

University Life – IE Report 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

Name of Program Department:	University Life
Year:	2021-2022
Name of Preparer	William K. Bolt

Program Mission Statement

The mission of University Life is to provide incoming students with strategies to acclimate them to Francis Marion University’s physical, educational, and social community in a personally beneficial and successful manner. Students will learn the necessary academic, university, social, and cultural skills and strategies needed to succeed in the university environment.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

1. Academic Skills
 - a. Students will prepare to navigate the advising process to develop academic and career goals as they create a plan for graduation.
2. University Skills
 - a. Students will develop skills for academic and personal success utilizing the campus resources available to them.
3. Students will discuss strategies to develop their social and emotional intelligence, and personal wellbeing.
4. Students will investigate the topic of diversity and how it correlates to inclusion and cultural appreciation

Executive Summary of Report

The University Life program has been integrated in FMU’s Center for Academic Success and Advisement (CASA), which began operation in Fall 2016. In CASA, University Life 100 courses now work in strong coordination with first-year advising, academic resources, and the career development office. This new organization gives greater oversight and structure to the University Life 100 program.

To improve the University Life 100 institutional effectiveness evaluation, a committee was formed to develop consistent SLOs shared across course sections, along with a post-survey system for more inclusive data collection and assessment to refine baselines, benchmarks, and targets. Areas requiring improvement will be addressed through providing additional resources to faculty for instruction and sharing assessment tools to faculty for data collection. In addition, instructors will participate in a pre-semester UL 100 workshop to learn about the results from the previous year’s data and share instructional techniques with fellow faculty. Areas requiring improvement will also be stressed, where appropriate, in training of Patriot Mentors, undergraduate student leaders embedded in each UL 100 course.

The data of this report is based primarily on a post-course survey. In the fall of 2021, 326 students out of 646 students (50.5%) completed the post-course survey. The number of students who took University Life 100 in the fall (646) is based on the number of students who registered

for the course. This number does not reflect students who withdrew from University Life 100. Two University Life instructors, for reasons unknown, administered the wrong exam to their students. For the 326 students who completed the post-course survey, their participation was voluntary.

The survey indicates successful instruction in the areas of academic advising and planning, use of some campus resources that students identified, and personal and social responsibility. The student survey results also indicate that instruction needs to be augmented in certain areas. Areas needing improvement are addressed at the end of the report.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

1. Academic Skill Development
 - a. Students will identify and apply skills needed for academic success including time management, effective studying and note taking, and goal setting.
 - b. Students will know how the advising process works and construct a schedule and plan for graduation within their chosen major.
 - c. Students will examine career paths related to their chosen major.
2. University Skill Development
 - a. Students will identify, locate, and utilize campus resources including CASA, Office of Testing and Counseling, Student Health, Career Development, etc.
 - b. Students will identify, locate, and utilize resources in Rogers Library.
 - c. Students will gain familiarity with financial literacy and the responsibilities associated with financial aid.
3. Social Skill Development
 - a. Students will explain the benefits and responsibilities of membership in the FMU Community.
 - b. Students will participate in at least one campus cultural event.
 - c. Students will be introduced to and then tested on health and wellness practices during their university experience.
4. Cultural Skill Development
 - a. Students will explore the meaning of diversity and analyze why it is important.

Assessment Methods

1. Academic Skill Development—Assessment method for each item is a post-course survey.
 - a. Students will identify and apply skills needed for academic success including time management, effective studying and note taking, and goal setting.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target
Understand the importance of time management	99.1	90%	95%

Improve notetaking skills	92.6%	90%	95%
Develop strategies to study effectively	99.4%	90%	90%
Identify different study habits than those needed in high school	76.3%	80%	90%
Understand how to prioritize their time to achieve success in college	97.2%	80%	95%

- b. Students will understand the advising process and construct a schedule and plan for graduation within their chosen major.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target
Have created a 4-year plan for graduation based on the major requirements for their degree	83.7%	90%	95%
Have understood the degree requirements for their major	79.5%	90%	95%
Have met with their advisor and understand the advising process	100%	90%	95%
Locate and read their Degree Audit	87.7%	85%	90%

- c. Students will examine career paths related to their chosen major.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target
Selected a career focus	92.7	90%	95%

Become familiar with career development	95.6%	75%	85%
---	-------	-----	-----

2. University Skill Development—Assessment method for each item in a post-course survey.

a. Students will identify, locate, and utilize campus resources including CASA, Office of testing and Counseling, Student health, Career development, etc.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target
Understand how to navigate campus and find classrooms	70.6%	85%	95%
Understand where to go for help with mental and emotional stress	98.8%	65%	80%
Understand where to go for academic counseling	85.3%	90%	95%
Have located and/or used the Writing Center or Tutoring Center at least once	77.9%	90%	95%
Understand where the Financial Aid office is located	75.8%	90%	95%

b. Students will identify, locate, and utilize resources in Rogers Library.

