



**LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS**

Loyola University New Orleans Unveils First-Year Ignition Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the First-Year Ignition Program at Loyola University New Orleans?

The Loyola First-Year Ignition Program is a special initiative designed to promote a successful first-year experience for Loyola students by making sure they are prepared for college and have the books they need to get the most out of their classes. The program, created in partnership by Loyola New Orleans and Follett Educational Services, focuses on three components: assessing student preparedness, encouraging student success, and paying it forward.

The first 400 admitted first-year students to submit deposits by May 1, register online, and explore the Loyola New Orleans experience in an online interview will enjoy the use of free books for their fall '17 and spring '18 semesters.

How does it work?

All admitted students are invited to go to www.loyno.edu/FreeBooks to register for a brief college preparedness interview with a Loyola faculty or staff member. Once the interview is completed and a deposit has been received by May 1, the student will be enrolled to receive loaned textbooks from Loyola for the freshman fall and spring semesters.

It's very simple. The program focuses on three elements:

- 1) Student preparedness - a short interview to discuss questions and concerns that students may have about college, as well as provide information and success tips.
- 2) Student success - Loyola will loan students the textbooks they need to be ready and fully engaged in class.
- 3) Pay it forward – students return the loaned books to the Loyola bookstore at the end of the semester so that we may extend this opportunity to others in the next class. (If they don't return the books at the end of the semester, they'll have to pay for them.)

I am already admitted to Loyola, why do I need to speak with someone?

Yes you are already admitted and this is a completely voluntary program. If you want to enroll in the program and receive free textbooks for your freshman year, you must register for the program, make an appointment to speak with a program member so they can answer any questions you have about Loyola, and be sure your deposit is in before May 1st. The program is limited to 400 students so if you are interested, please sign up as soon as possible.

Who is eligible?

The program is limited to the first 400 admitted first-year students who register online at www.loyno.edu/FreeBooks, participate in a brief interview with a Loyola faculty or staff member, and submit their deposit by May 1, 2017.

Once the interview is complete and the deposit is received, they will be enrolled in the program to receive free loaned textbooks for their fall and spring semesters.

The program is only limited to 400 students at this time, but all students who register will be retained on a standby list in the event that the program is expanded at a later date.

I am a first-year transfer student. Am I also eligible?

Yes! This program is available to first-year transfer students. You just need to enroll to speak with a program member and be sure to deposit by May 1st. The program is limited to 400 students so if you are interested, please sign up as soon as possible.

When did the First-Year Ignition Program launch?

The program launched at the university's annual President's Open House, held on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at Loyola University New Orleans.

What if I've already paid my deposit?

If you've already deposited, congratulations — you are part of the 400 students who are eligible for this program as long as you follow the registration steps listed above and complete the interview with a Loyola faculty or staff member.

Why is Loyola doing this?

Data show that that students who are well-prepared do better. And a positive experience freshman year prepares them for the entire college experience. Loyola's goal with this project is to engage prospective students, to have meaningful conversations with them about college readiness, and to make sure they have the tools they need to succeed.

We also know that the cost of textbooks can be an unwelcome surprise, especially to first-year students and their families. By creating this loan program, we are able to provide textbooks at no cost to students.

Is this financial aid? How does this impact my financial aid package?

The First-Year Ignition Program is not a part of financial aid. By creating this loan program, we are able to provide textbooks at no cost without impacting financial aid packages.

What happens if my student loses a book?

This is a loaned book program, much like a virtual library managed by Loyola. When students enroll in the First-Year Ignition Program, we will let them know the replacement value of the books that have been loaned to them. Should a book become lost or destroyed for some reason, the student will be charged for the replacement value of the book at the end of the semester. It is our hope that all books will be returned at the end of each semester so that we can “pay it forward” to the next class.

Why only 400 students?

The First-Year Ignition Program is a pilot program that Loyola is testing. We believe that by speaking with students about college preparedness and providing them with the tools that they need to perform well in the classroom, our students will be set up for success. However, this program costs money and time to execute, as the cost of textbooks can average around \$1,000 per year. Our program budget currently covers the costs to purchase and loan books for 400 students. We hope to expand the program to more students in the future if this effort proves successful.