

FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM
Fall 2008
THEMATIC CLUSTER SINGLE PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

Note: Please read all instructions before filling out this form.

Check One: LAC Cluster _____ Major Cluster

Single Proposal

Instructor's Name _____ Department: _____

Name and Number of Your Course: _____ Tier I category _____

If your course has already been scheduled for fall 2008, please indicate meeting days and times below:

Would you be willing to teach the FYR 174 (Resources, Research, and Responsibilities) course? Yes No

The First-Year Program office will work with you to find a "partner." In the space below, indicate any preferences you may have for courses or disciplines that you feel would be a good match. Once the FYP identifies a possible partner for you, the two of you will be able to determine your "compatibility" and complete the "Joint Proposal" form.

Please Do Not Write in the Space Below

Partner Locator Workspace

General Information – Single Proposal Form

Note: The “Single Proposal Form” should be used by faculty who would like the First-Year Program to locate a cluster “partner.” All faculty seeking a FYP “Partner” (including those who have taught in the program before) must fill out this “Single Proposal” form. Once the FYP finds you a partner, you and your partner will submit a joint proposal.

The First-Year Program is based on the “learning community” model in which classes are built around a common theme and where close relationships are formed between students, faculty and peer mentors. A learning community consists of three courses enrolling the same group of 25 students. Each thematic cluster links two required academic courses with a one-credit skills course (*FYR 174 Resources, Research, and Responsibilities*).

*Types of Thematic Clusters

There are presently two types of thematic clusters approved by the University Senate:

The LAC Cluster links two Liberal Arts Core Tier I courses from two different LAC categories to the one-credit FYR 174 course. However, since these two classes may be joined thematically or by shared content in an FYR course, the degree of linkage can vary between clusters. For example, some faculty may choose to have a strong linkage, where each or at least several lectures in one disciplinary class are linked quite closely to the lectures of the other. This is possible when the two courses relate easily to each other. Sometimes this is not possible. The two courses may be too different to allow a close linkage without seriously sacrificing course content. In such cases, an attempt should be made to carve out a few topics where a relationship can be possible. If in the final analysis there are no areas of linkage possible, the FYR course can be the place where some common ground can be reached. This could take the form of using materials from both courses in developing academic study skills.

The Major Cluster learning communities are generally made up of one Liberal Arts Core Tier I course and a course that satisfies a major requirement. These two courses are linked to the one-credit Resources, Research and Responsibility course (FYR174). If desired, the Tier 1 course can also be geared towards the major, in which case it should be submitted as a joint proposal along with the major course. Like the LAC cluster, the degree of linkage can vary between cluster courses. For example, some faculty may choose to have a strong linkage where each or at least several lectures in one disciplinary class are linked quite closely to the lectures of the other. This is possible when the two courses relate easily to each other. Sometimes this is not possible. The two courses may be too different to allow a close linkage without seriously sacrificing course content. In such cases, an attempt should be made to carve out a few topics where a relationship can be possible. If in the final analysis there are no areas of linkage possible, the FYR course can be the place where some common ground can be reached. This could take the form of using materials from both courses in developing academic study skills.

***Please Note: For many reasons, it is always best if two faculty agree to become cluster partners before submitting a proposal. In this way, a single, joint proposal can be submitted.**

Instructions for Completing and Submitting Your Single Proposal Form

This “Single Proposal” form is shorter than the “Joint Proposal” form. It is designed to give the FYP enough information about your course to allow us to find you a partner. Once you have been partnered, you will both fill out a “Joint Proposal.”

Instructions for Filling Out the “Thematic Cluster Single Proposal Cover Sheet”

At the top of the page, check either “LAC Cluster” or “Major Cluster.” An LAC cluster must contain two Tier I courses from two different LAC categories and the FYR course. It can be taken by any first-time, first-year student. A major cluster will generally have one course for the major, one Tier 1 course and the FYR course. If you are proposing a cluster that does not fit either description above, please contact Martin Levin (Levin@easternct.edu or X55589) before submitting your proposal.

Do not write in the “Partner Locator Workspace” area.

Other Information Required with Your Cover Sheet

Syllabus:

Please attach a draft syllabus for your course.

1. Course requirements
2. Attendance
3. Assignments
4. Out-of-Class Requirements (attendance at Arts and Lectures events, University Hour events, field trips, other)
5. Tests

Please submit your cover sheet and draft syllabus to the Secretary for the First-Year Program (Dale Dubina) by email (dubinad@easternct.edu) or by campus mail (Library 431). Electronic submission is preferred. The FYP Director will work with you and other “Singles” to make the best possible clusters.