ROOTSS was developed by the Student Services team in LFS to offer support to incoming new-to-LFS students to do the following:

- Increase Sense of Belonging
- Increase Retention Rates
- Support Students in their First Year
- Introduce & Practice Using Canvas
- Connect with Staff & Peers
- Improve Engagement & Excitement

ROOTSS stands for Reach-Out, Orientation, Transition and Study Skills and is a program designed in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems (LFS) to support new-to-LFS students in their integration, transition, and adjustment to UBC and LFS.

**WHY ROOTSS?**

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ROOTSS is a year-long program from May to April of students’ first year. The program works closely with the Faculty’s Peer Program, the ACE Team (Academic, Career & Engagement).

**TLEF FUNDING**

We used our TLEF funding and resources to develop and refine our assessment and evaluation plan, improve data collection and hire a full-time co-op position, the ROOTSS Program Coordinator. This role supports on-going development and implementation of the program, providing critical student perspectives in content development and engagement experiences.

**ROOTSS**

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**STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**

Over 80 student leaders, representing various Faculty student groups and clubs, who connect with students about:

- LFS Peer Stories
- Discussion Boards
- Events
- Workshops
- Webinars
- General Peer to Peer Engagement
- Events

**TIMELINE**

ROOTSS is a year-long program from May to April of students’ first year. The program works closely with the Faculty’s Peer Program, the ACE Team (Academic, Career & Engagement).

**DATA**

Over 500 students enrolled in the ROOTSS pilot program in the summer of 2020, and we had:

- 11,000 page views in the first week
- 33,000 page views in the first month
- Average of 5,500 weekly page views over the summer
- 83% of surveyed students accessed the ROOTSS Canvas course on a weekly basis
- 73% of surveyed students agreed or strongly agreed that ROOTSS helped them feel more confident about and supported them in their transition to LFS

**STUDENT FEEDBACK**

- "I’m really glad I joined because it made me feel a lot better about myself and I met some new people who share the same struggles as I do."
- "It helped greatly in understanding the course registration process and what was required for my program, as well as equivalencies and my options for courses."

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We want to recognize the support we have received from numerous campus partners: Peer Programs; Wellness Centre; Centre for Accessibility; Enrolment Services Advisors; Coordinator with Senior Faculty Fellows in Jump Start; Centre for Student Involvement and Careers; LFS Communications and Marketing; LFS Learning Centre; Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology.