

Straight from the Provost (September 26, 2022):

In recent weeks, I have been engaged in numerous conversations with various stakeholders about pausing the requirement of the First Year Seminar (FYS) beginning next academic year. Deans have reported that, at this time, many of their academic departments do not have the instructional capacity to offer enough courses for their majors and staff the FYS program, which includes over 80 sections campus-wide. This decision was made through a collaborative process that involved discussions with and feedback from the Deans, LeaRN, Faculty Senate, and Student Affairs, as well as a recommendation from Vice Provost Barrett in his role as the USP Coordinator, following the procedures laid out in UW Regulation 2-105, IV, D. His recommendation can be found [here](#). Please know that I don't take this decision lightly – there is much to admire and celebrate about the FYS. However, resources cannot support our delivery of it on such a large scale for the near future. Although FYS will not be required in Academic Year 2023-24, departments and programs that have sufficient instructional capacity may continue to offer their FYS classes and students may choose to take those courses for their general education requirements. They will also have the option of choosing an alternative course to meet the requirement. We will work with departments, colleges, and advisors to help students entering AY 2023-24 understand their choices and make decisions about substituting another USP-designated course, if needed, to meet our HLC accreditation standard of 30 credit hours of general education. I also plan to appoint an ad hoc committee to review the FYS and make recommendations on how the program can be restructured to meet the needs of our students within the context of resources that are available to us.