



O



2017

SEE YOURSELF IN A FIG

UNIVERSITY OF  
OREGON

SIGN UP FOR FIGS ON MAY 15 AT [DUCKWEB.UOREGON.EDU](http://DUCKWEB.UOREGON.EDU)



# FIGs: First-Year Interest Groups

Beginning **May 15, 2017**,

choose your FIG at  
[duckweb.uoregon.edu](http://duckweb.uoregon.edu).

Once you've submitted  
your Intent to Register  
form, accompanied by  
your advance tuition  
deposit, you are eligible  
to reserve your space in  
one of our many FIGs.

Requests will be accepted  
until spaces are filled.

The online option will end  
on or before **June 9, 2017**.

## WHAT IS A FIG?

One of the best ways to get the most out of your time at the university is to join a **first-year interest group** (FIG) during fall term. FIGs bring groups of 20 freshman students together for a unique academic experience. FIG students take three courses together during fall term: two lecture courses and a 1-credit College Connections course.

FIGs are all about making connections! In a FIG, first-year students

- connect with faculty members
- connect with an undergraduate mentor
- connect to academic courses from different disciplines
- connect with an academic theme
- connect with peers
- connect with the campus and the Eugene community

Being part of a FIG enhances the overall college experience and sets freshmen on a path to success. Students who start out in a FIG earn significantly higher grades throughout their first year and beyond, and are more likely to graduate in four years.

Each FIG has its own theme to ensure that students' personal interests align well with the FIG's academic topic. For fall 2017 we have more than 50 FIGs—something for everyone!



**THE COURSES IN A FIG WILL COUNT TOWARD YOUR  
OVERALL DEGREE, NO MATTER WHAT MAJOR YOU CHOOSE.**



# GET INVOLVED:

▶ ***FIG assistants welcoming freshmen to campus during Week of Welcome***

*FIG assistants are current undergraduate students who serve as mentors. They provide guidance, academic expertise, and access to resources for students in each FIG.*

# JOIN A FIG

## ***Getting to know the faculty is important!***

*In your academic and professional career, letters of recommendation from faculty members are invaluable for study-abroad opportunities, scholarships, and even job applications. The small size of the College Connections course will help you build a relationship with your instructors, which means recommendations will be much more personal.*

## **WHAT HAPPENS IN A COLLEGE CONNECTIONS CLASS?**

A College Connections seminar is a 1-credit academic course in which students delve in to the FIG theme through projects and assignments specific to the FIG. Freshmen work with the other FIG students, the College Connections faculty, and the undergraduate FIG assistant (FA). In addition, FIG students participate in informal out-of-class activities such as dinner with faculty members, field trips, and explorations of campus and the Eugene community.

Typically the College Connections instructor also teaches one of the lecture courses in the FIG. This means that in the small, 20-student FIG setting, freshmen are able to work closely with a faculty member. The College Connections faculty are some of the best on campus, and they truly want to be involved with first-year students.

The College Connections faculty members teach topics they are passionate about and employ innovative methods to involve students in the content of both FIG courses. Their campus experience and academic position equip them to help students find their best path both in and out of the classroom.

What makes a FIG experience even more unique is the undergraduate FIG assistant (FA), who plays a vital role in the College Connections class. The FA works closely with the faculty member to plan an academically engaging experience in the College Connections course. They not only promote peer-to-peer connections but also offer extensive expertise and insight into how students can make the most of their time at the University of Oregon.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN STUDY ABROAD? WORKING IN A RESEARCH LAB? LEARNING ABOUT CLUBS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ON CAMPUS? HAVING ACADEMIC SUPPORT? JOIN A FIG!**

FINDING THE FIG



# FOR YOU

## ***Hip-Hop and the Politics of Race***

**MUS 360** Hip-Hop Music: History, Culture, Aesthetics

**ES 101** Introduction to Ethnic Studies

**MUS 199** Special Studies: College Connections

*Students organize an annual hip-hop jam with musicians, dancers, poets, and artists.*



While each FIG is distinct (with different course pairings and academic topics), FIGs are grouped together by overarching themes into nine categories. Find themes that interest you, and then start exploring your FIG options online!



