

“Quest II: Planning Your Future in College, Work, and Life”

SPECIFIC PROPOSAL

All Quest II courses would incorporate the following three future-oriented FYE elements:		
1.	2.	3.
Introduction to <i>Undergraduate Research</i> and/or <i>Creative Activity</i>	Your Future in College: partnerships with the Student Leadership & Involvement Center, International Education, and Academic Departments & Programs	Your Future in Work & Life: partnerships with Career Services & the Alumni Association Board

All Quest II courses would incorporate the bolded activities, plus at least one more activity for each of the three elements. Activities could come from the below list or from other ideas the faculty member, lecturer, or Department create.		
1.	2.	3.
<p>a. Student attendance at Celebration of Scholarship</p> <p>b. Invite advanced student researcher or artist/ undergraduate research staff/ faculty or lecturer/ alumni/ grad student(s) to talk about research/creative opportunities</p> <p>c. Require appropriate research/creative assignment in class.</p> <p>d. Focus on research/creative ethics in your discipline</p>	<p>a. Departments, Undergrad & Grad Programs stage open houses during 3rd week in Spring semester. Showcase majors, minors, emphases, etcetera. Students required to attend at least 3 of these open houses.</p> <p>b. Student attendance at 1 or more: Taste of U.W. Oshkosh / SLIC info meeting / Study-Intern Abroad Fair / Volunteer Fair / co-curricular events</p> <p>c. Student leaders / SLIC staff / Study-Intern Abroad alumni class visits</p> <p>d. Frame course around campus issues/offices that are very pertinent that year</p> <p>e. Online major/ minor/ grad program exploration</p> <p>f. Student visits to other faculty’s office hours</p>	<p>a. Class visits of volunteer alumni, to discuss role of gen ed and/or specific discipline in career/life</p> <p>b. Student interaction with Career Services in 1-2 short class visits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resumé /Dream Resumé assignment - StrengthsQuest (\$10 fee per student) - Elevator Pitch/ Reflection on how this course/ research helps in careers - LinkedIn account assignment - Career Fair / Creating Connections assignment <p>c. Grad programs presentation</p>

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RATIONALE:

Currently, all students who start at UW Oshkosh with fewer than fifteen credits are required to take Quest II courses in their second semester. These courses are typically capped at fifty students, are co-requisite with Quest Speaking or Quest Writing, and focus on one of three Signature Questions as well as the learning outcome of Ethical Reasoning.

The proposed changes would extend the First Year Experience (FYE) of Quest I courses into Quest II courses, making this experience truly a “First Year Experience.” The FYE elements of Quest I are largely *present-oriented*, and focus on orienting students to university life at UW Oshkosh. **The proposed FYE of Quest II would be more future-oriented**, helping students to better plan their paths at UW Oshkosh and beyond, with emphases on undergraduate research, academic and student organization opportunities, career planning, and alumni interaction.

This proposal aligns with the university’s recently released **Strategic Plan** in numerous ways. The main focus of the proposal is Priority A, “Enhance Student Success” with its goals to “increase the retention, progression, and graduation rates” and to “prepare students for today’s careers, future employment and high quality of life.” The proposal also offers an early introduction to undergraduate research, which aligns with strategic priority B, “Promote Academic Excellence” and its goal of creating “a research-enhanced comprehensive university.” One component of the proposal is an Alumni interaction, which is a community engagement experience, supporting strategic priority C, “Expand Community Engagement and Economic Development.” Increasing awareness of opportunities at UW Oshkosh is particularly valuable to first generation students, supporting Strategic Priority D, “Build an Inclusive and Supportive Institutional Environment” and its goal to “increase diversity and inclusion across every level of the university.” Finally, the proposal bolsters the University Studies Program’s goals of delivering liberal education and exposes connections between **College, Work, and Life** as called for in the Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) initiative of the American Association of Colleges & Universities.

One of the principles of the LEAP initiative is to “Foster Civic, Intercultural, and Ethical Learning” by emphasizing “personal and social responsibility, in every field of study.” Ethical Reasoning has been a focus of Quest II since 2013 because it is the only UW Oshkosh Essential Learning Outcome under “Personal and Social Responsibility” that is not a signature question. The **ethical reasoning outcome will be retained** in this proposal. This proposal does, however, open up a new way to incorporate ethical reasoning: in the context of research ethics or creative work ethics. However faculty and lecturers choose to incorporate ethical reasoning, Quest II will continue to include disciplinary-specific ethical reasoning as well as a signature question.

As Faculty and Staff consider this proposal, it is worth emphasizing two points. First, apart from the emphasis on research, these FYE components would *not* require faculty and lecturers to lead students in university exploration, career preparation, or alumni outreach. Rather, the FYE elements only ask that faculty and lecturers require **Quest II students to work with the campus resources that already exist**, and allow one to three class meetings for these campus offices to do their work. Second, it is worth emphasizing that **this proposal is aimed largely at the goal of retaining first-year students**. Institutional research suggests that of the more than 20% of students who leave UW Oshkosh after their first year, a significant number are high-achieving students. It is an aim of this proposal to help struggling students find the resources they need to thrive, and to let high-achieving students see the research, career, and involvement opportunities that UW Oshkosh can offer them, before it is too late.