



## NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND  
STUDENTS IN TRANSITION

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# New Trends and Issues in the Field of Student Transitions

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**Assistant Director for Research and  
Grants**





# College Student Transitions







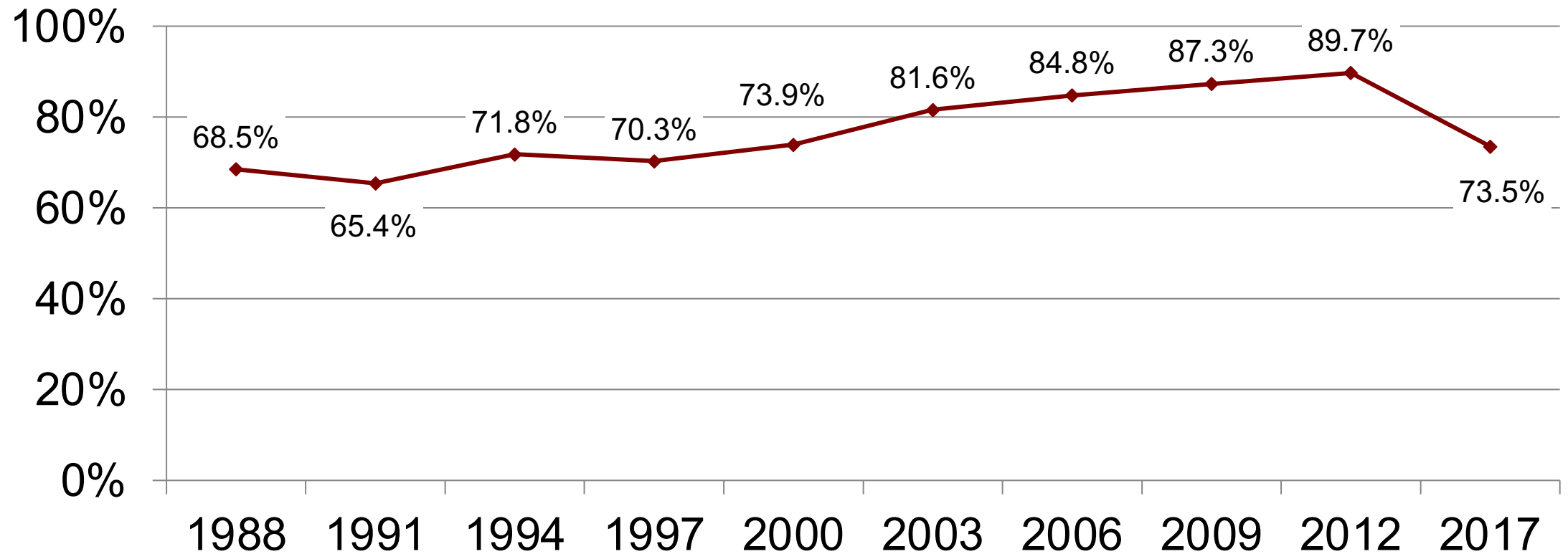
# Shifts in the First-Year Seminar

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# First-Year Seminar Prevalence

## Institutions Offering a First-Year Seminar





# First-Year Seminars

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- Previous overestimation from self-selection?
- Actual drop in prevalence?
- Probably a little of the former, mostly the latter
  - Analyses point to a drop in prevalence of about 10 percentage points



<b>Most Common FYE Programs/Initiatives</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>First-year academic advising (ADV)</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>80.4</b>
<b>Early alert systems (EA)</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>79.0</b>
<b>Pre-term orientation (OR)</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>75.4</b>
<b>First-year seminars (FYS)</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>73.5</b>
<b>Placement testing (PT)</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>65.9</b>
<b>Peer education (PE)</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>62.3</b>
<b>Student success center (SSC)</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>55.2</b>
<b>Developmental education (DEV)</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>54.5</b>
<b>General education (GE)</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>54.1</b>
<b>Convocation (CNV)</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>52.6</b>

Notes: n = 525.

