FIRE 1000
A Momentum Course

Gordon State College

GFYE 0097→Fire 1000

- It became clear that the course redesign in ENGL 1101 and MATH 1111 could be augmented by a separate course built on momentum principles.

- In 2017 and in response to data, Gordon State College began a complete redesign of its freshman course.

GFYE vs. FIRE

GFYE 0097	FIRE 1000
One credit hour, not part of the core	Two credit hours, part of the core in Area B
Taken only by students with learning support requirements	Taken by all new freshmen and transfer students with fewer than 13 credit hours
Extended orientation model	Growth mindset, social belonging, and purposeful major choice
Limited effect	Broader effect through integration of HIPS, metacognition, and soft skills development

FIRE Objectives

- Students will be able to reflect on and develop their academic self-efficacy.

- Students will be able to analyze, reflect upon, and strengthen skills that foster persistence toward graduation.

- Students will be able to communicate understanding of field-specific issues that will guide their future academic investigations.

- Students will be able to apply critical reading and writing skills to cross-curricular problem solving.

Mindset Data

2020 USG Mindset Survey Data	Gordon Early Fall	Gordon Late Fall	State College Early Fall	State College Late Fall	USG Early Fall	USG Late Fall
Math Growth Mindset Composite	3.89	4.26	3.81	3.89	3.89	3.92
English Growth Mindset Composite	4.12	4.43	4.15	4.16	4.23	4.25

Retention (first-time full-time freshmen)

	Cohort Count	Retained Count	Graduated Count	Retention Rate
Fall 2017	1047	502	4	48.3%
Fall 2018	754	438	2	58.4%
Fall 2019	731	450	2	61.7%

Disaggregated Retention (first-time full-time freshmen)

		Cohort	Retained	Graduated	Retention Rate
Fall 2017	Asian	8	1	0	12.5%
	African American	539	226	0	41.9%
	Hispanic	41	21	0	51.2%
	Two or more races	38	13	0	34.2%
	White	415	237	4	58.1%
Fall 2018	Asian	5	4	1	100.0%
	African American	350	190	0	54.3%
	Hispanic	36	22	0	66.7%
	Two or more races	33	22	0	66.7%
	White	322	197	1	61.5%
Fall 2019	Asian	5	3	0	60.0%
	African American	375	219	0	58.4%
	Hispanic	38	25	0	65.8%
	Two or more races	26	16	0	61.5%
	White	276	181	1	65.9%

Course Redesign

- Momentum course design shows promise worth further testing.

- Further improvement in Area A pass rates, especially for students with low confidence, could be possible with utility value interventions that include self-persuasion, interdisciplinary contextualization, and a multimodal approach.