Designing a First Year Experience Course for IS Students

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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