

First-Year Focus Program

Option in the Science Gateway Programs

First-Year Focus (FYF) is a new cohort-based program that helps students build a strong foundation in computational sciences (FYF-C) or life sciences (FYF-L)

Why FYF?

Currently, students accepted in their first-year in the Faculty of Science have the following options:

- First-Year Focus program in computation or life sciences (new 2023)
- Science One
- Build their own program

The FYF program offers a balance of a highly supportive structure but also the flexibility and independence for students who are navigating their first-year experience .

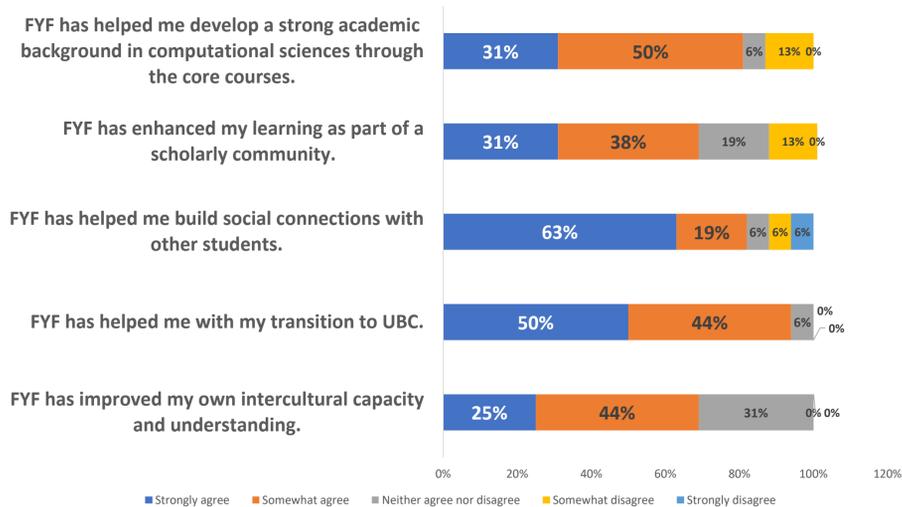


FYF Study Space in Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

Who is eligible?

- Any UBC Vancouver first-year Bachelor of Science student.
- Enrolment for September 2023 for FYF is limited to 180 students.

Student Survey FYF-C - December 2022



N= 16 (out of 57)

Students in FYF-C were surveyed at the end of their first term at UBC.

Overall, students reported a positive experience in the program.

Our Team:



Karen Smith
Associate Director,
Science Gateway/FYF
programs



Jessie Yu
Program Coordinator
FYF program



Pamela Kalas
Co-Director,
Science Gateway/FYF
programs



Constanza Piccolo
Co-Director,
Science Gateway/FYF
programs

FYF Offers:

Standard timetable options
for core science courses in the program

Dedicated study space
Irving K Barber Learning Centre

SCIE 100 Seminar course*
exclusive registration

*check out our SCIE 100 poster next to here!

Community

Undergraduate Peer Mentors

Benefits:

- Attend classes with the same cohort of students
- Guarantees space in core courses
- Less stress and anxiety building their own timetables from scratch.

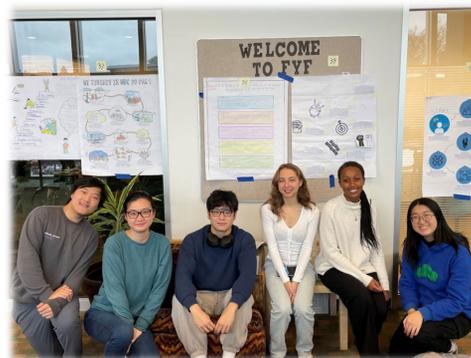
- Exclusive study space – students always have a place to meet!
- Social interactions that help students build relationships, create study groups

Students practice skills and tools important for succeeding in higher education

- Academic skills and tools
- Professional and career development
- Personal development
- Reflection and interaction with others in the cohort.

- Facilitate networking, academic & career building, social events.
- Increase social belonging on campus.

