

A Message From the Director of FIS

Dear Freshman Intensive Studies students,

Welcome to Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) and to the Freshman Intensive Studies (FIS) program! Today marks the beginning of a new learning experience for you. I encourage you to open the door to new ways of thinking, learning, and studying. Some of your study habits from high school you will continue to use here at FDU. Others you will replace with new, more effective learning strategies. FIS will assist you in this transition.

In this pamphlet, you will find a summary of the various services available to you through the FIS program. The academic services provided by the program are free of charge and are offered throughout your first year at FDU.

FIS workshops and study groups have been designed to give you the tools you need to feel empowered and equipped to handle any academic challenges. As an educator, however, I value the voice of students as well as colleagues. I welcome your feedback on how we can continue to meet your learning needs in the most effective way.

I look forward to seeing you during our workshops and study group sessions!

Sincerely,



Professor Mary Ford

One-on-One Assistance

If there is a pattern in your learning habits that you need to change, you should seek learning assistance.

Some of the reasons students seek assistance from the Learning Specialists include:

- They have a difficult time understanding what they are reading.
- They are not sure what to underline or take note of while reading or while listening to class lecture.
- They have problems managing their time.
- They experience test anxiety.
- They do not understand why they repeatedly make the same mistakes on math tests.
- They want to learn how to make effective use of their study time.
- They have a hard time getting started on a writing assignment.
- They want to learn how to develop and organize ideas in an essay.
- They have an interest in improving their performance, but are unsure of what steps to take to achieve success.



Please note that learning assistance should not be viewed as a service only for students who may not be performing well. Even a student who is achieving B grades can and should seek academic assistance to learn how to approach an academic task differently. Students should seek learning assistance if they wish to take a new direction in how they study and learn.

THE LEADER IN GLOBAL EDUCATION



**FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY**

Learning Support Services

Provided by
Freshman Intensive Studies



Fairleigh Dickinson University
Florham Campus

**To schedule an
appointment, call**

(973) 443-8715



Mission Statement: Freshman Intensive Studies (FIS) offers a variety of learning support services in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and study skills in order to assist students in the transition from high school to college learning. Through one-on-one assistance, workshops, and study groups, FIS students learn how to take a more active role in managing how they study and learn.

One-on-One Learning Assistance

Students in the FIS program have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with the Learning Specialists to devise individual plans tailored to their learning needs. With the guidance of the Learning Specialists, students analyze their reading, writing, mathematics, and study habits, and they develop strategies for effective learning.

Some of the areas in which the Learning Specialists provide one-on-one assistance include:

- Time management
- Reading strategies
- Study skills and test-taking strategies
- Writing assistance
- Mathematics assistance
- Research skills

Students can schedule one session or multiple sessions with the Learning Specialists. The Learning Specialists will advise students as to whether they should continue for more than one session.

Academic Workshops

Academic workshops give FIS students the academic tools needed to meet the expectations and demands of college.

Some of the workshop topics include:

- Classroom etiquette
- Time management
- Note-taking skills and test preparation
- Reading strategies
- Writing skills
- Mathematics skills
- Test-taking strategies: tackling different types of exams (essay, multiple choice, true-false, etc.) and reducing test-taking anxiety
- Mnemonic strategies
- Research skills

In addition, course-specific workshops are offered to assist students with specific assignments in their classes.

Study Groups



With the help of the Learning Specialists, students get the chance to study with their peers during content-specific study groups. Study groups give students a chance to receive further reinforcement and clarification of concepts. Specific study groups that have been organized include:

- Psychology
- Sociology
- American Government and Politics
- History
- Mathematics

During the second semester, the Learning Specialists work with students in creating peer-facilitated study groups—sessions in which students take the lead in organizing and managing study groups. The purpose of these sessions is to guide students on how to continue studying with their peers after leaving FIS.

Workshops, as well as study groups, are arranged at times most convenient to students' schedules. Some sessions will be held during the fourth hour of class and others will be held outside of class.

The Role of the Student During One-on-One Sessions

What are the responsibilities of the student during one-on-one sessions with the Learning Specialists?

1. Call the FIS office in advance to schedule an appointment for a one-on-one session.
2. For your appointment, you should come with a goal in mind and course materials (texts, notebooks, etc.) in hand.
3. Be prompt and follow through in keeping appointments. If you cannot make an appointment, it is your responsibility to contact the FIS office as soon as possible.
4. Be open to new techniques for studying and learning. The more open you are, the more successful you will be as a learner.