On March 31, 2009, after consultation with Paul Chambers, Alumni Representative on the Student Learning Enhancement Team, and Stan Jackson, UGA Alumni Relations, a survey was sent to all alumni on the UGA Alumni Relations listserv (n=61,105 deliverable email addresses), asking them to rank the four central ideas for Student Learning Initiative (SLI) topics based on the following descriptions:

**1st Term Experience:** A program of integrated first-term experiences for incoming students that connects orientation, advising, small seminars with faculty members, and core courses to introduce students to the intellectual and academic expectations of the University.

**Research Opportunities:** A program to substantially expand opportunities for undergraduates to engage in significant research projects with faculty members.

**Community & Civic Engagement:** A program to substantially expand teaching and learning experiences that combine academic study with community and civic engagement projects.

**Global Focus:** A program to integrate global experiences and issues into the undergraduate curriculum, including expanding “deep immersion” experiences abroad and developing a global focus for on-campus courses.

Please note that these descriptions (the description for 1st Term Experience in particular) may not accurately represent the content of four final proposals forwarded by the SLET to the Leadership Team. The proposals continued to evolve after the survey was initiated.

The survey also allowed for open-ended narrative comments.

**Results:**

Of the 61,105 delivered emails, 8,653 were opened, and 4,284 responded to the survey. More than 650 respondents also submitted narrative comments.

**Analysis:**

In general, the alumni strongly supported all four ideas, both in ranking and narrative comments. A high percentage of alumni praised all four ideas, even while explaining a preference for one. General comments from the alumni indicated they place a high value on:

- practical, “real-life” experience and preparation,
- strong mentoring programs, and
• focus on academic basics.

Many alumni noted that the selected program should not be mandatory for students. On the other hand, a noticeable minority of alumni suggested that all the ideas were digressions from the fundamental purpose (variously defined) of a UGA education.

First Term Experience

This was clearly the alumni favorite, although, as noted above, the description seen by the alumni differs significantly from the final proposal. Alumni noted that the first term program would help students transition from high school to college, create a smaller environment within the large university, and help students identify a clear purpose for their college careers.

Community & Civic Engagement

Alumni indicated that they placed a high value on this idea as a way to get students out of the “college bubble” and connected to real world applications, noting the importance of practical experience as preparation for future employment. Alumni also noted that this program would have significant direct benefits for the local and state communities. A significant number of alumni mentioned the centrality of community service in their post-collegiate lives and highlighted the importance of “paying back.”

Global Focus

Strong alumni support of this idea was based on its relevance to current events and the emergence of globalization as a primary economic force in the 21st century. Many alumni noted the importance of their own study abroad experiences and supported a need for increased opportunities. A significant number of comments suggested the need for non-study abroad opportunities that enhance global understanding.

Research Opportunities

Alumni noted the importance of “significant” research, especially in the context of preparation for graduate school and for the opportunity it provides for connecting with faculty members. A number of respondents noted that research enhances practical and intellectual skills. Some alumni suggested that there were already enough opportunities for those interested in research or that research was more appropriate at the graduate level.
Raw Data:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th># of votes</th>
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</table>

Number of Written Responses: 662
If you have any additional comments about these ideas, please share them below:

UGA must develop better ties with the community around it. The disconnect between the university and the surrounding city of Athens has aided in creating a terrible class system that is beneficial to no one. Students should be involved in the community and the community should find value in the university.

I find that 1st term programs are a large waste of my credit hours and time because I had a good idea of what what expected/available long before I started. On the other hand, I’d like to see more research opportunities become known to undergraduates.

"1st Term Experience" programs at other universities are proven to boost retention after freshman/first year! Great idea.

They all sound excellent in theory, but they must be implemented carefully for maximum benefit!

I think that the opportunity for doing research with faculty members and the community and civic engagement program are likely to appeal to different sets of students. That makes it hard for me to decide which of those might be most useful.

From my perspective the university is spending too much of its academic and other capital on issues unrelated to a sound university education. The concepts related to Globalism and Social Justice may be acceptable progressive notions to some but they do little or nothing to prepare a student to walk into the real world responsibility of being a practicing professional. I am disappointed that these progressive notions are the engine now running many of the programs at UGA. The university, in some respects, has lost its academic sanity and has its students pursuing opiate filled pipe dreams that will do little to prepare them for much beyond reciting academic platitudes and entering graduate school to further instill these collectivist concepts. The flagship university of this state has lost sight of its first duty, to educate the children of this state. The admissions process denies qualified students admission in favor of filling quotas for engineering an image of a student body of diversity thus denying qualified students their rightful place in the university. I suggest a blind admissions process where no race, gender and/or other identification criteria are used to artificially alter true qualification for a seat at UGA. I have made a decision of conscience to not contribute any resources to UGA until some academic sanity and integrity are restored to the institution. As a member of the professoriate, I am passionate in my support of higher education and equally passionate in holding institutions accountable for their wandering from their primary responsibility of educating students to become productive and reality based citizens in the world. Thomas O. Peavy, Ed.D., LPC., CT

Encouraging more students to become involved in the political process. Ie. working on
Capitol hill, or GA legislature.

I believe the Community and Civic engagement opportunities with the Clarke county community is very important and should be a requirement as many students don't really venture outside of campus to get to know the "real" Athens until after graduation and they can miss a lot by doing so.

The 1st Term Experience by far will be the most valuable to an incoming student. I wish I had this when I was at UGA. I made a lot of mistakes and listened to the wrong people (including advisors) which kept me from performing well my first year. This would really set the foundation for the student's overall success at UGA.

Georgia has many great programs, including a strong study abroad program and a growing research orientation. But the weakness remains quickly engaging students in a rigorous academic culture. Right now, the bright and driven can learn how to navigate the university; it is still too easy for too many people to coast through the university, neither engaging academically or in community activities.

Research opportunities can best benefit from university investment.

CURO already does an excellent job exposing students to research opportunities around campus so this really doesn't need to be covered by another organization.

I think that the University could work on offering more "deep immersion" experiences, since the current system of staying in a dorm with all UGA students seems to deny the students a full experience of the culture of the host country.

All ideas sound great but I love the idea of getting students involved in the community. I think this will give students the most well-rounded experience as they prepare for life after college.

"Real world" experience is key in the job market and in excelling as an individual contributor. I would focus on these programs first, especially globalization-related initiatives.

I really like the research opportunities because grad schools are usually looking for that experience. But knowing that many people won't pursue grad school, I ranked it third.

There are so many on- and off- campus organizations that focus on community and civic engagement, it might be overkill to also include this as an academic outlet.

My academic advisors knew little or nothing about the order and availability of the classes that I would need to be taking in order to complete my degree. They knew even less about the teachers to recommend or how to move around on campus given that I have limited mobility in my knees. I was very disappointed in the quality of the
teachers in many of my classes because the art school relied so heavily upon grad
students to teach. They might be talented artists but teaching is about the transfer of
knowledge not the possession of it. Programs whish address these issues would be of
the most value to new students. The art history classes were awesome! Taught by real
professors!

research with a global focus would be very well received

It has been 40 years since I graduated. Over my career, I found community service
(board of directors, blood drives, et al) to be a relief and change of pace from the
pressures of earning a living. The earlier students learn this, the better for them and for
the community. 2) I found that students from DePaw (Indiana)beneitted a great deal
from a required "winter term" of internship or OJT every year.

In my experience internships and other "work-study" programs are the most beneficial
to students. They not only help students focus their career interests but also focus and
improve academic performance.

The UGA environment is a sharp contrast with the experiences from the HS level. A
strong 1st term experience could reduce the attrition rate for freshman and
sophomores.

The first term experience program sounds very promising but the relatively ambiguous
definition forced me to give it a secondary rank. Clear examples accompanying each
definition would be much more helpful in the decision-making process.

All students should be required to meet quarterly with a career counselor.

On "Global Focus" -- expose students to more opportunities for overseas exchange
programs. Help them embrace different cultures and learn different perspectives around
the world.

We have several requirements for graduation like PE and History. Why not require a
certain number of hours of community service? Many students want these activities
anyway for resumes. Someone could set up the projects ahead of time like blue card
events.

I think the "1st Term Experience" sounds like a good idea, but not necessarily as an
improvement of education. Understanding the world around you and the impact that
each person makes is the most important thing I took from my undergraduate
education.

Honestly, I learned the most about myself, the world outside of the US, America's role
in world relations, economics, politics/international politics, history, culture, and most of
all- how valuable higher education is from studying abroad in various countries over
More and more people are feeling the need to contribute to their communities through service and financial contributions. This is important. Thanks for asking.

I teach at a university in England, and one of the major issues we are facing, and something that we are increasingly viewing as crucial to the student experience, is the transition of students between pre-university education and university life, which is why I have chosen my first choice as I have done.

Caring starts at home. Engage the students as productive members of the Athens community instead of just people who turn up when the greek organization makes them or who are doing their service to the community as mandated by the court or public intoxication/underage drinking.

to be perfectly honest, none of these seem that beneficial...how about revamping cirriculum to actually prepare students to do something..i.e.accounting, risk management, pharmacy...actual jobs...too many easy courses that prepare you for nothing...or improve the number of counselors to help graduates actually get a job when they graduate....georgia tech does a great job of placing graduates in the work force...georgia is awful in this regard

give them a useful map of the campus and, perhaps some background of their instructors who will be in the classroom

good luck with this effort - it is long overdue and will continue to set the university apart.

Significant research experience was the one thing graduate schools were looking for when I was applying to further my education. The value of such an experience had not been made known to me, and without guidance I did not seek out the research opportunities that may have existed at the time. A more formal and structured plan to substantially expand opportunities for undergraduates to engage in significant research projects with faculty members would benefit many.

My experiences at Freshman Camp at Rock Eagle in September, 1968, have left an indelible "Red and Black" outlook on my life. I wish the current students had this opportunity.

Where is the individual student-focus portion of this survey? Each student - or many - arrive with his or her own set of hopes, dreams, expectations and visions, for their college and career. The way this survey is worded is that folks will be boxed into opportunities based on a perceived need, for these incoming folks. The key, I believe, is having advisors that can connect with these young people, help them determine the right path, and challenge them to stay on track. I see positive small groups, for
mentoring the newbies - to help them plug in to the good, and avoid the bad. Not every young adult will take the Greek social route, the athletic route, the discipline route of Christian faith and witness, the research/academic route or the many others that are offered. But, unless students arrive with a focused vision, UGA - as a whole - should help them mold their experience, education and bent into a vision and life purpose.

As a teacher, I feel like "getting the students off on the right foot" should be a priority--especially at a school as large as UGA. However, I would rank creating a "global focus" and opportunities for "community & civic engagement" equally.

Community and civic engagement is becoming the trend for undergraduates at many universities, and at my current institution (where I'm faculty), students are required to complete X number of hours of said work. The results have been outstanding.

Let go for green energy. Maybe you will listen to me now that it is popular. Maybe I should head the department:)

1st term should address true freshman and those who transfer from other universities

These are all valuable tools that will benefit future students. Prioritizing these is difficult; however, we must look at the largest impact to improve the entire student body to make the students more competitive in the marketplace and more complete as citizens.

desperately need something like "taking personal financial responsibility" or how to manage money once you get it..

As a mom of a college 1st year, I think the first term experience is far & away the best idea...even in the very best of circumstances, that first term is a challenge & any assistance the student can get to be more comfortable in the environment is huge!

Let's focus on our own country and community and get our own house in order before thinking about global anything. Take more Ga state residents and less foreigners.

Let's leave research for the graduate programs.

None of these fit my ideals.

All 4 programs are good and would enhance the learning experience. I ranked "1st Term" first because the program is a building block course that can lay the foundation for a complete college education. Next I ranked "Research" because this ultimately is an important contribution to society that UGA should be making. I really like "Civic Engagement". The sooner we teach our students to "give back" the better we all will be. Even though I ranked "Global Focus" last there is no doubt this is an important concept that the students need to grasp. In short I like all of these programs but I
ranked them in order of how I see a student should grow and develop.

How does "first term" differ from what UGA currently offers freshman? It doesn't sound very different.

I wish there would have been a focus on internships for Liberal Arts majors. After graduating, I wasn't really sure what kinds of jobs I could get. I now teach because I didn't know what else to do.

More integration of learning about the world economy, and the need to compete in this economy.

Currently, I work for an International NGO on humanitarian issues. Global Focus shouldn't just focus on the multi-cultural exchange of studying abroad but how as Americans we impact the rest of the world for the good and bad, on the changing role of the USA in the World (research, economy, politics, leadership, religion, military, the arts etc, and on "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally". Also, there needs to be job opportunities not just for Business Students but for all students at UGA - promote US foreign service and Peace Corp.

One of my most memorable classes was a group dynamics course in which we chose a community need and volunteered to assist as a group. I also enjoyed the folklore in lit. class in which we collected folklore from our communities to add to the UGA folklore archives. In today's economy, community volunteers are needed more than ever. Many high school organizations allow for community involvement, and most of your new students would just be continuing a wonderful habit, but on a larger scale.

Community and Civic engagement has relevance to every student, especially beyond the undergraduate years. I attended Freshman Camp in 1964, which included some aspects described in the 1st year experience, before my freshman year which still has value for me today, especially since I came from out-of-state (NC). Global focus is critical for understanding the issues that face us all. Research opportunities are important but not applicable to every student's experience at UGA.

We have had two of our children go through the Freshman College experience program at UGA and have found that the program helped them adjust to the college much easier and be ready for a full load of classes in the Fall.

Becoming engaged in the community and then expanding that to the global focus would help with the total student experience. Applying for jobs after graduation would also benefit from these experiences.

Get the students into real-world, service learning environments as soon as possible. The best lessons are the ones learned in the real world.
#1 is probably most important for the "average" student!

I can't believe we have to choose just one! All 4 are important programs to have. I chose the 1st Term Experience first because I believe that it could be used effectively to accomplish all 4 goals. Part of the expectations of UGA should be to be involved in the community, global issues, and research. The only thing that I will say is: students who truly want to do research will find the opportunity to do so. In-depth original research is a great academic pursuit, but it doesn't appeal to everyone who has goals in the non-academic sector. The non-science research available centers almost exclusively around the professors, and very little is communicated to the students or offered for student participation, in my opinion.

This seems to be a logical sequence based on my own personal experiences.

I feel that all the programs are important. I ranked them primarily by age and academic level with ultimate benefit being 3 or 4.

Global focus is way more important than community/civic engagement - they will be force fed local stuff through churches and local clubs the rest of their life. Not enough HS students know about in-depth research, you should definitely add more in-depth research assignments.

I am teaching English at Temple, and I think many students get lost in large introductory lecture courses and don't really have a feel for the university and what lies beyond survey courses. Advising and mentoring often become more of a subjective chore, but an introduction to the aims and goals of disciplines as well as close contact with faculty gives students a sense of inclusion at a critical point in their academic career.

I went back and forth changing my top 3. Education is hands on and the these top 2 give that to a student. All 4 are great and even if 2 of these got off the ground--wonderful job. UGA is a quality education.

All the above are important, which makes it difficult to rank them. I think item #1 is foundational and must be part of the solution; the other 3 are also very important. I think it's increasingly essential that students understand and experience the linkages between their studies and the larger external local and global communities. The more they can apply their studies in "real world" situations before they graduate, the better prepared they'll be.

I did a program similar to #1 - 1st Term Experience, called Freshman College Summer Experience and it was wonderful - it has affected my entire college career.

