The Trusted Expert and Internationally Recognized Leader for all Postsecondary Student Transitions
An Evidence-Based Discussion of Integrating First- and Second-Year Transition Programs

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National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition

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Session Goals

• As the result of this session, participants will:
  – Gain a greater understanding of the purpose, organization, and outcomes associated with first-year seminars and sophomore-year initiatives
  – Have the opportunity to contextualize their institutional approaches to a national empirical profile
  – Increase their awareness of how integrated approaches may be constructed to assist students in their success and development during the first two years of college.
INTRODUCTION
Definition of Transition

• A transition is “a point or period in which a student encounters an event or non-event that may impact his or her progression toward educational and personal goals.” (Goodman, Schlossberg, & Anderson, 2006)

• A student in transition (or students in transition) refers to any student involved in a transition that impacts his or her progression toward educational or personal goals.
Challenge in Perception of SIT Support: “Moving the cliff!”

Is this how our efforts to support students in transition are perceived?
Challenge in Execution of SIT Support: “The relay”
Criteria for “Excellence”

• “Evidence of an intentional, comprehensive approach to improving ... that is appropriate to an institution’s type and mission.”

• “Evidence of assessment of the various initiatives that constitute this approach.”

• “Broad impact on significant numbers of ... students, including, but not limited to special student subpopulations.”

• “Strong administrative support for ... initiatives, evidence of institutionalization, and durability over time.”

• “Involvement of a wide range of faculty, student affairs professionals, academic administrators, and other constituent groups.”
Jennifer R. Keup

NATIONAL SURVEYS
First-Year Transition

**Issues**
- Sense of belonging
- Academic preparation
- Time management
- Finding campus resources
- Financial issues
- Physical/emotional well being
- Understanding culture of higher education

**Students**
- Racially/ethnically diverse
- Multicultural
- “New-traditional” (first-gen, int’l, veterans)
- Concerned about $
- Service oriented
- Connected
- Academically “trained” under NCLB culture

*(Collier, forthcoming)*
High-Impact Educational Practices

First-Year Seminars and Experiences
Many schools now build into the curriculum first-year seminars or other programs that bring small groups of students together with faculty or staff on a regular basis. The highest-quality first-year experiences place a strong emphasis on critical inquiry, frequent writing, information literacy, collaborative learning, and other skills that develop students’ intellectual and practical competencies. First-year seminars can also involve students with cutting-edge questions in scholarship and with faculty members’ own research.

Common Intellectual Experiences
The older idea of a “core curriculum” has evolved into a variety of modern forms, such as a set of required common courses or a vertically organized general education program that includes advanced integrative studies and/or required participation in a learning community (see below). These programs often combine broad themes—e.g., technology and society, global interdependence—with a variety of curricular and cocurricular options for students.

Learning Communities
The key goals for learning communities are to encourage integration of learning across courses and to involve students with “big questions” that matter beyond the classroom. Students take two or more linked courses as a group and work closely with one another and with their professors. Many learning communities explore a common topic and/or common readings through the lenses of different disciplines. Some deliberately link “liberal arts” and “professional courses”; others feature service learning.

Writing-Intensive Courses
These courses emphasize writing at all levels of instruction and across the curriculum, including final-year projects. Students are encouraged to produce and revise various forms of writing for different audiences in different disciplines. The effectiveness of this repeated practice “across the curriculum” has led to parallel efforts in such areas as quantitative reasoning, oral communication, information literacy, and, on some campuses, ethical inquiry.

Collaborative Assignments and Projects
Collaborative learning combines two key goals: learning to work and solve problems in the company of others, and sharpening one’s own understanding by listening seriously to the insights of others, especially those with different backgrounds and life experiences. Approaches range from study groups within a course to team-based assignments and writing, to cooperative projects and research.

Undergraduate Research
Many colleges and universities are now providing research experiences for students in all disciplines. Undergraduate research, however, has been most prominently used in science disciplines. With strong support from the National Science Foundation and the research community, scientists are reshaping their courses to connect key concepts and questions with students’ early and active involvement in systematic investigation and research. The goal is to involve students with actively constructed experiences, empirical observation, cutting-edge technologies, and the sense of excitement that comes from working to answer important questions.

