

## FSP Learning Goals (revised in 2019)

**The First Seminar Program** (or FSP, for short) is the cornerstone of the Liberal Learning program, the core of a TCNJ education. First Seminars are small classes (usually capped at 18 students) designed to provide all first-year students with an intellectually exciting and challenging experience. Students in First Seminars actively discuss and debate questions and controversies on a wide variety of topics and are led by faculty who are engaged with the questions at hand.

First seminar courses align with the liberal arts mission of The College of New Jersey. They are not linked to any specific major or requirement, but rather are intended to support the development of students' intellectual breadth. When students have completed their FSP, they will have acquired the following skills and/or achieved the following goals:

### **General**

- Students will become more intellectually curious.
- Students will become more confident engaging in ongoing conversations regarding questions, controversies, and differing points of view.
- Students will improve their ability to share their ideas effectively in discussions and oral presentations.
- Students will be able to respectfully give and receive constructive criticism.
- Students will find, evaluate, and use reliable information to support their ideas.

### **Writing**

- Students will be able to write for a specific audience, with a specific purpose.
- Students will be able to write rhetorically effective and well-structured arguments with clear thesis statements which accurately forecast the paper.
- Students will be able to apply feedback received on writing to revise all elements of an argument, from its organization and logic to its paragraph unity and coherence.
- Students will be able to offer tactful and productive feedback to others on their written arguments.