**Art of Storytelling:** Make sense of the world around us through stories and art



**Becoming Human:** Discover our humanity through science



**Breaking Barriers:** Investigate how different perspectives shape communities



**Culture in Review:** Examine cultures and subcultures through a discerning lens



**Going Green:** Delve into how we affect the environment and how it affects us



**Limelight:** Explore creative impulses through the arts



**Passport to Adventure:** Explore a region and start on your path to studying abroad



**Science and Society:** Solve problems and make an impact on the world through science



**World Happenings:** Investigate life outside of the United States



**FIG OPTIONS WILL BE POSTED AT [FYP.UOREGON.EDU](http://fyp.uoregon.edu) ON APRIL 17, 2017.**





# SIGN UP!

*Chemistry FIG enrollment will **not** take place online in May. You can join a Chemistry FIG at IntroDUCKtion after you have met with an advisor.*

*Remember to take your mathematics placement test before coming to IntroDUCKtion. Your advisor will use the test score to help you select the right chemistry track.*

Requesting a FIG in May allows you to ensure enrollment in two courses that will secure half of your fall term schedule—all before coming to IntroDUCKtion! A FIG guarantees you a seat in popular courses and gives you access to a small class with an outstanding instructor.

## **THREE EASY STEPS TO A GREAT FALL TERM**

### **Step 1: Explore FIG Options**

Check out FIG options starting April 17, 2017, at [fyp.uoregon.edu](http://fyp.uoregon.edu). From our homepage, click on **First-Year Interest Groups (FIG)**, then **Finding the FIG for You**.

### **Step 2: Sign Up!**

FIG registration begins May 15, 2017, at 4:00 p.m., Pacific time. Log on to DuckWeb and sign up for a FIG under the Student Menu. FIGs fill quickly, so act soon!

### **Step 3: Complete Your Fall Schedule**

When you come to IntroDUCKtion in the summer, you'll meet with an advisor to review your FIG selection and choose additional courses to complete your schedule.

Follow FIGs on

- > Instagram: [uofigs](#)
- > Twitter: [@uofigs](#)
- > Facebook: [First-Year Programs](#)



**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES,  
CONTACT THE ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION CENTER: [UOaec@uoregon.edu](mailto:UOaec@uoregon.edu).**

# SEE YOURSELF IN A FIG



## ***Food & the Garden***

**LA 260** Understanding Landscapes

**ENVS 225** Introduction to Food Studies

**LA 199** Special Studies: College Connections

*FIG students spend class time working on the UD's Urban Farm.*

What unique opportunities and experiences do students have when they decide to join a FIG? The Portable Life Museum FIG, offered in fall 2016, and now in fall 2017, is highlighted here. Each FIG experience is unique, but all FIGs make connections!

### **Portable Life Museum**

AAD 252 Art and Gender

ART 101 Understanding Contemporary Media

AAD 199 Special Studies: College Connections

**College Connections:** Portable Life Museum explores art worlds and the intersection of personal and cultural identity through creative journaling, discussions around course readings, and the development of a body of work that advances students in their academic and personal writing, reflective and critical analysis skills, and tools for creative process and research. (1 credit)

**FIG Theme–Making Academic Connections:** Students created their own “portable life museum” as a tool to understand issues of art, culture, and identity in their own life using a guided creative and research process. Inspired by the 2016 Common Reading (Ta-Nehisi Coates’ *Between the World and Me*), students created an art exhibit they titled “Our Bodies, Our Country, Our World,” which explored themes from the book surrounding questions of identity, inclusion, and (in)visibility. An opening reception was held and the exhibit was on display for two months.

**Further Academic Connections:** To help draw inspiration for their final art project, FIG students attended the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art’s *African American Artists Respond to Ta-Nehisi Coates* exhibit. The artwork

in the exhibit was chosen to reflect the autobiographical nature of Coates’ book, with visual narratives exploring what it means to be Black in the United States.

FIG students also attended a local exhibit titled *Rails through Eugene: A Black History Connection* at the Lane County Historical Museum. This exhibit was created to give a history of the Oregon Electric Railway and provide insight into the lives of African Americans that worked in the industry.

The FIG went to the 23rd annual Dia de los Muertos show at Maude Kerns Art Center, where artwork, altars, music, and traditional dancing were on display. The students had the opportunity to interact with the artists, and meet individuals from all over the world.

**Making Connections with Faculty Members and Peers:** The FIG members went to a local farm’s pumpkin patch, attended a play together, shared pizza, and watched *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* on campus.

