

First Year Seminar Impact on Former Foster Youth (Renaissance Scholars)

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Making a Difference...



Renaissance Scholars (RS), launched in 2002, is a comprehensive program whose purpose is to **empower former foster youth through higher education**. It draws on the Education Opportunity Program (EOP) and the Casey Family Programs' *Its My Life* framework for transitioning youth.

Values

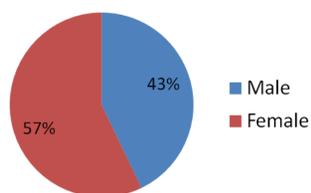
We emphasize **Learning**, demonstrate **Resiliency**, encourage and model **Wellness**, act with **Integrity**, exemplify personal and social **Responsibility**, and cherish **Relationships** with others.

2010 Renaissance Scholars Cohort

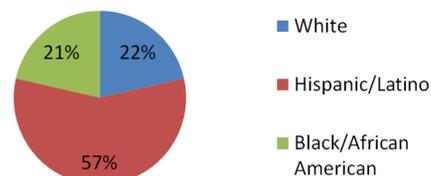
- 11 Incoming Freshman
- 1 Continuing Student
- 2 Incoming Transfers

TOTAL : 14 New Scholars

Gender Breakdown



Ethnic Breakdown



Learning Objectives

The First year seminar is designed to support the academic and personal transition process of incoming Renaissance Scholars by providing opportunities that challenge them to begin developing a positive sense of self identity in order to become successful students.

Fall & Winter Quarter Seminar Schedules

| FALL SEMINAR SCHEDULE | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| Session | Session Topic & Description | Assignments |
| Week 1 Oct 1 st Friday 2-4pm | Introduction, Course Overview & Expectations Community Building & Rise's Story | HOMEWORK Journal Entry |
| Week 3 Oct 15 th Friday 2-4pm | Maintaining Balance Time Management Guest Speaker: Dr. Anita Jackson | HOMEWORK Journal Entry |
| Week 5 Oct 29 th Friday 2-4pm | Focusing on Your Strengths Strength Based Development Guest Speaker: Scot Burbank | HOMEWORK Journal Entry |
| Week 7 Nov 12 th Friday 2-4pm | Relational Wellness Positive Relationships Dealing with the Holidays Guest Speaker: CAPS Rep | HOMEWORK Journal Entry |
| Week 10 Dec 3 rd Fri 2-4pm | Financial Wellness Guest Speaker: Adam Hoover | HOMEWORK Journal Entry |
| 1 Peer Advising Session | Peer Advising Session Schedule a session with your Peer Advisor. NOTE: Check your email for a more information about Peer Advising. GOOD LUCK ON FINALS!!! | HOMEWORK Journal Entry |

| WINTER SEMINAR SCHEDULE | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| Session | Session Topic & Description | Assignments |
| Week 2 Jan 14 th Friday 2-4pm | SMART Goals / Maintaining Balance II Student Account & Financial Aid Guest Speaker: Maria Ruiz | HOMEWORK Journal Entry |
| Week 4 Jan 28 th Friday 2-4pm | Taking Care of "ME" Antwone Fisher Movie | HOMEWORK Journal Entry |
| Week 6 Feb 11 th Friday 2-4pm | Taking Care of "ME" II Personal Success & Transformation Guest Speaker: Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) | HOMEWORK Journal Entry |
| Week 8 Feb 25 th Friday 2-4pm | Getting that "A" Effective Study Skills Guest Speaker: Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) | HOMEWORK Journal Entry |
| Week 10 Mar 11 th Fri 2-4pm | Getting the Job! Job Search, Resume & Interviewing Guest Speaker: Career Center | HOMEWORK Journal Entry |
| 1 Peer Advising Session | Peer Advising Session Schedule a session with your Peer Advisor. NOTE: Check your email for a more information about Peer Advising. GOOD LUCK ON FINALS!!! | HOMEWORK Journal Entry |

RS Learning Outcomes 2010-2011

Participants in the RS First year seminar will be able to:

- Identify and discuss his or her personal characteristics (including Interests, abilities, and strengths) in relation to self identity.
- Identify and discuss practices which contribute to emotional health and overall wellness
- Demonstrate financial management skills
- Demonstrate time management skills
- Develop and set realistic goals

Methodology

Evidence of Learning Outcomes will be gathered by collecting the following:

Assignments

Students will submit in class and out of class assignments, including a reflective journal.

Poster Collage / Personal Journey Paper

Students will complete a final three part assignment consisting of:

- (1) A 3 page written paper, articulating each student's life journey throughout their first year at Cal Poly Pomona. The paper should reflect an understanding of who they are based on their engagement in activities and discussions in the seminar. Students will include how their experiences and learning's have shaped who they are and who they aspire to become.
- (2) A Poster Collage that visually documents their experience as a first year Renaissance Scholar at Cal Poly Pomona.
- (3) Five Minute Oral Presentation on their Poster Collage and Personal Journey Paper.

Results

In the desired outcome Renaissance Scholars First Year Seminar participants will have gained a better understanding of how to successfully transition both personally and academically to the university as well as develop a strong sense of belonging and connection to the university and to Renaissance Scholars.

Final results will be gathered at the conclusion of the Renaissance Scholars First Year Seminar in June 2011.

Implications For Practice

The results collected in June 2011 will help determine final implications for future practice. A few areas that will be considered include to reassess the time and day of the seminars in an effort to increase student attendance and avoid conflict with student classes. Also, a pre and post assessment tool should be considered to measure student learning outcomes.