Diversity/Global Learning
Many colleges and universities now emphasize courses and programs that help students explore cultures, life experiences, and worldviews different from their own. These studies—which may address U.S. diversity, world cultures, or both—often explore “difficult differences” such as racial, ethnic, and gender inequality, or continuing struggles around the globe for human rights, freedom, and power. Frequently, intercultural studies are augmented by experiential learning in the community and/or by study abroad.

Service Learning, Community-Based Learning
In these programs, field-based “experiential learning” with community partners is an instructional strategy—and often a required part of the course. The idea is to give students direct experience with issues they are studying in the curriculum and with ongoing efforts to analyze and solve problems in the community. A key element in these programs is the opportunity students have to both apply what they are learning in real-world settings and reflect in a classroom setting on their service experiences. These programs model the idea that giving something back to the community is an important college outcome, and that working with community partners is good preparation for citizenship, work, and life.

Internships
Internships are another increasingly common form of experiential learning. The idea is to provide students with direct experience in a work setting—usually related to their career interests—and to give them the benefit of supervision and coaching from professionals in the field. If the internship is taken for course credit, students complete a project or paper that is approved by a faculty member.

Capstone Courses and Projects
Whether they’re called “senior capstones” or some other name, these culminating experiences require students nearing the end of their college years to create a project of some sort that integrates and applies what they’ve learned. The project might be a research paper, a performance, a portfolio of “best work,” or an exhibit of artwork. Capstones are offered both in departmental programs and, increasingly, in general education as well.
National Survey of First-Year Seminars

• 2012-2013 Administration
  – 3,753 **institutions** were invited to participate
  – 896 campuses responded (23.9% response rate)
  – **804** (89.7% of sample) indicated that they had one or more FYS

• Online instrument collected data on:
  – Seminar features (structural and instructional)
  – Characteristics of students in FYS
  – Administration
  – Assessment
  – Module on HIPs
## 2012-2013 NSFYS: Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution type</th>
<th>All  ((N = 896))</th>
<th>With seminar ((N = 804))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two-year</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-year</td>
<td>73.3%</td>
<td>74.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private, not-for-profit</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private, for-profit</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2012-2013 NSFYS: Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of First-Year Class</th>
<th>All ((N = 896))</th>
<th>With seminar ((N = 804))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 500</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501 – 1,000</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,001 – 1,500</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,501 – 2,000</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,001 – 2,500</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,501 – 3,000</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,001 – 3,500</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,500 – 4,000</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,001 – 5,000</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 5,000</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## FYS: Most Important Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop a connection with the institution</td>
<td>44.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide orientation to campus resources &amp; services</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop academic skills</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop critical thinking skills</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create common first-year experience</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop study skills</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-exploration or personal development</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop support network or friendships</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve second-year return rates</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase student-faculty interaction</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop writing skills</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Types of Seminars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>All Seminars ($N = 788$)</th>
<th>Primary Type ($N = 786$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extended Orientation $&lt;$ Two-Year $&lt;$ Public</td>
<td>60.4%</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Uniform Content</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Variable Content $&lt;$ Four-Year $&lt;$ Private</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Study Skills $&lt;$ Two-Year</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-professional/Discipline-linked</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid $&lt;$ Four-Year $&lt;$ Private</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIPs and First-Year Seminars

Number of HIPs Offered in the FYS

Percent of institutions

0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7

6.7 16.8 22.2 18.3 17.9 10.8 5.8 1.4
## HIPs and First-Year Seminars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High-Impact Practice</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Produce and revise various forms of writing</td>
<td>42.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; Four-Year &lt; Private</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration and teamwork</td>
<td>67.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; Public</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity or global learning</td>
<td>58.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; Four-Year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service-learning</td>
<td>31.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; Four-Year &lt; Private</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning community</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; Public</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common reading experience</td>
<td>38.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; Four-Year &lt; Private</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate research</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; Four-Year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Second Year: Developmental Milestone

• Critical juncture for students developmentally
  – Academic development
  – Connection to institution and place in the community
  – Career development
  – Personal identity issues
  – Examination of life purpose

• Increased capacity to make progress on important college outcomes
Campus Response to Sophomores?

