



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

January 28, 2025

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

The work continues.

At John Jay we are proud to serve the students of New York City. Diversity is not what we do, it is who we are. Justice is the illuminating idea that lights our path. In a moment when the federal government is dismantling DEI initiatives, I want be clear: we are a *proud* Hispanic-serving, Minority-serving, and now Asian American and Native American Pacific-Islander-serving institution that aims to propel our students to remarkable lives of meaning and purpose, regardless of whether these designations are in or out of favor. We do it every year, class by class, student by student.

No one finds meaning or purpose through being comfortable. As we committed when we at John Jay, together, passed the [Seven Principles for a Culturally Responsive, Inclusive, and Anti-Racist Curriculum](#), “we normalize discussions about complex social challenges” because we “promote democratic education...characterized by an ongoing collaborative process of problem solving grounded in discussion, consultation, research, and debate as ways to engage in informed decision-making by people with diverse interests.”

The work continues,

Allison

Building on Success: Undergraduate Foundations

Next fall we will pilot a new student success model, **Undergraduate Foundations**, that builds on the success of our First Year Program but is designed to support students throughout their first two years of college. Unlike the traditional models that separate first-year and sophomore programming, Undergraduate Foundations emphasizes a seamless continuum of academic, co-curricular, and career development support, addressing critical challenges in student retention and momentum. To eliminate the typical divides between first-year and sophomore-year programs, Undergraduate Foundation offers consistent support in smaller academic communities where student progress is monitored and supported as needs emerge throughout.



Key Features:

- **Interest-Based Pathways:** Students are grouped into 5-6 interest clusters to align their coursework with career exploration. This approach encourages sustained engagement and purpose, which are essential during the sophomore year.
- **Proactive Monitoring and Interventions:** Continuous success monitoring allows timely academic interventions and enhanced

support for courses with high non-pass rates, particularly in the 100- and 200-level classes, to ensure students stay on track. It also allows for timely and efficient individualized interventions for students who fall behind after the first or the second year.

- **Career-Integrated Learning:** The program integrates experiential learning opportunities, such as internships, research, or service learning, into the first two years, enhancing students' academic and career readiness.

Kate Szur, Interim Assistant Dean for Student Success and Retention, is leading the charge in this work and has been sharing this information in multiple forums. We will be sharing more information throughout spring as we prepare to welcome students to this new format.



Institute for Justice and Opportunity Celebrates 20th Anniversary

John Jay's Institute for Justice and Opportunity (IJO) is marking its 20th year of promoting higher education as a pathway to success for those re-entering society after incarceration.

IJO includes the 13-year-old Prison-to-College Pathways (P2CP) program, offering incarcerated individuals access to higher education and Associate's Degrees through a Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) partnership; The Student Success Initiative Program (SSIP), which provides academic counseling, peer mentoring, and community support for justice-involved students; The Career Pathways program equips individuals with skills for human services and community justice careers, while specialized training programs like Tech 101 and 201, the Navigator Certificate, and Supervisor Training enhance workforce readiness.

Our Tow Policy Advocacy Fellowship develops leaders in criminal justice reform.

Staff and Faculty Meeting Feb 10

Please be sure to join us to hear about the college's latest initiatives and to talk as a community at the February 10 Staff and Faculty meeting.

February 10, 2025
1:40 - 2:55 pm
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