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Designing a First-Year Experience Course for IS Students

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ABSTRACT

First Year Experience (FYE) courses target entering students and introduce them to the college environment and expectations for the college classroom. These courses have gained increasing popularity due to their positive impact on retention of students, as well as increased graduation rates. This workshop will describe how to design a FYE course specifically targeting IS students. The IS focused FYE course should improve the retention of students in information technology and information systems. As IS departments face declining enrollment, retaining the students who do select IS majors is of critical importance. Workshop participants will create a basic syllabus for the specially focused FYE course and will complete activities that will prepare them to propose and deliver the course at their university.

Keywords

First year experience, IS students, retention

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

First year students – needs and expectations

IS programs – skills and critical success factors

First year learning outcomes for IS majors

Syllabus design

Special topics: The accidental plagiarist, Successful classroom presentations; Ethical implications of the Information Age; Electronic resources/library; Diversity and global issues in IS; How to succeed in CS1; Stereotypes in IS; Careers in Computer Forensics; Panel of Senior IS Students

Developing mentoring programs

Skills focus: presentations, technical reading and writing, keys to mathematics success

It takes a village – involving academic colleagues, upper division students, IS practitioners

Organizing classroom discussions

Testing and assessing student performance

Closing Remarks/Discussion