You have to have a good start to be able to get involved with the other programs later
in your academic career.

The world is smaller with each passing Semester and all events can affect all citizens. A world view is paramount to world understanding. We are truly neighbors. What kind, is the only question!

This looks like a load of crap to me...Just teach the kids!! Maybe focus on not having grad students teaching the classes...Some barely speak english. Bigger fish to fry than this crap.

Students need a solid learning experience that improves what they learned in high school and prepares them for future development in all areas.

Without 1st term experience, the others wouldn't take place. Global Focus is important since USA is behind. Research opportunities won't happen without global focus. This is VERY hard to rank!

There needs to be a mandatory class that covers the basics of life necessities such as: Banking, Finance, Credit, Mortgages, Insurance, Retirement and Budgeting. This class could lead to more students having a greater understanding of how to make better short term decisions that will have long term effects on their lives.

The biggest thing with UGA that I found when I was a freshman was just how big and overwhelming it can be. So, any kind of program that will help incoming students connect with all the resources UGA has to offer would be great!

Having research experience in undergrad was an excellent experience and was great preparation for grad school. I was one of few of my peers I felt had this opportunity, and I feel like every student could benefit from this opportunity- I could have benefitted from more. Outside of being involved with a fraternity or sorority, it is hard for students to take initiative and get involved in volunteer experiences, which would greatly strengthen grad school applications and resumes. Those not involved in greek organizations need help getting started.

I think America needs to refocus on the three "R's" and forget greenhouse gases, making excuses for everybody and simply get back to making America smarter rather than more politically correct. Political correctness translates into always having to look at China's butt. And even they don't want anymore of our quickly printed dollars.

One of my very few complaints about UGA (and believe me, I loved going here so there really are only a few complaints) is that culturally, we're kind of still stuck in a rut, so I think Global Focus is an excellent idea. That being said, I work in research now and think research opportunities are the most important. I think 1st Term Experience sounds good on paper, but I do not see how it is any different than my experiences at UGA my first year (fall 2003). I think it would just be putting a name to what you
already do. If you want to make a difference with first year students, just focus on the advising part. I had an awesome advisor, but a few of my friends had awful advisors. Moreover, they would have liked to change advisors but felt they had no one to go to to talk about that. Having a good advisor made such a huge difference for me. Of course, and I know with the economy being the way it is, this isn't really feasible, but another way to make a difference would be if some of those "cattle call" (as my parents put it) science classes like General Chemistry and ESPECIALLY organic chemistry were at least half the size they are now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>these all sound like good opportunities for students... thanks for the opportunity to participate</th>
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1. I suggest 1st term experience become 2nd term experience. Too many new things first term for this to have the impact it should. 2. Global Focus - Is this a euphemism for 'world community' where students are indoctrinated with socialist ideas and global warming propaganda? If so, then NO!!! If, however, this is focused on something like world geography and an overview of world cultures, economic, and religions, then, yes, this type of broad education would be valuable. 3. The community outreach is crap. 4. Only the university community puts emphasis on research the way you do. The rest of the world is pursuing results. Therefore, students need to pursue results - learning. Only learning research if that is their life goal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>It is essential that students have access to personal and qualified assistance as needed to aid and perhaps even guide the student's search for intellectual and emotional connections that will energize and drive academic and civic pursuits. The global immersion abroad should be built on demonstrated maturity and achievement in the other areas mentioned above. My COMPLIMENTS to the S.L.E. TEAM. You are on an excellent track here.</th>
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They are all very important so it was difficult to put them in order, but believe that student orientation is critical to allow students space/opportunity to feel comfortable in a new setting. If UGA can increase exposure to global experiences esp. for many state college students who haven't traveled overseas, i think it will have huge, positive repercussions for years to come, as we build stronger ties to people and countries around the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I was not an undergraduate student at UGA but taught many of them at night at Truett McConnell. Your dropouts and rejects ended up in my class. They were very immature and it helped them to be in class with adult students.</th>
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Faculty connecting directly with undergraduates is extremely important. Also, all four of these are important and should be phased in throughout the undergraduate experience - research and global focus coming in the third and fourth years.

| All of these initiatives are on the right track. I believe #1 is essential to introduce |
students to university level education.

We are a global culture now - students should be exposed to a global outlook to understand how and why what happens in other countries effects us and vice versa.

It appears you are on the right track with the idea about Global Focus. The world is getting smaller as a result of advancements in technology and it is very important for our young folks to understand the differing cultures. Particularly how to conduct business and social experiences within the context of another person's culture. Great stuff, keep up the good work.

The "one page, one minute" survey is a great idea. I'll do any survey you send like this, but I am less inclined to do a 8 page, 30 minute version.

Very hard decision between my 1 and 2. I had the oppurtunity too go abroad which changed my life, however, I had 2 or 3 projects in the community that showed me the "real world" in the working enviroment.

Inclusion of an emphasis on Race Relations and Interracial Communication

1st Term Experience is an excellent idea!

The curriculum needs to be as up to date with current standards as possible. All too often I found myself learning outdated concepts and not keeping up with the industry standard. This left me ill prepared for the real-world. It's more important to focus on the learning process and turning out competent students who are able to learn when the need arises.

We need to attract more people into research to remain competitive.

Real experiences help to curb the utopian ideas that come from secluded academia.

With an world that relies more on global relations than any other time in history... this should be the main concern of the University of Georgia. In order to advance our students and expand the minds of the graduates at the University of Georgia... Global relations in ANY feild needs to be a top priority.

They all sound great! It was hard to rank them.

all are commendable, but i think this order is the most important reality for job seekers.

I've always thought that a required class for freshman should be a Life 101 - where they are taught basic life skills: balancing checkbooks, credit scores, credit cards- paying bills timely, understanding health & life insurance, mortgages, etc. You graduate and learn these skills on the fly... it would be nice to know the terminology ahead of
time.

All sound very worthwhile. I had difficulty in prioritizing the programs.

Just to note: Global focus is my number 1 IF the 1st Term Experience does NOT apply to transfer students as well. I do believe incoming freshman have a lot of opportunities like this already!

I am concerned the direction that the university is taking with admissions. The average to above average student is no longer the norm. To be admitted to uga u have to be the best if the beat academically. I think the diversity of students is being lost. If u do not perform well on SAT and take AP classes and makes A's then you are not a candidate for uga admissions. Average people make great contributions to our world but they can not attend the university of their state. Do we really want uga to become the "Harvard of the South" like Mr Adams has said or is it to promote and educate the future leaders and citizens of our state?

None of the above

Based on my experience, projects directly with Faculty where both are learning research results is interesting. Global focus is good as long as experience is on-campus where all students can afford the experience.

We have real opportunity for innovation in the area of community and civic engagement - an opportunity we've neglected thus far. Let's really see what we can do!

We need to focus on "America First". Too much emphasis is being placed on what other countries think of us. And I have traveled throughout Asia and Europe.

I think that the first term experience would be really helpful for the students in Franklin.

help students with creating a resume, interview skills, and how to find a job after graduation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. RME

We need to focus on the "education" of our college students. As an executive in the pharmaceutical industry, I am finding recent college graduates who cannot create an intelligent/usable report even if using a map and a flashlight! In today's changing business environment, instead of individuals who can hold hands and sing "Kum by ya" we will need intelligent thinkers...those individuals who can apply their knowledge, not recite it from rote memory.

For freshman and undergrads, there is a steep learning curve as to getting acclimated to university life and policies. While getting into the academic research is ideal, that
should not be an immediate focus for the first two years of an undergraduate program. Attention should be on the global aspect of higher education and their role in the larger framework of their prospective career.

Without a doubt, connecting with the community is paramount to developing young leaders.

Many college students cannot afford travel/study abroad. I believe it is a HUGE advantage to the student to have this opportunity, but please be wary of making it a requirement for graduation. I know from personal experience that some folks are just happy to graduation with the shirts on their back, and could never afford that kind of travel.

The Global Focus and Community and Civic Engagement options have the most opportunity to influence students' success as people. Both broaden their understanding of their place in the world and provide perspective that can be invaluable to their growth and maturity. The other two are clearly academic in nature, and while each may advance a student's knowledge, they aren't as likely to improve her wisdom.

Having worked in higher education since 1986, I have seen the need for a proper advisement and orientation system grow. As more students, for what I think are various reasons, leave high school without the proper studying and coping skills for post-secondary education, it is important to make sure they are given the information needed to develop these skills early in their college experience. I currently work as a VP in the area of post-secondary technical education and we are developing programs of this type not only for our traditional college-age students in our Associate degree programs but also for those older students who are returing for training based on loss of job, recareering, etc.

All these programs are potentially highly beneficial to students. Have you thought about having all four programs available and allowing entering students to self-select the program that they feel would be most helpful? William L. Curry Class of 1970 Professor Emeritus, Psychology

While I ranked Community & Civic last, it is only because of the importance of the others in postsecondary education. Community & Civic could easily and very inexpensively be included and it should.

I'd like to see some emphasis on foundational ideas that created and have sustained America's greatness. How about basics of the Constitution? Comparative forms of government, emphasizing the benefits of republican democracy over any other form of government in the history of man? Capitalism's benefits over any other economic model? Freshman who understood these concepts would certainly have a good basis for whatever else they went on to study.
The world is flat. Having a global focus will only enhance UGA grads' standing in an increasingly global workplace.

I have other friends who attended other colleges that had programs similar to the "1st Term Experience." They really enjoyed having that type of program and ended up forming many friendships and relationships that lasted the course of their college career. I also think this would be an excellent way to keep first and second years motivated, involved and interested as they work through some of the "standard"/general (read: less exciting) coursework. I also think a community/civic engagement program would be excellent. This is such an important part of adult life, and I would have absolutely loved having the opportunity to give back to the community as part of the learning experience! I had to seek out community service opportunities on my own. While I think the global focus and research opportunities are also important, I only came to understand their significance in graduate school. I think they could be introduced to particular fields of study or specific sub-groups of students, but, on the whole, I think the other two would make a bigger impact on the student body.

UGA needs to work on things other than these first. The cost of attending, the lack of possibility of a lot of rural kids from entering as freshmen, etc. needs addressing first. There is even better approaches to the 1st term experience.

I chose community & civic engagement because most students that are selected to attend The University of Georgia are most likely familiar with this area and know how to find more groups. Additionally, I think the other three NEED to be mandatory that the student actually knows about these three areas in the students first semester at UGA. In other words, combine all of these as part of a mandatory orientation to bring UGA students up to par because even with these four areas the student may/may not be competitive compared to other schools like University of Virginia (UVA), University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (UNC-CH), Penn State, UCLA etc..(globally-Singapore, IMD, IE-spain, etc) Thank you, Sue Ella

Very interesting! Good Luck!

As an alumni, I felt that my first 2 years lacked "real world" experiences (as far as jobs/career go) Like I was in this college bubble. It wasn't until my junior year that classes started branching out into the community. It was there that I found my career path, by getting out of the classroom. I strongly feel that freshman should have these opportunities earlier. It will help them decide on a major quicker, and see where they REALLY want to be. Not where they "think" they do. Reaseach opportunities is another way to do this, getting involved in real work. (Although a student will need some classroom knowledge first.) I also took part in study abroad, it was a wonderful experience, the friendships I formed there are still going, the appreciation I took from another culture still impacts the way I think.
Freshman have too much to do to worry with doing the busy work for someone else's research. They can worry about the rest of the world when they have a chance to grow up themselves.

As a professor at a highly selective liberal arts college, I have found the 1st term experience extremely helpful to the student's adjustment process in transitioning from high school and high stakes assessments to an environment where self-motivation and self-regulation is critical to success. It seems to me that the bonding with other students and with the institution itself occurs during this time. The other programs are all of value and should be part of the undergraduate experience. The various academic departments however need to consider how they can foster the other 3 goals within the realm of general education classes or within the major or concentration area itself. To start research for example, students need to have excellent mentors and a support group to keep the process moving since research often takes a non-linear path and can be both frustrating and rewarding for the novice.

As a member of Rotary I think it would be a valuable learning experience for students to attend a local Rotary Club and learn what community service is all about.

All of these are great ideas and would be very beneficial to students.

I would be more likely to support legal American students!

The problem with academia is demonstrated by your question; well written, but not precise. You should give specific examples of each program. There is a disconnect between education and practicality. Regards, Michael Aycox BBA '70

These programs all sound terrific. I think their order of priority depends on whether the target "audience" is underclassmen or upperclassmen.

The teaching should have a real world attachment to it because of the ever changing times. UGA has to adjust to the learning styles of 21st century learners, the needs of the community, state, country, and world for it to sustain its prominence in the field of higher education.

Both engagement/service-learning and a global focus have the most potential impact for improving student learning. The other two, research and first-term experiences, seem less helpful to me.

Thanks for reaching out.

One of my friends attended a private university and had the opportunity to do research as an undergraduate student. He really enjoyed working with the professors on a professional level and gaining real world experience through research. Not to mention,
this kind of experience looks great on a resume.

I think there's really a tie between civic engagement and global involvement - both are equally important in different ways.

I honestly believe that some of my VERY best educational experiences came from OUTSIDE the classrooms, particularly with guest speakers. I would challenge the school to reach out to the alumni to ask for ways to contribute other than a check.

The business school desperately needs more research opportunities

Start with local 'real, in your face' environment ... then add research and learning (not nec. same) ... then expand more globally; 'first term experience' will develop well enough.

All students should have to learn about about TAXES and BANKING. Just my opinion that there should be crash courses in these everday activities.

THANK YOU FOR INCLUDING ME IN THE SURVEY. TOM PORTER: BBA 1980

I participated in the Freshman Summer Experience and feel that it is a great program very similar in ideology to 1st Term Experience. However, adjusting to college was probably the easiest of the four goal you have mentioned here for me to reach. I still feel limited when searching for research opportunities (even with a science background and an entire year of undergraduate research I feel I was flung into it) and I never feel like I know what is going on in the world. I'm sure there are many people like me who lived in a bubble most of their lives and want to know more about these topics but don't know where to look (sometimes seemingly abundant resources can be overlooked or even just daunting to newcomers).

The global focus is something I missed out on at UGA. I didn't realize how important it would be in my business career. Fortunately, I was given the opportunity to travel to Eastern Europe to study the business culture. The international training seminar would be beneficial to students preparing to study abroad, or hoping to learn more about the global business world. http://www.evdenterprises.com

I think it would be far more beneficial not to get too caught up in this touchy-feely, politically correct trendy fluff, and instead concentrate upon maintaining a rigorous and traditional curriculum, supported by an enhanced research capability.

Study abroad is amazing, I think EVERY student should consider the opportunity. The Global Focus program would help expand study abroad at UGA.

My personal involvement in the community resulted in career opportunities and experiential learning, more so than any class I took. Additionally, study abroad and
global focus in classrooms leaves no room for being close minded or not thinking of all people impacted by decisions. I would make these most important. I took freshman seminars, and the one I had was great but did not impact my education or social experiences at UGA. Research opportunities I would have ranked higher if I thought it would be opportunities available for all students, but I don't think it will. I think it will continue to be students that a professor favors who receives these opportunities or is even made aware of the option to participate.

I think that research is a good idea, but the word "significant" needs to be strongly noted. Don't do research that's just busy work. Have a goal toward which students will work.

anything that can connect the real-world realities to what is being learned in the academic setting would be extremely valuable. How to apply knowledge.

