

State of the School of Undergraduate Studies



School of Undergraduate Studies

We oversee the components of a college education that are shared by all undergraduates at the university.

The mission of the school includes responsibility for sustaining a dynamic common curriculum and enriching the undergraduate experience through innovative advising, career counseling, academic assistance, learning communities, interdisciplinary programs, and undergraduate research.



School of Undergraduate Studies

- Core Curriculum
- Academic Support
- Academic initiatives
- Initial home



Why a Signature Course?

The first year transition was harder than I expected. My Signature Course pulled me from the monotony of ordinary classes that was clouding my educational experience, and reintroduced me to the refreshingly extraordinary side of education that makes a class unforgettable.

Meagan Cook

Spies, Espionage, and Treason

There are times that I sit back and wonder what my life would look like if I had never taken this class, if I had gone through college pursuing salary rather than joy, if I had not been taught that the most learning happens when you engage in meaningful conversations with your peers.

Lindsey Platt

How to Change the World

I had to collaborate with classmates on a project, write an observatory piece on a work of art, complete a research paper, and create a PowerPoint presentation that involved public speaking. All of the skills I learned from this single UGS course have proved vital thus far in my college experience.

Shelby Johnson

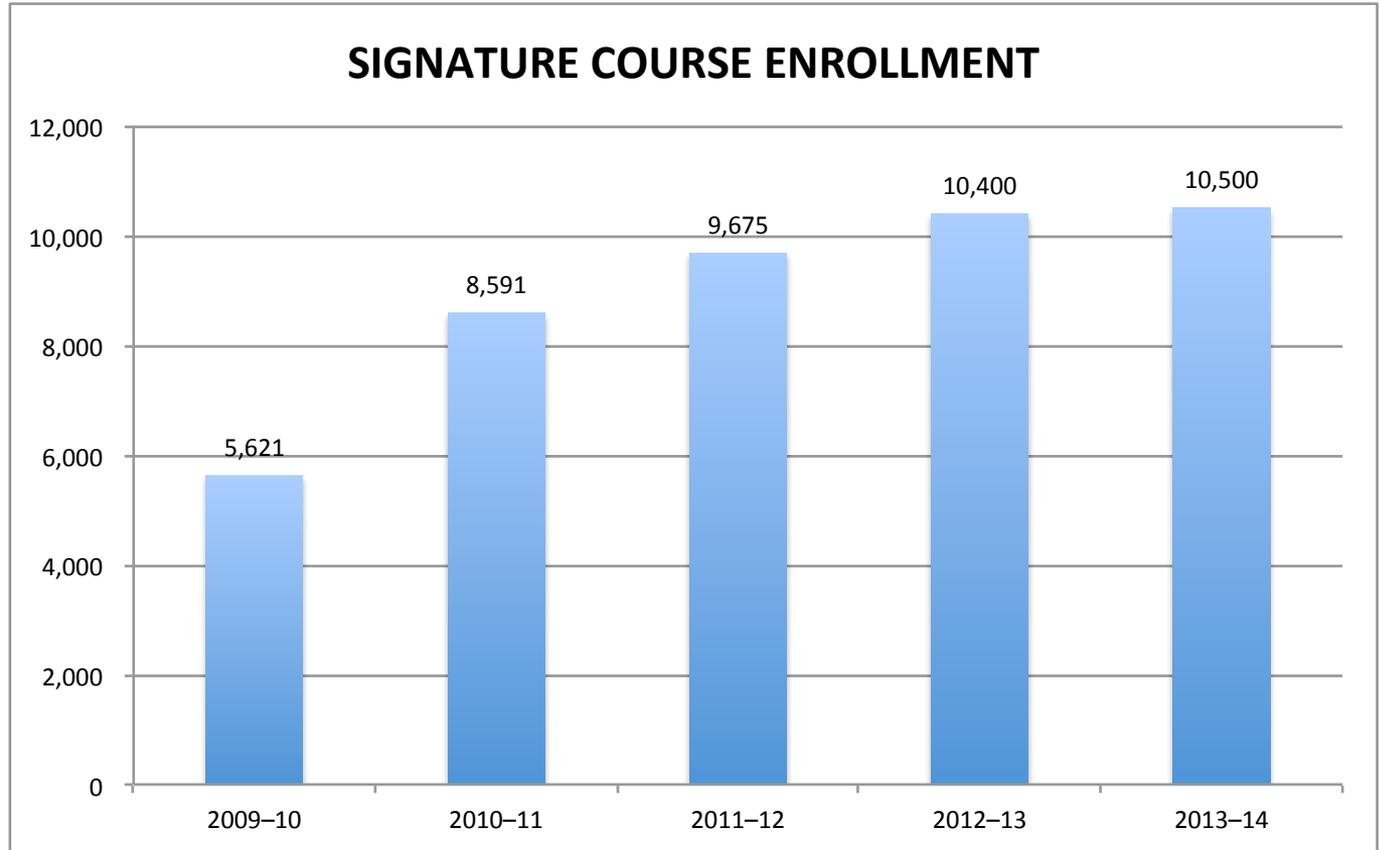
The Pope's City



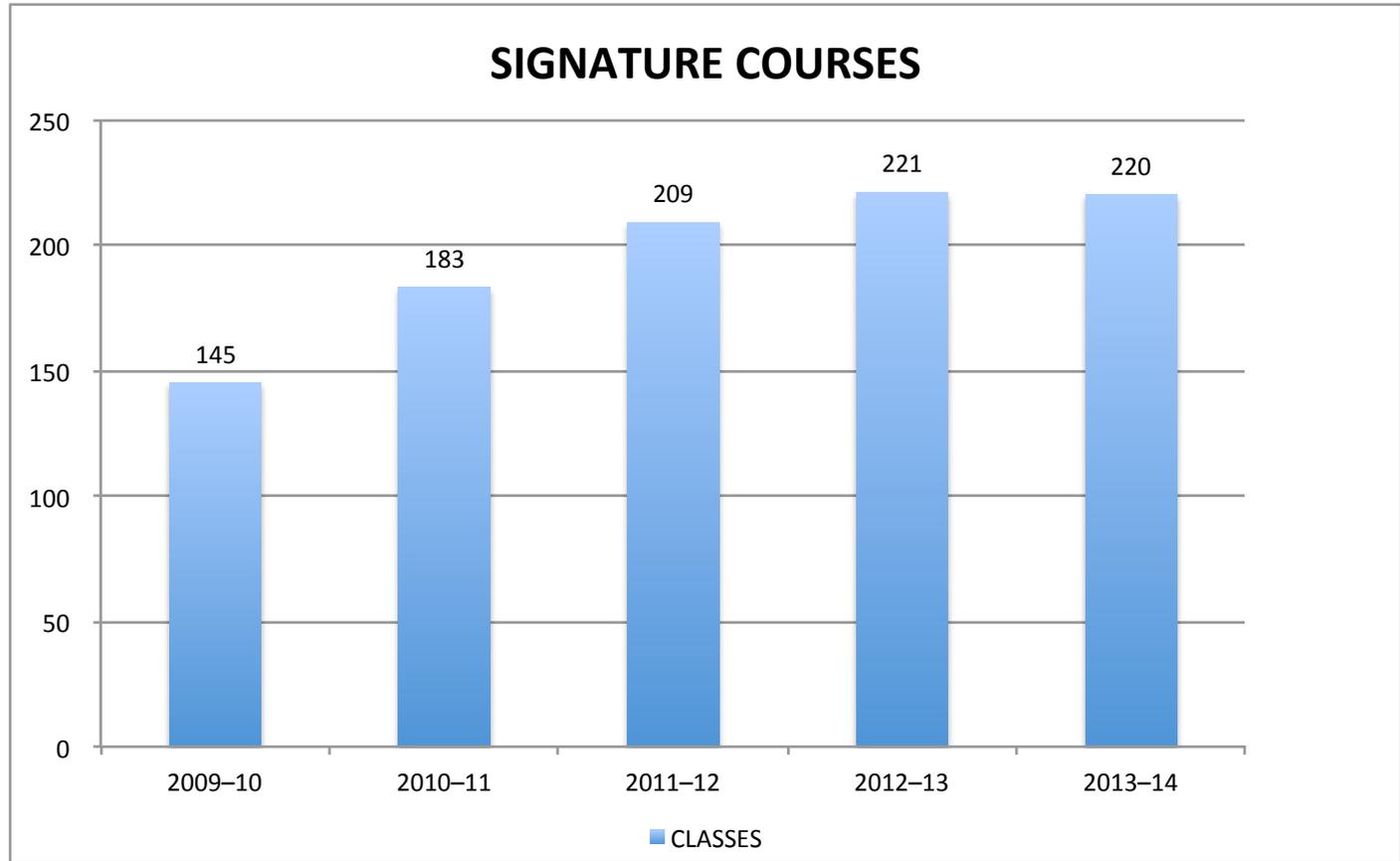
School of Undergraduate Studies by the numbers



