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School of Engineering - Freshman Seminar

Freshman Seminars is an excellent way to help new freshmen make the transition to university life.

From Harvard to Berkeley, major research universities have discovered that establishing a program of freshman seminars is an excellent way to help new freshmen make the transition to university life. While large lecture classes with teaching assistant-led sections continue to be the norm for the freshman year, freshman seminars give new students the chance to get to know a faculty member personally at the beginning of the student's academic career and to study a topic in depth with a small group of peers. Benefits of freshman seminars to both faculty and students include:

- helping some students decide on a major;
- helping faculty recruit students into their major;
- beginning an association that leads to a faculty letter of reference at the end of the undergraduate career.

Faculty consistently enjoy the opportunity either build a seminar around an aspect of their research or to deal with an academic topic of interest to them but outside their customary field. Freshman seminars are normally one-credit and offered on a Pass/No Pass basis only.