Welcome to your FIRST YEAR

We're focused on you and your success

UNIVERSITY OF Cincinnati
First-year experience at the University of Cincinnati is the cornerstone upon which your university learning experience is built.

Designed to help you make the most of your college life, UC’s approach to the first-year experience:

» Promotes academic achievement
» Is student-centered
» Emphasizes that higher learning extends beyond the walls of the university classroom to incorporate the greater community and workplace
» Provides you with a sense of belonging and connectedness to the university

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We encourage students to participate in multiple academic, hands-on, and co-curricular experiences in their first year at UC.

**Bears Cats Bound Orientation**
- Start your path to graduation, register for your first semester classes

**Welcome Weekend**
- Campus-wide celebrations including the President’s Convocation, a student organization fair, and other fun-filled events to get connected at UC

**Common Reading Program**
- A summer reading to focus year-long discussions

**Learning Communities**
- Small groups of students (12-24) with similar academic interests enroll in two or more courses together to build friendships and achieve academic goals
- Experience the feel of a small college with the benefits of a large, urban university

**COURSEWORK**
**First-year Seminars**
- Typically smaller, interactive courses that introduce you to unique aspects of success in your college or major field of study

**Gateway Courses**
- Core courses (e.g., English Composition, Mathematics, Biology) utilize innovative teaching methods and integrated support for effective learning

**Signature Programs**
We offer multiple specialized first-year programs, among them:

**Transitions Program**
- Assists African American students at UC and provides workshops, peer-mentoring, and other social and academic activities

**Camp Bearcats**
- Prepare for the Bearcat Experience by attending this UC Leadership retreat

**Academic Advising**
- An advisor/student partnership and collaborative process where you can explore your interests, define and develop goals, and learn about the curriculum and graduation requirements

**#ncaAspire**
- Get recognized for your outstanding academic achievements with Alpha Lambda Delta National First Year Honor Society
- Apply for scholarships to fund your professional development activities like research, study abroad, and more beginning with the Fulbright UK Summer Institute or the Boren Scholarship

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Designed to help you make the most of your college life, UC’s first-year experience will:

1. **Engage You**—connect you with people and opportunities to get established

2. **Involve You in Academic Life**—support you to achieve academic milestones through graduation

3. **Jumpstart Your Professional Work**—develop your professional presence and prompt you to delve into and help solve pressing societal issues

4. **Pull Together Your UC Experience**—social, academic, and experiential—into one, cohesive foundation for your collegiate achievements

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