Integrated Learning Outcomes

“The First Year Experience has helped spark enthusiastic discussions of the many personal interests and cultural contexts that shape musicians’ work in the world—from music and social justice to the role of musicians and other artists in addressing environmental sustainability.”

—Jill Gatlin, NEC Liberal Arts faculty

“My liberal arts seminar students have noted important outcomes from their work in FYE, specifically how it has helped them understand their core values, identities, definitions of success and awareness of their role in the community.”

—Patrick Keppel, NEC Liberal Arts faculty

The First Year Experience (FYE) weaves together coursework in the liberal arts, music history, health and wellness, and entrepreneurial musicianship to connect classroom learning to performance practice through six integrated learning outcomes:

Critical Thinking
Mindfulness
Resource Management
Community & Communication
Active Learning
Self-Discovery

The skills and mindsets students learn in the First Year Experience will prime them for success in future courses at FYE and in their creative work as professional artists. FYE faculty worked together to build an interconnected, responsive curriculum, featuring multiple learning modalities to reinforce and expand on each learning outcome.

“We are all doing our best to build a bridge across the digital divide, and the FYE program is a wonderful example of one way we are attempting to construct it.”

—Karen Holvik, NEC Voice faculty and FYE mentor

“I firmly believe that FYE is providing students with powerful tools to clarify their interests and expectations and to build a solid foundation for their future.”

—Lautaro Mantilla, NEC Contemporary Improvisation faculty and FYE mentor

“The mentor sessions have been eye-opening for me—being able to have focused discussions with a professional musician has shown me that a successful musical career requires much more than making progress in a practice room.”

—Davis You ’24, Cello Performance
**First Year Experience**

**Critical Thinking**
- Systems thinking
- Pattern recognition
- Close reading
- Problem solving
- Applying/testing theories
- Engaging with multiple points of view/perspectives

**Self-Discovery**
- Self-advocacy
- Self-efficacy
- Individually determined definition of success
- Interdisciplinary artist-citizen

**Mindfulness**
- Reflection
- Metacognition
- Self-assessment
- Resilience
- Stress management

**Community & Communication**
- Collaboration
- Global citizenship
- Networking
- Audience engagement
- Cultural and academic conversation
- Writing and presentation

**Active Learning**
- Iterative learning
- Experimentation
- Remove fear of failure

**Resource Management**
- Researching and accessing resources
- Time management
- Money management
- Creative energy management

**Integrated Learning Outcomes**