

ADAMS STATE COLLEGE

FIGs

2011-2012

first year interest groups



*join a learning
community ...
become successful in
college and beyond!*

What Is A FIG?

The First-year Interest Group (FIG) program is a year-long initiative that creates a strong learning community for first year students—both in the classroom and in the residence halls. Belonging to a FIG is a great way for first-time students to meet other students and to build mentoring relationships with faculty and staff members.

Each FIG is based on a shared academic and social interest (i.e., adventure, art, business, Latino interests, theatre, etc.). Students in a FIG take courses together both semesters of their first year. The courses typically fulfill General Education or major requirements. Most FIG students also take a college transitions course (Academic Achievement Strategies, AAA101) specifically designed for Adams State students taught by Adams State professional staff, who provide significant guidance to the FIG students and help them connect with the college and link them with issues beyond college.

Students in FIGs are mentored by returning Adams State students who have successfully completed at least one year on campus. The FIG Mentors are trained to help students with questions or concerns that arise in the first year of college. FIG students are encouraged to live in a residence hall, along with the FIG Mentors.

Who Should Join A FIG?

Every incoming student should seriously look at joining a FIG! FIGs are open to any student who wants to enjoy the benefits of a learning community. Students who participate in learning communities do better in courses and are more likely to return to and graduate from college and be successful.



Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF FIGS?

Imagine arriving at Adams State College as a first-year student. You check into your residence hall and begin to meet people. On the first day of classes, you realize that many of the people around you have the same classes you do. All of a sudden, you are studying and socializing with a close group of friends also involved with the FIGs!

National research demonstrates that most students benefit from being in learning communities. At Adams State our FIGs offer multiple benefits:

- Getting to know students who share your interests—quickly!
- Developing academically-supportive relationships with students in your classes
- Receiving priority registration in FIG courses handled personally by the supportive and helpful staff at the SES office
- Sharing a learning community designed with YOU in mind!
- Developing a relationship with a FIG Mentor
- Participating in FIG-sponsored social and academic events in the residence hall
- Taking a FIG-sponsored (FIG-paid) off-campus field trip
- Accessing coordinated short-term volunteer opportunities to begin building resume or graduate school application
- Living with other FIG students in a residence hall

HOW DO FIGS WORK?

You will take classes each semester with other students in the same FIG. Each FIG group is assigned a FIG Mentor. FIG Mentors are returning Adams State students who have successfully completed at least one year on campus. They provide support and guidance both academically and socially. They also help design and select the weekly FIG sponsored events.

Participating in FIG-sponsored events is strongly encouraged. The more involved you are with the opportunities the program offers, the more satisfied you will be with your experience. To maintain priority registration status, students are expected to attend several events.



WHERE WILL I LIVE?

Where you live does NOT affect your opportunity to participate in a FIG. All first-year students are required to live on campus, but some exemptions are available. For information about housing issues, please call Residence Life at 719-587-7228.

Please indicate that you are a FIG student on your housing application. You may call housing to update your application if you have already submitted it.

WHAT IF I DON'T PLAN TO LIVE ON CAMPUS?

Off-campus students receive the same social and academic benefits as on-campus students: supportive relationships with students, staff and faculty, priority registration, helpful relationship with a FIG Mentor, and access to FIG-sponsored events and field trips.

HOW DO I CHOOSE A FIG?

It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Look over the FIGs Adams State will offer this year.
2. Choose a FIG that most fits your personal, academic and career goals, as well as two alternates.
3. Complete and mail-in the enclosed FIG application.

FIGs are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so the sooner you submit your application, the more likely you will get your first choice FIG.

DOES BEING IN A FIG COMMIT ME TO A MAJOR?

No way! Most FIGs are designed to allow you to pursue an existing academic interest or to explore a possible career field, but many of the courses also satisfy part of the Adams State College General Education Requirements. You are welcome to join a FIG simply to enjoy the benefits of a learning community.

Some majors have specific courses you need to take your first year, so speak with an advisor in that area. Those courses take priority and we try to fit the FIG you request around those courses.



HOW DO I REGISTER FOR CLASSES?

