First-Year Seminar for Everyone
Meeting the Needs of Incoming Students with Significant Credit Hours
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Background

- **42.5%** of first-year students brought in AP and/or dual credit hours in Fall 2014
- **6.66** credit hours were brought in, on average, by first-year students in Fall 2014
- **67** students entered TAMU-CC with 30+ credit hours
- **25** students entered TAMU-CC with 60+ credit hours
- **226** students did **not** take Seminar in Fall 2014

Problem

- Beginning in Fall 2015, **all** full-time first-year students will be required to take First-Year Seminar as a graduation requirement
- First-Year Seminar at TAMU-CC is traditionally taken as part of a learning community (two HIPs)
- Learning community options often do not work for students with significant credit hours

Solution

- “Freestanding” UCCP 1101 courses in Fall 2015
- Incorporation of an **alternative** High-Impact Practice

Freestanding UCCP 1101 SLOs

- Reflect and integrate learning from **outside** courses, including development of critical thinking skills, social and/or personal responsibility
- Interact with faculty and peers about substantive matters through daily activities and discussions
- Demonstrate competence of knowledge related to multiple disciplines in a public forum

Freestanding UCCP 1101 Topics

- Campus Resources (CASA/Writing Center, Bell Library, Disability Services, Counseling Center)
- College Transition (expectations, interacting with professors, time management, advising/registration)
- Just-in-time lessons based on student needs (note taking, group work, Blackboard, critical reading)

Freestanding UCCP 1101 Assignments

- Midterm and final reflections (or portfolios)
- Common Read activities and discussions ⇐ new HIP!
- Integrative project and First-Year Symposium presentation

References