- Support students in SCIE 100 and outside the classroom
- Plan events – academic skills and social
- Share campus resources and support
- Helps students see themselves in a thriving and engaging environment.
- A diverse group of 2- 4th year students in computation and life sciences.



Students, TAs and FYF Mentors gather in the study space for a poster event.

"I like how with FYF I'm able to take multiple courses with the same group of people because it helped me make friends more easily due to more time spent together, familiarizing myself with others, and socializing in general. I also like the courses in the FYF program because they're all the courses that I need to apply for my specialization next year and because they're courses I, for the most part, enjoy. I especially like how FYF is also only 5 courses spread across the two terms because I'm able to add other courses I want to take as well. Finally, the TAs and instructors for FYF are all very supportive and understanding."

- FYF-C student, 2022W

Standard Timetables: FYF students can choose 1 of 3 types of STTs; mostly online course, mostly in-person or a combination. STTs includes SCIE 100 with 4 core courses for first-year science students (SCIE 113, MATH 100, MATH 101, DSCI 100) plus CPSC 110 (FYF-C) or BIOL 180 (FYF-L).

TERM 1						TERM 1					
FYF-C #1	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	FYF-L #1 (30)	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
8am						8am					
9am						9am					
10am			MATH100 Lec		MATH100 Disc	10am			MATH100 Lec		MATH100 Disc
11am					SCIE 100	11am					SCIE 100
12pm		CPSC110 Lec		CPSC110 Lec		12pm				SCIE113 Sem	
1pm						1pm					
2pm	SCIE113		SCIE113		SCIE113	2pm	SCIE113		SCIE113		SCIE113
3pm						3pm		BIOL180			
4pm						4pm					
5pm				CPSC110 Lab		5pm					
6pm						6pm					

FYF-C STT (Online)

FYF-L STT (Online)

Questions?

Please contact us at
FYF@science.ubc.ca

Special Thanks to:

Students of FYF-C, 22W Cohort
Faculty of Science, Deans Office
Skylight, FoS (Dr. Gulnur Birol, Zohreh Moradi)
Science Advising Team
Dr. Jackie Steward, Associate Dean FoS and
Dr. Sara Harris. EAOS (former A.D.)
FYF Peer Mentors – Achol Jones, Erik Wang, Rachael Pan, Wrik Sen

SCIE 100 – First Year Focus Seminar Course

SCIE 100 Seminar in the First-Year Focus Program

SCIE 100 is a one-credit, seminar course for the **First-Year Focus Program in Computation or Life Sciences (FYF-C, FYF-L)**. The course focuses on discipline-specific learning strategies for academic success and community and scholarly engagement and is offered in the fall term of FYF program.

SCIE 100 Builds:

Academic



Academic Skills & Tools

- Academic Skills at University
- Disciplinary specific academic skills
- Information Literacy
- Exam habits checklists
- Time management skills

Professional/Personal Development



Professional & Personal Development

- Situating oneself in the discipline – skills acquisition, career planning reflections
- Career Planning with UBC Career Centre Staff
- Disciplinary Guest Lectures.
- Science Advising Course planning for 2nd year.

Social Belonging



Social Belonging in FYF and at UBC

- Group activities and reflections
- Study groups/Social Events – outside class
- Term-end poster event with social activities.
- Student Panel

How is SCIE 100 Assessed?

SCIE 100 is a **PASS/FAIL** course. To pass, students had to complete 90% of the following:

- **Pre-class work (10%)** – read assigned material, videos, Canvas Quiz.
- **In-class (20%)** – complete worksheets (in pairs or groups), submit in class.
- **Post-class (20%)** – complete post-class reflection activity.
- **Participation (20%)** – engage and participate with others in class.
- **Poster (30%)** – Individually – complete a poster that reflects their journey in FYF and at UBC over the term.

Student's Comments on SCIE 100:

"I enjoyed learning with other first-years and getting to know similar experiences. It made me feel like I am not alone and that high stress all the time is normal, especially during exam times."

"SCIE 100 helped me make some of my closest friends now, I really enjoyed any group aspects, like working together on assignments or discussing topics brought up during the lecture."



Student Panel made up of senior students in computer science, life sciences, math.