# Creating a “Constellation” of Student Success Programs

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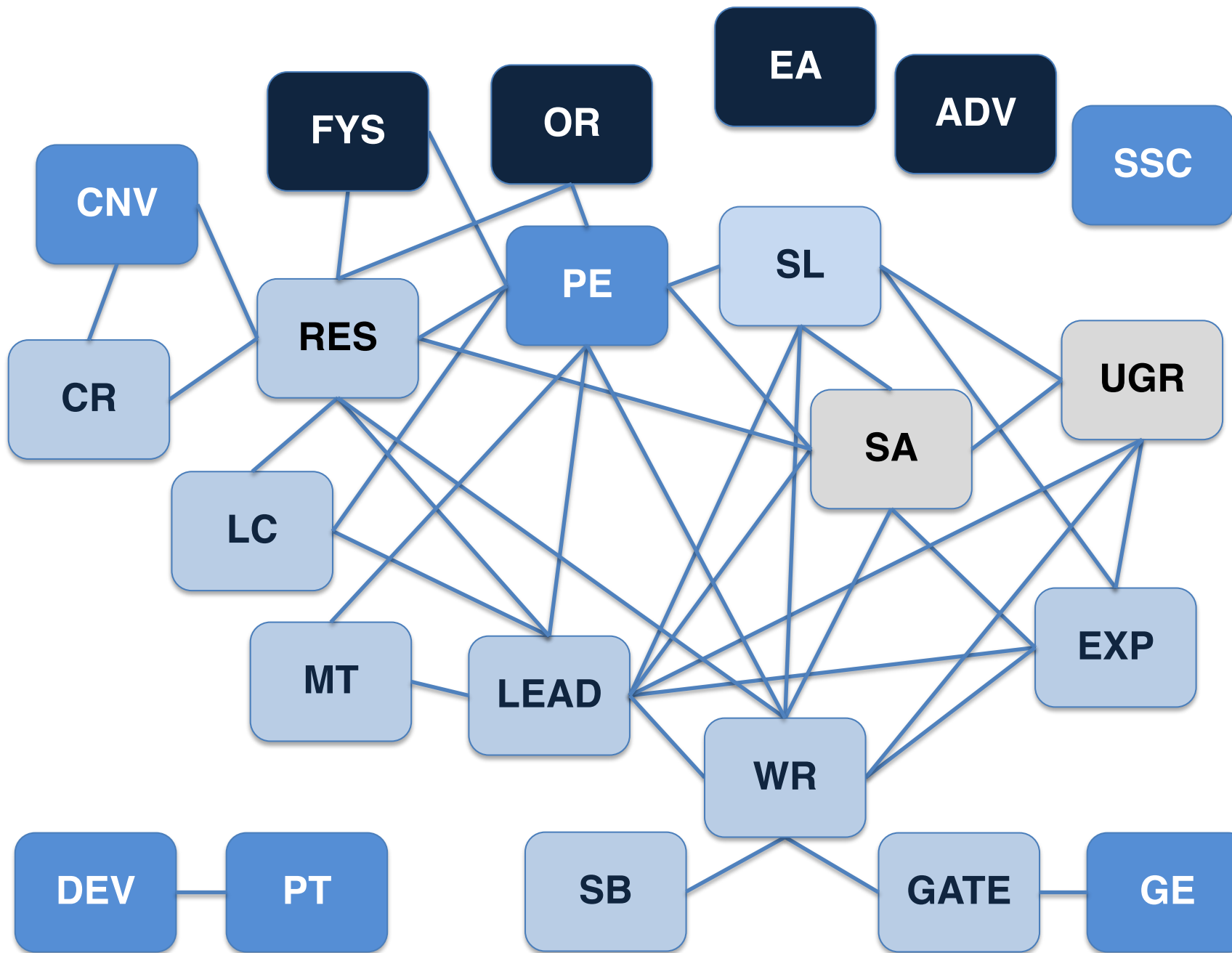
# Coordination of FYE Programs

**“A true first-year experience includes more than just one ‘star’ program and, instead, represents a constellation of support programs.”**

