

Gen Fac Report Spring 2025 New Student Programs (NSP)

Data for Appendix:

First Year Seminar

In Fall 2024, NSP supported 2,277 students across 84 in-person sections and 1 online asynchronous section of the First Year Seminar (FYS 1000), assisted by 82 peer mentors and 70 facilitators. Academic outcomes remained strong, with 95% of students passing the course, 4% receiving an R (Repeat), and 2% withdrawing. In Spring 2025, 133 students are enrolled in 5 in-person sections and 1 online asynchronous section. This semester, three sections are piloting a new FYS curriculum designed to introduce students to academic inquiry. The pilot follows a faculty-led lecture and peer-mentor-led discussion format, allowing students to engage with different disciplinary perspectives while building essential academic skills through discussion, reflection, and collaborative activities. The goal is to enhance critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and students' sense of connection to the Baruch community. The pilot is supported by one faculty member and six peer mentors.

Transfer Student Network

The Transfer Student Network (TSN) continued to provide valuable support for new transfer students. Fall 2024 marked the final semester in which students opted in to participate, with 257 transfer students working with 28 peer mentors and 1 Executive Peer Mentor. Beginning in Spring 2025, all incoming transfer students were automatically enrolled in TSN and assigned a peer mentor, expanding the program's reach. This semester, 32 peer mentors are supporting 879 new transfer students, providing guidance and connection during their transition to Baruch.

Transfer Student Success Portal

Since its launch on September 12, 2024, through the end of the Fall 2024 semester, the Transfer Student Success Portal on Brightspace has experienced strong engagement, with 1,335 learners accessing the homepage and 765 students engaging with the content modules. The discussion forums have seen notable participation, with 905 reads, 108 threads created, and 22 replies posted. In total, the portal recorded 8,926 content visits and 3,100 visits to the discussion tool, reflecting active use by new transfer students. Overall, these indicators highlight the successful implementation of the portal, effectively promoting engagement and contributing to the academic and personal success of transfer students at Baruch.

Orientation

Winter Orientation was held over four days in January, welcoming both first year and transfer students to a shared experience. A total of 686 students attended, selecting from one of four interactive sessions led by campus partners: Who's.the.BOSS¿Navigating.Campus.Like.a.Boss (Baruch One Stop Shop), The.Game.of.College.Life (Student Academic Consulting Center & Writing Center), Play.Ball (Office of Student Life & Baruch Athletics), and Planning.and.Branding (Starr Career Development Center). Survey feedback highlighted the success of the program, with students particularly enjoying the 'choose your own adventure' format, which allowed them to personalize their experience while exploring campus. The orientation successfully introduced students to key staff and services, helped them develop productive habits, and created a welcoming and engaging environment. Survey results reflected this impact, with 90% of students agreeing that orientation helped them learn about campus resources, 77% saying it helped them connect with other students, 76% feeling more prepared for their first semester, 73% finding the program to be a valuable use of their time, and 76% reporting that they felt more like a member of the Baruch community.