Our Team:



Karen Smith
Associate Director,
Science Gateway/FYF
programs

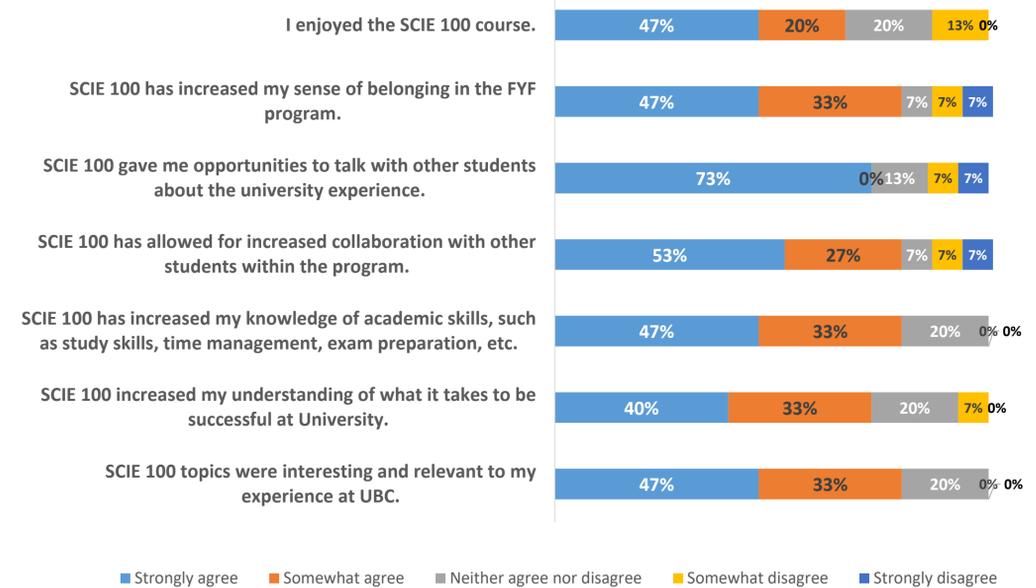
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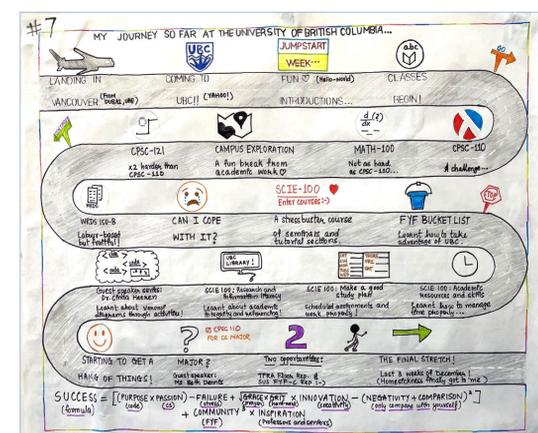
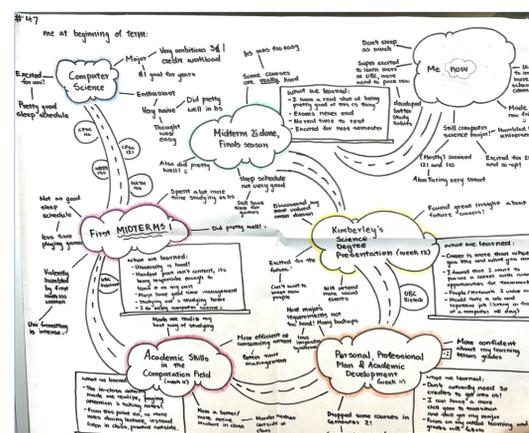
22W Cohort Experience at SCIE 100:



SCIE 100 students agreed that the course supported their learning experience at UBC. (N = 56)

Poster Assignment

End of Term Assignment - a reflection of their personal learning journey in FYF. Each poster included at least 5 factors/learning experience that influenced their journey.



Special Thanks to:

Students of FYF-C, 22W Cohort
Science Advising – Beth Dennis, Erin Green
Undergraduate TAs – Achol Jones, Denton Sun, Erik Wang, Janella Schwab, Rachael Pan, Vishal Desh