First-Year
- Orientation
- Common Reading Programs
- First-Year Seminars
- Student Engagement

Senior Year
- Capstone Experiences
- Job Fairs
- Professional Licensing
- Graduate and Professional School Applications

Junior Year
- Internships
- Study Abroad
- Peer Leadership
Sophomore Student
(Unmotivationus Middlechilddibus)
National Survey of Sophomore-Year Initiatives

• Designed to identify sophomore-specific practices and programs and characteristics of those initiatives

• 2013-2014 Administration
  – Online survey
  – 3,722 institutions were invited to participate
  – 778 responded (20.9% response rate)
  – 349 (46% of sample) currently offered at least one sophomore-specific initiative
## 2013-2014 NSSYI: Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution type</th>
<th>All (N = 778)</th>
<th>With initiative (N = 349)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two-year</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-year</td>
<td>77.1%</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private, not-for-profit</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2013-2014 NSSYI: Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Undergraduates</th>
<th>All  ((N = 778))</th>
<th>With initiative  ((N = 349))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 500</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501 – 1,000</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,001 – 1,500</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,501 – 3,000</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,001 – 5,000</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,001 – 10,000</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,001 – 15,000</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,001 – 20,000</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 20,000</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## NSSYI: Most Important Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve retention</td>
<td>62.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career exploration</td>
<td>53.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career preparation (&lt; 2-year)</td>
<td>45.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic assistance</td>
<td>45.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection of a major (&lt; 4-year)</td>
<td>44.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership opportunities</td>
<td>43.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student engagement</td>
<td>43.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connection with the institution (&lt; 4-year; &lt; Private)</td>
<td>34.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic skills</td>
<td>31.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation rates (&lt; 2-year; &lt; Public)</td>
<td>31.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Common Sophomore-Year Initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Advising</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career exploration</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career planning</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early alert systems</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership development</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major exploration and selection</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic coaching or mentoring</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer mentoring by sophomores</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class events</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internships</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2013-2014 NSSYI

www.sc.edu/fye
Primary Sophomore-Year Initiatives

- Academic Advising: 45.7%
- Live-on Requirement: 8.2%
- Early Alert: 4.7%
- Other: 4.1%
- Credit-Bearing Course: 3.8%
- Academic Coaching: 3.2%
- Class Events: 2.9%
- Sophomore LLC: 2.9%
- Career Exploration: 2.3%
- Major Exploration: 2.1%

Source: 2013-2014 NSSYI
Duration of Sophomore Initiative

- 1 year or less: 19.0%
- 2-5 years: 59.0%
- 6-10 years: 13.0%
- 11-15 years: 4.0%
- 16+ years: 5.0%

Source: www.sc.edu/fye
Coordination of Sophomore Initiative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>1-Totally decentralized</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5-Totally centralized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1-Totally decentralized

2

3

4

5-Totally centralized

www.sc.edu/fye
INTEGRATION ACROSS TRANSITIONS
Strategies used to assess learning and achievement are based on what has been taught and on the learning objectives students are expected to meet.
Horizontal Alignment

- Effectively evaluate & use information
- Research Assignment in U101
- Pre/Posttest Assessment with ProjectSAILS

Source: Friedman (2012, pp. 50-51)
Vertical Alignment

What students learn in one lesson or course prepares them for the next lesson or course. Educational experiences are purposefully structured and logically sequenced so that students gain the knowledge and skills to progressively prepare them for more challenging, higher-level work.
Vertical Horizon
Horizontal Alignment in First-Year Seminars

1. Learning Objectives
2. Educational Experiences
3. Assessment

Goals in Literature

NSFYS Objectives

Topics

Objectives Assessed
Goals in Literature

NSFYS Objectives

Topics

Objectives Assessed

Interpersonal relationships
Career development
Intellectual/academic competence
Wellness
Identity development
Spirituality
Civic responsibility

Connection with the institution
Orientation to campus resources
Academic skills
Critical thinking skills
Common FYE
Study Skills
Self-exploration
Writing skills
Student-faculty interaction
2nd-year retention

Campus Resources
Academic Planning
Critical Thinking
Study Skills
Campus Engagement
Time Management
Writing Skills
Career Issues
Satisfaction with the seminar
Persistence to second year
Satisfaction with faculty
Student self-reports of course impact
Participation in campus activities
Satisfaction with the Institution

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye
## Top 5 Seminar Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Important Course Goals</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop a connection with the institution</td>
<td>44.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation to campus resources * Two-Year</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop academic skills</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop critical thinking skills * Four-Year</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create common first-year experience * Four-Year</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: 2012-2013 NSFYS*
Goals in Literature

NSFYS Objectives

Topics

Objectives Assessed

Interpersonal relationships
Career development
Intellectual/academic competence
Wellness
Identity development
Spirituality
Civic responsibility
Connection with institution
Campus resources
Academic skills
Critical thinking skills
Common FYE
Study Skills
Self-exploration
Writing skills
Student-faculty interaction
2nd-year retention
Stated objectives centered on developing academic and intellectual competence.