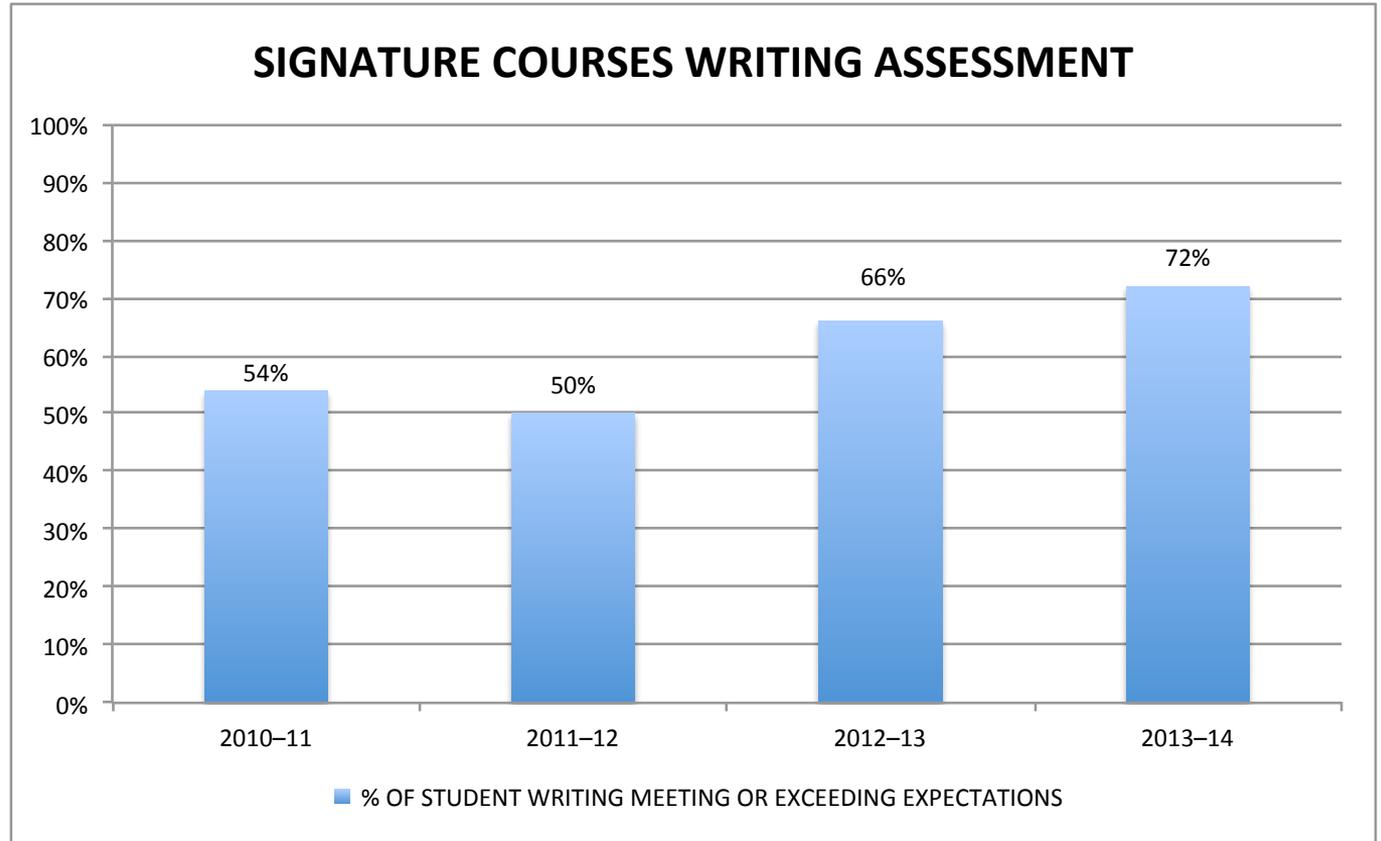
Core curriculum



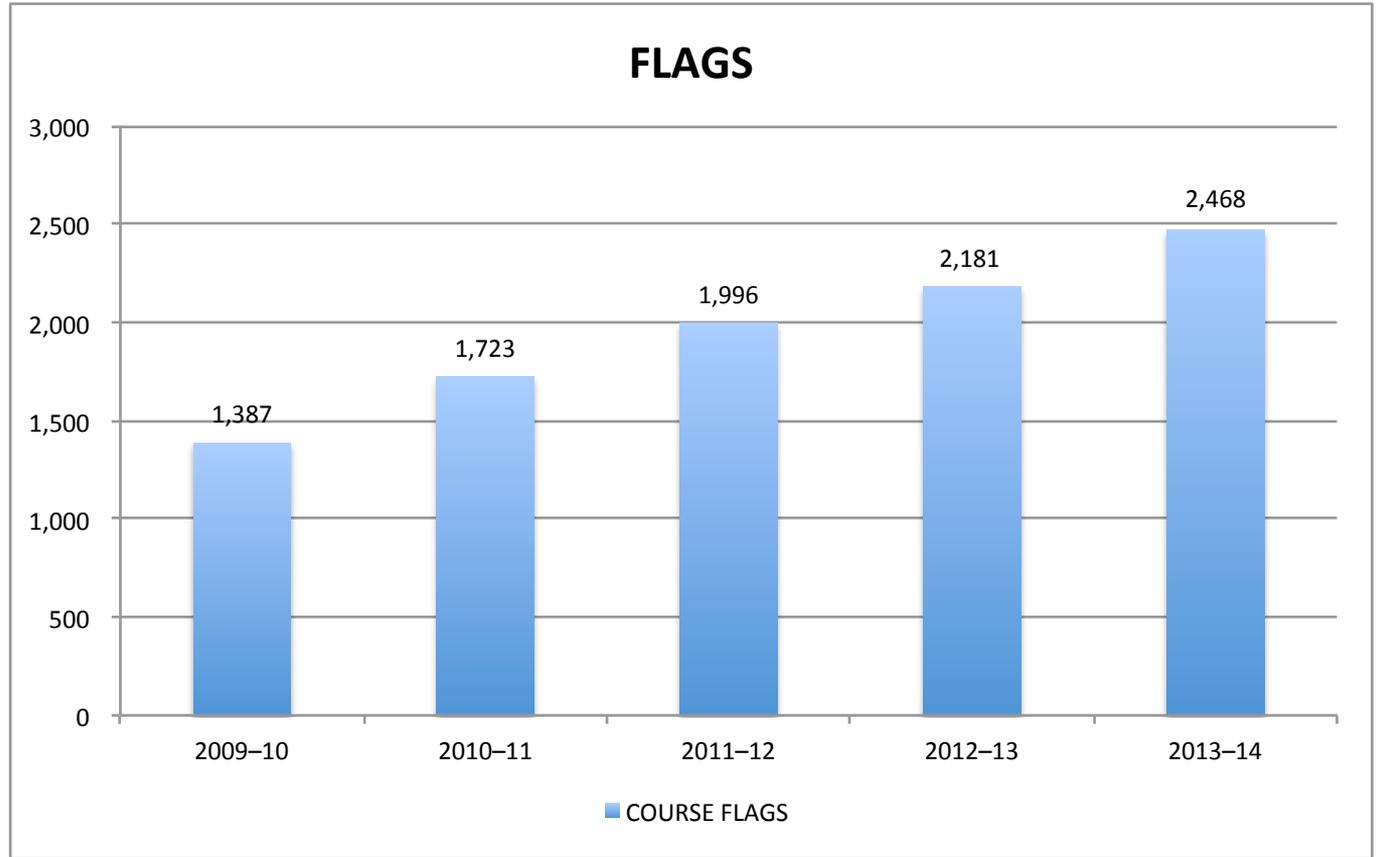
Core curriculum



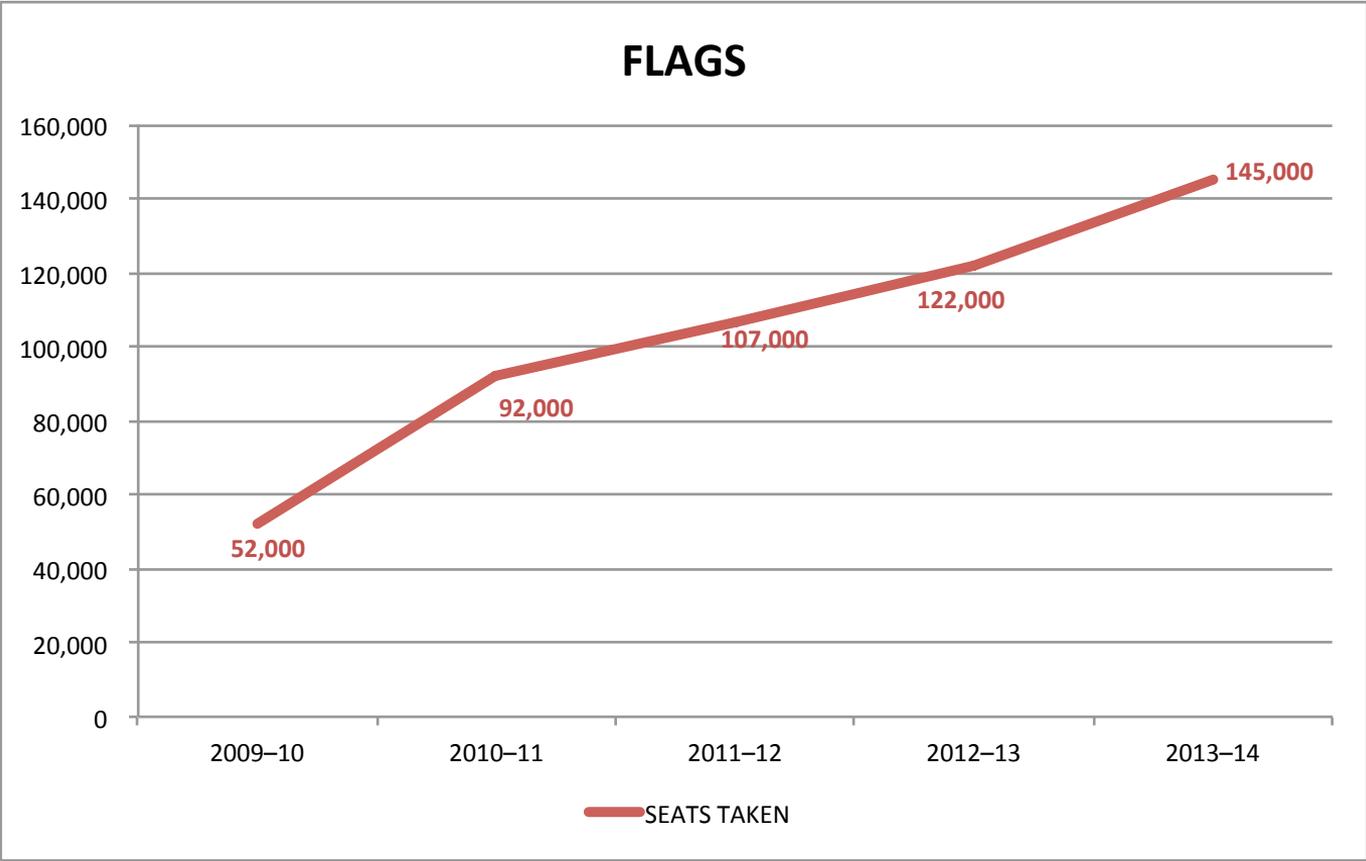
