

First Year @ Furman
A New Faculty Orientation Program

Goals:

- To support Furman's newest colleagues via just-in-time professional development opportunities related to effective teaching, student learning, and designing/navigating your academic career.
- To create collegial, interdisciplinary networks for social support and future teaching, research, outreach, administrative, and service collaborations.

When: 12:30- 1:30 pm, one Wednesday in September, October, November, February, March, and April. Please come 10-15 minutes early to get lunch in the Dining Hall and settle into your favorite table.

Where: Trustees Dining Room in the Dining Hall

How: Lunch with a brief presentation, followed by discussions and activities

FALL SEMESTER:

Monday, September 9

Session #1: It is never too late to think about learning objectives and learning outcomes, and it is never too early to think about exams and assignments. In this session, we will discuss the principles of [backward design](#) and share ideas about how to apply the principles to better align our teaching and assessment.

Wednesday, October 9

Session #2: All first-year students are required to attend the academic integrity workshop. In this session, we will experience the case study portion of the workshop so we know what to expect of students. We will also discuss some special challenges our students are facing and how to better help them; that is, what they expect of us.

Wednesday, November 6

Session #3: In about a month, students will submit their opinions of instruction. Therefore, we will review the survey—how to retrieve it, how to make sense of the results, how to use them as feedback for better teaching, and how not to get overwhelmed by them. And know that you are not alone in this.

Thursday, December 6

Session #4: Open questions (wine-and-cheese event)

Younts Center, 5-7 pm

Submit your questions by **Monday, December 2** for Elizabeth Davis (President), Ken Peterson (Provost), and Suzy Summers (Interim Dean of Faculty).

SPRING SEMESTER:

Wednesday, February 5

Session #5: We will start by reflecting upon the teaching experience in the past semester. In this session, we will discuss and share how to develop your voice and be yourself in the classroom. We will spend time completing the [Teaching Practices Inventory](#) and discussing how to use it to inform and improve our teaching.

Wednesday, March 4

Session #6: As you gain familiarity with and interest in the various personal and professional development opportunities on campus, it is time to think about how better to align our time with our priorities, including the art of saying no; and work-life balance, including overcoming perfectionism.

Wednesday, April 8

Session #7: In this session, we will review Furman's annual evaluation form in detail to make clear (hopefully) what Furman values so you can have a successful and meaningful career here. Dr. Jim Guth, the chair of the Faculty Status Committee, will be with us to assist discussion and answer questions.

In addition to our regular Wednesday gatherings, we would like to encourage you to be an active participant in the following activities:

Colleague Circles: Small cohorts of faculty (4 first year faculty members + 2 mentors, one junior and one veteran faculty) meet over a meal monthly to discuss topics generated by the group at the beginning of the year.

FDC Lunch and Learns: Regularly scheduled lunch and learn events will be held in the Trustees Dining Room throughout the year. The lunch and learn topics range from student life to current university issues. These luncheons are open to the entire campus; therefore, it is also a great opportunity to meet colleagues from different disciplines or different lived experiences.