Maintain high standards of academic discipline and de-emphasize cultural and non-academic pursuits. Quality instruction by qualified professors should be your highest priority.

Probably the most important missing ingredient in higher education (from the perspective of a now graduated business owner and active member of community) is the failure to link the education to be obtained and the practical and social expectations, needs and responsibilities of those blessed with the opportunities afforded by higher education.

I think that the advisor/professor/student relationship needs to be more personal, so that the advisors & professors are more approachable & helpful--students tend to feel like they are moving through an assembly line rather than being treated as an important part of the institution--afterall, an advisor's duty is to advise & a professor's duty is to teach--both have a duty to help mold our future in a productive & beneficial manner

A great idea to draw on the experiences of the people who have actually "been there and done that". LJT UGA '70

UGA has already done a great job in ramping up areas 1 and 4; 3 is always a good idea, encouraging citizenship; as for 2, I'm not sure most undergrads would appreciate or be ready for significant research w/faculty.

They all sound great! In particular, I wish 1 & 2 had been available to me.

Research: Would like to see UGA lead more in projects related to green energy economy, e.g. switchgrass potential in the southeast, biodiesel, cellulosic ethanol, sustainable/local agricultural economics, superconductor/solar/hydrogen/cleaner coal/water treatment applications. Global Focus: Of course, bringing this research to
bear on global markets requires graduates in the work force who are prepared to speak the languages of the world and understand its myriad cultures. Foreign language requirement and study-abroad programs should be aggressively expanded to reflect the urgent need for people with these kinds of experiences. Sadly, in the time since I graduated with a minor in Spanish in 1988, the state of Georgia has extended the welcome mat to the world, touted itself as "international", "progressive", "and too busy to hate", but the truth is we are not living up to this projected reputation. In fact, to the contrary, we are projecting an ignorant, closed-minded, narrow nature to those who visit here. Our potential has been so much greater than that, and I am fearful that we will pay the price and be left behind in the global marketplace. I, for one, am planning to take my talents elsewhere this year to a community that "gets it". Perhaps, my alma mater could offer more opportunities to the student body to combat this disturbing trend. WHM, B.S. Ag. Ed., 1988

| UGA simply must do more with international programs, study abroad opportunities and more global focuses. It's one area of my own experience (graduated 1993) that was utterly absent and it very much regretted. |
| Hard to pick, but it seems that an enhanced first term experience will lead to successes in the other 3 programs. |

| You don't want to get me started... but since you did, I'll tell you what I really think. The educational experience in this country is deplorable. From the 1st grade onward, the teaching faculties of our institutions tend to place too much emphasis on rote academics and not enough on actual education. The memorize / regurgitate cycle tends to produce students that retain those facts just long enough to pass the all-important 50 minute exam. Amazingly, not one single 50 minute exam has been administered to me in my professional career. Application of the facts that I was required to acquire was rarely mentioned and never demonstrated in a “real-world” way. Filling the bubbles on a Scantron sheet, and “fill in the blank and forget” may indeed be a test, but it is not education! Accomplishing the lofty goals of this questionnaire may, heaven forbid, require a little more effort from these teaching faculties. At the university level, the administration needs to do its part to remind theses teaching faculties that first and foremost, they are there to teach. As long as the university continues to treat instructors as commodities that are there simply to bring capital in the form of research dollars to the institution, that's where their priorities will remain. If the academy itself doesn't instruct students how to assimilate and apply, where will they acquire these skills? Further complicating the picture is the presence of so many new ways of acquiring information. The printed textbook is nearly obsolete before the ink on the pages is dry and consequently, misinformation abounds. For many, if not most, undergraduate learning is the terminal formal educational experience of their lives. The way they are taught to learn at that level is the way they will continue to learn through their lives: read/listen, memorize, regurgitate, forget. Fact check – why bother? If it’s in print, it must be true. Our higher education institutions’ failure to teach students how to recognize misinformation can only lead to the eventual utilization of misinformation in |
real-world decision making. UGA is to be applauded for recognizing that something is amiss in the higher educational experience. Now, will UGA actually take the next step and do something about it? Will UGA take the lead and create a new educational experience for its students? I do hope so. The future of our world depends on it. If you don’t believe it, take a look around you. Recall the events of the current decade and ask yourself “How did we get to this crucial point in our history?” “Et docere et rerum exquirere causas” – make me believe it, Georgia.

Create a Scholarship fund along with the Global Focus program so that students who are less fortunate would be able to study abroad.

These are all good programs for a student to be exposed to. Priorities will vary with the student. Although I ranked Research Opportunities last, in my case part time work with researchers in my department led to an MS, PhD and a successful career!

I have had an opportunity to interview upper level students for College based service. When asked their greatest challenge at UGA, the vast majority said the transition from high school to University was most difficult. Incoming students need more guidance as they make this major academic change in their lives. I believe this would enhance their academic success during their first year at UGA.

Enough of the "global focus. It's long past time when we devoted ourselves to our many problems. It's time for the rest of the world to grow up.

I don't believe the trips abroad should be a major focus of UGA as an undergraduate or graduate.

It is imperative that the final Student Learning Initiative provides equal access to students and/or programs to all Colleges/Disclipines and not focus entirely on "popular" majors (i.e. biology and business). Rather, the Initiative must incorporate representation from all colleges and disciplines at UGA.

freshmen need some guidance with adjusting to uga as well as exposure to the world and what it has to offer. i believe such emphasis would help them get over themselves quicker... research opportunities can wait until students have matured a bit anyway. any resulting data (not to mention the principal investigators) would certainly appreciate it.

Increase overall rigor...UGA is a very fine University. We need to communicate this message on a national level.

Placing Community & Civic Engagement 4th doesn't minimize its value. Something had to be 4th! Would like to see you use us as a focus group again.

My study abroad(s) were an integral part of my education at UGA and I think it is very
important to learn about other languages and cultures.

I definitely think that the first term experience would be wonderful for first years because I believe that if I had had something like this when I first entered, I would not have been as confused and felt more confident about the beginning of my college career.

I went to Oxford College for 4 years and got educated. Then GA, the party school,...

Successful first term is foundational for other three. Seems this would be beneficial approach for student and faculty/staff.

My top three are mostly a tie. The 1st term experience would be great from an advising perspective, but only if it is highly effective.

Sometime they need to learn to balance a checkbook, learn to reason through "facts" from experts, and have some clue about economics.

I believe that the presentation of curriculum material within the context of real life application is critical.

All great projects. I do believe the 1st semester is critical in getting the students off to a successful college experience so ranked it 1st.

Although it all kind of sounds like liberal garbage to me.

I think it is very important to teach students what their first term and first year will be like at the University and where to turn to for help...around mid-point in semester if grades are failing, if counseling is needed, to introduce vast array of majors available at the school and other opportunities in case student feels lost, not happy, stuck, timid etc. Also I think another seminar around junior year is very important to demand a mandatory "real world" type class for students...teaches fundamentals of budgeting, managing your money, how to find job, how to choose a career path that interests, alternative options to starting a career right out of school ie. grad school, law school, obtaining gre, taking a year off to travel, work abroad/west etc. and then the repercussions of certain decisions to do so...this is a great university and I'm very proud to call it my alma mater but believe a "real world seminar course of 1-2hr credit" is necessary to prepare students with; u can produce the brightest graduates w/ 4.0's but who have no idea how to budget for their first house etc...

The 1st Term Experience should be the foundation for the other programs. A student who is actively engaged in the university community, will be more likely to seek out opportunities.

The University has grown so much since my days there. And it could be extremely
intimidating then. Such a program would have been very helpful then and likely even more so now. What a great way to assist students in coordinating their goal setting in a much more personal way!

Without a doubt, the 1st Term Experience is far more important than the other three because it provides a foundation that will help UGA retain the best and brightest. As these students become more comfortable on campus, they will be open to explore other opportunities like undergraduate research, community service, etc.

I believe the 1st term experience is so important. I was very lost at UGA & a 15 minute session with my counselor did not help. I needed guidance on what major I should choose based on my likes. I did not even know what was available.

Research is ranked #1 because it's often the only time that students really get to connect with professors and immerse themselves in a subject. Global Focus is ranked last because there are plenty of domestic issues that need solving.

These are all excellent, beneficial objectives...for both the students and the University community...it's hard to rank them!

#1 - 1st Term Experience - I believe this could impact the most students and help freshmen shorten their learning curve for "using" the resources available.

All of these except for "research opportunities" sound like politically correct garbage that would be a waste of the university's money and the students' time.

They all sound good. Having taught a 1st term experience course at Ole Miss for a few years, I always got the impression that the student's felt it was largely a PC fluff course and an attempt to inculcate the students (read "brainwash" from their perspectives). While I did have some very interesting discussions in that class, it was largely an exercise in futility. Of course, just the name "Ole Miss," which I used intentionally says a lot. That said, UGA is also another old southern institution with a lot of 'legacy' students. Those folks seemed the most resistant to such a process. The other three items would serve much the same purpose indirectly, but do more to serve the students and promote agendas that I contentd would do more to move the institution forward. VCU makes a lot of its undergraduate research grants, and that program attracts our high school students (UNCSA has both a college and a high school). I hot on civic engagement right now, but I also believe in global. Ask me again, and I might switch the order of the top three. What I tend to like about the research, is that it gets students involved with professor in a smaller, intensive setting. It also makes the university become more of a place that generates new information, rather than just serving up history (though I know that's not static either). Why not all three of 2, 3, and 4? Allow students to choose. Maybe even over the course of the first two years, put students through all four even? The life of the mind! Good ideas! I sincerely thank you for making my degree worth more every year, based upon student, faculty and staff
achievements.

Studying abroad is something every student should experience. I would almost go as far as to say that it should be a mandatory requirement (depending on the major) in order to obtain a degree. So much more can be learned through immersion in another culture than could ever begin to be learned in the classroom.

They are all very good. The rankings are splitting hairs somewhat for me.

One thing that is imperative for students that are graduating and those that are just arriving is a more up to date RELEVANT career center.

One of my biggest regrets from college is that I didn't volunteer more and didn't get outside of the "UGA box" and do anything in the community...now that I have been out of college for several years I realize how important it is to be involved in your community and how that involvement can truly make a difference, not only in your life but in the lives of others. A lot of students probably don't realize that one opportunity could open their eyes to a whole new field/interest that they otherwise would not have been exposed to. The first term experience would be great for Freshmen. I started out at a smaller school and transferred to UGA, but I believe it would be extremely helpful at such a large university.

I think all of these are very valuable aspects to incorporate into the undergraduate experience. I personally worked on research as an undergrad and it was some of the most valuable learning I did in the Ag Dept. I also think that studying abroad as an undergrad is a great idea once a major has been firmly established, the global community is becoming more and more a facet of our everyday and students need to begin looking across our borders for ideas to make this country more successful. Community is always important...I did not like having to rank this "3rd" because I think that learning from community and local professionals as well as contributing to the local Athens and hometown areas are an essential part of the learning curve. How can you use the knowledge gained at UGA to benefit your community? 1st Term Experience is a great idea. I especially liked the idea of matching students to faculty members and not just an advisor. As long as this is done within the specific colleges and not as a BIG campus program I think it would be very beneficial.

UGA needs to excell in the area of applying the fantastic facilities available to the entire student community. This said, the entire student body needs to be more focused on it's environment and then look out to the state, nation and the world.

research opportunities are already available for students who are interested in pursuing that path, and while the 1st term idea is enticing i can't resist the description of numbers 3 and 4.
Thanks for asking!

I participated in a mentor program through the honors program that was a similar idea to the 1st term experience. I think it was a big help. Community and civic engagement is so incredibly important that students should participate in this. Global focus, we get too tied up in our little college bubble...this would help prevent that.

Initially I selected the 1st term experience as the least beneficial because I felt that the other programs got students out of the books/classroom into real life situations. I changed my mind only because I felt that the 1st term experience would/should introduce incoming students with the opportunities/possibilities that UGA has to offer. With the knowledge of what is possible at UGA, students can better select the other programs.

Each in it's own is very important and difficult to select either one over the other. Close grouping within all four selections.

I feel that one area of study that is truly lacking at UGA is a senior exit course that helps students understand financial concepts that we all must deal with as adults, but that may not have been taught in majors other than finance and accounting. Concepts such as mortgages, Escrow, 401Ks, life insurance, paying taxes, basics of investing in the stock market, etc. These are all very important for us to understand as young adults as we enter the workforce, and I believe the University could do more to prepare us for dealing with these issues. Thank you.

While a global focus is important, I think our mission as a land-grant and the opportunities to engage our statewide communities are pressing as well.

We still have a desperate need for additional student housing!

I ranked research and community engagement higher because the experience gained in these opportunities could help students be better prepared for either graduate study or the job market.

All seem to be wonderful ideas. Ranking really does them an injustice. I believe all should be implemented in whatever ways possible.

Global issues are of the highest priority today. Getting students connected quickly with the university is important to success. I wish I had more opportunity in college to understand the importance of civic engagement.

This doesn't say whether it is undergraduate programs or graduate. I think being introduced to the school as a freshman is the most important. Secondly, I had to go to another school for an "international" field, (now there is an IR degree at UGA)... so the
global focus is important for the students of Georgia.

Global focus is probably the most powerful and necessary to compete in today's economy. But, I think a student needs some experience in the basics first. So, global should probably come in junior or senior years.

All are important; global focus is crucial to job market and global citizenship; research opportunities to work and intellectual experience, and I hope that many are already involved in some type of community/civic engagement.

I graduated from UGA in 1989. I spent the summer of 1988 in Cortona, Italy with the art department. That experience was one of the most influential in my life. My children attend a school in Jackson, MS, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, that has a global approach to learning. They begin language in K4, they are a green school, and in 5-12 there is a great deal of focus on global studies. In my opinion, this is our future, so I hope UGA will continue or begin that focus.

I think incorporating coursework being implemented under the banner of "entrepreneurship" at other schools would really help students to understand their opportunity at UGA as not a chance to take a series of courses for a degree, but instead as a place to develop a skillset to begin a career. Leadership coursework also focuses on these ideas. These courses should focus students on 1) personal interests, 2) personal abilities, and 3) careers where those interests and abilities might meet with the greatest success. By bringing those areas together in a first term course, the future decisions regarding courses and the efforts expended to succeed will be greatly enhanced.

You want to keep them for the four years and even more. Hence, make the first semester a great learning experience and loving welcome! Global focus is to develop the new breed of Americans. We must be MORE global in thinking. Research opportunities discussion is too early. You should get them exposed to Career Services very early in their careers.

Research is more appropriate at the graduate level. Global focus is very important for the UGA graduate both in the present and future. While UGA does an excellent job with first year students, it is crucial that a freshman be assisted in the transition to the academic and social challenges of college.

I love the opportunity for civic engagement, but the University will be better served providing substantive academic opportunities. A 1st term experience class is ridiculous. At some point these kids need to grow up and 'immerse' themselves.

The University experience can be very intimidating for new students arriving on campus from their hometowns. Programs that help them make the adjustment to getting about on a large campus and making friends quickly will help new students focus on their
studies instead of insecurities. Having a mentoring program where individual sophomores can be matched with individual freshmen would be an enormous benefit.

I don't think the first term experience is a useful class for students. If you are going to UGA, you should be of the caliber that you would not need such a program. I believe the research opportunities program would only benefit a small percentage of students, those who know going into college what they want to do. I believe the vast majority of students are undecided, so this would not help them.

