FRESHMAN INTEREST GROUP (FIG) PROPOSAL FORM
FALL 2011

Please complete (print or type) the information below. Submit this form, signed, along with the course syllabus for each of the two academic courses, to Marilyn Linton, First-Year Programs.

Title of FIG: _____________________________
Contact Department: _____________________

**Course #1**

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**College Connections**

Which instructor will teach the College Connections course?

__________________________________________
Title (Prof/Adjunct/Instr) ________________

**Description of FIG**

Please provide a one-sentence description of your FIG that can be used in promotional materials:

__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

**Approvals**

The signatures below confirm 1) the faculty proposing this FIG have the approval of the sponsoring departments offering the courses listed above, 2) the two proposed academic courses are regular parts of the departmental curricula, and meet general-education requirements, 3) the courses will be offered fall term 2011, and 4) the faculty members, exclusive of the proposed FIG, have/will have appointments in UO departments during the fall term 2011.

Department Heads: Please note that faculty applying for the Rippey Innovative Teaching Award agrees to teach the FIG **during Fall term 2011 and Fall term 2012**.

Course 1 Instructor: ____________________    Department Head: ____________________________
Course 2 Instructor: ____________________    Department Head: ____________________________

Please Return this form to Leah Blackburn, First-Year Programs, 470 Oregon Hall, 6-1241.
The deadline for submitting 2011 FIG Proposals is January 31st, 2011.

PROGRAM DETAILS

What are FIGs?
A Freshman Interest Group (FIG) is a block of classes taken together by 25 students during the fall term of their first year. The students are co-enrolled in two regular group-satisfying classes and a one-credit College Connections class. The College Connections seminar is intended to help students think critically, acquire necessary academic skills, and adjust to university life.

FIGs are offered in fall term only.

Some FIGs have special characteristics. Residential FIGs offer students the opportunity to live in the same residence hall with the other students in their FIG, thereby bringing together living and learning experiences. Challenge FIGs are designed for those motivated students who want to connect with their FIG through a shared summer reading before fall term begins.

Each of the FIGs is led by a faculty member and an undergraduate FIG Academic Assistant (FA). Residential FAs assist in residential FIGs and live in the hall with the FIG students.

College Connections
College Connections is a 1-credit seminar led by a faculty member teaching one of the academic courses in the FIG, with the assistance of an undergraduate academic assistant (FA). The faculty member offers mentoring and further exploration of the course material. The FA assists in the class and helps students learn to navigate the university.

Enrollment
A FIG cohort is limited to 25 students. The two academic courses will have both FIG and non-FIG students enrolled; only the 1-credit seminar and possibly one of the discussion sections of the courses are exclusive to students in the FIG.

Compensation
For information about Faculty Support Payments given for teaching a College Connections class, please refer to the FYP “Compensation Policies” document on line at: http://firstyear.uoregon.edu/FYP_Pages/FYP_PaymentInformation.html.

Proposing a FIG
The two academic classes must be regularly taught, introductory-level courses that meet general-education requirements. The courses should be from different disciplines, but be linked by a common theme.

To propose a FIG:
- First determine the theme and the two academic courses you would like to link.
- Contact the instructor of the second general-education course and determine who will lead the College Connections seminar.
- Obtain the signatures requested on the front of this form.
- Attach the syllabus from each of the two academic courses and return the proposal to Marilyn Linton, Associate Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Studies.

We encourage faculty members to submit proposals that offer new students opportunities to broaden their awareness of human diversity, and will give preference to proposals for area studies that are under-represented -- such as the history and religion of the Middle East -- and to cross-disciplinary explorations -- such the history of jazz or the African Diaspora.

Rippey Awards
Rippey Innovative Teaching Awards, funded generously by an endowment established by Jim and Shirley Rippey, are intended to encourage and support the teaching of undergraduate courses by senior faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Rippey Awards go to faculty teaching in
the Freshman Interest Group Program who collaborate across disciplines in teaching the College Connections course. Because of the terms of the award, at least one of the faculty members must be an associate or full professor in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The awards pay recipients $3,000 ($1,500 per year for a two-year commitment*) in addition to the $2,000 paid by First-Year Programs to the faculty member teaching the College Connections course. Rippey Awards may be taken as a stipend or for any appropriate professional purpose. Additional funds ($350 each fall term) are intended to support academic activities outside the classroom with students in the FIG. A small fund has been established to support extraordinary student expenditures related to Rippey seminars. Participants may request support for up to two-thirds of the total cost, with no funding to exceed $1,500.

Rippey Award recipients are selected by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. If you are interested in applying for a Rippey, please attach a paragraph to your FIG proposal explaining how you and the cooperating faculty member plan to collaborate. Faculty in the past have given guest lectures, worked on joint projects in the College Connections classes, taken students on field trips together, and synchronized their syllabi. Contact Marilyn Linton for more information. Please include any request related to extraordinary student expenditures.

Rippey recipients will write a short evaluation of their collaboration at the end of fall term, including a description of how support funds were used.

*Please note: faculty applying for the Rippey Innovative Teaching Award agree to teach the FIG for two consecutive years, although accommodations will be made for faculty leaves.

**Contact Information**
Marilyn Linton  
Director, First-Year Programs  
mlinton@uoregon.edu, 346-1352

Leah Blackburn  
Coordinator, First-Year Programs  
leahb@uoregon.edu, 346-1241