



## **Exploring the Middle Years: Supporting Students in the Second- and Third-Year Experiences March 2-29, 2026**

### **Course Description:**

Much attention is focused on the beginning and ending years of college, what about supporting students in the middle? This course will explore the middle years on the college campus: the sophomore and junior years. Alternatively referred to as the second and third years. This course will explore literature, theory, and data related to these two populations. Participants will examine common frameworks and a variety of campus models designed to support second- and third-year students. Participants will develop their own plan for exploring the needs and issues of the targeted populations on their own campuses.

Please note that there will be two “live” sessions held online via Zoom for participants. They will be recorded and posted on the course site for those that cannot attend live. Sharing the dates and times prior to the course officially starting for participant planning purposes. The rest of the course is all asynchronous!

- Week One: Course overview and participant meet and greet- Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time zone)
- Week Four: Course wrap up- Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern time zone)

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Gain an understanding of the trends, literature, data, and frameworks that surround the sophomore and junior years
- Explore the common issues and experiences in the identified years
- Examine and evaluate current models of campus programs and initiatives

- Understand definitions of the identified cohorts and common language used in discussion, i.e. the sophomore slump
- Develop a plan for a needs assessment and exploration of the second and third years on participants' own campus
- Engagement and in-depth discussion with other course participants.

**Required Textbook:** A Faculty and Staff Guide on Supporting Sophomore Student Success by Molly Schaller and Julie Tetley (2023).

**Optional Textbooks:**

Hunter, M. S., Tobolowsky, B. F., Gardner, J. N., Evenbeck, S. E., Pattengale, J. A., Schaller, M., & Schreiner, L. A. (2010). *Helping Sophomores Succeed: Understanding and Improving the Second Year Experience*. John Wiley & Sons.

Schreiner, L. A., Louis, M. C., & Nelson, D. D. (Eds.). (2020). *Thriving in transitions: A research-based approach to college student success* (2nd ed.). National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, University of South Carolina.