Not much specific stated focus on objectives related to civic responsibility, wellness, or spirituality.
# Top 5 Seminar Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Important Course Topics</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campus resources</td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic planning or advising</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical thinking</td>
<td>32.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study skills</td>
<td>29.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus engagement</td>
<td>27.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2012-2013 NSFYS
NSFYS Objectives

- Connection with institution
- Campus resources
- Academic skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Common FYE
- Study Skills
- Self-exploration
- Writing skills
- Student-faculty interaction
- 2nd-year retention

Topics

- Campus Resources
- Academic Planning
- Critical Thinking
- Study Skills
- Campus Engagement
- Time Management
- Writing Skills
- Career Issues

Objectives Assessed

Connection with institution: Campus resources, Academic planning, Critical thinking, Study skills, Self-exploration, Writing skills, Student-faculty interaction, 2nd-year retention.

For colleges and universities who named as an objective

Connection with institution

Campus Resources – 47.8%

Academic Planning – 41.6%

Campus Engagement – 38.1%

Study Skills – 27.0%

Time Management – 25.2%

These were the top 5 topics

Some evidence of horizontal alignment
For colleges and universities who named
Orientation to Campus Resources and Services as an objective

These were the top 5 topics

- Campus Resources – 62.6%
- Academic Planning – 42.3%
- Study Skills – 37.1%
- Time Management – 33.6%
- Campus Engagement – 31.8%

Evidence of horizontal alignment
For colleges and universities who named Academic Skills as an objective, these were the top 5 topics:

- Study Skills – 46.2%
- Academic Planning – 37.7%
- Campus Resources – 35.2%
- Critical Thinking – 31.5%
- Time Management – 24.9%

Strong evidence of horizontal alignment.

NSFYS Objectives

Topics

Objectives Assessed
For colleges and universities who named Critical Thinking Skills as an objective, these were the top 5 topics assessed:

- Critical Thinking: 73.3%
- Writing Skills: 38.6%
- Specific Disciplinary Topic: 21.6%
- Campus Engagement: 19.9%
- Study Skills: 18.2%
- Academic Planning: 18.2%

Strong evidence of horizontal alignment.
For colleges and universities who named

**Common FYE** as an objective

These were the top 5 topics:

- Critical Thinking – 37.4%
- Academic Planning – 35.6%
- Campus Engagement – 35.0%
- Campus Resources – 35.0%
- Writing Skills – 22.1%

Some evidence of horizontal alignment
## 5 Most Frequently Assessed Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction with the seminar</td>
<td>75.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievement of course outcomes</td>
<td>68.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistence to second year</td>
<td>58.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction with faculty</td>
<td>52.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-reports of course impact</td>
<td>49.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Goals in Literature
- Interpersonal relationships
- Career development
- Intellectual/academic competence
- Wellness
- Identity development
- Spirituality
- Civic responsibility

### NSFYS Objectives
- Connection with institution
- Campus resources
- Academic skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Common FYE
- Study Skills
- Self-exploration
- Writing skills
- Student-faculty interaction
- 2nd-year retention

### Topics
- Campus Resources
- Academic Planning
- Critical Thinking
- Study Skills
- Campus Engagement
- Time Management
- Writing Skills
- Career Issues

### Objectives Assessed
- Satisfaction with the seminar
- Achievement of course outcomes
- Persistence to second year
- Satisfaction with faculty
- Student self-reports of course impact
- Participation in campus activities
- Satisfaction with the Institution

---

*NSFYS Objectives*

- Assessed Satisfaction with the seminar
- Achieved academic planning outcomes
- Critical thinking skills development
- Study skills improvement
- Campus engagement
- Time management
- Writing skills enhancement
- Career issues awareness