*(Greenfield, Keup, & Gardner, 2013)*



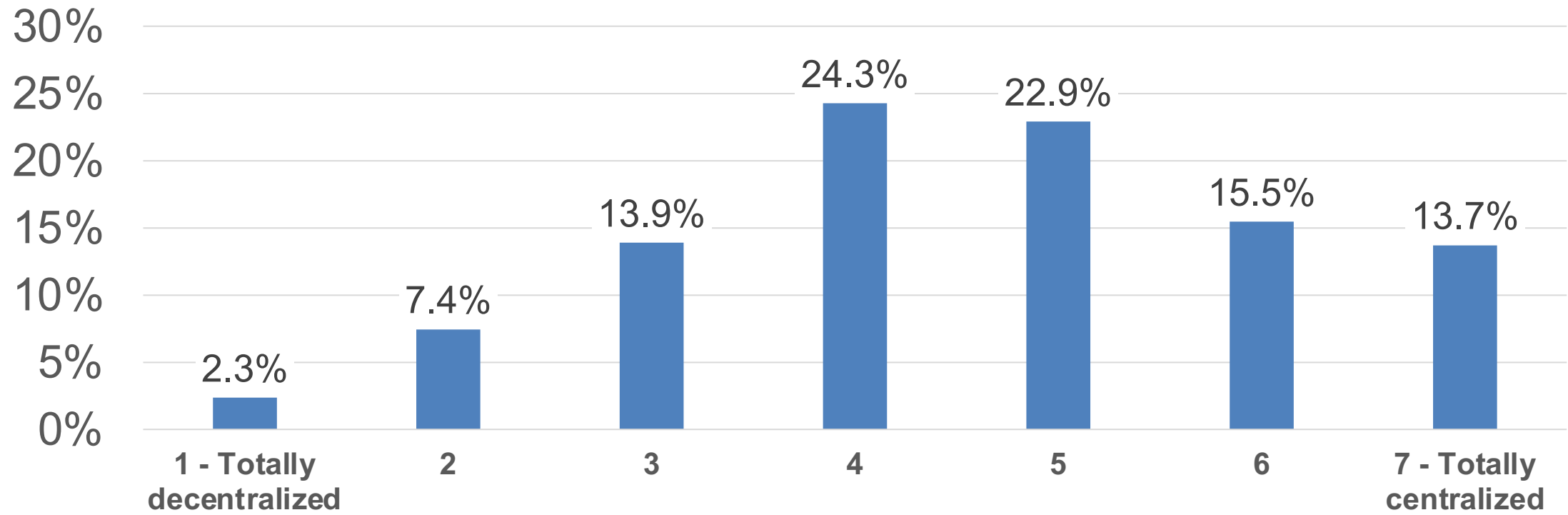
# A Constellation of FYE Programs





# Coordination of FYE Programs

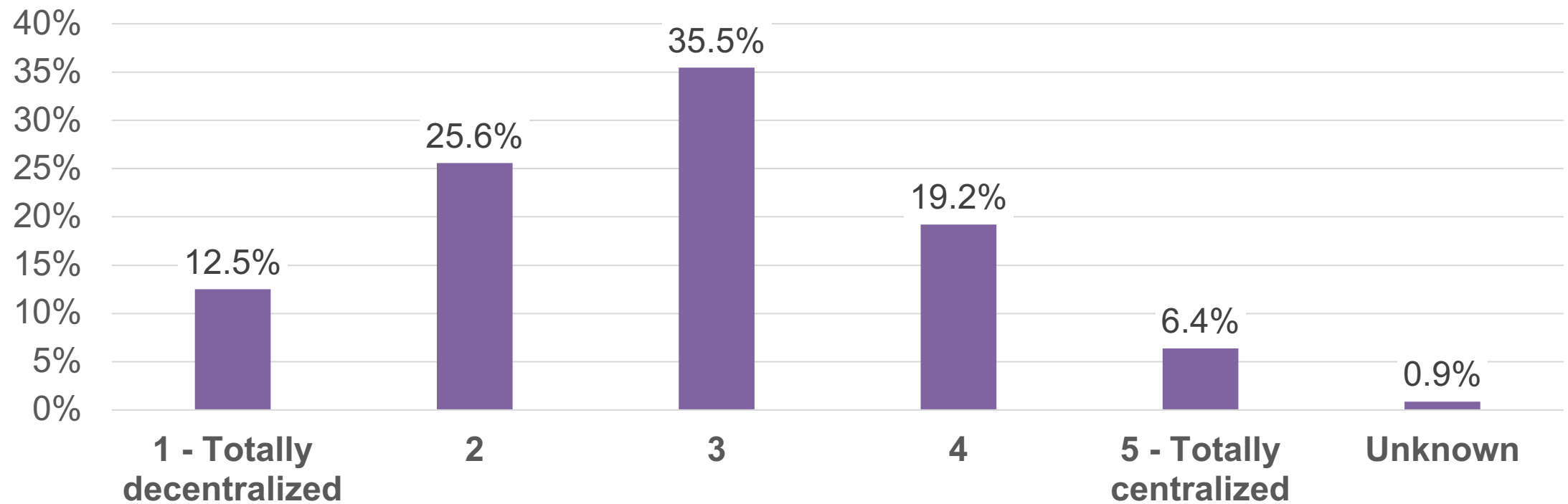
How Coordinated are first-year programs on your campus?