Once your FIG application is received, the SES staff will enroll you in the courses you indicate or call you to work out any scheduling issues. FIG classes have a set schedule, so the staff at SES will work the other classes you want around the FIG class, depending on availability and your chosen major. You will receive a printed copy of your schedule in the mail, along with a welcome to the program and a calendar of important events.

DO I HAVE TO REGISTER FOR ALL THE FIG CLASSES TO BE IN A FIG?

YES! The FIG classes are the basis for the learning communities and provide a shared focus and experience for the students.

HOW BIG ARE FIGS?

Relatively small — between 5 to 25 students. Keeping the groups small helps cultivate the learning community atmosphere.

CAN I BE AN ATHLETE AND STILL BE IN A FIG?

Of course! Work with the SES staff to set a class schedule that includes the FIG courses, but does not conflict with scheduled practices.

HOW LONG DO FIGS LAST?

FIGs last the entire academic year. If you have concerns about a year-long commitment, please call the SES office at 719-587-7858.

WHAT FIGS ARE OFFERED THIS YEAR?

- Adventure Leadership (pg.5)
- Agribusiness (pg.6)
- Art (pg.7)
- First Generation (pg.8)
- Griz (pg.8)
- Latino Leadership (pg.9)
- Money (pg.6)
- Teacher Education (pg.10)
- The World of Theatre (pg.11)

Please see the following pages for description of each FIG.



2011 - 2012 FIRST-YEAR INTEREST GROUPS

Please take the time to look at the description of the FIGs and at the courses tied to them.

Adventure Leadership FIG

The Adventure Leadership FIG is designed for those students who enjoy human powered outdoor activities like rock climbing, skiing/boarding, and hiking/backpacking, amongst others. The courses emphasize foundational skills designed to keep you safe when travelling in areas far from emergency care. You will learn leadership techniques and group management skills; first in the classroom setting, and later in field exercises.

Please note that there will be a final field-experience/wilderness orientation class during Summer 2012 in this FIG.

Possible programs/activities:

- Lessons on weather patterns, appropriate dress, environmental ethics, food preparation
- Day and overnight hikes in the Sangre de Cristo and San Juan Mountain ranges
- Field studies of geographical landforms

Enrollment limited to 9 students



FALL COURSES

ID179	Basic Outdoor Leadership Training (BOLT)	3.0 credits
GEOG101	Physical Geography	4.0 credits
AAA101	Academic Achievement Strategies	3.0 credits

SPRING COURSES

HPPE266	Wilderness First Aid	1.0 credit
---------	----------------------	------------

SUMMER COURSE

HPPE179	Wilderness Orientation 5 days	3.0 credits
---------	-------------------------------	-------------



Agribusiness FIG

Recommended for students interested in exploring the benefits of a major or minor in business with an emphasis on agribusiness.

This FIG offers students the opportunity to explore the requirements of a business degree and the opportunity to develop important skills and networks while in college.

Possible programs/activities:

- Tours of successful large and small businesses including local farms
- Discussion groups about current/future business trends
- Free individualized career development counseling

Enrollment limited to 10 students



FALL COURSES

BUS105	Introduction to Agribusiness	3.0 credits
BUS120	Business Computer Applications I	3.0 credits
AAA101	Academic Achievement Strategies	3.0 credits

SPRING COURSES

BUS211	Business Law	3.0 credits
BUS279	Agricultural Law and Leadership	3.0 credits

Money FIG

Recommended for students interested in exploring the benefits of a major or minor in business with emphasis in accounting or finance.

This FIG offers students the opportunity to explore the requirements of a business degree and the opportunity to develop important skills and networks while in college.

Possible programs/activities:

- Tours of successful large and small businesses including accounting firms
- Discussion groups about current/future business trends
- Free individualized career development counseling

Enrollment limited to 10 students



FALL COURSES

BUS103	Introduction to Business	3.0 credits
BUS207	Principles of Accounting I	3.0 credits
AAA101	Academic Achievement Strategies	3.0 credits

SPRING COURSES

BUS114	Personal Finance	3.0 credits
BUS208	Principles of Accounting II	3.0 credits

Art FIG

Recommended for students interested in pursuing a major or minor in art.