---

*Goals in Literature*

- Interpersonal relationships
- Career development
- Intellectual/academic competence
- Wellness
- Identity development
- Spirituality
- Civic responsibility

---

*Objectives Assessed*

- Satisfaction with the seminar
- Achievement of course outcomes
- Persistence to second year
- Satisfaction with faculty
- Student self-reports of course impact
- Participation in campus activities
- Satisfaction with the Institution

---

*NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER*

**First Year Experience and Students in Transition**

*UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA*

[www.sc.edu/fye]
For colleges and universities who named Connection with institution as an objective, these were the top 5 outcomes assessed:

- Satisfaction with the seminar – 76.8%
- Achievement of Course Outcomes – 69.5%
- Persistence to Second Year – 63.2%
- Satisfaction with faculty – 47.9%
- Student self-reports of course impact – 45.3%

Some evidence of horizontal alignment:

- Connections with Peers – 44.7%, #6
- Student-faculty interaction – 28.4%, #12
- Satisfaction with Institution – 38.9%, #8
Satisfaction with the seminar – 76.6%
Achievement of Course Outcomes – 64.3%
Persistence to Second Year – 60.2%
Satisfaction with faculty – 44.0%
Student self-reports of course impact – 48.5%

Use of Campus Services – 36.8%, #8 most frequent assessed outcome

For colleges and universities who named Orientation to Campus Resources and Services as an objective, these were the top 5 outcomes assessed.

Little evidence of horizontal alignment
For colleges and universities who named Academic Skills as an objective, these were the top 5 outcomes assessed:

- Achievement of Course Outcomes – 76.8%
- Satisfaction with the seminar – 74.8%
- Persistence to Second Year – 64.9%
- Satisfaction with faculty – 50.3%
- Student self-reports of course impact – 50.3%

These outcomes show strong evidence of horizontal alignment.

Grade Point Average – 47.7%, #6
Student self-reports of improvement – 33.1%, #11
Writing Ability – 20.5%, #16
For colleges and universities who named

Critical Thinking Skills as an objective

These were the top 5 outcomes assessed:

- Achievement of Course Outcomes – 75.0%
- Satisfaction with the seminar – 71.4%
- Critical Thinking – 64.3%
- Satisfaction with faculty – 56.3%
- Persistence to Second Year – 51.8%

Some evidence of horizontal alignment:

Student self-reports of course impact – 45.3%, #6
Writing Skills – 44.6%, #7
Satisfaction with the seminar – 72.6%
Achievement of Course Outcomes – 68.4%
Persistence to Second Year – 57.9%
Satisfaction with faculty – 62.1%
Student self-reports of course impact – 42.1%
Satisfaction with the institution – 42.1%

For colleges and universities who named Common FYE as an objective:

These were the top 5 outcomes assessed:

Connections with Peers – 40.0%, #7
Participation in Campus Activities – 37.9%, #8
Satisfaction with Advising – 36.8%, #9
Critical Thinking – 34.7%, #10

Little evidence of horizontal alignment.
Evidence that assessment is not always driven by objectives
Assessment is not being directed by most stated objectives or ‘theoretical’ goals for first year.
Horizontal Alignment in Sophomore-Year Initiatives

1. Learning Objectives
2. Educational Experiences
3. Assessment

- Goals from Literature
- Sophomore-Year Objectives
- Sophomore-Year Initiatives
- Assessment of SYI
## Objectives for the Sophomore Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retention</td>
<td>62.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career exploration</td>
<td>53.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career preparation <strong>&lt; Two-Year</strong></td>
<td>45.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic assistance</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection of a major <strong>&lt; Four-Year</strong></td>
<td>44.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership opportunities</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student engagement</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connection with institution <strong>&lt; Four-Year &lt; Private</strong></td>
<td>34.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic skills</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation rates <strong>&lt;Two-Year &lt; Public</strong></td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goals from literature line up pretty well with reported institutional goals for sophomore year.