Stop hiring faculty based on their list of publications and hire content experts who are also expert teachers. Teachers, teachers, teachers are what make classrooms come alive.

I know when I started as a freshman I was completely overwhelmed, so I think that the 1st Term Experience course would be incredibly beneficial!

I believe that it would be beneficial for students to get more intern experience as they approach their respective graduation dates. This would allow them more experience in their field of study and better prepare them for the tough job environment that they will face upon graduating.

My opinion is that involvement begins in the local community and leads to the global experience.

The only one that seems to have any practical purpose at all to the student population in general is the 1st Term Experience. The rest are extremely narrow in focus and would hinder, rather than help, the University as a whole.

Important students get off to a good start, understanding resources available and ensuring they choose the most appropriate course of study for their interests and abilities. Research with academic team provides invaluable learnings in course of study, project management and decision-making. Global focus is a good idea, but I think it can be included within many courses, and perhaps more of the focus would be on bringing in those with global experience versus sending UGA students abroad. I feel the same way about community and civic, incorporate elements when appropriate for students that are interested in pursuing it as an extension to coursework.

As a member of the US Military engagement in other cultures is a one sure fire way to get a student involved in a caring way. It is the ultimate experience in Civic Engagement and I recommend that #3 and #4 be interrelated.

I believe it is important to get students comfortable with their professors and academics so they will be more willing to try the other opportunites as they grow as bulldawgs. It should start at UGA first.
It is important for undergraduates to get some research experience by working with graduate students and faculty who can be their mentors.

As the coordinator of the FYE program at Columbus State University, I can't think of a better way to improve retention, increase student involvement and satisfaction, and help students connect with faculty than a strong program for incoming freshmen. I love UGA and enjoyed my time there, but I wish that a program like this had been available in the Dark Ages (1970s).

I think the 1st Term Experience would provide a support system similar to private institutions, expose students to unique opportunities and learning, and hopefully ingrain them into the traditions and expectations of our long-standing University. UGA students need to be challenged to model as generations before them have in making investments to UGA's future. Private support is something that these 1st term students need to understand and be inspired to support as well.

Whatever you can do that emphasizes "real world" activities, such as community and civic experiences, will benefit them most, in my opinion. It is two-fold: it benefits them, and benefits the community for whatever they are able to contribute.

Many years ago when I came to UGA, 1964, I came from a very rural, small high school. It was very difficult for me to adjust to the pace of the new environment and to be assimilated into the UGA culture and academic model. The 1st Term Experience, on the surface, appears to be an excellent approach, to practically address this type of issue.

Time and cost impact the Global Focus issue. With tuition and living costs rising, experiences abroad - while valuable - would add a tremendous expense burden to parents and financial aid - which cannot be justified for every student wanting to participate.

We need to focus more on quality education and development and less on Community outreach.

UGA is so large now that students get information on their first semester at orientation, etc., but reinforcement always helps. Helps process all the information overload.

I feel that we already do this projects and rather than creating a new project based on these areas, expand on the ones we have and make those better. It doesn't help to waste more money on something we don't need because we already have it. It would also be instrumental if we make these programs more readily available at to students, in general -- not just incoming freshman!

These are all very worthwhile endeavors.
I think it's important for students to connect with UGA and get a "good start" since there are so many distractions the first semester on campus. Also, it is important for students to understand how other countries/cultures interact with ours as the world is becoming a much more global society.

Anything to help make a first year students intimidating college world a little smaller will help make the transition easier. Also, hands on research always makes learning more satisfying and will make absorbing information more permanent than sitting in a classroom memorizing.

The first term experience is suited for an entering freshman; the other programs are probably more appropriate for second year or second semester.

It's been nearly 20 years and things have changed significantly around campus. But I have a daughter attending UGA next year. She is very intelligent and the caliber of students campus wide has changed dramatically. These are things that she would be interested in and subjects that we have been covering at numerous campuses we have visited during our college search process, especially Research, Community Involvement and Global Presence. You guys are on the right track. I keep hoping that in 20 years people will look at my diploma and be amazed that I graduated from UGA. That wish is becoming more and more a reality.

I think getting a freshman started off on the right foot is the most important thing a college can do for its constituents. Actually they can be introduced to the other 3 concepts during this first term experience. Finally, being connected and forming relationships is an important part of that 1st semester and I think the first term experience can help with that. Who knows....maybe it can even help with retention rates.

I firmly believe having studied abroad has helped me get interviews, if nothing else because it gave something to talk about, set me apart from other applicants and let employers know that I was outgoing/adventurous enough to do such a thing.

Looking back on my time at UGA I regret not taking more advantage of opportunities to acquire real world experience that would have helped me once I graduated. An internship should be strongly encouraged for all graduates but this idea of research opportunities could also be a huge asset to graduating seniors who have practical experience in their field.

Establishing a mentor program with alums would be beneficial for all undergrads and the alums would enjoy it too.

I think all 4 are so important. I went abroad several times as a foundation fellow, did substantial research, and community service, all of which helped me get to where I am
Research opportunities are important, but I think every one needs some community/civic experience and global experiences are so important in our world today. As a parent I saw that the first team experience was so engaging for my daughter at Middlebury and my son at UGA did not get good advising/planning help. Let's fix that first. Thank you for asking.

The first term experience is an important start for the student but the options 2, 3 & 4 are much more important for the rest of the educational experience.

Although not specifically linked to these proposed projects, I think UGA needs to drastically enhance its alumni network and relations. I'm in the last semester of law school and Notre Dame University and am stunned at the amount of opportunity that exists just because of the tight bonds that exist between alumni here. Programs that focus on the development of such a bond (besides our football team) would be fabulous for Georgia and it's alumni.

I think a simple class on "real life" after graduation would be helpful. Mortgage, taxes, etc to help you understand. Maybe it was my own ignorance, but I knew nothing about the above mentioned life topics upon graduating.

I was a freshman at UGA in the fall 1958. I grew up in Roswell,GA and graduated from Roswell High with a class of maybe 47 students. I would have loved to have had a “1st Term Experience” that is listed as a possible program in this survey. I cherish growing up in small town Roswell, which is certainly not small now.

Please remember that many students simply do not have the resources to do many extra curricular activities. Many are working their way through college and are incapable of luxuries such as Study Abroad or volunteering their time for free. However, this does not necessarily translate into lack of interest or determination, but prioritizing their money in realistic fashions. These are people who are trying to complete their degrees here and shouldn't have to transfer to lesser schools because UGA requires more from them then they can afford.

The opportunity to expand the UGA learning experience into a global focused education will provide students with vast learning capabilities to understand the expected subject matter as well as broaden the understanding to obtain a truly global impact from scholastic experiences.

we need to teach basics. the extracurricular activities present the opportunity to round our students. there is no need for the waste of fluffy curriculum

This survey is bogus. All you're asking for is a stamp of approval on programs you're already thinking about. This has nothing to do with accreditiation. You want to say that
the *alumni* have asked for or endorsed some new program. Well why not try scrapping the idea of becoming a Georgia Tech North first.

I can't think of anything more valuable to offer an undergraduate than research opportunities. As your grad school admissions & advisors should know, nothing can really prepare a student for graduate school better than undergraduate research in their field.

One of the hardest parts of going off to college, especially in a town such as Athens, is adjusting to the freedom and responsibility given to the young student. I feel the 1st term experience may help adjust students as they encounter this. Equally important is the need for research opportunities for undergraduates. I know I was bypassed many times for the graduate student which I understood at the time. I only wish that I had a chance to travel with researching professors as well instead of left to do the grunt work.

Any program that would assist new students in adjusting to college life should be pursued. It would reduce the dropout rate and be a positive for all concerned.

I believe the university offers plenty of opportunities for students to be engaged in the community if they simply look for them. More important is the opportunity to feel connected when you are a freshman at such a large campus.

I don't feel that the "First Term Experience" would be as meaningful as intended because, most incoming freshman are 18 years old and their life experiences to that point would probably not provide them with the long reaching vision of the University. However, my own most meaningful experiences occurred when I had the opportunity to have hands on experience, such as my practicums at the McPhaul Center. To be able to contribute to research would have been even more powerful.

Please teach reality. The world does not need more people out of touch with existing conditions and unreasonable solutions. Nurture and challenge them but there is a let down period after college when people in the "real world" get away from academia and find out their teachers could have never made it in the "real world". Get teachers with true experience!

I think that it is impossible to accurately prioritize these four initiatives as they speak to four separate, but equal, mandates of the university. The 1st term experience is essential to the success of new undergrad and will provide the underpinning of excellent student achievement. The Community and Civic Engagement lays the ground work for students at UGA to develop solutions for a better society at home and the Global Focus is essential for all of us to be successful in a global world. I would add to the global experience opportunities to bring global business and cultural academic and student ambassadors to Athens to enhance the flavor of the Global program. I have listed the Research Opportunities 4th not because they are less important, but because having the other three in place will make the 4th even more important. Research is the
only way, in my opinion, to improve the world. Research drives change and paves the way for a better world.

In organizations, research shows that new employees know within the first 60-90 days how long they intend to stay at an organization. I would imagine that the outcome is similar for new students. Consequently, I would focus attention and resources on retaining the top talent that you selected to attend UGA. I selected Community and Civic Engagement as my second choice because of the long term value of connecting education with civic involvement. Education is a life long endeavor, not something that ends after you graduate from college. Further, the current economic state makes it even more apparent that Americans need to learn how to invest themselves in the welfare of their community. It would be a tremendous gift with a lifetime payout -- for our students and Athens community -- if UGA instituted a Community and Civic Engagement program. The second two options are, in my opinion, the least critical to our students' success in the long run. While certain career paths demand a global focus and/or an understanding of the scientific method, I would argue that neither are necessities for the success of *most* UGA grads. If the budget allows for one of the two, I would invest in the Global Focus initiative. However, I think that it is the departments' responsibility (not the University as a whole) to provide global focus and research opportunities when such exposure is important for the advancement of students in their program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Term Experience sounds too much like a Freshman Seminar that is already offered. Plus students should already get a feel for college when they come to orientation during the summer. I think there definitely needs to be more classes that connect you with and prepare you for the &quot;Real World&quot; that you'll experience when you graduate.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We must produce critical thinkers who can seriously compete in the global economy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explain that learning is now, fun starts at 62 or in my case at 57.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A global focus (including required foreign language for all majors) is essential for well-educated students. A &quot;1st term experience&quot; would be a waste of time for most incoming UGA students--maybe it needs to be required for second-semester students who party too much and don't make at least a 3.0 first semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College is like summer camp with classes until one has exposure to the &quot;real world&quot;. The community/civic engagement can do this. Even better, one should spend time abroad to really get a better understanding of oneself and see life through other people's eyes. I lived in Costa Rica for a year after college (studying and working) and it was the best experience of my life. I'm a different person for it, and also am fluent in Spanish (still...many years later).</td>
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<tr>
<td>I believe that it is more practical to rank these based upon a person's major or interests. With some majors especially the sciences and agriculture research opportunities...</td>
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</table>
might rank one, but other majors such as the arts it would be different. Teaching for instance might rank Community and civic engagements. I believe it would be more practical for each school to do a separate ranking.

Programs to help students get into smaller groups and develop core groups of friends

Anyone, of any age or group, that is new to something (a new area, new job, new event, etc.) needs 4 things; companionship (to know they are not alone), friendly help and guidance from experts, repetition to achieve mastery, and fun to maintain their interest. The best way to make novices into experts is by organizing them into groups, giving them a mutual task, and immersing them in the environment supported by experts in the field. Reality TV does this all the time - gives people goals to accomplish. It's best if the leaders/experts are charismatic, and have a lively, cheerful disposition. The best example I can think of is building a house with Habitat for Humanity. Having a group work together on a project with proper supervision and leadership helps people learn something new, meet others to create networking opportunities, give them a positive feeling of self-worth and accomplishment, and create unity - and isn't that what it's all about? Act locally, think globally. Do it enough locally, and you might have the opportunity to act globally. I'm Tony Bible, proud UGA grad '97, B.A. History, and I work as a business liaison for Citigroup and a part time as a House Leader for Habitat for Humanity in San Antonio, TX. Cell# 210-884-6017. Take Care.

I feel that all of the ideas listed above are important and relevant to UGA undergraduates. I only ranked Community and Civic Engagement last as I feel that if students are seeking these opportunities they can easily be found.

First term students should be impressed with beginning with a positive give it all attitude. The University experience can "sail" if you start on the right foot. Fraternities should be off limits for the first two semesters and then pledging only allowed with a "B" average.

As a high school teacher in a rural community, I feel that students are not aware of the expectations of them at the college level. I feel that many of the students need to be aware of their obligation in planning and implementing their desired course of study.

While the first term experience seems an excellent program, it would be my assumption that this was explained in detail through the high school counselors and family members prior to choosing the college of their choice.

I think it is crucial for students to feel connected to not only their university, but also the surrounding community.

These are all attractive programs. I believe that UGA must increase its "external" focus and see itself more in the context of preparing its students for a global contribution in the years ahead. A second or third language should be an important aspect of that.
Since many of them were leaders in their schools, freshmen also could be made aware of how they can be involved in leadership capacities through the Freshman Forum and the Freshman Board offered by the Student Government Association.

Initiate a volunteer peer tutoring program if not already in place.

All are excellent programs. Go DAWGS!

I have two children at UGA at this time (a Junior and a Freshman). Engagement with faculty would be beneficial followed by their knowledge of the world around them and how they must participate. I do not agree with the proposal of a 1st term experience. Rather than this approach, the culture of the students needs to be changed and that, I feel, cannot be achieved in an isolated manner. It needs to be in the fabric of the entire university, which they experience on a daily basis. Make the Honor Code more than a piece of paper. Those who are unwilling to follow it, should be asked to leave the university. Plenty of students are academically qualified to attend UGA. However, integrity and honesty are not a part of the equation on admittance. These issues should be a prime concern once they show up on campus. Based on conversations with my children, the honor code is not taken seriously by students and not supported by faculty.

They were very hard to rank as they are all important aspects of a good college experience for today's world.

We had a freshman seminar at Emory when I started there. We meet once a week for the first semester of college. It was a great program that got you involved with a faculty member or two, some other freshman outside you other activities and some upperclassmen. I really think this was a very valuable experience in helping me as a freshman.

I think that the four elements are right on. Thank you. Mary T. Llewellyn - Brown - Class of 1968

With regards to Community and Civic Engagement, these programs should provide practical and real learning experiences which can carry over to the job market after graduation. If this is not what you had in mind then I would not rank it as high.

First term experience seems quite beneficial for an incoming freshman, but those which follow seem more appropriate for upper classmen. Dr. TRudolph

Athens is an incredible town for community engagement. There are a plethora of very real community issues that students could help address and come up with creative
solutions for, such as poverty and crime rates.

I made my rankings with the student body as a whole in mind, but I might vary the rankings somewhat, depending on a student's major of study. For example, I would rank the "Research Opportunities" higher for science majors.

An emphasis on library orientation and the role of the university librarians in helping them achieve their goals would be good. It took me 3 years to realize how much help the library staff would be, and made a world of difference in my last 4 quarters of school.

We need more conservative teachings in our colleges and the teaching of practical ways to engage our government to change the direction of this country. If not our current system will bankrupt our country and there will be very few colleges to attend.

The first academic year sets the tone for future success. The University needs to create the support network of first year services to promote a successful transition into the campus community.

Spend some of the endowment to finance lower tuition rates and scholarships.