**FIG Hunters:** The Portable Life Museum FIG was active in the annual FIG Hunters Scavenger Hunt. Students completed tasks such as attending a concert with other FIG students, racing rubber ducks in a puddle, and volunteering in the Eugene community.

FIG Hunters is all about having fun and getting connected to resources, the community, and others during the fall term. All FIG students are welcome to join the hunt, where they are challenged to think outside the box, get creative, and possibly win prizes. For more information, visit [fyp.uoregon.edu/content/events-and-resources](http://fyp.uoregon.edu/content/events-and-resources).



# FAQS

*If you are coming to the UO with transfer credit, be mindful to select a FIG that has courses you do **not** have credit for. Common courses we see transfer credit for include history, political science, and psychology.*

**What are challenge FIGs?** Challenge FIGs give students a distinct academic experience. One of the courses in each challenge FIG is at the intermediate 300 level. Class sizes are smaller than the courses in many of the other FIGs, which encourages motivated students to explore subjects in greater depth.

**Should I register for a FIG if I'm coming to IntroDUCKtion?** Yes, as soon as possible. First-year interest groups have limited space and we register students in the order we receive requests. Some FIGs fill even before IntroDUCKtion begins. We will save your space by enrolling you in the two lecture courses and the College Connections course.

**What if I can't come to IntroDUCKtion?** Then a FIG is an excellent choice for you! If you can't attend IntroDUCKtion, reserve your space in a FIG and the associated courses online now for next fall.

**Can I change my mind later about the FIG I'm requesting?** Yes. When you meet with your academic advisor, you can stay in the FIG in which you've been enrolled, choose another, or decide not to be in a FIG. FIGs are not required, but choosing a FIG now provides a framework that you can build on or revise when you come to campus.

**May I take only one of the courses in the FIG?** No. FIGs are composed of two lecture courses and a College Connections course. Students in the FIG learn to think across disciplines by exploring the related themes of the two courses.

**What if I already have Advanced Placement (AP) or college credit for one of the courses in the FIG?** The registrar has a no-repeat policy. If you already have credit for one or more courses in the FIG, you will have to take a different FIG.

**Should international students request a FIG online?** No. You will meet with an academic advisor during International Student Orientation before choosing a FIG.

**What FIGs should science students take?** Biology, chemistry, environmental science, or human physiology majors should choose a FIG that includes chemistry. Enrollment in Chemistry FIGs takes place at IntroDUCKtion, after your advisor has used your mathematics placement score to help you select the chemistry track that is right for you.





On average, FIG students have an

11%

higher four-year graduation rate compared to their UO peers.



**Can students who major in music or dance take FIGs?** Students in the music degree program should consult with an advisor before requesting a FIG. Dance majors may take any FIG.

**What if I'm a student in the Robert D. Clark Honors College?** To avoid duplicating course work, honors college students may enroll in only one FIG online in May. This FIG is called Carnegie Global Oregon, and is open to students interested in ethics. If you are planning to major in a science and are interested in joining a FIG, we encourage you to see us at IntroDUCKtion.

**What about students seeking a bachelor of architecture degree?** If you have already been admitted to the program leading to the BArch degree, follow its highly structured curriculum instead of taking a FIG.

**Can students in the Undergraduate Support Program enroll in FIGs?** No. Your advisor will contact you directly about the FIG-like course of study that has been designed for you.

**What FIG should an education premajor choose?** If you'd like to enter elementary education, we encourage you to choose a FIG with a science course. For middle or secondary education, find a FIG related to your possible major.

**Which FIGs do you recommend for journalism and business premajors?** Any FIG will work, and your advisor will help you plan for the introductory courses in your major.

**What is the Carnegie Global Oregon (CGO) FIG?** The Carnegie Global Oregon FIG is the only FIG that continues for three terms. After the fall FIG courses, students enroll in 1-credit seminars in winter and spring to continue exploring the CGO theme. The majority of CGO students remain active in this vibrant learning community throughout their years at the university. This provides a supportive mix for sophomores, juniors, and seniors who meet weekly for class and a meal to explore areas of ethical concern. For more information, visit [carnegieglobal.uoregon.edu](http://carnegieglobal.uoregon.edu).



Go to the **See Yourself in a FIG** section on page 10 for additional information on FIG Hunters.

Online request for FIGs May 15, 2017, 4:00 p.m.

Now that you're ready to start your educational adventure at the University of Oregon, choose a FIG at **[duckweb.uoregon.edu](http://duckweb.uoregon.edu)**.



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