This FIG emphasizes building foundational skills in art media and developing both visual and written communication skills.

Possible programs/activities:

- Trips to art exhibitions and museums
- Discussion sessions about art events on campus
- Exploration of careers in the visual arts

Enrollment limited to 10 students



FALL COURSES

AR103	Art Appreciation	3.0 credits
AR206	Design/2D	3.0 credits
AR208	Drawing	3.0 credits
AAA101	Academic Achievement Strategies	3.0 credits

SPRING COURSES

AR105	Intro to Art Criticism	3.0 credits
AR207	Design/3D	3.0 credits



First Generation FIG

Recommended for students when neither parent has completed a four-year degree.

This FIG offers students additional academic support including supplemental instruction, tutoring and mentoring.

Possible programs/activities:

- Additional small group tutoring sessions with an upper class student who has received an 'A' in the course
- Free individualized career development counseling and academic advising

Enrollment limited to 25 students



FALL COURSES

PSYC101 Introduction to Psychology 3.0 credits

AAA101 Academic Achievement Strategies 3.0 credits

SPRING COURSES

SOC201 Sociological Imagination 3.0 credits



The Griz FIG

Recommended for students who share an interest in sports and athletics.

This FIG also offers students special opportunities to participate in intramural sports.

Possible programs/activities:

- Opportunities for special REX Activity Center classes

Enrollment limited to 20 students

FALL COURSES

ENG101 Communication Arts I 3.0 credits

PSYC101 Introduction to Psychology 3.0 credits

AAA101 Academic Achievement Strategies 3.0 credits

SPRING COURSES

HPPE120 Concepts in Wellness 2.0 credits

Latino Leadership FIG

Recommended for students who would like to pursue leadership roles specifically in the Latino community and learn about the Latino influences in the San Luis Valley, Colorado, and the United States.

This FIG also offers students the opportunity to explore the different Latino sub-cultures and analyze the potential impact these populations will have on our society.

Possible programs/activities:

- Exploration of Spanish language
- Discussion groups about current/future Latino demographic trends focusing on Latino leadership aspects
- Free individualized career development counseling and academic advising through the SES office

Enrollment limited to 25 students



FALL COURSES

ENG101	Communication Arts I	3.0 credits
AAA101	Academic Achievement Strategies	3.0 credits

SPRING COURSES

ID179	Latino Culture and Leadership	3.0 credits
-------	-------------------------------	-------------



Teacher Education FIG

Recommended for students interested in pursuing teacher licensure in either elementary, secondary, K-12, early childhood or special education.

This FIG emphasizes building a community of learners that explore careers in teaching and learning. Students will have the opportunity to explore the requirements of the education program, degree options, and become involved in professional organizations. In addition to in class time, students will spend two hours each week working with children in a variety of settings.

Possible programs/activities:

- One-on-one meetings with their advisor regarding career and major options
- Trips to schools, both in and out of the San Luis Valley
- Discussion sessions about current issues in Education
- Student Education Club activities
- Attendance at professional conferences
- Service learning activities with local P-12 students

Enrollment limited to 20 students



FALL COURSES

ED179	So You Want To Be A Teacher	2.0 credits
PSYC101	Introduction to Psychology	3.0 credits
AAA101	Academic Achievement Strategies	3.0 credits

SPRING COURSES

ENG102	Communication Arts II	3.0 credits
PSYC204	Child Development	3.0 credits
OR		
PSYC205	Adolescent and Adult Development	3.0 credits



The World of Theatre FIG

Recommended for students who are considering majoring or minoring in Theatre.

This FIG is designed for the student who wants to experience everything college theatre has to offer. If you want to act, direct, design, pursue the business side of theatre, or teach, the Theatre FIG is the place to begin.

