

# Course Expectation Resource Sheet - GEP 101

*“What can students expect if they choose this course?”*

**Course:** GEP 101 - First-Year Foundations

**Department:** First Year Programs

**Credit Hours:** 2

**Prerequisite:** None

**Catalog Description:** An integrative and interdisciplinary seminar designed to introduce students to the public affairs mission, improve students' academic skills, develop a foundational knowledge of university resources, and facilitate students' successful transition to Missouri State University's community of scholars. Required of all students with fewer than 24 credit hours earned post high school. Must be taken during students' first semester. Honors students must substitute UHC 110 for this course.

**Catalog:** 2025-2026 **Last Updated:** 2/25/2026

**Gen Ed Course:** Yes

**Gen Ed Area:** FOUNDATIONS

**Gen Ed Requirement:** First-Year Seminar (GEC 101)

**CORE-42 Course:** No

**CORE-42 Area:**

**MOTR Code - MOTR Title:** -

**Is credit also available through:**

**Advanced Placement (AP)?:** No

**College Level Exam Program (CLEP)?:** No

**International Baccalaureate (IB)?:** No

*(click link for more information and required scores)*

## Responses and Advice from Department Representatives

*Last Updated: 2/24/2026*

**The following responses apply to:** Both seated and online courses

### What expectations do you have for students in this course?

Students who are successful in this class not only attend class but also actively participate in discussions, provide thoughtful and reflective responses, complete assignments, collaborate with their peers, and communicate with their instructor. Since the course is designed for first-time new in college students, it serves as a foundation for their future classes as they learn how to engage in scholarly conversations and apply critical thinking skills as well as gain an appreciation for the public affairs mission and increase awareness for campus resources.

### What types of study skills do you expect students to use in this course?

Through textbook readings, discussions both in class and via BrightSpace, and classroom activities, students will learn effective time management, goal setting, note-taking, and information literacy skills. Students will also learn various test taking and study techniques.

### What study techniques seem to work best for students who do well in this course?

Because this course serves as a cornerstone for first-year students, they will explore various time management tools to help them plan out their academic plans. Students will learn tips for breaking a larger assignment/project into more manageable tasks. Students will also practice their communication

and presentation skills by interacting with their instructors and peers. Students will also have the opportunity to set goals and monitor their academic progress as they learn how to successfully navigate the collegiate environment.

**What behaviors or habits seem to cause students to struggle in this course?**

Students can struggle in this class if they choose to underestimate its importance. While the class focuses upon academic skill building, public affairs awareness, and campus connections, the smaller class size encourages meaningful conversations and opportunities to develop a sense of belonging at the university. Students who skip class quickly realize that their disengagement can affect their academic performance.

**What types of struggles do you see most often? What recommendations do you give to students who struggle in this course? What other advice do you offer to students for success in this course?**

Many first-year students are learning how to manage a newfound sense of independence and responsibility for the first time. This sense of autonomy can become overwhelming when trying to manage school/work/family/friends and balancing competing demands and interests. Some students are struggling financially or dealing with homesickness while other students are trying to gain a sense of belonging. If students feel that they are struggling, it would benefit them to reach out to their instructor and/or academic advisor sooner rather than later. Students also benefit from utilizing campus resources, such as the writing consultants and tutors in the Bear CLAW or meeting with a Success Coach in the Center for Academic Success and Transition. Meeting with a Success Coach can be a useful way to regroup and create an action plan.

**How do you describe the course to students when they ask “What is this class about?” (without using the catalog description)?**

GEP 101: First-Year Foundations is a course that is designed to help students become successful at Missouri State University. The three course goals include increased academic skill building, connection to university resource offices, and understanding how the public affairs mission connects to their academic studies and future goals. From the smaller class size to hands-on activities to building a sense of community, the course is all about helping students understand how to build a solid platform that can be transferred to other courses.

**Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?**

Upon completing the course, students learn skills that can be applied to their other classes, whether it's improved communication and time management skills, collaboration, exploring various note taking and study techniques, increased awareness and application of the public affairs mission, and developing stronger connections with university faculty, staff, and students.

**Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?**

Since this course is all about creating a solid foundation for collegiate success, it's beneficial to all students.