

FAQ on First-Time Freshmen Block Enrollment

1. What's block enrollment?

In the Summer of 2015, UW's Board of Trustees asked us to consider ways that will help us manage our enrollment growth and instructional resources in a more predictable way. One of the concepts they endorsed was the idea of reserving seats for incoming freshmen in key, portable-across-majors University Studies courses. Not all students will be included in this exercise – FIG's, Power Groups, and Honors students, among others, will have other needs.

2. How does this work?

The first year of deployment – this summer –we'll be offering students several block options at Orientation when they register. Each block will contain one or two courses, including; First-Year Seminar and ENGL 1010 or a V course. Students will choose their block option when they register for the first time. After that, they can register in additional courses. In addition, Chemistry will be holding some seats in CHEM 1020 to assist those students who show up at later orientations – given the fact that CHEM 1020 is needed in the first semester for more than 30 of our majors, this should help ease registration for those majors.

3. Is this just Sure Start on a larger scale?

The idea is very like SureStart, but is portable to any major. The reason for moving to this model is that SureStart is an outstanding model but is underutilized currently. More students will be able to have reserved seating with this pilot project.

Underutilization of SureStart

Term	Reserved Seats	Utilized Seats	Percent
Fall 2010	420	296	70.5
Fall 2011	952	572	60.1
Fall 2012	398	229	57.5
Fall 2013	531	352	66.3
Fall 2014	646	342	52.9
Fall 2015	557	306	54.9

Total number of students who will be pre-enrolled or will use block enrollment

Program	Students
FIGS	250
Honors	180
Power Groups (Engineering)	120
Synergy	370
Block Enrollment	680
Total Average Entering Freshman Class	1600

4. How does this effect the number of seats we'll see in advising our students?

The Office of the Registrar will be putting seats into a reserved-seating bucket that will make it look like there are fewer seats on the public market for students. For example, if there are 24 seats in a section of FYS, the Registrar may hold 20 of them for students at Orientation, making them visible only in blocks in June. After July 4, those seats not taken will go back on the open market. The same goes for the other courses that are in this pilot project.

5. How will this evolve over the next year or so?

We hope to work with you over the next year to implement an inclusive version of this that will provide block options with more classes that are specific to majors. If this pilot project works out, you'll be tapped for more information. Stay tuned!