

## **First-Year General Education -- Information Literacy**

This component of the Information Literacy Program provides students with a foundation in information retrieval, evaluation, and use. Further development of the abilities emphasized in this area is expected throughout the curriculum

### **FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR INFORMATION LITERACY\***

1. In the first four weeks of the semester, recognizing the need for library use in the first weeks of the students' college experience, students receive, from the librarians, basic orientation for using the library resources for all of their college classes. After four weeks, students will demonstrate the following abilities:
  - a. Know the function of basic academic library service points: Reference and Circulation Desks; online search stations; reference collection; periodicals; and stacks.
  - b. Use the Murray Library homepage as a gateway to access essential library resources and information (e.g., library catalog, general periodical index).
  - c. Recognize academic research terminology (e.g., index, periodical, citation, abstract)
  - d. Identify key concepts of a selected topic.
  - e. Know basic search strategies (author, title, keyword, and phrase searching).
  - f. Use the Library's online catalog and at least one periodical index, to retrieve information.
  - g. Interpret bibliographic citations in order to locate the materials cited.
2. After completing First-Year Seminar, students will demonstrate the following abilities:
  - a. Define academic research terminology (e.g. index, periodical, citation, abstract)
  - b. Understand that materials not owned by one library can be obtained from other sources
  - c. Focus and articulate an information need.
  - d. Determine type(s) of materials appropriate to meeting an information need (e.g., currency, format)
  - e. Understand common search strategies that help narrow, broaden, or otherwise enhance their basic searching capabilities (e.g. the use of Boolean operators, differentiating keyword from subject searching).
  - f. Select the appropriate research database to find information on a topic.
  - g. Evaluate retrieved information, discerning its strengths, limitations and usefulness in relation to a topic.
  - h. Incorporate retrieved information into their own texts.
3. Concurrent with information literacy instruction, assignments are made that integrate course content with information literacy skills.
4. Information literacy instruction requires at least two 50-minute sessions, one session to be given in the first four weeks of the semester.
5. Students are required to pass a library competency test in order to pass First-Year Seminar. Students who fail to do so receive an Incomplete as a course grade.

\*From *First-Year Seminar Parameters*. Messiah College General Education Committee.

