

First-Year Experience FAQs

1. What is the First-Year Experience?

[The First-Year Experience](#) consists of a course called Foundations for College Success and a learning community. To fulfill the learning community requirement, you must participate in either a Living Learning Community (LLC) or a Theme-Based Learning Community (TBLC). If you participate in a Living Learning Community, you will connect with fellow students with similar academic interests by taking a course together and living in the same community in a residence hall. If you participate in a Theme-Based Learning Community you will take two courses and take part in co-curricular activities centered on a mission-

you succeed at St. Thomas and give you a sense of belonging and community during your first year. The small class sizes in Foundations for College Success mean professors will know important things about you, like your name and how you learn — and as an added benefit, smaller classes make it easier to build friendships. The friends you make at St. Thomas will be part of your social and support network while in college, and after, as you look to turn great relationships into a fulfilling career.

3. What is my option if I live off-campus?

The goal of a Theme-Based Learning Community (TBLC) is to provide students with an experience centered on a mission-based theme. Students will take two theme-based courses from different academic areas in the fall of their first year and will be required to participate in out-of-class activities related to the theme throughout the term. The TBLC is designed for students who want to choose where they live on- or off- campus (ideal for commuter students).

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