

Selected Findings from the 2008 National Survey on Sophomore-Year Initiatives

After pilot testing in October 2008, the web-based survey was administered November-December 2008. Initial invitations to participate in the survey were e-mailed to 2,641 chief student affairs officers at regionally accredited public and private baccalaureate granting institutions in the United States. During a second phase of recruitment, invitations were e-mailed to 864 people who purchased the 2007 sophomore monograph from the National Resource Center. Emails also were also distributed to 961 members of the National Resource Center's SOPHlist listserv.

After three reminders, a total of 463 institutions successfully completed the survey. It should be noted that because the survey was sent to student affairs professionals, survey findings may under-represent academic affairs initiatives.

Current Sophomore Initiatives

Four-Year Institutions with Initiatives Specifically or Intentionally Geared Toward Sophomore Students (N = 106)

	#Yes	%Yes
Career Planning (n=106)	82	77.4%
Leadership Development (n=104)	61	58.7%
Academic Advising (n=105)	59	56.2%
Class Events (n=102)	54	52.9%
Online Resources (n=102)	43	42.2%
Residence Life (n=102)	41	40.2%
Study Abroad (n=103)	40	38.8%
Peer Mentoring <i>by</i> Sophomores (n=104)	37	35.6%
Print Publications (n=104)	35	33.7%
Community Service/Service Learning (n=105)	35	33.3%
Faculty and Staff Mentors for Sophomore Students (n=102)	34	33.3%
Student Government (n=102)	32	31.4%
Undergraduate Research (n=102)	29	28.4%
Cultural Enrichment (n=103)	24	23.3%
Retreats (n=103)	22	21.4%
Opportunities to Co-Teach/Assist in Teaching (n=102)	17	16.7%
Peer Mentoring <i>for</i> Sophomores (n=104)	16	15.4%
Credit-Bearing Course (n=100)	15	15.0%
Other (n=106)	15	14.2%
Curricular Learning Communities (n=102)	13	12.7%
Financial Aid (n=103)	13	12.6%

Longstanding Initiatives

Respondents were asked to identify up to two of the most longstanding sophomore initiatives on their campus. The three most frequently reported initiatives were:

Longstanding Initiative 1

Longstanding Initiative 2

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Academic Advising (n=31, 29.2%) | Career Planning (n=13, 14.8%) |
| 2. Career Planning (n=26, 24.5%) | Leadership Development (n=10, 11.4%) |
| 3. Class Events (n=9, 8.5%) | Residence Life (n=10, 11.4%) |

Innovative Initiatives

Respondents were asked to identify the most innovative sophomore initiative on their campus. The four most frequently reported initiatives were:

1. Academic Advising (n=15, 15.5%)
2. Residence Life (n=14, 14.4%)
3. Other (n=13, 13.4%) (e.g., conferences, moral reasoning seminars)
4. Career Planning (n=12, 12.4%)

Future Initiatives

- 72.6% of responding institutions with current sophomore initiatives are considering or developing future sophomore initiatives
- 28.8% of responding institutions with no current sophomore initiatives are considering or developing future sophomore initiatives

Respondents were asked to specify the future initiatives that are being considered or developed on their campus. The four most frequently reported future initiatives were:

1. Leadership Development (n=38, 50.7%)
2. Academic Advising (n=35, 46.7%)
3. Career Planning (n=35, 46.7%)
4. Class Events (n=33, 44.0%)