Upon completion of UL 10, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target
Have located the library and used it for at least one assignment	77.0%	90%	95%

c. Students will gain familiarity with financial literacy and the responsibilities associated with financial aid.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target
Have familiarity with financial literacy and money management	60.7%	85%	85%
Understand how student loans are structured and how they can impact future credit	68.3%	85%	85%

3. Social and Cultural Skill Development—Assessment method for each item is a post-course survey.

a. Students will articulate the benefits and responsibilities of membership in the FMU Community.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target
Understand where to find the FMU Student Handbook	88.7%	90%	95%
Understand the FMU Honor Code	89.9%	90%	95%
Understand their responsibilities as a college student	90.3%	90%	95%
Know the campus organizations that they have the option to join	81.6%	85%	90%

b. Students will participate in one campus cultural event.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target
Participate in one campus event (art	Not Applicable	90%	95%

show, guest speaker, play, athletic event, or organization event).			
--	--	--	--

- c. Students will reflect on health and wellness practices during their university experience and beyond.

Upon Completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target
Understand where the Student Health Center is located	52.5%	75%	90%
Understand where the Counseling and Testing Center is located	98.9%	75%	90%
Understand where the gym facilities are located on campus	69.6%	90%	95%

4. Cultural Skill Development

- a. Students will explore the meaning of diversity and analyze why it is important—
Assessment method for each item is a post-course survey.

Upon Completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target
Understand why diversity is important	98.2%	80%	90%
Understand what is meant by implicit bias	90.5%	80%	90%

Assessment Results

1. Academic Skill Development

- a. Students will identify and apply skills needed for academic success including time management, effective studying and note taking, and goal setting.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target	Outcomes
Understand the importance of time management	99.1%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Achieved in 2021
Improve notetaking skills	92.6%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021
Develop strategies to study effectively	99.4%	85%	90%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Achieved in 2021
Identify different study habits than those needed in high school	76.3%	85%	90%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021
Understand how to prioritize their time to achieve success in college	97.2%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Achieved in 2021

- b. Students will understand the advising process and construct a schedule and plan for graduation within their chosen major.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target	Outcomes

Have created a 4-year plan for graduation based on the major requirements for their degree	83.7%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021
Have understood the degree requirements for their major	79.5%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Not achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021
Have met with their advisor and understand the advising process	100%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Achieved in 2021
Locate and read their Degree Audit	87.7%	85%	90%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021

c. Students will examine career paths related to their chosen major.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target	Outcomes
Selected a career focus	92.7%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021
Become familiar with Career Development	95.6%	75%	85%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Achieved 2021

2. University Skill Development

- a. Students will identify, locate, and utilize campus resources including Rogers Library, CASA, Office of Testing and Counseling, Student Health, etc.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target	Outcomes
Understand how to navigate campus and find classrooms	70.6%	85%	95%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021
Understand where to go for help with mental and emotional stress	98.8%	65%	80%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Achieved in 2021
Understand where to go for academic counseling	85.3%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021
Have located and/or used the Writing Center or Tutoring Center at least once	77.9%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021
Understand where the Financial Aid office is located	75.8%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021

- b. Students will identify, locate, and utilize resources in Rogers Library.

Upon completion of UL 10, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target	Outcomes

Have located the library and used it for at least one assignment	77.0%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021
--	-------	-----	-----	---

- c. Students will gain familiarity with financial literacy and the responsibilities associated with financial aid.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target	Outcomes
Have familiarity with financial literacy and money management	60.7%	85%	90%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021
Understand how student loans are structured and how they can impact future credit	68.3%	85%	90%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021

3. Social and Cultural Skill Development

- a. Students will articulate the benefits and responsibilities of membership in the FMU Community.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target	Outcomes
Understand where to find the FMU Student Handbook	88.7%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021
Understand the FMU Honor Code	89.9%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021

				Target: Not Achieved in 2021
Understand their responsibilities as a college student	90.3%	90%	95%	Benchmark: Achieved in both 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021
Know the campus organizations that they have the option to join	81.6%	85%	90%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021

b. Students will participate in one campus cultural event.

Upon completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target	Outcomes
Participate in one campus event (art show, guest speaker, play, athletic event, or organization event).	Not Applicable	80%	95%	Not Applicable

c. Students will reflect on health and wellness practices during their university experience and beyond.

