All first-year students are required to live on campus. The First Year Experience (FYE) program has been developed to help Northeastern University's first-year students transition into this new and exciting chapter of their lives—college life. The Department of Residential Life is dedicated to working with Northeastern students to help them build strong community living environments that support personal development and academic success. These environments provide opportunities to learn outside of the classroom through the Living Learning Community program.

The foundation for the FYE program is held by four pillars: personal development, academic success, experiential learning, and community development. These pillars are the guiding principles of the programs and resources specific to the needs of first-year students. The goal is to help students navigate the university and familiarize them in their first year living away from home and with life in a new environment.