

GSU 1010: New Student Orientation Curriculum

Course Overview

The GSU 1010 course serves as the academic orientation course provided for first semester college students to assist them in the acquisition of fundamental skills essential for academic success. This course is offered primarily through the Freshman Learning Community (FLC) program and serves as the anchor course among the cluster of classes offered to each FLC cohort. In addition to the academic orientation topics is the expectation that there will be class discussions and lectures related to the theme of the learning community.

GSU 1010 Education Goals and Outcomes

Academic Life: Students will become familiar with the academic resources, procedures, and student code of conduct policies of Georgia State University. They will exhibit familiarity with the location, use, and content of official university documents relevant to these issues.

- Students will be able to articulate the purpose of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Students will understand the role of the academic advisor.
- Students will be able to identify resources for academic support on campus.

Community Life: Students will have an understanding of the community and environment on and around the university campus, as well as the general Atlanta community. They will engage in at least one dimension of the Atlanta-Based Learning Program.

- Students will be able to articulate opportunities for involvement in the campus community.
- Students will identify opportunities for civic engagement.

Personal Life: Students will engage in activities designed to improve their study and learning skills and to enhance their personal growth and development.

- Students will identify personal time management systems that work for them.
- Students will be able to successfully identify stress management techniques.
- Students will be able to identify resources in the community that are available to promote and enhance their personal growth and development.

REQUIRED MODULES

There are eight (8) modules that are REQUIRED for students to complete during the GSU 1010 course. Professors are afforded flexibility in determining how these modules will be implemented during the course, as long as the information is addressed.

REQUIRED MODULE TOPICS:

1. **Academic Advising**
2. **Academic Honesty/Library Resources**
3. **Academic Success**
4. **Atlanta-Based Learning/Civic Engagement**
5. **Campus Resources**
6. **Career Exploration**
7. **Drug/Alcohol/Sexual Health**
8. **Financial Literacy**

1. Academic Advising

An academic advisor will come to your class to conduct this module. The dates are pre-assigned.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- identify requirements necessary to complete the core curriculum courses;
- name campus resources appropriate for specific academic advising questions;
- explain process for selecting and changing a major.

2. Academic Success

This module should focus on topics relating to promoting skills that enhance academic success. The requirement can be fulfilled in the multiple ways.

- a. The professor or guest speaker presents a lecture on a topic related to academic success (study skills, test taking skills, reading a textbook, memory and cognition, etc.)
- b. Students attend an academic success workshop offered by the Office of Undergraduate Studies.
- c. Students complete one or more online modules that are available as supplements for the textbook.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- name available campus resources that assist in the development of academic skills;
- identify personal areas of deficiency;
- modify current practices to meet identified needs.

3. Academic Honesty/Library Resources

This module should focus on the University policies on academic honesty, as well as the resources available in the University Library. The requirement can be fulfilled in multiple ways.

- a. The professor or guest speaker presents a lecture on a topic related to academic honesty/library resources.
- b. Students attend a workshop offered by the University Library staff

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- recall the location of the University's policy on academic honesty;
- describe the consequences for violating academic honesty policy;
- demonstrate knowledge of library resources (database, research tools, library staff, electronic materials, etc.).

4. Atlanta-Based Learning/Civic Engagement

This module should focus on encouraging students to engage in the Atlanta community as an integral role of attending a university located in a major city. Professors are required to have students participate in a minimum of one (1) activity. Selecting a service learning activity will allow students to fully engage in the Atlanta community while also developing an understanding role of community service. The requirement can be fulfilled in multiple ways.

- a. Students can participate in the community service project assigned to the class arranged by the Offices of Undergraduate Studies and Civic Engagement.
- b. Professors may determine independent service projects for their classes to participate in.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- identify Atlanta resources related to academic majors;
- describe the advantages of attending an urban institution;
- explain the benefits of being engaged in community service;
- reflect on their individual experiences.

5. Campus Resources

This module should focus on introducing students to resources available at Georgia State University. The requirement can be fulfilled in multiple ways.

- a. The professor or peer mentor walks the campus with students identifying relevant resources.
- b. Students complete the walking tour or scavenger hunt found at the end of chapter 2 of the GSU 1010 textbook.
- c. Students research the different campus resources on campus (locations, services, offered, etc) and present their findings to rest of class.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- identify campus resources that support academic success, major and career exploration;

- locate campus resources that assist in the development of life skills (Counseling & Testing Services, Health Promotions, Student Recreational Center, etc.), campus engagement (Student Life, Leadership Programs, Student Organizations, etc.).

6. Career Exploration

This module is continuously used throughout the semester in order to help students identify a career that interests them, along with the steps to reach their goal. Students will utilize tools that Georgia State offers to articulate the career they hope to one day obtain and create materials based on their research of said career.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- identify a career that interests them along with the necessary steps to attain that career;
- utilize resources through the university to develop materials relevant to their desired career;
- develop strategies to aid in goal setting and attainment in terms of a career.

7. Drug/Alcohol/Sexual Health

This module is an online exercise focusing on helping students understand and identify issues related to alcohol and other drugs. A separate online module will focus on sexual health and sexual assault prevention. The requirement can only be fulfilled by completing the online modules.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- identify health risks related to inappropriate uses of alcohol and other drugs;
- locate university resources available to address issues related to alcohol and other drugs;
- develop strategies to appropriately address issues related to alcohol and other drugs.

8. Financial Literacy

This module is focused on teaching students the fundamentals of financing their education (financial aid, loans, credit cards, interest rates, fees, etc.). An online tool will be available to students to help them navigate their finances at the college level.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- identify the accurate cost of education for their degree;
- locate potential university resources available to address issues related to finances;
- develop strategies to appropriately address issues related to finances.

RECOMMENDED MODULE TOPICS

These modules are RECOMMENDED for students to complete during the GSU 1010 course. The Office of Undergraduate Studies has collaborated with several University Departments to offer presentations focused on these topics. All of these topics play a critical role in the successful transition of first year students.

Professors are afforded flexibility in determining how these modules will be implemented if desired.

1. Counseling & Testing Services

The modules offered by the Counseling Center have a wide range of topics which support making healthy choices to promote a balanced college experience.

2. Intercultural Relations

These modules are focused on introducing students to various components related to diversity and intercultural relations. The activities and conversations will allow students to develop a greater understanding of the diversity of our campus community and the community at large.

3. Nutrition

This module is focused on 1) understanding components and portion sizes for healthy meal plans and 2) making healthy food choices on campus.

4. Study Abroad Programs

This module is focused on exposing students to the value of studying abroad during their undergraduate career. There are a variety of events sponsored by Study Abroad Programs which provide information on how to study abroad, where to study and how to prepare for the experience.

5. University Career Services

This module is focused on introducing students to campus resources available in career exploration, resume and cover letter writing, interviewing.