Possible programs/activities:

- Participation in on-campus productions
- Performance workshops
- Attendance of off-campus productions

Enrollment limited to 15 students



FALL COURSES

THTR180	Introduction to Theatre	3.0 credits
THTR210	Stage Makeup	3.0 credits
THTR223	Beginning Acting	3.0 credits

SPRING COURSES

THTR205	Improvational Acting	3.0 credits
THTR288	Intermediate Acting I	3.0 credits



FIRST YEAR INTEREST GROUPS (FIGS) 2011-2012 APPLICATION

For Office Use Only

Received _____
 Registered _____
 Letter _____
 Scores ____ (M) ____ (E) ____ (R)

Note: FIGS are filled on a first-come/first-served basis. Please return this form as soon as you decide which FIG you want to participate in.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Date of Birth ____ \ ____ \ ____ Gender Male Female

Home Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____ @ _____

Are you an Athlete? (for scheduling purposes only) Y N Sport _____

Yes No

I am interested in living in an all FIG wing of Coronado Hall, I understand that I will be assigned to live with anyone in any FIG and not just members of my FIG and that this is only guaranteed if you **apply to Housing** by June 1 and the spaces are not filled.

FIG Choices

Please choose up to 2 FIGs that interest you, giving a "1" to your first choice. (you will automatically be placed in your 2nd choice if your 1st choice is full)

____ Adventure Leadership ____ First Generation ____ Money
 ____ Agribusiness ____ Griz ____ Teacher Education
 ____ Art ____ Latino Leadership ____ Theatre

Please complete the rest of this application on the following page.

Please check up to 3 other General Education Requirements you would be interested in registering for. We will work to get these classes to fit your schedule. You will receive a letter from us confirming what classes you are registered for. Full-time is 12 credit hours and most FIGs allow for additional courses.

_____ English*

_____ Introduction to Music Literature

_____ Math*

_____ Sociology

_____ Business Computer Apps I

_____ Psychology

*These classes are filled based on ACT or SAT scores. English and Math are strongly suggested as additional courses since they are “building blocks” for college work. You will be placed automatically into the level you qualify for. If you have questions about Math Placement or English Placement, please call the Grizzly Testing and Learning Center at 719-587-8189.

FIG Program Privileges and Responsibilities

Participating in an Adams State College FIG entitles you to early enrollment in the FIG classes as well as the general education classes you’ve checked. You will also have access to study groups, a range of activities, and a priority housing assignment with another FIG participant. The program is designed to make your first year experience at ASC especially purposeful and educational. (If you want to live in FIG Housing, you need to mark this option on your Housing Application as well.)

Participants **MUST ENROLL IN ALL CLASSES UNDER THE CHOICE OF A FIG**. By signing this contract you are registering for **at least** all the FIG classes and the general education classes you have checked. **You will be billed for these classes. If you choose not to attend ASC, you are responsible for withdrawing and contacting the Records Office at 719-587-7321.**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

COURSE EXPLANATION

Some course titles are self-explanatory, but some may not be as clear. All course descriptions are available online via the Adams State College Portal at www.portal.adams.edu. Click on the “Course Catalog” link to look up specific courses.

WHILE UNLIKELY, IF NECESSARY, WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ALTER THE COURSES TIED TO A FIG.

TO SIGN UP FOR A FIG

1. Look over the list of FIGs Adams State College will offer this year.
2. Choose a FIG that most fits your personal, academic and career goals, as well as two alternate FIGs.
3. Complete and mail-in the enclosed FIG application. Remember— FIGs are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so the sooner you get in your application, the more likely you will get your first choice FIG. Remember—Indicate that you are a FIG student on your housing application. You may call housing to update your application if you have already submitted it. (Note: You will not be assigned a roommate from the same FIG—unless you request a specific roommate) Remember—Call the SES Office with any questions you have. We are happy to speak with students at any time in the admissions or registration process.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Student Engagement and Success
Adams State College
208 Edgemont Blvd
Alamosa, CO 81102
1-800-824-6494
719-587-7858
masoodahmad@adams.edu

Persons seeking admission, employment, or access to programs at Adams State College shall be considered without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, or veteran status.



Great Stories Begin Here

Adams State College

Student Engagement and Success

208 Edgemont Blvd.

Alamosa CO 81102



www.adams.edu

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 80
ALAMOSA, CO