



Moving into the Second Year Experience

The Second Year Experience was devised to address issues of retention and purposeful engagement among sophomores, and to intentionally focus on this “lost year”. As a pre-measure, this nationally crafted survey was completed by N=617 rising second year Miami students. While over 90% of Miami first years have been traditionally retained to the second year, Miami’s graduation rate hovers around 82% and when we lose students it tends to be in the second or third years. We therefore focused the second year experience on supporting sophomores in the areas of : *Local & Global Citizenship, Career Exploration & Commitment to Majors, Connected Academic Experiences, Health, Sense of Self & Well-Being, Connections with the University.*

Academic Efficacy and Transition

Miami sophomores feel that their first year experiences prepare them for a more demanding sophomore year. 80.8% of participants feel academically prepared for the transition to their second year, while 73.9% feel socially prepared for the transition to their second year. However, 53.7 % of sophomores feel their second year will be more challenging than their first year. The top two challenges sophomores feel they will face are academic rigor and balancing social and academic needs. The top 4 resources sophomores plan to use are: study abroad office, career center, Rinella Learning Center, and their R.A. 55% of rising sophomores agree that their academic advisors are readily available and 62% plan to meet with this academic advisor 1-2 times this year. 70.7% report having done long term goal setting for the next 5-10 years.

Involvement

In line with the millennial generation, Miami sophomores are very involved. The top 3 areas of involvement are: Interest organizations (ASG, RHA, service-politics), campus-employment, and club-varsity sports. 87.9% of sophomores report being involved on campus. While 40.5% are

happy with their level of involvement, 42.9% are still looking to be more involved.

Commitment to Major

82.0% of Miami sophomores are confident in their current choice of major. 84.2% of students think they will graduate with their current major. Sophomores have also thought about the careers available to them because of their major. 83.7% have thought about the day to day work life of a career related to their major. 79.8% of sophomores feel that Miami has prepared them for future academic/career pursuits.

Miami’s Impact

During their first year, these sophomores have developed a sense of academic efficacy and have experienced a wide variety of activities. 67.9% of participants report having developed a strong sense of belonging as they move into their second year. They report that during their first year, Miami promoted many developmental experiences. Of the total respondents,

- ✿ 78.7% say experiences at Miami help them develop healthy decision making skills
- ✿ 75.8% say experiences at Miami increase their awareness of issues surrounding alcohol use
- ✿ 77.5% were encouraged to explore their personal values and identity
- ✿ 82% say Miami supports their interpersonal growth
- ✿ 58.8% say they have explored other cultures at Miami
- ✿ 62.3% say their experiences increase their cultural understanding

Overall, 70% of rising sophomores are very satisfied with their experience at Miami so far. 84.2% would recommend Miami University to a friend. The challenge is to see how we might enhance this impact throughout this second year.