With conditions in the country and the direction we seem to be going, the students need to be given both sides of what can follow for our future so they can make an intelligent choice of what they want in their future and lives.

Of the four ideas presented, only "1st Term Experience" and "Community & Civic Engagement" would be open to all students. The other two would be limited to certain areas of study or levels of income. And the 1st Term one would give even shy students something more than just a desk to hide behind.

I have always found that students with actual practical experience are more desirable in the job market than those without. It gives the student great perspective on the careers they do and don't want and gives their employers a worker who actually knows how to work. Those programs that encourage real world experience should always be given top priority. Those programs are not only better for the students and their future employers, but will enhance the reputation of our fine university wherever those students land.

You have them in the order I would rank them. HOWEVER, I believe something needs to happen BEFORE students get to college. I think many students get to college with no idea of how their own gifts and talents and interests relate to specific careers. Many of them don't even know what their gifts are! If a program, beginning with junior high students, existed to identify student interests and talents, and then direct them to career avenues suited to those interests and talents, I believe new college students
would arrive at school much more focused and engaged from the beginning.

Based on the summary of the 1st Term Experience program above, it appears to be a waste of time. The 1st term can already be overwhelming for students, the last thing they need is another task. During orientation, including the mandatory academic advising, during orientation this information could be explained to the new students. Please keep in mind that these are smart, capable students and not elementary school kids. They do not need to have their hand held the entire first semester. However, the research opportunities and community engagement programs would be very helpful as there are vast opportunities available at UGA and in Athens that would most likely generate a substantial amount of interest from the students if they were aware of them.

Colleges should concentrate more on preparing students for the real world instead of winning trivia contests.

In today’s world, too much emphasis is being placed on community and civic engagement. This socialistic mindset is what caused this once great nation to elect the hapless president we have now. We’ll never return to greatness until we learn to accept responsibility for our own actions and not look for the next hand-out.

What a wonderful overview of UGA life and expectations could be presented if someone could incorporate all four of the programs into one learning opportunity. Each student needs to know what they can expect from the university and what the university expects from the student. As student responsibilities are met the global, community, and research opportunities open to them. Good luck with whatever the outcome is for these initiatives!

I believe that student participation in research is extremely valuable. These experiences are key for students wishing to pursue academic careers and graduate education in most areas of study. For other students, it also enriches their understanding as educated consumers of empirical work and fosters original and critical thinking. I participated in CURO through the Honors college as a student at UGA and found the experience to be invaluable for my own intellectual development and career goals.

I think students need to learn to be part of a community rather than so self indulged.

As the “problem solvers” of tomorrow are developing their skills, a firm grasp of global challenges aka “opportunities” is essential in determining where they can best contribute. Go Dawgs!

All these programs are important, but never lose sight of the goals of a college education by starting post-grad work too soon. Similar to athletes, college is not to insure everyone gets a contract in the first 2 or 3 years. Only after all requirements are
met for graduation. Everything else after is gravy on the rice and biscuits.

The 1st Term Experience would be a great way to orient new students to UGA. It is overwhelming for some students to be tossed into such a large environment without parents and friends sometimes, and the guidance that this could offer would be great for them. As far as #2/#3, start locally, then expand to Global efforts. Thanks!

The Freshman College Summer Experience program is a lot like the 1st Term Experience proposal. As a participant in the Freshman College I would highly recommend forming the 1st Term Experience program with a lot of the same curriculum and ideas.

1st term experience......to introduce students to the intellectual and academic expectations of the University AND to introduce them to the possibilites to achieve these high expectations.

Students need "real world" experience to get a job in this economy. Teach students the skills to be a successful employee. Make internships mandatory, or atleast encourage them more.

I have ranked these opportunities in a systemic order -- i.e., get the student well oriented and well grounded academically first, then broaden their paradigm to include the community realities, then open the door to the global focus and, finally, with that integrated focus as a basis for knowing what they are really drawn to, offer the research opportunities. ALL of these foci are very important, but the order of exposure to them as educational "building blocks" is critical to producing the most prepared graduate. I am assuming the majority of the incoming first year students are still arriving, having spent most of their lives to that point living in GA/Southeast, attending public schools and not having traveled extensively outside of the USA. It may have been a wonderful upbringing but it is UGA's job to bridge that world with the global one they are potentially going to impact as leaders throughout their adulthood.

I think spending a semester in another country would be beneficial for all students no matter what area they choose to pursue. It would be wonderful if the university had reciprocity with other higher learning facilities in many other countries that would give the opportunity of learning another culture while learning in their field. I would say that this would be best during the junior/senior year after a major has been declared.

Connections during the first term dramatically help students obtain success at UGA. This is extremely important as UGA grows and increases enrollment and programs.

An important part of the "1st Term Experience" should be seminars on alcohol abuse. Despite all the hype on recognizing the problem that exists on some college campuses, I feel that underage (and legal) drinking among college students is a huge problem. When I went to orientation for my daughter several years ago, the parents were told
that the bars in town absolutely would not tolerate underage drinking, etc. In talking with my daughter soon after, I found out one of the first things they learn is which bars have which specials on which nights. And one needs only to wander around campus or near the student section on football game days to know there is not a handle on the alcohol. Just my two cents worth.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Please consider a mentoring program, faculty/teaching Assistant to student. An individual who takes a personal interest in a students progress can be very powerful in igniting talent. My son experienced that at another school. He was a marginal student and in undergraduate school on academic probation. Several faculty members recognized his potential and mentored him. He is now ABD for his Ph. D. in history and an officer in the US Army. Mentorship gives a high rate of return on the investment in someone's future.</th>
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<tr>
<td>There should be a focus on making sure the first year transition is successful. This sets the stage for how the student will adapt and perform socially and academically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>With a global movement and the world becoming smaller everyday, any focus on a global environment is important. Younger generations need to focus on a 'bigger picture.'</td>
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<tr>
<td>The student in the future need a basic course in &quot;water, soil, air and growing crops and animals. The students now all grow up in a suburban environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The first term experience, research opportunities and community &amp; civic engagement as emphases would be fantastic additions!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The more exposure to &quot;real&quot; business issues that students could be exposed to the better. So often many of the University staff has never been &quot;in the real world&quot; and that shortchanges students. The university staff is made up of government employees and far too often they act like it. This isn't the world most students are going to operate in. Additionally, many students are not ready personally. While the university may not look at it as their responsibility &quot;personal economics&quot; for example would help many new grads more than some other things often thought more important.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back in 1986, I took a class called University 101, which was an optional, but very beneficial orientation to UGA. It was similar to the 1st Term experience, so I <em>thought</em> this was being done already. The remainder of my priorities are &quot;new&quot; to my perspective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe any Global Focus program be limited to Senior year or Grad school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign languages are key both for non English speakers coming to UGA who must learn English as well as UGA students who need to study languages abroad which is the</td>
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only road to real fluency.

Opportunities to engage in research projects and become immersed in global issues/global economy could be vital in helping students prepare for their careers.

Wow, this is a tough list to prioritize as all are extremely important to the undergraduate experience. I ranked 1st term experience at the top due to the importance of assimilating students successfully into the UGA academic experience which if you don't do, then the other opportunities become moot. The latter three are all important and all which I participated in and found value in for different reasons which was translatable to my future personal and professional life.

For some majors, I would rank global focus higher. By their very nature, some disciplines lend themselves to being global, while some others don't.

Bigger emphasis on internship opportunities...make sure students start thinking about this from day 1 vs. "happenstance"

Global focus should include learning about other cultures and understanding why we are looked at a certain way overseas. Civic Engagement should also include HELPING students land an internship. I was UNABLE to get an internship while I went to school there....it took me three more years after graduation to find ANY job.

I really like the 1st Term Experience idea a lot, but I note that it's very different than the other three programs. 1st Term Experience is short-lived for each student, while the other programs could be integrated into a student's experience at UGA through the years. So, I suggest implementing a 1st Term Experience program, and evaluate the rankings of the other three programs separately.

Perhaps it's my perspective as a language major, but I think we can't become too globally aware in the new century. We need to learn languages and understand the complexities of the world to produce what the new century will want to consume and to craft foreign policy that looks forward, not backward.

Undergraduates do not need to be doing research for faculty members (2). That happens too much in gradute programs. Students should not be forced into community and civic projects (3). These should be voluntary. Something on a smaller scale than (1) should be done for transfer students, especially those who transfer in from the two year colleges of the university system.

Get the most out of every study-if you are exposed to it.Learn it all, to do less is to rob your yourself.

I think that there should be more effort to link the undergraduate experience with real-life Athens. UGA is its own entity within a community that is very different from the
community that it sits in the middle of. I think it would be very beneficial for students to have a better glimpse at the real-world of Athens, the community issues in Athens and get students more involved in solving these problems.

What would have been most valuable to me would have been something similar to the 1st term exp, but focused on the value of internships, and the process of getting a job after graduation. I learned all these things way too late (late junior year), wish I would have known about them as a freshman!

If drafted service to the USA for one year becomes law, then UGA could focus on the Global Focus.

I feel that there are enough opportunities for the civic minded student by organizations existing on campus. 1st term exp. should be part of student orientation. Global Focus seems entirely TOO liberal for anyone!

I am VERY supportive of the 1st Term Experience. Many students get overwhelmed the first semester at UGA, especially those not from the metro/suburban Atlanta area. Acclimating to the campus & college pace greatly impacts the student learning experience. So, having this 1st Term Experience could alleviate some of the typical anxieties students encounter.

Teachers should do all they can to promote the advancement of students. If they see a student going in the wrong direction advise them accordingly.

I think that internships should really be pushed to students, from the first term at UGA and continued throughout the program.

My ranking is based entirely on undergraduate benefits. Practical experience will occur once students are out in the workforce. My opinion is that a good education should set the foundation for a student to apply what they have learned in a 'real world' experience. Graduate level learning would invert these programs and allow for strategic and practical experience.

These all have considerable merit, so the distance between 1 and 4 for my ranking is very small.

The Global Focus program really would be my last choice. I know I placed these in the order presented, but that is truly my feeling and just a coincidence!!! ;-))

We have the best minds. Let us use our force.

I would rate 2-4 equally based on how it answers the WIIFM question for students. Undergrad is all about how it builds their resumes and better positions them in the marketplace. If students can engage in this programs in their field of interest, the will
have great value to them.

A Global Focus IS a local Focus. Students need to see the connections. I work with students in a community college in Virginia and have been doing research on this idea. My experience with my students lead me to think that students that arrive at Georgia are very similar to the ones I see. Give them a Global Focus in a 1st term experience. Nell G. Tiller Assistant Professor of Spanish & Chair of International Education Studies Team

The most important program is to RETAIN students. If you lose students the first or second year, the other 3 choices of programs are useless. Student retention should be your number one emphasis!!!!!! Making the student feel wanted in a large student population is difficult. Therefore the university staff having positive interaction with first year students is crucial.

I am glad to know we have a Student Learning Enhancement Team now!

All of these sound great theoretically. I think the best thing for UGA regarding undergrads would be to push back Greek Rush until second semester of freshmen year.

As a political science graduate from a research institute, I was a little disappointed in the research opportunities for undergraduates.

Try to focus on the real world that these students will be facing, not theories and pet projects of the academic and political world. The most important in their life is serving God, their families, their job and their fellow man, in that order. I can tell you that from experience. That focus has served me well for 56 years. Class of ‘57, Major Physics. Married for 56 years, 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren and all are fine and well. Thomas Edward Mitchell III retired Semiconductor Engineer

I think all of these programs would be excellent opportunities and I am glad to see that UGA continues to strive to offer their incoming and existing students the very best.

I see all of these as very important. It is difficult to rank Global Focus and Research Opportunities, but this is the order I would feel is important.

It was my out of class experiences through internships and projects that taught me the most valuable information during my time at UGA. I think that Community and Civic Engagement would be the most beneficial.

Although I have ranked #2 thru #4, it is very hard for me to really "rank" these three in priority order because each of these is very important and would do much to enhance every student's UGA experience.

I met students at UGA who had never been outside the state of GA. International
perspective would be good for students. GA and UGA can be a bit of a bubble.

Develop a co-op program where students can work for a partner business in their career field for a semester.

All are important - difficult to place in numerical sequence

I loved UGA but it is a big university and to help new students feel better connected during their first year is a great idea for #1. Do all four ideas!

I like the idea of community involvement. Perhaps you could consider as a requirement to graduate to participate in "X" number of hours of community projects. Something small and reasonable, but that ensures all students get exposure to community service and understand its value and what the student can offer. Perhaps it could instill a sense of service in many more graduates. I think that could be a great source of pride for our university.

1st term experience should be a given.

I think all of the ideas are fantastic so even though I ranked "Global Focus" last that does not mean I do not think it is a good idea as well. Please know that I feel all of these experiences are important for students at the University of Georgia.

These are all worthy programs. New students particularly need #1. Students need to recognize the global focus of all lives in this age, so global focus was #2. Nothing like being a participant in an important research project particularly if published to boost student sense of self value, but every person should also be learning to give back and be involved in community. These were very hard choices.

I didn't have any specific courses dedicated to "1st term experience" outside of one that I took Junior year for extra curricular credit, and I did just fine with all of the other resources UGA provided.

I learned so much in one semester studying abroad. If students are able to do this, I would strongly encourage it. I also believe that today's student might not be prepared for UGA's academic experience. Option number 1 can provide for a less intimidating experience.

I chose this order because I think research opportunities already exists on campus, especially in the honors program. The 1st term experience would expose them to all these opportunities, and would be beneficial to help them find their undergraduate goals.

I think that helping first year students at UGA is a very important matter.
5) Mandate internships!!!!!!! Experience is key to career development.

Global focus may have rated higher, however, the exorbitant price for these activities make it cost prohibitive to many/most students. Cost share programs for this would probably give this item a higher ranking.

Programs need to be flexible.

I think the 1st Term Experience would be a HUGE waste of University resources and time. If you are smart enough to get into UGA, you should be able to figure out University expectations.

Community & Civic Engagement and Global Focus were very nearly reversed for me. However, I changed their positions because while global issues will most certainly be heavily featured in any 21st Century curriculum, it is less likely that local community outreach will. Getting the undergraduates active in the community as college students may have the benefit of enculturing them to the extent that they continue to be involved with local service after graduation.

Just reacting. Long time Florida Juris Doctor(FSU)

These program opportunities sound like they are on the right track. I would like to see exposure to all 4 at some time during the undergraduate experience-like emphasis on one of them each year of the 4 yr program-

My advisor had no clue about my degree and was no help in selecting courses or internships etc. Advisors should be better chosen for the individual student.

I believe that undergraduate education should primarily focus on ACADEMICS. Let the global focus and community programs be something the student can elect to be involved in outside of the classroom.

My BBA is WORTHLESS

Programs should be structured to provide optimum student / teacher or mentor ratio and without the constraints of any predetermined diversity requirements.

As a recent graduate, I feel that a global focus could not be more imperative considering our current global economic and political situation. I have only begun to become more aware of these issues since graduating--especially as a chemistry major it was hard to keep up with current events. Also, I feel that study abroad opportunities should be presented early in the 4 (or 5 or 6...) year experience in order to give more students an opportunity to experience the world on their own terms and with their own senses, instead of just learning of foreign places simply by reading and attending class. Our world is more connected now than it has ever been, and having pursued research
opportunities and "community engagement" during my years at the University, my only regret is not branching out and exploring other countries and cultures in the process.

All of these sound like fantastic ideas! You could include some community & civic projects with the 1st term experience.

Need programs for students that showcase all of the different ways they can be involved in extracurricular activities as an undergrad. It can be hard to find info about the different clubs--what they do, how to join, etc.

New students, in fact all Georgia students, need more contact with the real community and the real world beyond their insular suburban ghettos.

Obviously, it depends on the students interests and course of study as to how relevant these programs would be to each student. Students need to have relevant experience and real world application of their coursework for direction once they leave academia, if they leave. My internships through the University, not my GPA, helped me get my first job out of college.

More needs to be taught about our founding fathers beliefs and what this country was originally about - work hard, live sensibly, respect the rights of others, etc.

Students coming from small high schools need more close advising and support for such a large school.

This would be good for grad from another school as well.

I think there should be some ways or means for all students to be exposed to the vast knowledge and experience as well as the many achievements that many UGA grads of the past years could provide about their own accomplishments.

I feel like Research Opportunities is the only choice worthwhile.

I would have liked to graduate with more experience in the larger world outside college, and for the faculty to have more knowledge and experience in what was happening currently in their field. I was an art major and many art professors were out of touch. I graduated in '93.

I think the idea of the 1st Term Experience is great because there is a knowledge gap between attending orientation and being a UGA student that needs to be bridged. I also think the Community and Civic Engagement idea is wonderful for what it can do for relations between the Athens community and the UGA community. There is a disparity there.
Some of the benefits would depend on the student's major.

Students need to be exposed to more career development opportunities before their junior and senior years.

I think one of the problems w/ my education was that there was no guidance tying what I was learning to real world needs. When I graduated I felt lost and didn't know where to start, so more education from start of freshmen year on practical info would help.

One other comment. Universities have failed to uphold the ideals of this great country. The leftist, liberal & ungodly bilge that includes the lies of global warming, evolution (evilution), socialistic (communism) elitism are destroying the greatest nation ever conceived. The elites have dumbed down the electorate such that they can't discern what is happening. UGA and other institutions have failed. Might I remind you that UGA as well as "all" institutions of higher learning formed during the 1700s were formed to train people to spread the Gospel. The idiot leftist just elected in November if allowed will destroy this country. None of the student learning approaches above will succeed without first returning to the correct foundation. Require every student to read & understand Mark Levin's book "Liberty & Tyrany." Liberty has never been free. Our military understands this. The idiot leftist demagogues in academia don't. Who among us are the stupid ones? Could it be the professors who are supposed to be "learned?"

5) How to balance a checkbook. 6) How to get student loans

What students need the most is real help with job placement, once they graduate! Good guidance counseling is a crucial part of preparing them for the outside world's challenges.

The first term experience is so important because so many students come to college without a plan or a purpose. Exposure to college and faculty for advisement and planning purposes early on is important. Community service and civic engagement are important components of any educational experience, but now more than ever, they should be brought to the forefront and emphasized as part of one's college education and experience.

I think that based on my experience in the late 1980s and early 1990s that a closer ongoing relationship with one interested adviser would have improved my learning maybe more than any other factor. I have the impression that UGA has already improved in this area since I graduated, but using my experience as a guide, none of the four initiatives that you've provided would have really enhanced my learning as much as feeling that anyone on campus tracked my performance, cared about my progress, and recommended programs or classes based on my individual interests or needs. Some of this was certainly my own fault, since I changed majors and didn't actively seek these relationships out. But why focus on a 1st term experience VS a full
I received my M.S. at UGA. However, I spent 28 years at UGA as an Extension Agronomist and taught three undergraduate courses and 1 graduate course for 7 years. If I were ranking the programs I would rank 1st Term Experience No. 1, Global Focus No. 2, Research Opportunities No. 2, and Community & Civic Engagement No. 4. Owen Plank M.S. '65

I think another option should entail learning about career options and what major to choose to be in a particular type of business. A complete course with job descriptions for each field of study/major. Incorporated into the curriculum should be field visits, or days with different professionals of the student's choosing. I think this will greatly increase the student's success after graduation if they have studied a major that truly interested them and in turn becomes a professional in that field.

Global focus sounds great. Its really needed since the world is shrinking due to technology. this generation needs to see the big picture and needs to be able to understand and relate to other culture more than any other generation yet.

I do social work activities, and when UGA students help in the community, it benefits our children and gives them goals to try and reach.

I think the 1st Term Experience would be extremely beneficial to incoming freshmen.

I was a transfer student and really could have used some help with possible internship and work-study programs as well as more prep for going out into the big world. (it turned out i did ok, but this stuff might help) Thanks...and Go Dawgs

Freshmen students mostly do not listen especially at orientation and other similar functions. By getting students to engage in activities, they are not only giving back to the community but are increasing their knowledge and experience that may lead to a job opportunity in the future.

I think the 1st term experience is a very good idea. I would suggest the program communicate a clear position on ethical behavior at the beginning and end of the program. As the news from Wall St. and other places show -- education without ethics is not in the best interest of an university, the state or country. Greed is not good -- nor has it ever been good.

1st Term Experience would be very beneficial. The remaining are a virtual tie as far as ranking in importance, in my opinion.

Based on the problems with the big three auto, AIG and the problem with personal debt, a focus on fiscal management should probably be an option as it is the most obvious problem. Number 2 should be a focus on personal morals and ethics since less
and less thought is given to this crucial area. Laws will only invite more invention. Need to get to the heart of the issue which is who we are....

First year students these days need much more guidance and "hand holding," so the 1st Term Experience is definitely a good idea. Also, these kids need to get out of their comfort zones and be involved in civic projects. As for research and global focus, they would be at the bottom of any list you created for first year students since their minds are generally not prepared for either......

Students should have learned before college but they all need to have opportunity to relate to other people in a kind, respectful and Considerate manner.

This "broad brush" comparison is a good initial tool in bringing to the front the needs of today's student. I find that many of the graduates of today are "better prepared" than I was for a professional track. Not because of the educational curriculum of yesteryear but because of the "direct-connect" training in the school/working world coursework I found at both Rutgers and Oregon State. I am quite certain Georgia is on the same track just because of the inter-action I have had with the UGA Alumni just last year -

I rated global focus highest, but I would like to add to that national focus. There are a lot of opportunities and experiences outside of Georgia and the southeast but still in the US. It can also help raise our national profile.

It's been quite a while since I've been in formal school, so I don't know the extent that UGA is already helping students in Jr. & Sr. years obtain internships and/or work study programs with companies that could be potential employers after graduation, but I think it's invaluable to help students understand the ins and outs of finding meaningful avenues toward fields of study toward gainful employment in their area of interests. Anything that the University can do to help students toward that direction would be very helpful in my view.

curriculums need as much exposure to real-world situations and experiences as possible

I think it is really important for all students to have core classes in ART and MUSIC similar to core classes in math/english/science, regardless of major as you can't have well rounded graduates who have exposure to theoretical and studio art/music.

Setting the tone of first term is most important for an awareness of the total college years opportunities.

They are all great programs. I think they could be placed in any order of importance, but getting students started on the right foot will probably be most beneficial.

Teach them how to cross the street. Please!
I actually really like the first three opportunities. I picked the research opportunities option as I feel this will best help students be more competitive while applying to graduate school, but the next two options also sound great. As a student, I think the idea of the "1st Term Experience" would have just annoyed me and been just "one more thing" to fit into an already hectic first semester.

I think it would be great to offer undergrads a seminar or course on finances and financial planning from a practical, real life perspective.

An integrated 1st term experience is a fantastic idea!

Specifically I see a problem with the core science courses class size. Only the superior students seem to survive these courses well. Several of my nieces and nephews are opting to take these classes during summer semester at different schools where the class size allows them to get some attention from their instructors. I am a proud alum and know that class size was an issue even 35 years ago when I was a Chemistry major. Perhaps the 1st term experience can at least let students know what they can expect and how they can deal with the mega classroom. Research opportunities really drive the learning experience home if the students get that far (have to improve those core courses!). Finally, it is crucial to be able to relate your interests to the outside world, but I don't believe the local community should be overlooked in order to provide a global experience as important as that is.

I believe that a first term experience combining all the parameters listed is of major importance for a new comer to the University. I wish I had that opportunity when I first got to UGA.

All would be good but for new students #1 would be best in my opinion.

I think stewardship, public - partnerships and community involvement will become more important annually, especially as we shake the recession. Hope this helps. al

Sorority rush was held BEFORE school started and girls were expected to attend then. Fraternities did their rush after the first semester in January. I wish that sorority rush didn't take place in September because I think it kept me from getting to know as many school mates as I could or would have had I not joined the sorority so soon.

All are important, but helping them to adjust to the new freedoms of college life and how it relates to their studies. Learning to time management should start at the beginning. Working on time management is crucial so the students can eventually fit the other three (3) things into their college life.

Research Opportunities were very important to my career but were almost "accidental" when I was a student.
All of the above! I worked my way through UGA. At age 77 I can recall the great teachers I had. Have forgotten the other ones.

I believe 1st Term Experience should not be a unique program but infact part of the integration and acclamation of all incoming students. Acclamation and helping others feel comfortable in a new environment should be a given at UGA. It is very disappointing that it is viewed as a creative or innovative program at this stage of the competitive nature of higher education.

Encourage active involvement in campus and community activities. Building character, integrity, and responsibility are important to help build individuals up. Far more important than academics alone.

UGA needs to have a graduate degree in Third World Provisions. I know you can follow along with clean water sources, agriculture, agronomy, vet disciplines and much, much more. Look at Heifer, Intl.

Dedicated advisor for each student throughout their time at UGA with one on one meetings at least twice per year.

I think these are all worthy goals!

In my opinion, most people are not up to true RESEARCH, so why not try to help all to be more responsible, interested, and involved citizens?

Nice try but you need more details.

It's very difficult to decide between the 4. I feel 1st term experience is essential to molding a student who can fulfill the other 3 areas. Perhaps global focus and community engagement can be a part of the 1st term experience to get students involved in Athens and campus while gaining a world view to put it all in perspective. I most certainly would have loved any opportunity even remotely similar to something like that!

I think all of these ideas are very good and would enhance the learning of the undergraduate student body. The more you can get them to relate what they are learning to the 'real world', the easier it is for them to comprehend and retain the information and then understand it enough to then apply it.

The first two seem more helpful and hands-on useful to the students. The last two seem more like feel good, politically correct puffery.

All worthwhile initiatives, but I like the concept of focusing on the first term to make sure students are assimilated to the UGA community and see the opportunities to maximize university resources to the utmost right out of the chute. The first term
typically sets the pace for the collegiate experience, and the social lures of campus life can obfuscate the academic side for new students. This initiative might provide needed balance in that regard.

Research is how this country became the leader it is today and if we do not invest in new technology we will slowly lose our grip of the top spot in global affairs.

I graduated in 1967 and do not know if my input is relevant to today's students. However, incoming freshmen, I believe, are basically high school students and need the framework of their academic future and the building blocks of UGA's expectations as a roadmap for their college career. As an aside, may I say, there is not a chance I could get into UGA if I applied today. (You do not want to know my SAT scores.) In spite of that, UGA can be proud of my accomplishments and I am proud of its foundation for my future.

The choices ought not be numbered, since you are asking people to rank-order them by number.

I wish these had been available when I was an undergrad!

I do not think I have any qualifications to advice on this subject. I think you are wasteing your time and money on a survey asking people you do not know a thing about-their input. All seem kinda "politically correct" programs.

I studied abroad and it was a great foundation for later working overseas and made me much more competitive in the job market. Any focus on int'l experience can only help undergrads.

U-F admits someone from every county. Do we do this? Diversity within the state should be important. It is a state school.

I feel that any hands-on experience in the field students are planning to go into would be beneficial. Advisors and professors could be more helpful in finding opportunities-or at least when I was in school they could have been!

They all seem to be good ideas.

Universities need to continue being the leaders in research in partnership with government and the private sector for research investment and long term research goals. Offering opportunities to undergraduates (juniors, seniors, and or selected sophomore and freshmen with AP high school, or rigorous courses in their background) will enhance a challenging and forward-thinking academic experience to the students while affording the University a great reputation for changing the present paradigms on research work by underclass students.
I was unprepared for the job market when I graduated from UGA. The main faculty in the design department were and are not tuned in with the real world. I would suggest internships for all design students. UGA overall lacked global focus entirely while I was a student. Also, The 1st term experience, suggested above, seems overwhelming for freshmen -- wait for the 2nd term.

I got more out of a class that had a lot of input from the students (class discussion). One of the most interesting classes I had was LEGL 6400.

Students need MUCH more real-world experience while at the University. Academia remains too far removed from regular society.

My orientation was very informative and gave me an experience similar to the "1st Term Experience" so that's why I ranked it lowest. Research opportunities and the accurate understanding of how the research process works is vitally important for students, especially if they are planning on continuing to the Masters or higher level.

The more real experiences we can offer college students, the better prepared they will be to choose the right career (and also help employers see potential UGA employees).

Teaching students to choose career paths that can withstand a bad economy is also a great idea.

I hope this is a sign that the university's focus is moving toward education and away from concern about what students do with their spare time. It appears to me that an increased emphasis in that direction is what UGa needs. It has had 224 years to become one of the world's great educational institution but has failed to do so. It has the best incoming students that it has ever had and has failed influence them to recognize their potential. Perhaps this opportunity to retain accreditation could turn into a continuing emphasis for President Adams. I would prefer to read about the university's research and academic accomplishments rather than its efforts to change the way the football national championship is determined, or its efforts to create the illusion that the GA-FLA game is not an outdoor cocktail party, or its efforts to prevent its students from displaying lewd pictures during parties.

UGA students need as much exposure to the so-called "Global Economy" as is possible. Every business from architecture to finance (to name but a few) is now subject to global forces. I am proud of the quality of our UGA students. Please continue to upgrade admissions criteria and curriculum. UGA should represent the best.

Although I think that research opportunities was the most important program that I benefitted from of those listed, I believe that all students are different and will benefit differently from each of these four programs. Some students may gain more from the 1st term experience while others will gain more from doing study abroad. In other words, I think that all of these programs are beneficial to UGA students in one way or
another so I hope that they all offered and improved for many years to come.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I think involvement in real life learning in an area of interest might reveal to the student if they are on the right path for their major field of study. This would be an on the job experience for more than a day, possibly a month or two weeks.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>practical experience is key and is often left out of even the most rigorous academic programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All are great ideas. I do think freshmen need a choice because we are not all alike and don't learn in the same way.</td>
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| All of the ideas are really very important for different reasons and were very hard to rank. The 1st Term Experience would really help freshman focus on academics and all that is available in the academic setting. Being a new student at a large university can be overwhelming and as a result some very talented students may not connect. Research Opportunities could lead to important discoveries and would teach students new ways to look at problems in all areas of life. Community & Civic Engagement is so critically important. Today, so many qualified individuals do not choose to be involved in making their communities better and as a result, many times those with a personal agenda are the only ones who pursue these avenues. Global Focus is also critically important in our suddenly small world. |
| The research opportunities at UGA are extraordinary -- the best in the state. Making these available to undergraduates will increase their opportunities for good graduate study and good jobs and it will improve UGA's national standing. |

| One of the most important things an undergrad could learn is real life experience. Interships are one of the best learning tools for students. Life is not a text book, so why should everything you learn in college be? |
| I answered not only as a UGA alum, but as a parent of a college freshman (unfortunately not at UGA). I feel very strongly that if her college had a program similar to the "1st term experience" that her freshman year would have been much less traumatic. I had already planned to provide feedback to her institution, and was very pleased to see that my alma mater was already considering such a program! I only wish I had understood the criticality of programs to assimilate first year students so that we could have considered that as she made her school selection. |

| I think it is so important for incoming students to take a leadership role in some organization. The real world needs people who are not afraid to take the lead. |

| We lose many good students in their first year because they do not know how to study, how to plan, and what might be expected of them now that they are out of high school. |
I think the 1st Term Experience is an excellent idea.

Responsibility, charity starts at home

UGA needs to assess what the other state schools are doing and then do something different as to create a competitive advantage. For example, Kennesaw State already has a Global focus -- why repeat that? As an R1 institution perhaps the research opportunities may be a strong way to connect students to the work of faculty.

My son and future daughter in law both recently graduated from UGA. My son's fiance' was a CURO fellowship awardee and traveled extensively. She benefited greatly from that program. She also benefitted from working on a cutting edge research project I believe in her junior year. More availability of such programs I believe to a wider group of students would benefit the student as well as the University. As an under graduate I peer contact with alumni in career field

Submitted by Jere Snell, BBA Mkt, 1965

These are all fabulous initiatives and I honestly cannot rank one above another. I work at another large public university and these programs sound similar to our goals - with the exception of the intensive freshmen experience piece. I work with some parents and prospective students and can tell you that this would be very attractive, especially to students who are concerned about a large school with big intro courses.

I am thinking of starting with understanding self and surroundings and expanding from that to community, then research (process of discovery) and then to more global understanding.

No "Program" can substitute for motivation, great educators (mentors) who care about the students learning the material as opposed to earning a grade, and hands on experience. My choices for your survey reflect the latter.

Provide opportunities for actual work experiences to be more marketable upon graduation

I never really recovered in my college career (i.e. GPA) from a rough transition of high school to college.....personally, I believe if a student is able to make a successful transition, the rest will fall into place!

A large university needs a way to create smaller learning communities. The student-teacher ratio needs to be smaller than it is at present, especially for core classes. More emphasis on teaching students and less on research.

The 1st term is a great idea because it can be hard to meet people other than those
that just live on your hall. I think a more comprehensive orientation once students arrive would be beneficial.

By far the most beneficial aspects of my undergrad career were a summer field research experience, a volunteer trip to Peru, and a work-study job at the CCRC. I worked hard to find these opportunities and had no idea then how much more important they were than any class. Opportunities like these need to be matched with students and their importance stressed; this is something that seems to happen more at smaller schools than at UGA.

Internships within each students program of study should be mandatory. The "real world" experiences received are invaluable, and in my personal experience far outweigh anything taught in a classroom.

Even though I had to rank them, all four should be considered essential to any undergraduate experience at UGA especially research for science majors.

Study abroad should be a requirement for foreign language majors and possibly even minors. Also, many students spend 4 years in Athens without ever connecting with the community or being aware of the level of poverty. Students should be encouraged and pushed to become involved in the local community.

more hands on teaching and siminars on what degrees and what jobs and what the job details for instance...job training in athens in different areas where the student works free so many hours a week for different companies and get ideas about the company and requirements in many fields while helping the companies for free which would bring a bigger impact on the graduate and his or her studies while at uga and able to be more focused on studies and classes and their value....and understanding from a whole new prospective....hands on.... it would be inspiring and also bring more students to uga offering such opportunities they may not find elsewhere.

All four of these possible programs would be very beneficial to current and future students. It is hard to decide which would be "most" beneficial, but I think getting a firm commitment to intellectual and academic expectations through a First Term Experience would be a good foundation for all of the others.

My daughter (class of 2009) was part of the learning community in Creswell in her Freshman year. It gave her such a great start, to have these "built-in" friends. My little wall flower blossomed, thanks to this program.

I often contemplate the economic and social state of UGA versus that of the city of Athens. UGA needs to connect more with the Classic City in which it flourishes.

Students can get comfortable with their surroundings, get involved in the community,
open their eyes to diverse experiences, and then expand their horizons.

I tend to think most freshman undergrads are too immature to participate in a meaningful way in the research opportunities option. The 1st term experience has a lot of potential to bridge the gap between high school and college.

The 1st Term Experience stands head and shoulders above the other three options.

Students need to know the conservative side since successful goals require profits are necessary to survive.

I graduated 23 years ago and am preparing to move with my family to China to help care for special needs orphans. If only I had known "globally" what I know now. I strongly believe global focus combined with community and civic engagement is of highest priority and will only continue to grow in importance in our current world.

Real life business research could be integrated after basic research. This program should pair students with business persons doing research projects. This would emphasize how these two types of research are done and how they are different.

I would argue that the first three of my choices (Research, Community/Civic Engagement, and Global Focus) were all equally and tremendously important, while 1st Term Experience would most likely be beneficial to only some students (and likely not appreciated by the incoming students at first, and maybe not taken seriously). However, I have always felt that the University should do more in terms of the first three, all of which make for more scientific, logical, and effective students for both our local and world communities.

The first year is tough for many. It is a huge mistake to hold rush before Day #1. Is there any way to make incentives for freshmen staying on campus? Possibly an admission bonus? :)

The importance of the 1st term experience is a no-brainer!

While at UGA, it never occurred to me that I may be able to assist in research projects. If I had known, I would have most likely participated.

There are so many opportunities for students at UGA to learn from the community around them, while at the same time helping the ACC area. At the same time, I feel that offering a Global view to American students to better prepare us for the future. These two are about tied for me.

I really believe the 1st term experience would have been beneficial to me as a freshman at UGA. Also, I regret not doing study abroad while at UGA and wish I would have
known more about available programs.

I believe immersing undergraduates into research projects and providing more opportunities for active engagement in their field of study would be invaluably beneficial for the overall experience of incoming UGA undergrads.

The above are listed in order of importance, not in order of occurrence. Global Focus should come after Community & Civic Engagement on a timeline.

The university is so large that I believe new students need extra help in settling in and knowing where to go and what to expect on all fronts. Once a student is comfortable in their new environment, on all fronts, the others things will be easier to accomplish.

All four ideas sound wonderful. It is difficult to rank them because I would like to see all implemented.

The best thing I ever did was study abroad. I think every student should be required to study abroad.

All seem to be great programs. Research Opportunities seemed the hardest to get involved in as an undergrad but after I graduated seemed to have the most untapped possibilities. The classes I took the most from had a component that showed how it related current to you and Community and Civic engagement would help that. The 1st term experience seems like a great improvement of efficiency and unity to programs already in place. And, Global Focus seems good but already a large focus with the great study abroad and international/comparative courses offered when I attended.

Cross curriculum study would also be an area to look at. I graduated with four degrees from UGA only because I knew what I was doing in regards to credits that I needed to meet the requirements for the different degrees. Some students have many different interest but can not always explore those interests because of many different factors. Cross curriculum degrees might add a new scope of interest in UGA.

The research opportunities would be more appropriate for Jr. and Sr. students. Having earned my Masters Degree, I understand the need for such an experience. Focusing on Community and Global concerns is a great way to expands students' world beyond self-centeredness. Being an administrator in a public school, I certainly see the need for this!

1. Nothing compares to first-hand experience abroad to sharpen the focus on what really matters in life, which makes the Global Focus program, in my opinion, as having the most value. 2. It was my experience that using undergraduates in research programs was of limited value, mostly because of the lack of dedication or interest in the subject at hand, and the danger of mistaken recordkeeping or tabulation, as well as unfamiliarity with the background, standards, previous research, and the sometimes
politically motivated issues surrounding a given project. 3. An expanded orientation with as many facets as seem to be outlined here under the 1st Term Experience program would, in my opinion, unnecessarily tie up faculty members’ time to prepare seminars and core classes, and ultimately would often miss the target, since the motley characteristics and needs of the students that would potentially attend would make it very difficult to have the courses prove relevant. For average and marginal students, such an expanded program might even prove to be discouraging rather than helpful. Using the funds to increase the number of advisors so that the quality of the advisor-student interaction can be improved through reducing the caseload of the advisors would be better. Spending more time to train effective advisors, rather than educating the students with increased orientations, is a better investment. Many times I saw that the poor advice of an advisor, or a poor commitment by an advisor to connect with a student, could destroy the program planning of a student, cost them time, wasted effort and money. The relationship between an advisor and a student is a critical interaction in the student's academic life and well-being. 4. Parochial or narrowly focused local activities do not assist the students, nor the citizenry that stand to benefit. What happens is that a tremendous surplus of effort and activity gets concentrated into a tiny arena that often doesn't need the improvement. It would be far and away better if groups of students with coordinated projects be inserted into extremely needy communities and areas around the state—for example, supplement education in Screven and Jenkins Counties, improve the health of timberlands in Jessup, Dahlonega and Cedar Springs, fund the Mens and Womens Glee clubs to visit orphanages, middle schools, retirement and rest homes, send political science students to assist in county courthouses with little funds for staff, send teams of landscape architecture students to provide free city planning for towns across the state, develop a state nursery to propagate and distribute native Georgia plants and flowers for use at minimal cost to communities across the state, send teams of mathematics students (not education students) to introduce and run higher mathematics and foreign language extracurricular classes in areas where local schools lack such programs, etc Joseph Valles UGA 1976-81

As someone who does a lot of international work (and sees how the world is connected), I think a global focus would be beneficial to many students. I wish I had had the opportunity to participate in something like this!

This all strikes me as complete mush. UGA needs to focus on serious academics.

The descriptions of the programs aren't very elaborate, so it's very difficult to give worthwhile feedback. If UGA is truly interested in meaningful alumni input, it would serve well to have more than a one-sentence description of each "idea" or program.

I think the 1st term experience is very important but I am hesitant to rank it first because I feel it is not easy to get students to participate. Once they are into their major the research projects are very rewarding.

All four of these initiatives have value, and ideally will be present in whatever course of
action is adopted.

Would like to see more focus on the early entry summer program for freshmen, without it seeming so intimidating and demanding.

1st Term Experience s/b "the intellectual and academic expectations AND OPPORTUNITIES of the University"--many 1st yr students are unsure of what they want to pursue. Also, UGA should remember its purpose as a state chartered Univ. and get back to focusing on preparing students to meet the needs, issues and opportunities of the entire State of Ga, any specific Global Focus should only be in support of the future of the state and the global impact of GA's resources. That said, "Global Focus" is not mutually exclusive and in today's world any and all applicable Global issues should be incorporated as part of any of UGA's Civic/Comm Engagements and Research Opportunities. Let's take what we have and be recognized as being the best at developing the interests and resources of the state in a Global environment, instead of trying to excel, and end up being mediocre, at something that is foreign to GA's interests, issues, resources and opportunities. Quit trying to be all things to all people and trying to impress the academic community, they did not charter UGA nor do they fund, support or rely on UGA's efforts and results.

All seem to be wonderful ideas!

I feel that "1st Term Experience" should be mandatory & the other 3 optional preferrably for credit (bonus points) in related core course(s).

I do not know enough to make a judgement; I have been away from UGA for too long.

I think the orientation and advising of students needs to be much better. The scope of the information needs to be looked at and more practical real life issues addressed. Thanks

It has been a long time since I was an undergraduate, but the most important things to me at the time would have been 1)more intellectual stimulation and challenge and 2)a way to meet more like minded people. the university is (was) a big place and it's difficult to meet people unless you are in the Greek system or have the fortune of being in a good dormitory wing.

1st Term Experience is crucial to retention, and the Research Opportunities separate an average student from a potentially successful student.

more scholarships for deep immersion study abroad programs are a must. the cortona program was the most influential period of my time at the university

All these areas are important. Do include all, if it is plausible.
Research in the area of student/graduate success and satisfaction ranks direct contact with professors as crucially important.

I graduated in 1949 and feel I can't add much, but I am impressed with the relationships I read about between students and their major profs. I did not see that in my day!

Athens is a wonderful but slightly sheltered, homogenous community for many students who come from the same types of communities in Atlanta and rural Georgia. Get our students out into the world by providing incentives and scholarships for travel, and not just to western European cultures that our so similar to our own (although that's better than nothing).

I think orienting the incoming students is a great idea, as is getting students involved in research and otherwise providing them opportunity for hands on experience. However, I think the Global Focus is unnecessary, as very few students will need exposure to this. Those students who do should take the appropriate courses. There is no need to globalize the entire student population.

The Community & Civic Engagement could work well if you integrate the service (at least in part) into what the student plans to do post-graduation....finance students work with a credit counseling agency, landscape architecture students help the city on an urban park, etc...

I think the 1st term experience is a great idea. Brand new Freshmen need some guidance.

The more experiences that students can have in the "real world" work environment, in their chosen field of study, the better.

Every aspect of these and other programs must include healthy doses of reading, writing, and math. Most students come to UGA and other schools unprepared in the basic skills needed to communicate, work, and survive. The Hope Scholarship has used "social promotion" to send people to the university who do not belong there.

It was hard to prioritize these. Each one seems a necessary part of the total university experience.

Opportunities to gain experience in a selected field are invaluable. I was hired for my first job after graduation by the company for which I interned. I also love the idea of 1st Term Experience. It's important to provide a small group experience for incoming students since the university is so large.

As a nontraditional transfer student, I would have appreciated an expanded orientation than what I received. The first day of class I was lost, and I had no one to turn to for
guidance or directions. (I did not know anyone to ask.) The bus situation was stressful just trying to figure out routes and specific buildings. That was a nightmare! And then there was the issue of parking and parking services. Yikes! It would have been especially beneficial if I had met in small seminars with faculty members and was introduced to core courses whereby I was instructed in the intellectual and academic expectations of the University. I was completely naive to the entire process. My experiences and expectations at a small junior teaching college simply did not translate into UGA's expectations. I really believe that my GPA would have been higher if I had a CLUE what the University expected of me and the sooner the better. I was lost. It wasn't until the end before graduation that I was really starting to grasp UGA's expectations. One of my last professors, Dr. Jonathan Evans, took our class to the Main Library to instruct us in the use of the microfiche. How could this be? My life has been anything but normal, and I had no frame of reference in regards to the university experience. How many great students has the university not fully utilized because as a student you spend much of your core classes with teacher's assistants and not professors in large auditorium classes clueless? I was thrilled when I was finally taught by REAL PROFESSORS!!! With the large auditorium classes, could a professor give some instructions every once in a while? How about teacher's assistants and professors that can speak English?? I dropped Math numerous times because of this. As an older student, I needed a well spoken English professor who fully grasped the English language. It resulted in slowing graduation for me, and I almost quit altogether. I love the University of Georgia and am privileged that I was allowed to attend. I want to do my part in furthering UGA's student academic progress.

I believe a "Life Skills" course is critical for helping students make the transition to mature, employed adult. In this course, they would learn: 1. Basic financial management skills (like household budgeting). 2. Employment preparation (conducting a job search and negotiation, understanding company benefits (401ks, health insurance, etc) and withholding, as well as performance management. 3. Work/life balance training 4. Diversity training for assimilation into a multicultural population.

I have my MA in Higher Education and have a background in student affairs. This is so exciting to read about! I'm glad that UGA is working on this initiative!

Offer more health related certificate courses in the Atlanta area --such as Diognostic Sonography. There are too few schools --Sanford Brown sucks and it is not part of the University system.