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# Coordination of Soph Programs

On your campus, how coordinated are sophomore-year initiatives?



# Coordination of FYE Programs

Does your institution have any of the following formal organizational structures to coordinate the first-year experience?	Freq.	%
First-year program office	164	40.0%
Cross-functional first-year team (e.g., team inclusive of curriculum and co-curriculum)	159	38.8%
First-year program committee, task force, or advisory board	158	38.5%
Other campuswide FYE coordination	127	31.0%
First-year curriculum committee	62	15.1%





Council on  
Advancement in  
Standards & Assessments

## First-Year Experience

Cross-Functional Framework  
2018

Produced by CAS, in partnership with National Resource Center. Lays out standards, guidelines, and enhanced practices for campus-wide team efforts to support first-year student success.

Available for purchase at [https://www.cas.edu/store\\_product.asp?prodid=153](https://www.cas.edu/store_product.asp?prodid=153)

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### Framework Authors

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

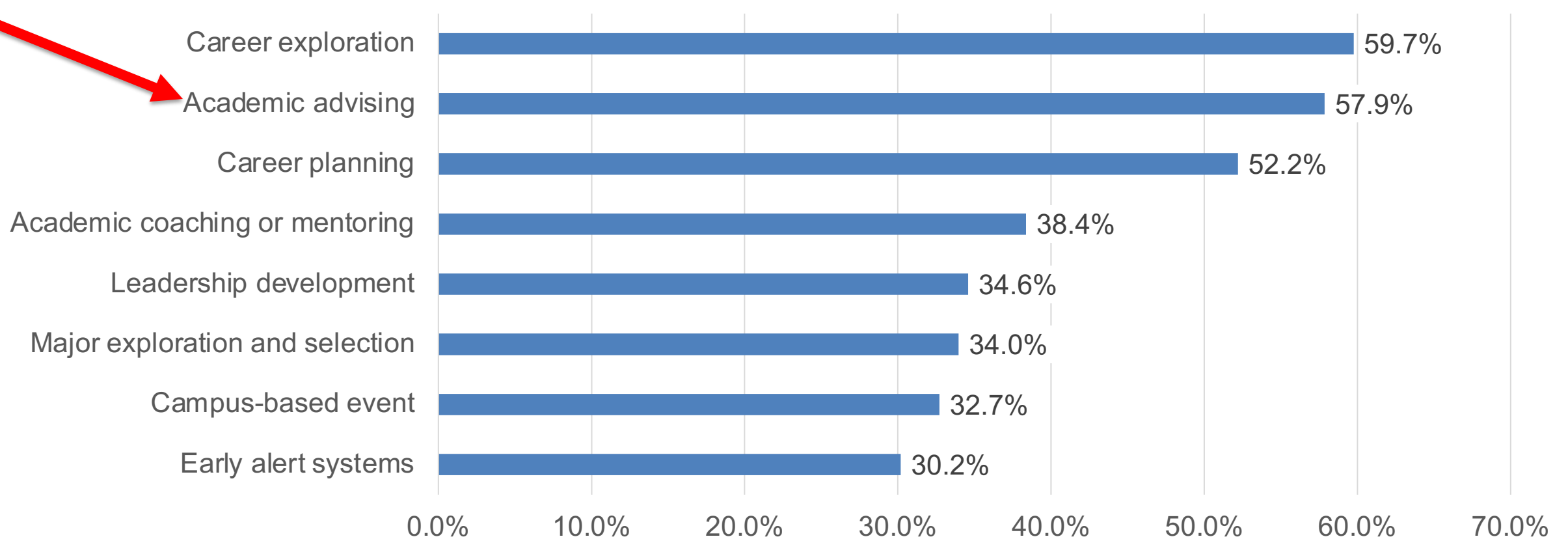
A photograph of two women in an office setting. The woman on the left has curly hair and is wearing a light blue blazer over a blue top. She is gesturing with her right hand while speaking. The woman on the right has dark hair in a ponytail and is wearing a light-colored top, looking towards the first woman. The background shows a window with a view of a city and some indoor plants.

