible: Kenneth Lawson, Laura Cailloux, Joan Youngquist

FAQ's:

Question: Who is eligible to teach the CSS 103, and who makes faculty assignments?

Answer: All current faculty are eligible to apply for a CSS 103 teaching assignment. This year, there is a requirement to attend training and to participate fully in a faculty learning community. Joan Youngquist is responsible for overseeing the application process and for making faculty assignments.

Question: How much do students pay for the FQE and can financial aid be used to cover the cost?

Answer: The tuition schedule for this course is the same as any college-level course. Financial aid covers the cost for this course because it is either required to earn a degree (i.e., all workforce degrees) or is a co-requisite to register for other courses required to earn a transfer degree or workforce certificate.

Question: Are there any exceptions to the FQE requirement?

Answer: Currently, Running Start students and students who have earned 15 or more college-level credits with a 2.0 GPA are not required to take the FQE. Beginning in 2017-18, all students (including Running Start) who declare an intent to pursue a degree will be required to take the

FQE, and we expect to increase the number of credits earned from 15 to 30 college credits (including pre-college courses) in order to waive the FQE requirement.

For more information, contact: Joan Youngquist at 416-7675 or Joan.Youngquist@skagit.edu