

UNI 100: Freshman First Class: Class Leader FAQs

This unique opportunity allows you to get to know members of our incoming first-year class while serving as a valuable resource to them during the critical transition time of the beginning of their first semester of college. If you have not been a Class Leader before, you may have some questions about what to expect, so the Class Leader & Training workgroup has prepared this handout to address the questions people often have about the Class Leader experience. You are also encouraged to contact any Class Leader & Training workgroup members with additional questions or concerns.

What if I have zero teaching experience? Can I still be a Class Leader? Will I be an effective Class Leader?

Teaching experience is not a prerequisite to facilitate UNI 100. The most effective Class Leaders are staff members passionate about assisting our first-year students during their initial transition to campus life. Don't worry if you've never been in front of a classroom – we will provide training before the start of the class.

How many first-year students can I expect to have in my class?

We strive to keep our section enrollments as low as possible so our first-year students can connect with a smaller, close-knit community on campus. Most sections will have 20-35 students, as determined by classroom availability.

What is a peer mentor, and how do I get one?

Peer mentors are advance-standing student volunteers who have expressed an interest in developing their personal leadership skills along with a desire to assist our newest Herd members during their first few weeks on campus. Together, you and the peer mentor can establish a successful experience for your UNI 100 section.

How much time is required before the semester? During the semester?

The time commitment is manageable, especially if you plan ahead. We require a couple of hours of the summer for training. We also ask Class Leaders to be available the entire Week of Welcome because we teach two sessions of UNI 100 during WOW, the week before the fall semester begins. You should also plan for 30 minutes of prep and one hour of class time each week for the seven weeks of the semester the course is offered.

Do I have to attend all WOW activities?

Class Leaders are not required to attend all WOW events; however, we require your presence at the Uni 100 class sessions, and we strongly encourage you to join us for Convocation.

Do I have to plan each week's activities, or will I be given "lesson plans"?

We'll provide you with detailed lesson plans for each class session. Each lesson plan will outline student learning outcomes, describe suggested activities, and provide materials such as handouts.

What if I want to do something different than what is in the UNI manual?

Each class session's topic is specifically developed to meet the needs of our transitioning students, so we ask that you follow the topics in the order they are presented in the manual. However, if you have ideas for ways to present the material to the students that are different than what is included in the manual, you have the freedom to implement those. And then please share them with the UNI 100 committee so they can be incorporated into future UNI classes!

What do I do if I can't attend one of the weekly class sessions?

If you have to miss a class session, please make sure your peer mentor knows ahead of time if possible. But, sometimes, life happens, and we can't plan for everything. This is where weekly prep meetings with your peer mentor come in handy. Also, reach out to your Uni 100 Class Leader contact for guidance.

Is it OK to say “I don’t know” to a student’s questions in order to research an answer? Will they think they have the worst Class Leader in the world?

An honest Class Leader is definitely not the “worst Class Leader in the world.” We understand that Class Leaders won’t know the answer to every question, so replying with “I don’t know” and finding the correct answer is the mark of a responsible Class Leader.

I have heard others talk about taking candy to class or little “extra” things. Will I be given a list of suggestions?

We will provide tips for success from previous Class Leaders during training sessions and within the prepared class manual given to all Class Leaders. We are unable to provide funding or reimbursement for these items.

How will I know if I was effective in the class?

We assess the student learning and Class Leader effectiveness in each UNI 100 section.

Will I give students grades at the end of the semester? UNI 100 is a graded course; Class Leaders are responsible for recording those grades at the end of the semester through myMU.

Will I receive any compensation for being a UNI Class Leader?

In addition to the personal satisfaction that comes from helping students, if funding permits, Class Leaders will receive \$100 of Herd Points on their Marshall ID. These points can be used in the MU Bookstore, dining facilities, and campus Starbucks. This stipend is taxable, and the taxes will be deducted from your regular paycheck. The tax amount will vary based on your individual tax status.

Have questions that weren’t answered here? Contact a member of the UNI 100 Class Leader Workgroup

Class Leader Recruiting, Applications, and general questions throughout the seven weeks:

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