# Importance of Advising in Student Support

Most Common FYE Programs/Initiatives	Freq.	%
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Notes: n = 525.		

# Prevalence of Advising as a Sophomore-Year Initiative

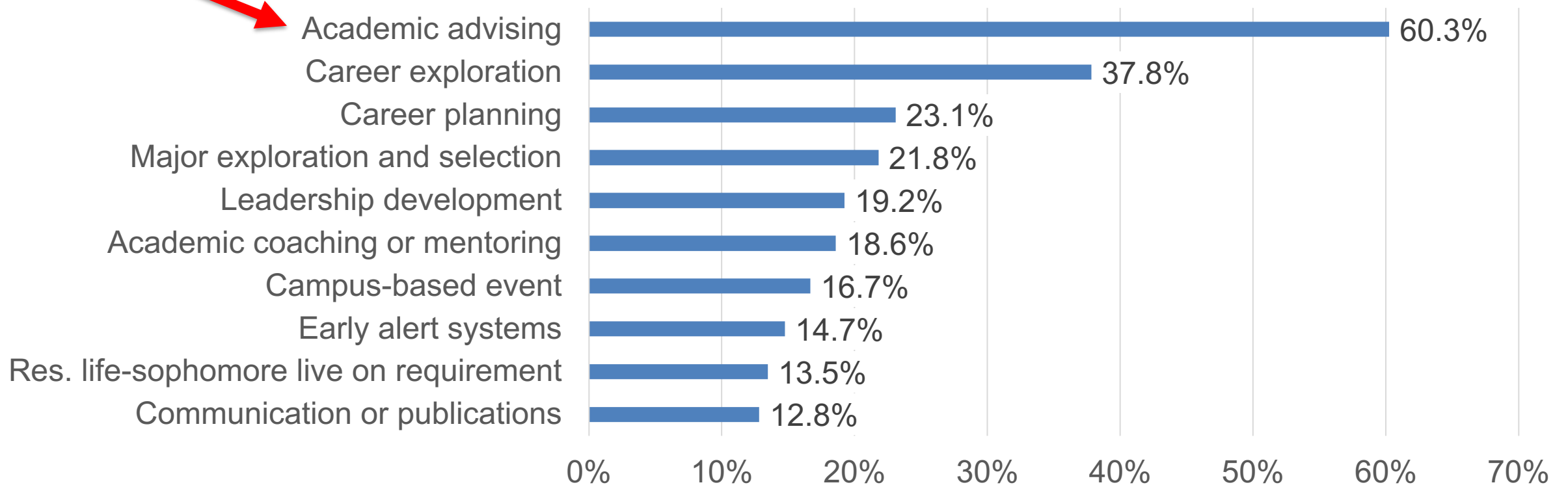
## Institutional Initiatives on Sophomores