Core curriculum



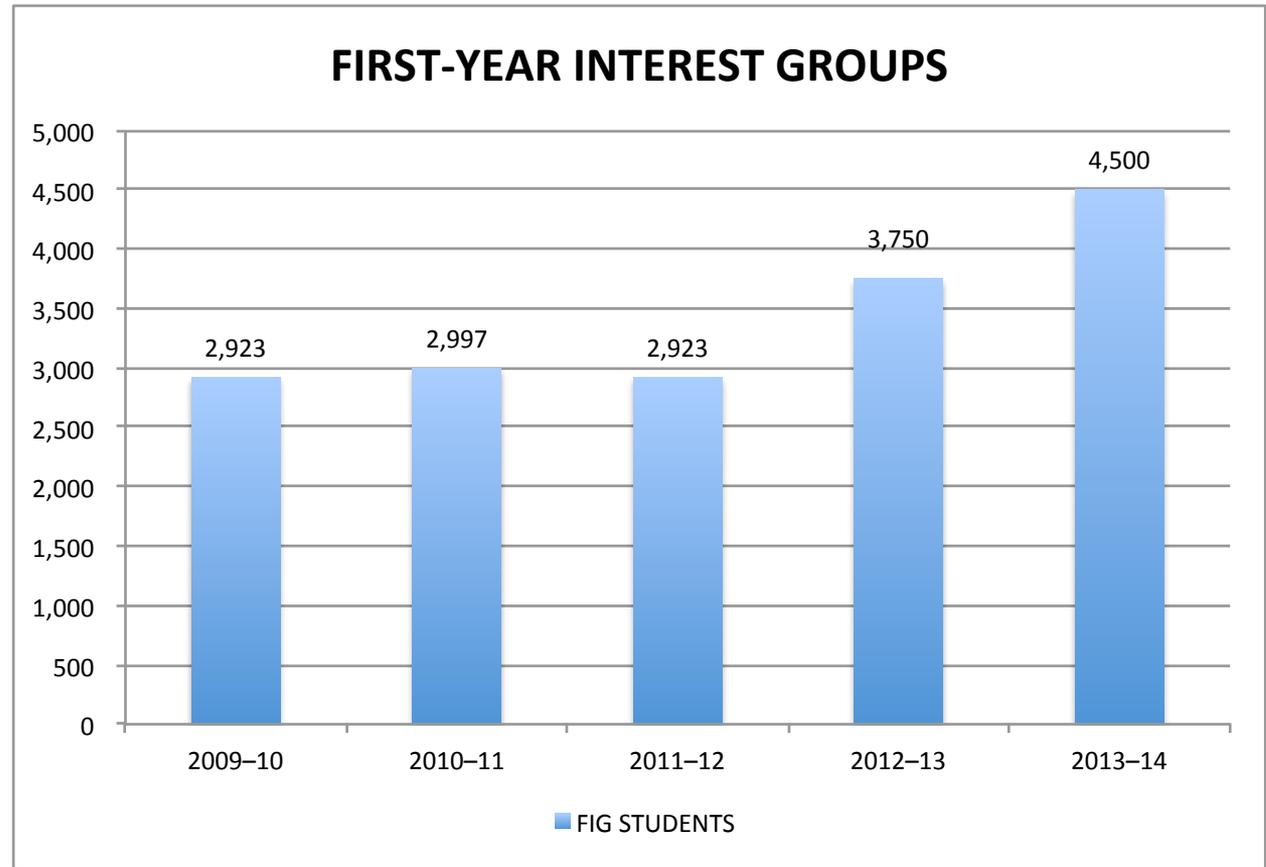
Core curriculum



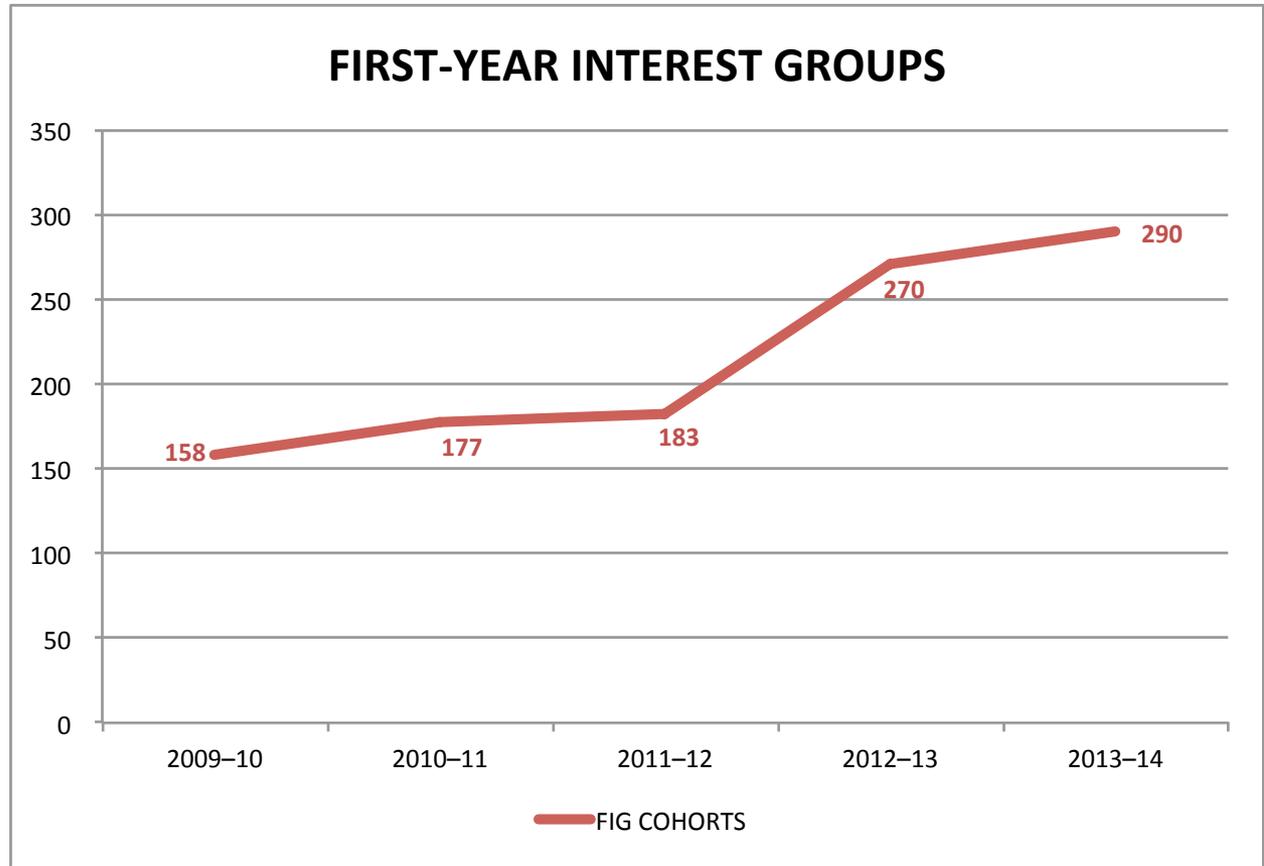
Core curriculum



