The First Year Experience (FYE) program is an intensive and intentional academic advising program designed to provide academic support and guidance to all incoming freshmen, acquaint them with the various educational resources and opportunities of the University, and assist them with their transition into the Towson University community. While being rooted in the roles that are part of academic advising, the FYE program places an emphasis on helping new students adjust to college life and make appropriate decisions about their college careers.

Students enroll in a mandatory non-credit advising program for each of their first two semesters: ORIE 305 (Fall) and ORIE 306 (Spring). Each FYE advisor is the leader for his/her section of ORIE 305 and 306. The following are basic expectations of the advisor’s role and responsibilities.

- Each advisor is assigned up to 40 freshmen students and works with these students in small group meetings, individual planning sessions, and through email and phone contact.
- A mandatory introductory meeting for the advisor and his/her advisee group will be held during New Student Orientation in August.
- During the Fall semester, the advisor should meet with the students in his/her group three other times, including at least one individual meeting to prepare for Spring registration. The length of the meetings will vary and is less important than the quality of the sessions. In the Spring semester, one group meeting and one individual meeting with each student is required to prepare for Fall registration and to discuss transition to a major department. Additional session(s) may be needed for students in academic jeopardy. The general expectation is that the majority of the FYE advisor’s time and effort in working with students will occur in the first semester.
- Attendance at a three-day advisor institute on early June is required of all new FYE advisors. The sessions during the institute focus on the things FYE advisors are expected to know, including models of student development, advising practices and strategies, Towson’s academic policies and programs, the University Core Requirements, support and enrichment programs and services, and technical skills. In addition, all FYE advisors, both new and returning, are expected to attend a pre-semester meeting held the week before classes begin in August. Additionally, attendance at one in-service meeting for FYE advisors is required each semester.

The workload in hours is a three-unit course equivalent of 110 hours for the academic year.