# Advising - Key Tool for Meeting Sophomore Objectives

Sophomore Initiatives Used to Reach Campuswide Objectives for Sophomores



# Sustained Support

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# Sustained Support: Objectives

Sources for the table include the following:

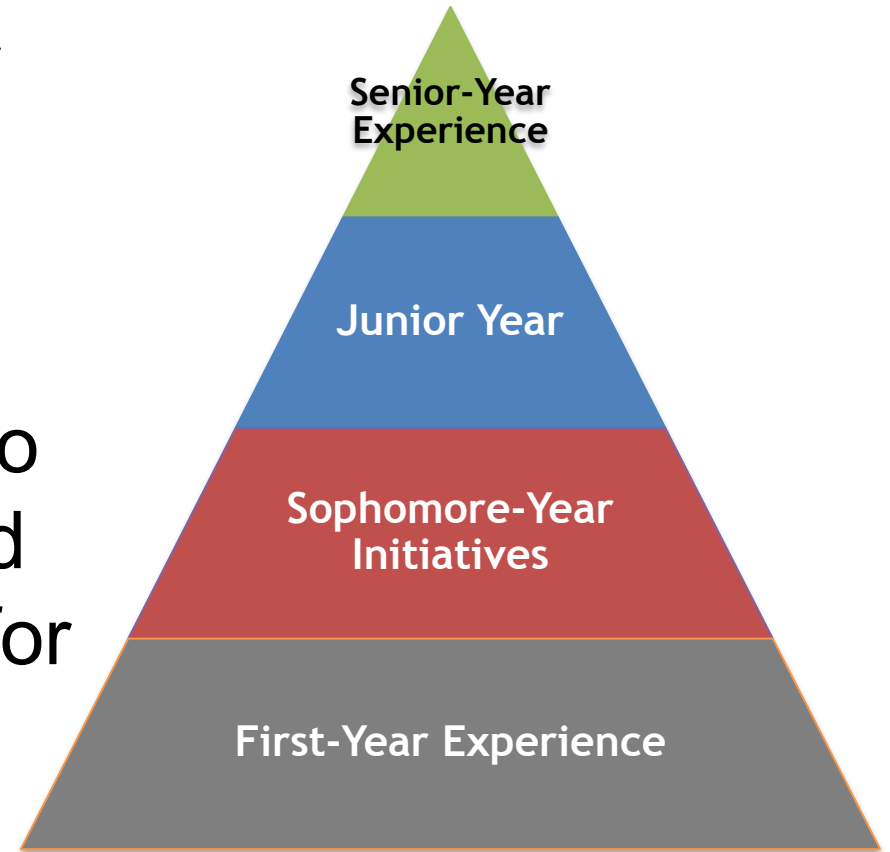
National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition (2019), 2017 National Survey on the First-Year Experience  
Young et al. (2015), 2014 National Survey of Sophomore-Year Initiatives  
Young, Chung, Hoffman, and Bronkema (2017), 2016 National Survey of Senior Capstone Experiences.

## Institutional Objectives Across the Undergraduate Experience

Rank	First year (2017 NSFYE)	Sophomore Year (2014 NSSYI)	Senior Year (2016 NSSCE)
1	Academic success strategies (80.4%)	Retention (62.0%)	Career preparation (71.2%)
2	Academic planning/major exploration (75.8%)	Career exploration (53.8%)	Employment or job placement (62.6%)
3	Knowledge of institution/campus resources (75.6%)	Career preparation (45.1%)	Graduation (61.3%)
4	Connection with the institution or campus (75.0%)	Academic assistance (44.9%)	Graduate/professional school enrollment (50.5%)
5	Introduction to college-level academic expectations (69.8%)	Selection of a major (44.9%)	Critical-thinking skills (43.3%)
6	Retention or second-year return rate (62.8%)	Leadership opportunities (43.7%)	Preparation for graduate school (39.7%)
7	Common first-year experience (61.6%)	Student engagement (43.0%)	Writing skills (37.0%)
8	Student–faculty interaction (61.1%)	Connection with the institution (34.4%)	Alumni/ae support (36.4%)
9	Career exploration and/or preparation (56.8%)	Academic skills (31.8%)	Leadership development (35.1%)
10	Writing skills (51.4%)	Graduation rates (30.9%)	Student satisfaction (34.8%)

