

Frequently asked questions * AIMS Learning Communities

What are linked courses and their benefits?

Linked courses are class sections with spaces reserved just for AIMS community members. In *addition* to the other courses you choose to take in your first semester, you will be automatically enrolled in three common courses with other members of the AIMS program in your first semester:

- (1) FIGS: Exploring Careers in Science (1 credit)
- (2) Precalculus College Mathematics or Intermediate Algebra (depending on placement test results)
- (3) Expository Writing (3 credits) (depending on placement test results)

Linked courses help to create a sense a community that you can rely on. Seeing the same familiar faces in class makes it easier to form study groups, ask questions and make friends.

Is there a fee for joining this learning community?

There is no fee for joining this learning community! You will get all the added benefits of the AIMS program at no extra cost!

Do the AIMS residential learning community students get to live with other first year students?

Yes! AIMS residential students will either live in Perry Hall on Cook campus or Metzger Hall on the Busch campus. Your roommate will be an AIMS member and your floor will be all first year students in the program. Other floors in your residential hall will be first year students not in the program.

Are there extra course requirements for this learning community?

The only extra course required for this learning community is the 1 credit pass/no credit course, FIGS: Exploring Careers in the Sciences for the fall semester. This is a transition course and is meant to help students get acclimated to both the AIMS program and Rutgers University. It only meets once a week for ten weeks in the fall semester. Other than this one course in the fall semester, there are no extra course requirements!

What is FIGS?

A First-year Interest Group Seminar (FIGS) is a one-credit course graded Pass/No-Credit. It is offered to first-year students for 10 weeks in the fall semester to provide opportunities to explore careers in the sciences. Under the guidance of a trained Peer Instructor, who is an upperclass student pursuing a science or math major, students in each FIGS explore options within a major or topic and meet faculty, staff, and alumni working or performing research in that area. FIGS courses are very popular with students as they enjoy connecting with each other and with their Peer Instructor.

Additionally, students in each FIGS practice problem-solving skills, gain insight into the pursuit of academic/career interests, and learn how to tap into the resources of the University. Each FIGS

section is limited to 25 students in order to facilitate an intimate educational experience, lively participation in class, trips/ tours around campus, and group projects.

Are there extra programs I would be required to attend?

There will be a special AIMS orientation on Friday August 28, 2009, one day prior to regular new student orientation that you will have to attend.

Supplementary programs will be offered to all AIMS students but these are **not** mandatory. They are there for those students who truly want to pursue an interest in a particular area. For example, last year anatomy lab and spinal cord field trips were offered to those students who expressed an interest in these topics.

Are tutoring services offered as part of this learning community?

Yes! A math tutor will come once a week to the residential halls to provide tutoring services to AIMS students. Although the tutor will come to the residential hall, it is in no way exclusive to the residential students. AIMS commuters are encouraged to get help at these times and locations as well. In addition, writing workshops will be offered.

What is the time commitment?

With the exception of the special orientation in the fall on Friday August 28th and the course FIGS: Exploring Careers in the Sciences, there is no time commitment for the program.

How does joining this learning community impact my first year experience?

The goal of the AIMS Program is to enrich your first year experience and give you additional resources for which you can pursue your careers. It will create meaningful bonds among your peers and foster friendships!

What do students who were part of the community feel about the program?

"The most beneficial part is having so many people in my building that are in the same classes as me." – anonymous

"It gave me more information about what I have to do for certain majors and showed me the careers I can get from a certain major." – anonymous

"AIMS has been a great first year experience for me and helped me decide what I really wanted for my college career and what I can get from it." – anonymous

"I think it is helpful for all 1st year students who are thinking about the math or science field. Mainly in science though." – anonymous

When do I find out if I am enrolled in the program and how do I get more information?

Your application will be reviewed and confirmation of placement into the program will be by July 15, 2009. E-mail rulc@echo.rutgers.edu with questions. For additional information about the AIMS visit the following:

Living-Learning Communities: <http://rulc.rutgers.edu/aims.shtml>

Commuter Program <http://rulc.rutgers.edu/aimsco.shtml>