The Stars in the Constellation: Results from the 2017 National Survey of The First-Year Experience

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"The first-year experience is not a single program or initiative, but rather an intentional combination of academic and cocurricular efforts within and across postsecondary institutions" (Koch & Gardner, 2006, p. 2).

"Because supporting first-year student success is a topic that is not easily localized or specific to one functional area, an effectual first-year experience (FYE) requires campus-wide coordination and cooperation." (Young & Keup, forthcoming, p. 4).

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### Observations of the FYE sky

- Every institution in the sample offers at least one program or initiative intentionally designed to support first-year student success.
- Academic advising, early alert systems, pre-term orientation, and first-year seminars are the most common first-year initiatives.

### Which FYE programs are individual stars and which form a constellation?

![Diagram showing the relationship between different FYE programs and initiatives.](Image)

### The most common FYE programs have the fewest number of correlations with other FYE programs.

- Peer education, residential programs, leadership programs, writing-intensive coursework, and study abroad were reported less frequently, but have the greatest number of correlations, suggesting the potential for campus-wide coordination and cooperation.

### VARIATION BY INSTITUTIONAL TYPE

- **2-year and 4-year Institutions**
- **Public and Private Institutions**

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**DATA SOURCE:** 2017 National Survey of First-Year Experiences (NSFYE)

- 3,977 institutions were invited to participate
- 537 campuses responded (13.5% response rate)
- 525 reported offering at least one FYE program

**ABSTRACT:** This poster features evidence from the 2017 National Survey of First-Year Experiences to describe the most common educational initiatives used in the first year and examine the connections between these initiatives to create a high-impact system of first-year experience interventions.