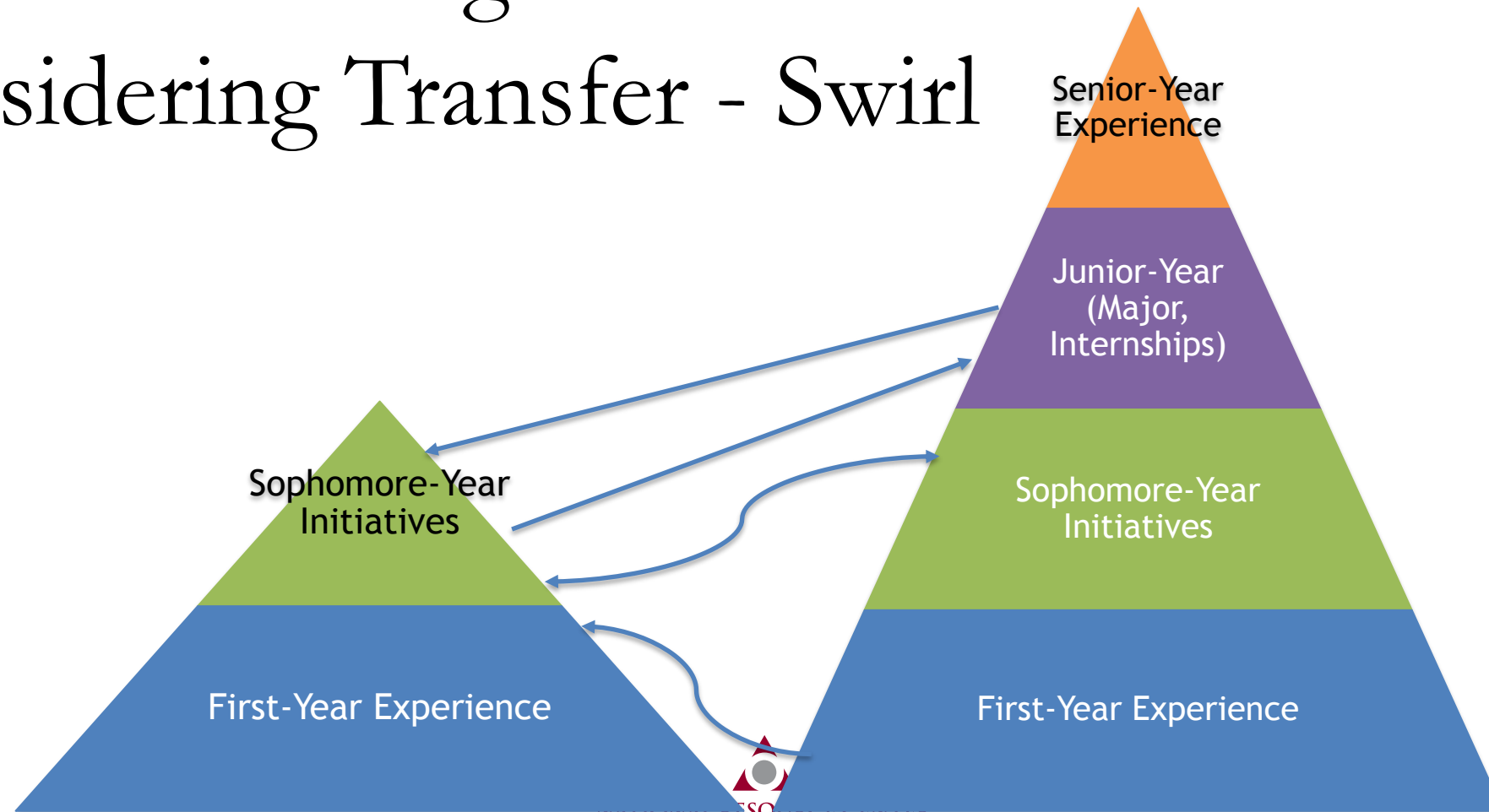
# Vertical Alignment for Sustained Support