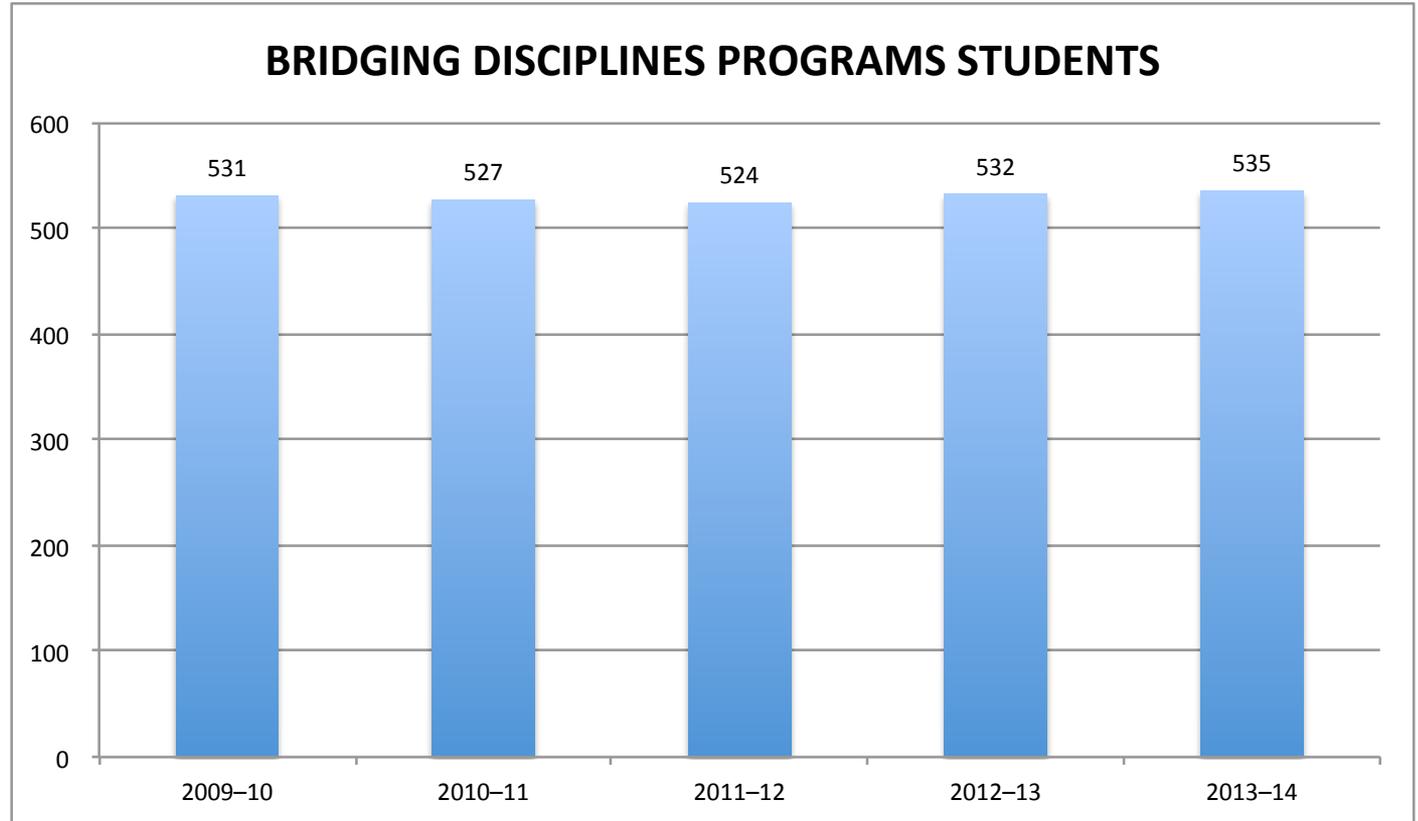
Academic support



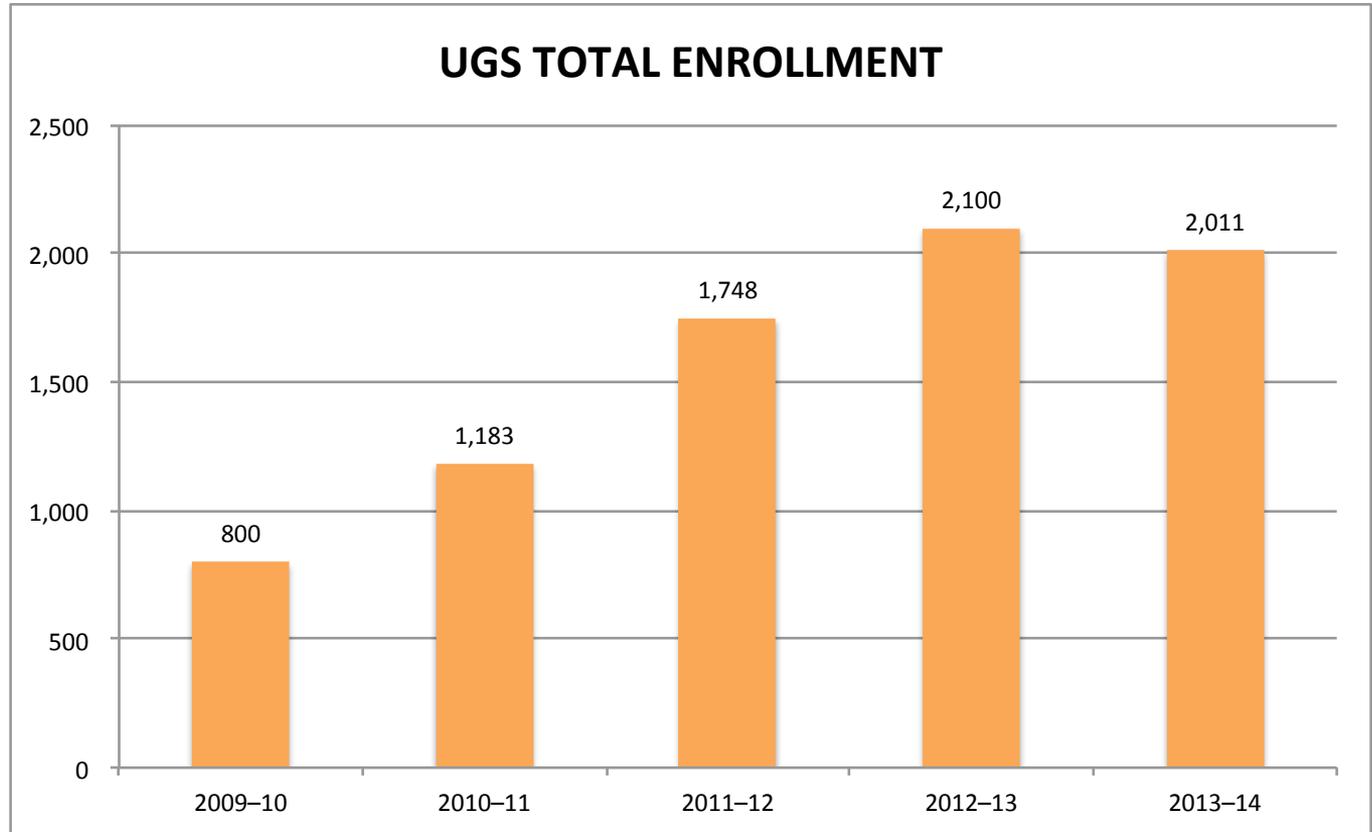
Academic support



Academic initiatives



Initial home



Why UGS?



“The School of Undergraduate Studies provides the tools for a successful college experience and gives you a road map for navigating your future. With guidance from UGS staff, I was able to maximize my opportunities and steer towards a major in the McCombs School of Business.”

