

Gen Fac Report Fall 2025 New Student Programs (NSP)

Appendix:

First Year Seminar Spring 2025

In Spring 2025, the Office of New Student Programs (NSP) supported 128 students across five in-person sections and one online asynchronous section of the First Year Seminar (FYS 1000), assisted by eight peer mentors. Across all sections, 84% of students passed the course, 12% received an R (Repeat), 3% withdrew, and 2% received a WN.

During the semester, a new version of the FYS 1000 curriculum was piloted in three sections, all led by Benjamin Gillespie (Communication Studies). The pilot introduced students to the concept of academic inquiry through a blended model combining faculty-led lectures with peer-mentor-led discussions and activities. This structure allowed students to explore different disciplinary perspectives while developing essential academic skills such as critical thinking, reflection, and collaboration. Pass rates for the pilot (85%) were consistent with those across all FYS sections. NSP staff met weekly with peer mentors for feedback and planning to support implementation and gather insights to inform future expansion of the model.

Peer Mentor/Orientation Leader Recruitment

The New Student Programs peer mentor team has experienced significant growth over the past year. This expansion was driven by the inclusion of all new transfer students in the Transfer Student Network and the continued growth of the First Year Seminar pilot, which places two peer mentors in each section. To strengthen support for the mentors themselves, NSP introduced new positions of Mentor Coaches, adding an additional layer of peer leadership and guidance.

The current team includes 5 Executive Peer Mentors, 6 Mentor Coaches, 53 mentors supporting the classic version of the FYS 1000 curriculum, 58 mentors supporting the FYS 1000 pilot and small groups of transfer students, and 25 mentors working exclusively with the Transfer Student Network. During the summer orientation season, the team was further supported by 30 Orientation Leaders and 3 Orientation Leader Managers. In total, over 180 student leaders now serve across the Office of New Student Programs.

Recruitment efforts for these positions were highly competitive, with more than 250 applications received. The office conducted two Super Day interview events during the spring semester, followed by a months-long selection and onboarding process to assemble the final team.

Transfer Student Initiatives

The Transfer Student Network (TSN) continued to provide comprehensive support for new transfer students. Spring 2025 marked the first semester in which all incoming transfer students were automatically matched with a peer mentor during their first semester at Baruch. In total, 38 peer mentors supported 876 new transfer students throughout the term. New transfer students also continued to access the Transfer Student Success Portal on Brightspace, which features tailored content, weekly newsletters highlighting campus events and opportunities, and weekly videos from peer mentors offering guidance on navigating Baruch College life.

In Fall 2025, TSN continues to support all new transfer students through a refined support model. Peer mentors participating in the First Year Seminar pilot will each work with ten transfer students in addition to their thirty FYS students, while a dedicated team of TSN peer mentors will each support between 30 and 40 mentees. In total, 87 peer mentors across the NSP team will be working with approximately 1,400 new transfer students. Programming is also planned for National Transfer

Gen Fac Report Fall 2025 New Student Programs (NSP)

Student Week, which will take place from October 20–24, featuring events designed to foster connection, community, and visibility for the transfer student experience.

Orientation Summer 2025

Four mini-orientations were held in June for first-year students, with a total of 474 participants. An additional eleven full-day orientation programs were held in July and August for both first-year and transfer students, serving 1,823 first-year students and 931 transfer students.

Survey results from Summer 2025 indicate that the program successfully met its core goals of fostering student agency, belonging, and college readiness in a welcoming environment. Students expressed high satisfaction with the “choose your own adventure” format, noting that it provided flexibility, meaningful opportunities to connect with peers and staff, and an engaging way to explore campus. Among first-year respondents, 74% reported that orientation helped them feel more prepared for their first semester at Baruch, 76% said it helped them connect with other students, and 82% agreed that participating in the program was a valuable use of their time.

Convocation 2025

On August 25, Baruch College welcomed nearly 2,600 first-year students and 150 transfer students to campus for Convocation. Students were seated across 22 large lecture halls and meeting spaces, with a live ceremony held in Room 14-220 and livestreamed to additional rooms across three buildings. The program featured formal remarks, an introduction to the Bearcat Commitment, and the launch of the Rep.Your.Roots campaign celebrating the diversity of the incoming class. Following the ceremony, students participated in the Baruch Beginnings workshop led by peer mentors, designed to foster reflection and connection within the first-year community. The afternoon concluded with a lively carnival on the plaza and the first floor of the Vertical Campus. Convocation day was supported by more than 120 peer mentors and volunteers and made possible through the collaboration and coordination of colleagues from 16 departments across the college.

First Year Seminar Fall 2025

In Fall 2025, the Office of New Student Programs (NSP) is supporting 83 sections of the First Year Seminar (FYS 1000). Of these, 51 sections follow the classic curriculum, each co-led by a facilitator and one peer mentor, while 32 sections follow the expanded pilot curriculum introduced in Spring 2025. The pilot sections are supported by two peer mentors each and meet every other week for faculty-led lectures focused on topics related to academic inquiry. The expanded pilot is led by Ken Abbott (Law), Rebecca Salois (Black and Latino Studies), David Neely (Philosophy), and Judith Kafka (Marx).

The 51 classic curriculum sections are taught by a diverse group of instructors representing the breadth of the college community: 11 sections are led by full-time faculty (4 from the Library, 6 from the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, and 1 from the Zicklin School of Business), 14 by adjunct lecturers, 6 by Academic Affairs staff, 13 by Student Affairs staff, 4 by Enrollment Management staff, and 2 by Advancement staff. The continued success of the First Year Seminar reflects a strong cross-college collaboration that brings the community together in support of student success.

Loss of Title V Grant

The Office of New Student Programs (NSP) was set to begin Year 2 of the Title V Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program grant on October 1. The grant supported efforts to redesign

Gen Fac Report Fall 2025 New Student Programs (NSP)

the First Year Seminar, expand peer mentorship opportunities, and strengthen pathways for community college students.

A few weeks before the start of the new grant year, the U.S. Department of Education unexpectedly announced the termination of all Minority-Serving Institution discretionary grant programs nationwide, including Title V. As a result, NSP was required to identify new funding sources to sustain essential components of its work. Peer mentor compensation was maintained through internal reallocations; however, other initiatives—including the Community College Peer Ambassador Program and Certified Peer Educator (CPE) training—were discontinued due to the loss of funding. The termination of Title V also resulted in the loss of funding for two full-time positions that were slated to be supported by the grant for the next four years. These two positions will be funded for a few months during the grant's No Cost Extension period.