Students seem to be better engaged now than we were in 1978-85, but I believe one of the possible benefits of the 1st Term Experience would be to help freshmen understand that there are extraordinary opportunities for typical students - one doesn't have to be a giant overachiever to take advantage of any number of programs, such as #2 above.

College is new and scary to most beginners. Smooth the way: Most losses are after the
freshman year. Let them know that they are the purpose.

My first room mate did not return after first semester. Although smart, I don't think she was prepared to live away from home.

The only reason I put global focus on there is because it would really be the last thing on my list. Especially in this day and age, we need to focus more on domestic issues and moral value. The rest of the world is spiteful and against us, and yet they continually look towards America as a beacon of light and the standard for innovation and freedom. I recommend we force all students to take introductory economics, finance and investment, insurance, and real estate classes so that they are better prepared for the real world ahead of them. This will empower students with the knowledge and basic principles needed to survive in the world beyond college (and do all of this without biased political rhetoric that educators are so famous for). I only wish that I was encouraged or even forced to take such classes instead of having to learn it myself. I am successful, but time and again I have seen so many of my peers as well as people I have employed that are failing in their personal finances and fail to make sensible, financially sound decisions for the now and for their future. Furthermore, they expect the world to be handed to them for little to no work. I don't mean to rant, I would just love to see the University of Georgia be a leader in the College community in educating their students in real world applications rather than peace love and harmony type classes (i.e. diversity education).

Core courses should be of most importance in all colleges. It is what makes a college graduate an educated person in all areas of life, not just prepared for a career in one field of study.

Perhaps there should be a stronger focus on liberal arts within the core curriculum, before electives are taken.

It was very difficult to rank all but the Global Focus (number one) as each is so important. Global Focus is critical because people who have not traveled and spent time with the people of other countries are not truly educated--and I mean countries other than Western Europe where the lifestyle is too similar to ours. On community & civic engagement, too many people have no idea how others in our country live--the ones who have not had the same advantages, and, hence, they are not truly educated. People need to know what goes into a research project and go through all the steps before drawing conclusions--and on what they are basing their conclusions. First term experience should, of course, be part of the new student's intro to the university and sense of belonging.

To whom it may concern, Thank you for asking for our opinion on such important matters. It would be very important to rethink and change your philosophy on the general knowledge courses that freshmen and sophomores take. When I transferred to UGA from Greece in 1992, I had to take courses such as Contemporary Georgia and
Introduction to Weather and Climate although I was going for a degree in International Finance. A "d" that I obtained at my first quarter at "Contemporary Georgia" course and a "c" at the "Introduction to weather and climate" jeopardized my acceptance at the Graduate School. My Master's thesis was on HMO's. Could you please inform me if knowing about Georgia or the weather and climate would help one's research on HMO's?!! Please do not let this happen to your students anymore. Sincerely Konstantinos M. Mamopoulos, MA Insurance Broker Director and Owner of Athena Insurance Brokers. 0030 2310 253 688 Fax 0030 2310 251 788 cell 0030 6974 43 11 54 Registered Company Details: Konstantinos M. Mamopoulos (Sole Proprietorship No. 077101009) 3 Kalapothaki St, 54624 Thessaloniki , Greece Authorised and regulated by the Commission for Private Insurance of the Greek Ministry of Economics and Finances (authorisation number 62951)

Hi, I helped found "Designing Dawgs" with Katrina Bowers of UGA. I think commuity involvement for students in the Interior Design field is invaluable because it gives them contacts when they start looking for jobs. However, I do remember being an out of state tranfer student and how important orientation was at such a large campus and UGA did a great job with that. It is almost like the training I give a new employee. They can prosper if they understand from the beginning what is expected and how to get there. Of course research can come once they get integrated and older students certainly benefit from travel. Good luck with this, Patricia McLean 1983 BSHE Patriica McLean Interiors, Inc. 3179 Maple Drive, Suite 10 Atlanta, Georgia 30305

As the academic reputation of the University increases, the University should focus on new programs that support that reputation by increasing academic rigor, high expectations, and opportunities that will continue to attract the high achieving students who are at the core of its success.

They all sound like they will be very beneficial to the students at UGA. I wish there had been a 1st term experience program when I was a freshman at UGA. And research opportunities are essential for students who want to further their education beyond undergraduate school.

Providing experiences during the first term for students allows them to find their way early on instead of being overwhelmed two years in and not knowing where to turn for activities and experiences.

I think that implementing any or all of these ideas would be beneficial. I would have enjoyed them all.

Funding for undergraduate research, and linking with established research facilities, on campus and off, should be a high priority for the Student Learning Enhancement Team.

I think you should look to obtain more undergraduates from other states outside of the
South.

Need to actively advertise Graduate programs to Athens and Atlanta residents.

I feel that any and all of these possible ideas are worthy engagements. I ranked Global Focus at the top of my list as that needs to be an ongoing point of attention given the ever expanding global nature of economies and academic studies. Research Opportunities expands the academic standing of the University itself, as it raises the possibility for the University to increase its profile among its peers as well as among prospective students. The remaining two both allow for personal growth within the student, which is why all four are worthy of consideration.

As a business management grad. I would propose more time spend with local businesses: helping them solve problems, taking tours of their facilities, learning their operations, etc. Basically getting more "Hands On" and involved...this should help understand business-related theories learned in class much more. This could also be applied to in-coming freshmen and transfer students not in their major yet. Get involved!

1st Term Experience will be difficult to achieve, because of the size of the university, and my recollection (30 years ago) that a large proportion of freshmen were at UGA because they were "supposed to be," not because they were invested in making progress in particular areas. But perhaps things have changed!

The benefit of research opportunities will truly depend on the student's interest and major

I think it's more important that even for students to have experiences with people who have graduated from college and can offer "real-life" experiences whether it be in the community, on a global level, etc.

you may already be doing this but having alumni come in to talk to classes about their real world application of their learnings would be so helpful

As a transfer student to UGA my sophomore year, I would have greatly appreciated a program similar to your 1st term experience outline. I feel it would be beneficial to all first term students, not just entering freshman. I also feel that community and civic engagement is extremely important--students should get to "know" the community where they will live the better part of 4 years of their lives. I did live in Athens, but was not brought up there, so my first introduction to the city and its people was through the university. Knowing the community and entering into civic engagements, within a program, so you are not "going it alone" would alleviate the feeling of being a "stranger" in the community. An added benefit would allow students to participate and share experiences with other non-students and possibly open up entirely new areas of
interest.

All topics important. Hard to choose which is best.

Most students entering as freshmen have little idea of what direction they want to go. During the second year they should begin to have an idea of the direction they want to study. At the end of the second year they should be advised, guided, in some way that they will take the necessary courses to lead them in that direction. Some are left to flounder.

I am curious as to what UGA is doing to engage more male students in the academic process starting with developing curricula and teaching methods used in pre-college education.

I choose Number 1. Many years ago when I started at U of Georgia I felt lost, not really knowing exactly what I wanted to major in and no advisor to help. I think all of these are good but a new student from out of state, I think would benefit most by No. 1. These programs are all good and it would be good if they could be spread over the four years of undergraduate work. Keep up the good work! Harriette Clinebell

I hope every student has another student, sophomore or junior, who is looking out for new students. A freshman can have struggles that no one recognizes.

Continue with the tremendous strides that have been made at the University and thank you for your inquiry.

I think an initiative like 1st Term Experience is important for a university as large as Georgia.

They all sound like great programs!

Although UGA is a research university, I believe the research opportunities are more appropriate for graduate students. Most students are in need of the first term experience. I also believe that undergraduates need the global and community focus to become more effective members of society.

Opportunities have definitely changed for the better since my undergraduate days, 40+ years ago.

It is hard to rank them. Each program is relevant and very important to enrich students lives as well as prepare them for professional careers.

Work study programs were students working in research projects in 1970. That benefited me in many ways; both financially and motivational attitude development.
I feel that these ideas and experiences described above are most necessary for students not in Franklin College. As a student in the COE, I was often jealous of my Franklin peers who seemed to have far many more opportunities for research, study abroad programs, and seminars than I.

Attending the University of Georgia is a major life event along with being an educational endeavor. I feel that new students both as freshmen and transfer need to have more connections to the UGA experiences. More contact with sports, especially football, and the history of UGA would be great. I feel that a 1st term program would be well worth the time and effort of UGA to give all students a full scope of what attending and graduating from UGA is. I certainly wish that such a program was in place when I was at UGA. A 1st term experience is a very good learning enhancement program I feel. It could be plausible to have such a program for alumni too. I take great pride and love in being an UGA alumnii! :)

There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that an overseas stay requirement of six months would greatly enhance the status of any student. There are far too many self-centered and narrow minded students being graduated. The country needs fewer graduate boobs hung up on their earlier upbringing and more somewhat more polished individuals who have some idea of what lies beyond the boundaries of the US.

I think 1st Term Experience is a great idea to help get students started in school at UGA. I would place this as a first priority; all of the other ideas would be more effective with students who started off doing well in college.

I studied abroad as an undergrad and have subsequently moved to Europe after graduation and one of the things that I noticed most is how out of touch Americans can be with the rest of world's opinions or perspectives. In today's global economy it is important to be educated in both national and international issues. Also, I think there should be more opportunities for undergrads to participate in projects with faculty to gain more real-world knowledge of their field. This isn't offered for a wide enough range of concentrations.

No question....1st term experience is excellent & necessary program for students making the leap from high school to College

I think these are all good. Research was particularly important to my experience, and the only reason it got a 3 was that I'm not sure how many more students want these positions, above the number that are currently available.

The first few months on campus are critical to the success or failure of the student. Give them the support and guidance to help them succeed. Giving to the community is a good way to help others and the student, too.

Mission type experience available in foreign countries having to deal with your major.
i.e Forestry summer mission project to Brazil, or Micro-lending mission to India for Finance Majors etc.

I think it is highly beneficial for students to engage in a study abroad. I was in Germany for 1 year as an undergraduate, and that year probably shaped me more as a person than my other 3 years of school. The benefits were mainly for me as a person, not necessarily for the academic education that I received (although it was a quality academic experience as well). Study abroad changes your perspectives about yourself, and the world around you.

Back in the "stone ages" there was a high freshman drop out rate. I think it's very important to link these new students in some way to make them feel and want to be a part of the UGA experience (especially those from out of state).

Whatever programs you institute should be respectful of students' personal worldview. Students should be allowed to examine all perspectives, even conservative ones, without being subject to recrimination or ridicule. While students ought to be exposed to a variety of ideas, they should not be forced to participate in activities which violate their personal convictions.

They are all absolutely outstanding ideas.

Students pursuing education majors: place these student in a school working in the classroom from the first quarter. This will help them choose the right path.

Anyone getting into UGA knows what the University expects. If the first term program was geared towards really informing students what their options are, then it would be my top pick. It is such a big place, by the time you learn everything about it, you are on your way out.

Adjustment to the campus and understanding the expectations of one's course of study through faculty assistance is a critical first step.

It has been 24 years since I graduated, but I would have loved to have had the research opportunity as an undergrad. I found it difficult to rank the next two of my choice, but came to my decision because I think the Community and Civic Engagement would be more accessible to a larger percentage of the student population due to expenses of travel abroad.

UGA is a very large school. Top priority should be for the new freshman not to get lost in the shuffle. I actually transferred to UGA my junior yr. for the very reason that I was concerned of being "swallowed up" by the school and overwhelmed with all the changes from living in a small town in south Ga to being on my own.

My bias comes from having very little global exposure academically, yet that was my
career in far off places. Thanks for asking!

In my experience all jobs requiring a degree are going global as well as many jobs that don't require a degree. I work with people in 3 countries on a daily basis.

The world today is ever more connected and I feel so few high schools adequately prepare students to understand its complexities and the US' role therein. This has got to be a priority for UGA.

An introductory course and integration with the community to apply what is learned will help students to adjust to the real world. All students should be encouraged to travel abroad at least one semester.

All of these things are necessary for a successful college career.

Teach them responsibility and common sense!

Student must be made to feel that they are a viable member of the university community. Person-centered but not indulged. A focus on objective information, not "feeling good".

Please share more info with alumni so that they can help prepare their children to get in UGA ---- I really want my son to go to UGA! Thanks Brooks

I feel Community and Civic Engagement are something an individual becomes involved in himself/herself. I don't think it is something to be taught. Just look at all the organizations/agencies that make up the United Way/Fund. Anyone of these would love to have people they could show & train. I didn't need the University to teach me this. The same is true with Global Focus. It wasn't until I did my Masters studies that I learned about this.

As a university professor, I see the need for the 1st term experience. Students need to make a better transition from high school to independence (being more self-reliant in academics and aware of expectations) at college.

The research and 1st term are about equal, but having to choose one I choose research. I feel when you are going through grade school, you have issues focusing on what is important because you are not sure what is really needed. If you could start early with projects that would allow for students to notice that paying attention in the seemingly less important classes will benefit them in the long run.

A consolidated program for first term students that includes all of the aforementioned items as well as guidance on how to be successful in a college environment will allow more students to excell. This in turn will prepare a greater number of students to move forward as strong representatives of UGA and strengthen the cycle of continuous
academic advancement for all programs. Success builds on itself and will lift all boats!!

don't coddle these kids - college is their time to finally grow up.

I like the idea of the 1st term experience because I was fortunate to have gone to UGA when the Freshman Camp Leadership Experience was still part of the program. It was invaluable to me, a student from out-of-state who knew no one. It also helps provide for focus for what I wanted to accomplish as a student and student leader. I think a 1st term experience might help broaden my experience into a program for all students. I recommend that in addition to the programs listed in the summary above, that some sort of introduction to student leadership roles be introduced as well.

I actually would prefer to rank #1 (1st term exp)and #2 (research) as both equal importance as #1 with numbers 3 (community) and 4 (global) both equally important as second choice of importance. All of the above are important!! Thank you!

I think that adding a global focus to the University would greatly benefit many of the University of Georgia students. It is an increasingly global world and many students from Georgia have not had the opportunity to be exposed to it.

So many first years become lost in being away from home for the first time. It's important to have a strong safety net.

engaging new students and putting them in a situation where they interact and establish bonds with students from other places and cultures is a big step toward opening minds to new experiences. It could and should help them establish supportive relationships and enhance their self-confidence.

I would have wished for (1) and (4) when I was a student.

great opportunity for students to network which will be key in their success in school and career wise.

All of these are noble and fulfill UGA's OBLIGATION to its students and to the State. Make them happen!

At such a large university, it is a great idea to connect students with faculty members for research. It helps form closer connections and mentoring that can be extremely beneficial as students apply for graduate school.

I feel that connecting to one's community will make one aware of issues that indeed affect people globally. This often stimulates research projects. The 1st term experiences are valuable as well, but the other three seem to flow together and, if prioritized as such, will naturally produce great results on campus.
They're all good. I could have really benefitted from going abroad...

I think this is a very good list and the order they should happen in ones college career.

I thought the first item would be have been a requirement since 1776.

These are all very good ideas...I wish we could do them all.

I was able to work with one of my marketing teachers on his research project. It was a GREAT learning experience!

They all sound great. I'm a French and German teacher, so I have to go for the global focus, but I also think that 1st term experiences as described above are important for all students. I hope that all students leave college with a sense of community & civic engagement. Research opportunities are important for some students, but probably not for all students.

Global focus seems to be the latest trend, but the majority of students can't afford to participate in travel abroad programs. They can, however, volunteer in local civic endeavors. Promoting academics via research will ensure that the next generation of leaders has the brain power necessary for complicated problems and solutions.