Heavy focus on retention and purpose is not explicitly stated as objective for second-year students.
Common Sophomore-Year Initiatives

- Academic Advising: 57.6%
- Career exploration: 52.7%
- Career planning: 48.7%
- Early alert systems: 42.7%
- Leadership development: 40.3%
- Major exploration and selection: 33.1%
- Academic coaching or mentoring: 30.3%
- Peer mentoring by sophomores: 29.1%
- Class events: 28.2%
- Internships: 27.1%

Source: 2013-2014 NSSYI
Primary Sophomore-Year Initiatives

- Academic Advising: 45.7%
- Live-on Requirement: 8.2%
- Early Alert: 4.7%
- Other: 4.1%
- Credit-Bearing Course: 3.8%
- Academic Coaching: 3.2%
- Class Events: 2.9%
- Sophomore LLC: 2.9%
- Career Exploration: 2.3%
- Major Exploration: 2.1%

Source: 2013-2014 NSSYI
Primary Sophomore-Year Initiative: Categories

- Academic Advising (45.7%)
- Residential Initiatives (12.3%)
- High-Impact Practices (7.9%)
- Major and Career-Focused Initiatives (6.4%)
  - Academic Support
  - Curriculum or Course-Based

- Communication to Sophomores
- Campus-Based Events
- Away-from-Campus Events
- Transition-Focused Initiatives
- Financial Aid & Scholarships
- Leadership Development
- Comprehensive Sophomore-Year
- Early Alert
Sophomore Objectives

- Retention
- Career exploration
- Career preparation
- Academic assistance
- Selection of a major
- Leadership opportunities
- Student engagement
- Connection with institution
- Academic skills
- Graduation rates

SYI

- Academic Advising
- Residential Initiatives
- High-Impact Practices
- Major and Career Initiatives

Objectives Assessed

www.sc.edu/fye
For colleges and universities who named Academic Advising as their primary SYI

These were the top 5 objectives

Strong evidence of horizontal alignment
For colleges and universities who named Residential Initiatives as their primary SYI. These were the top 5 objectives.

Evidence of horizontal alignment.
For colleges and universities who named as their primary SYI

High-Impact Practices

These were the top 5 (6) objectives

Strong evidence of horizontal alignment
Career Exploration
Career Preparation
Selection of a Major
Retention
Graduation

For colleges and universities who named
Major and Career Focused as their primary SYI

These were the top 5 objectives

Strong evidence of horizontal alignment
Vertical Alignment

Senior-Year Experience

Major

Sophomore-Year Initiatives

First-Year Experience

Sophomore Objectives

SYI

Objectives Assessed

FYS Objectives

Topics

Objectives Assessed

www.sc.edu/fye
Opportunities for Vertical Alignment?

First-Year Objectives
- Identity development
- Wellness
- Spirituality
- Civic responsibility

Sophomore-Year Objectives
- Purpose
- Meaningful interactions w/faculty
- Engaged learning
- Campus involvement

Academic self-efficacy
- Major/career exploration
- Interpersonal relationships
## Vertical Alignment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>First-Year Seminar</th>
<th>Second-Year</th>
<th>$p$</th>
<th>Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic self-efficacy</strong></td>
<td>Connection with the institution</td>
<td>Academic skills</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Critical thinking skills</td>
<td>Critical-thinking skills</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing skills</td>
<td>Critical-thinking skills</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing skills</td>
<td>Retention</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preprofessional preparation</td>
<td>Retention</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major/career exploration</strong></td>
<td>Critical thinking skills</td>
<td>Career exploration$^a$</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Critical thinking skills</td>
<td>Selection of a major</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing skills</td>
<td>Career exploration$^a$</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing skills</td>
<td>Career preparation$^a$</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing skills</td>
<td>Selection of a major$^b$</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interpersonal relationships</strong></td>
<td>Connection with the institution</td>
<td>Student engagement</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common first-year experience</td>
<td>Student-faculty interaction</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a* = Second-year institutional objective, *b* = both institutional and SYI objective. All other second-year objectives are from initiatives.
Opportunities for Vertical Alignment?

• What initiatives do you have in first year that focus on these outcomes?
  – Academic self-efficacy
  – Major/career exploration
  – Interpersonal relationships

• How are they (or how might they) lay the groundwork for initiatives in the sophomore year?

• In what ways are your sophomore initiatives intentionally building on the work of the first year?

• How can you build in assessment of outcomes from the first year to support second-year success?
  – Likewise from second year on?
More information available

2012-2013 National Survey of First-Year Seminars: Exploring High-Impact Practices in the First College Year
Dallin George Young and Jessica M. Hopp

Available Now
www.nrcpubs.com