Upon Completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target	Outcomes
Understand where the Student Health Center is located	52.5%	80%	90%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021

Understand where the Counseling and Testing Center is located	98.9%	80%	90%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Achieved in 2021
Understand where the gym facilities are located on campus	69.6%	80%	95%	Benchmark: Not Achieved in 2021 Target: Not Achieved in 2021

4. Cultural Skill Development
 a. Students will explore the meaning of diversity and analyze why it is important.

Upon Completion of UL 100, students will	Result 2021	Benchmark	Target	Outcomes
Understand why diversity is important	98.2%	80%	90%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Achieved in 2021
Understand what is meant by implicit bias	90.5%	80%	90%	Benchmark: Achieved in 2021 Target: Achieved in 2021

Action Items

Assessment Result Deficiencies

1. Academic Skills Development
 a. Students did not meet the benchmark to identify different study habits than those needed in high school. Students did not meet the target for Improve Notetaking Skills. Students hit the target and benchmark for understand the importance of time management, develop strategies to study effectively, and understand how to prioritize their tie to achieve success in college. To ensure we hit our benchmarks and targets in the future, FYS instructors will be encouraged to emphasize in greater detail the transition from high school to college and how what study skills and habits might have worked in high school probably will not work at the next level. In last year’s report, it was mentioned how a video could be created by FYS

instructors on improving study habits and notetaking skills. A FYS instructor will be asked to create a video on this important topic.

- b. Students did not meet the benchmark for having created a four-year plan for graduation based on the major requirements for their degree, have understood the degree requirements for their major, and locate and read their Degree Audit. Students did not meet the target for have created a four-year plan for graduation based on the major requirements for their degree, have understood the degree requirements for their major, and locate and read their Degree Audit. Students met the benchmark and target for have met with their advisor and understand the advising process. To improve our results, FYS instructors for all University Life classes will be asked to devote more time in class to covering the major requirements and how students can use the Degree Audit to chart their progress. Instructors will be urged to make printing a copy of a student's Degree Audit a requirement for their courses.
 - c. Students did not meet the target for selecting a career focus. The annual Career Fair will be stressed to students in all University Life classes. FYS instructors can make attending the career fair a part of their course or could make it an extra credit assignment. Mr. William Carswell, head of the Career Center, will be asked to make a video discussing what the Career Center provides for students. FYS instructors can use this video in class. If we go back to in person presentations, Mr. Carswell will be asked to make a presentation on the Career center.
2. University Skill Development
- a. Students did not meet the benchmark and targets for understanding how to navigate campus and find classrooms, understand where to go for academic counseling, have located and/or used the Writing center or Tutoring Center at least once, and understand where the Financial Aid Office is. Students hit the benchmark and target for understanding where to go for help with mental and emotional stress. We are pleased that FYS instructors devoted a great amount of time to ensuring the mental health of our students during these difficult times. In order to help students better navigate around campus, FYS instructors will be urged to spend more time analyzing the map of campus so students recognize where building and classrooms are located. This map was provided to FYS instructors at the beginning of the semester. It will be provided to FYS instructors at the beginning of Fall 2022. We did not have our benchmark or targets possibly as a result of COVID-19, which prevented FYS instructors from taking students on tours across campus. Incoming freshmen were limited in their tours of campus during orientation as a result of social distancing. With a return to normality this fall, this number should increase and our benchmark and target will be met.
 - b. Students did not meet the benchmark and target for have located the library and used it for at least one assignment. FYS instructors will be asked to make sure students are taken to and shown where the Rogers Library is located. A video, narrated by Mr. Steve Sims, is available for all FYS instructors. Many FYS instructors require students to check out a book from the library. This could be incorporated into all sections of University Life.

- c. Students did not meet the benchmark or target for have familiarity with financial literacy and money management and understand how student loans are structured and how they can impact future credit. This has been addressed by having Mary Dittman complete a video on managing finances. This video is available to all FYS instructors. All FYS instructors will be encouraged to use this video and to spend more time in class on the importance of finances and managing money.
3. Social and Cultural Skill Development
- a. Students did not meet the benchmark or target for understand where to find the FMU Student Handbook, understand the FMU Honor Code, and know the campus organizations that they have the option to join. Students met the benchmark but did not meet the target for understand their responsibilities as a college student. Students just missed the benchmark for understand where to find the FMU Student handbook and understand the FMU Honor Code. These topics are probably well covered during the first or second weeks of all University Life classes. The assessment exam is administered in November at the very end of the semester. FYS instructors will be encouraged to review these topics at the end of the semester. Andy “Fisher” Matthews, who oversees student activities on campus, will be asked to craft a video or make a presentation on Student Life. Andy has been successful in bringing Greek Life back to campus. With a return to a more normal semester, students should be able to hit both the benchmark and target for this in 2022.
 - b. We have not been able to assess whether or not students participated in one campus event due to COVID-19. This should be assessed in 2022.
 - c. Students did not meet the benchmark or target for understanding where the Student Health Center is located and understand where the gym facilities are located on campus. Students met the benchmark and target for understand where the Counseling and Testing Center is located. As mentioned earlier, students could not go on tours of campus during the fall semester. Any tour would have included a trip to the Student Health Center especially since this is where students would have gone to get tested for COVID-19. A normal tour also would have included a stop at the Smith University Center, where the gym is located. With a normal semester on the horizon, FYS instructors will be able to take students to the Student Health Center and the Smith Student Center as part of their campus tours.
4. Cultural Skill Development
- a. Students met the benchmark and target for both of the assessments related to Equality.