Dillon West

Major: Finance



“Undergraduate Studies gave me a chance to analyze several majors. I liked not having to jump into something when I first started college. Once I took a course in neurophysiology, I decided to declare neurobiology as my major because I was fascinated with the nervous system.”

Caleb Jones

Major: Neurobiology



“UGS allowed me to make an informed and intelligent decision about my major. Without UGS, it’s likely that I would have changed my major and interests multiple times and wasted an unfortunate amount of time that could have been better utilized.”

Emily Williams

Major: International Relations and Global Studies



Goals for 2014

- Maximize implementation of flags for the 14-16 catalog
- Focus on pioneering better academic assessment in all our programs. Benchmark our performance and set achievable goals for adding value to the academic preparation of all undergraduates
- Create a new type of student support program within the Discovery Scholars



Goals for 2014

Maximize implementation of flags for the 2014-16 catalog

The UGS Advisory Committee voted in 2012 that all undergraduate degree programs require all flags beginning in the 14-16 catalog.

- 6 colleges / schools fully implemented all of the flags
- 4 colleges / schools have implemented all except the 3rd writing flag



Goals for 2014

Maximize implementation of flags for the 2014-16 catalog

The UGS Advisory Committee voted in 2012 that all undergraduate degree programs require all flags beginning in the 14-16 catalog.

- Only Liberal Arts and Natural Sciences have not yet required all of the flags.
I will be working with both to figure out how best to implement the remaining flags in the 2016-18 catalog.



Goals for 2014

Maximize implementation of flags for the 2014-16 catalog

We now have sufficient capacity for the entire campus to implement the requirements

2013-14 SEATS TAKEN	REQUIREMENT AREA
17,738	Cultural Diversity
21,164	Global Cultures
16,473	Ethics and Leadership
10,634	Independent Inquiry
47,189	Quantitative Reasoning
31,356	Writing

Goals for 2014

Focus on pioneering better academic assessment in all our programs. Benchmark our performance and set achievable goals for adding value to the academic preparation of all undergraduates

- Continue comprehensive assessment of Signature Courses, focusing on communication/writing. This resulted in high praise from the most recent SACS institutional review team
- Assess implementation of the Ethics and Leadership flag in GOV 312L
- Launch assessment of core curriculum, reviewing two core areas each year beginning 2014-15

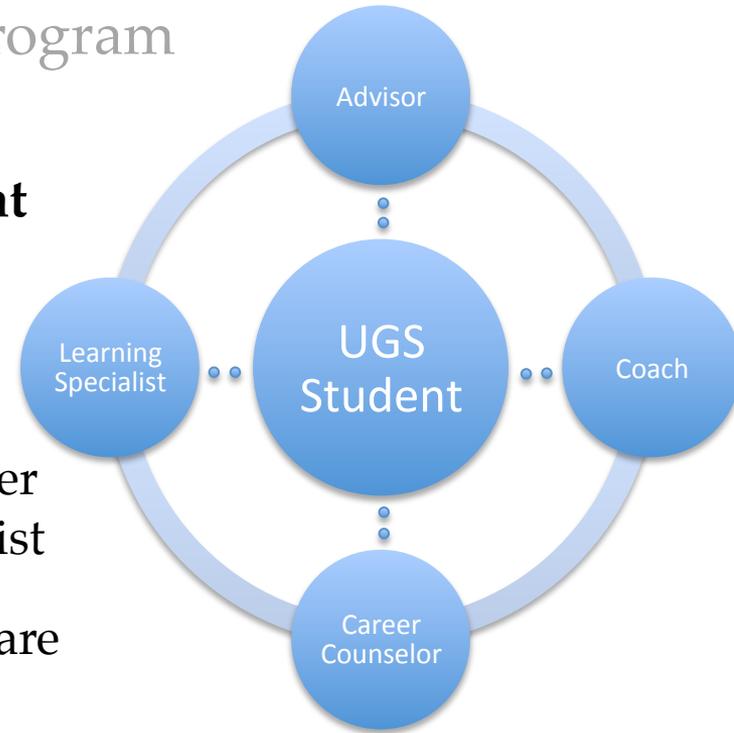


Goals for 2014

Create a new type of student support program within the Discovery Scholars

New way of managing student support that combines our best resources

- Each Discovery Scholar works with the same team members all year: Discovery Scholars coach, Vick Center academic advisor and career counselor, and Sanger Center learning specialist
- Team meets regularly to share info and compare notes on each student



Goals for 2015

- Flags required in every degree plan, with exception of 3rd writing flag
- Continue to expand academic assessment efforts in all programs, with focus on full assessment of core curriculum
- Create a new Transfer Year Experience program
- Change how we communicate with students. More frequent, more focused, and via phone and tablet



Reflections on my first year in UGS

The vision of Bill Power's Task Force on Curricular Reform, a reimagined core curriculum, is being realized.

Signature courses, Flags, and FIGS are adding significant and documented value to the academic experiences of all undergraduates.

As UT's infrastructure for academic change, the School of Undergraduate Studies stands ready to implement new ideas generated by sources like the provost's Campus Conversations with faculty.

