

First Year Connections Program Details

LOCATION:	CYPRESS & REDWOOD HALLS
RESIDENCE LIFE COORDINATOR:	Mark Bullock mbullock@njit.edu 973-596-6082 Jim Whitaker james.p.whitaker@njit.edu 973-596-5887
DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR:	Various

GOAL:

To assist incoming first year resident students in making a successful transition to residence life and campus life at NJIT; to prepare them to be successful learners in order to develop social, emotional and professional competency.

Concept:

First Year Connections will exist for all resident first year students at NJIT. Residence Life will focus on connecting to each other in the residence halls through floor and building activities and events as well as through discipline based events. We will also work closely with the Center for First Year Students and CARS to promote student engagement with Miniversity, First Year Seminar and Connections events and traditions.

Program Structure/Interface:

The Residence Life staff responsibilities include having a thorough understanding of all aspects of the First Year Connections staff, programs and activities. We support all aspects of the FYC program through community building, one-on-one interaction, active and passive programming and communicating about and reinforcing all aspects of the program in the residence halls both through traditional floor and building communities as well as through discipline based activities in the residence halls.

Programs:

FYC Programming: In hall (Redwood/Cypress) educational and social programming coordinated by Residence Life staff (RA, Professional staff) that involves collaboration from other campus resources and offices (see below).

- Connections Miniversity programming: Collaborative programming efforts that are coordinated by Center for First Year students, Residence Life (via FYC) staff and CARS staff. These programs will target all first year students (residents and commuters).
- NJIT Traditional programming: Support of NJIT “traditions” such as NJIT Day, Tech Games and existing campus center programming .

First Year Connections Programming Initiatives

Program	Date Range	Program Details
Welcome Home BBQ	Opening	Redwood & Cypress welcoming BBQ for all first year residents.
Go Newark	Mid-September	Community Service Program. Allow FYC students to participate in a large-scale volunteer/service project for NJIT.
Tech Games	Mid-September	FYC Residents and RAs will be encouraged to create a floor team to participate in the games. Prizes will be awarded to the floor/RAs that have the highest percentage of their residents participate.
NJIT Day	Early October	FYC Residents and RAs will be encouraged to create a floor team to participate in the games. Prizes will be awarded to the floor/RAs that have the highest percentage of their residents participate.
FYC Halloweekend!	Early October	Opportunity for bonding between residents and floors. This year we plan to work with the Center for First Year Students, CARS, and the Campus Center to expand the program to include all first-year students.
Exam Preparation - CAPE	Early October (First 2-weeks)	RA Team assigned to this program will work w/ CAPE to plan a program in the residence halls focused on ‘exam preparation techniques’ and the common exam. Students will learn what to expect when taking common exams, how to better prepare, and what resources are available to them.
Academic Advising	Late October (Second 2-weeks)	RA Team assigned to this program will work w/ Academic Advising to plan a program in the residence halls focused on academic advising. The program can

		focus on registering for the Spring semester, changing your major, dropping a course, or working w/ an advisor.
Mental Health	Early November (First 2-weeks)	RA Team assigned to this program will work w/ the Counseling Center to plan a program in the residence halls focused on mental health. The program can focus on a variety of mental health related topics including stress relief, suicide, coping techniques, etc.,
Leadership (iLead)	Late November (Second 2-weeks)	RA Team assigned to this program will receive a series of trainings from Joseph Rios. The RA staff will then incorporate the training and skills to put on a program in the residence halls.
FYC Social Midnight Massages/BINGO!	Early December	Prior to exams the FYC resident students will have an opportunity to unwind and relieve some stress by enjoying free massages, facials, and paraffin wax hand dips. Tea, coffee, and light snacks will be available. Additionally, study guides, stress tips and relaxation tips will be available for the residents to read.
Connections Miniversity Programming	On-going	FYC, CARS and Center for First Year staff will organize a series of yet to be determined program that will target the entire freshman population. Possible programs include museum trip, NJPAC concert, NYC trip.