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 Alignment: Considering Transfer - Swirl



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Transition: It's about Participation and Community

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# Thinking about Transitions



Orientation



First-Year Seminars



General Education



Academic Advising

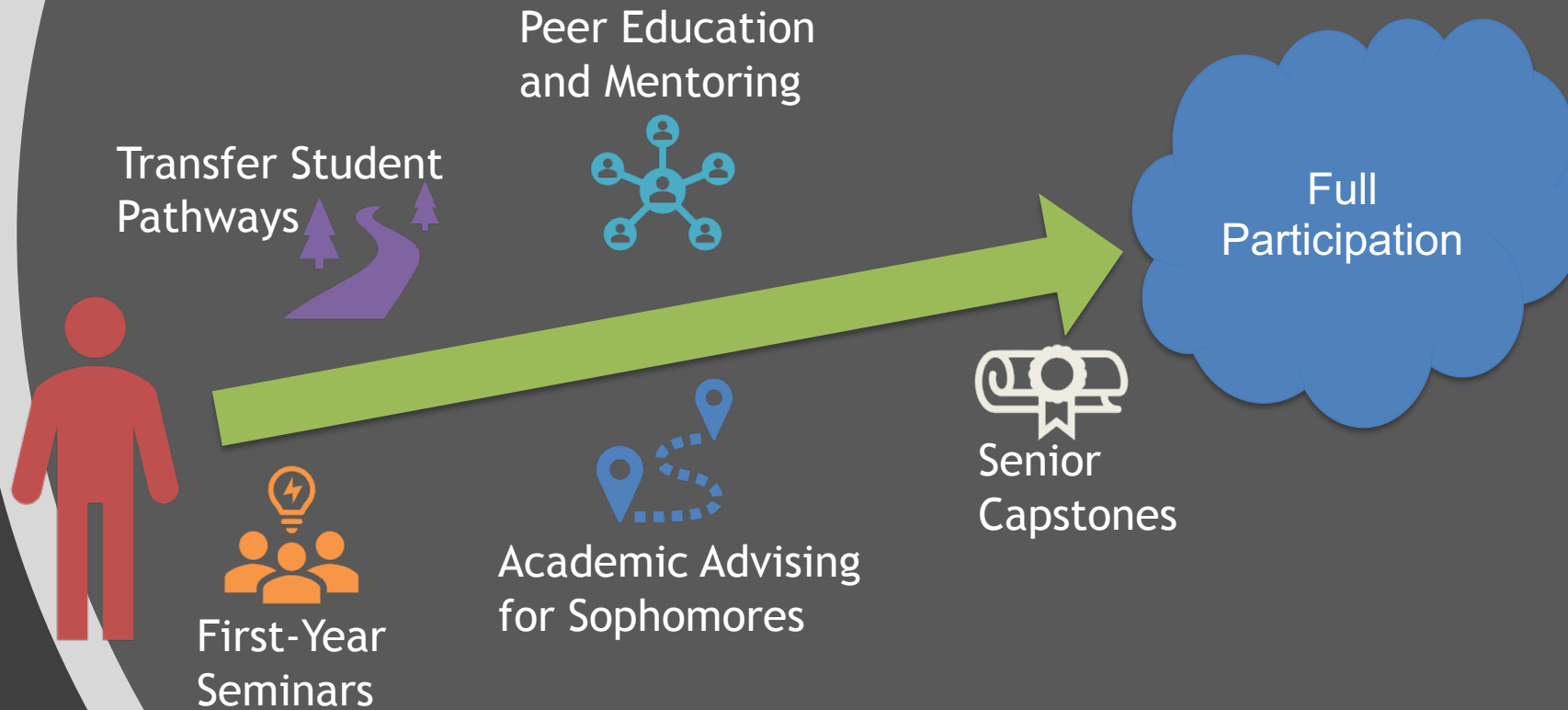


Peer Education

Concerned higher education professionals do many things to help students more fully participate in this new academic community

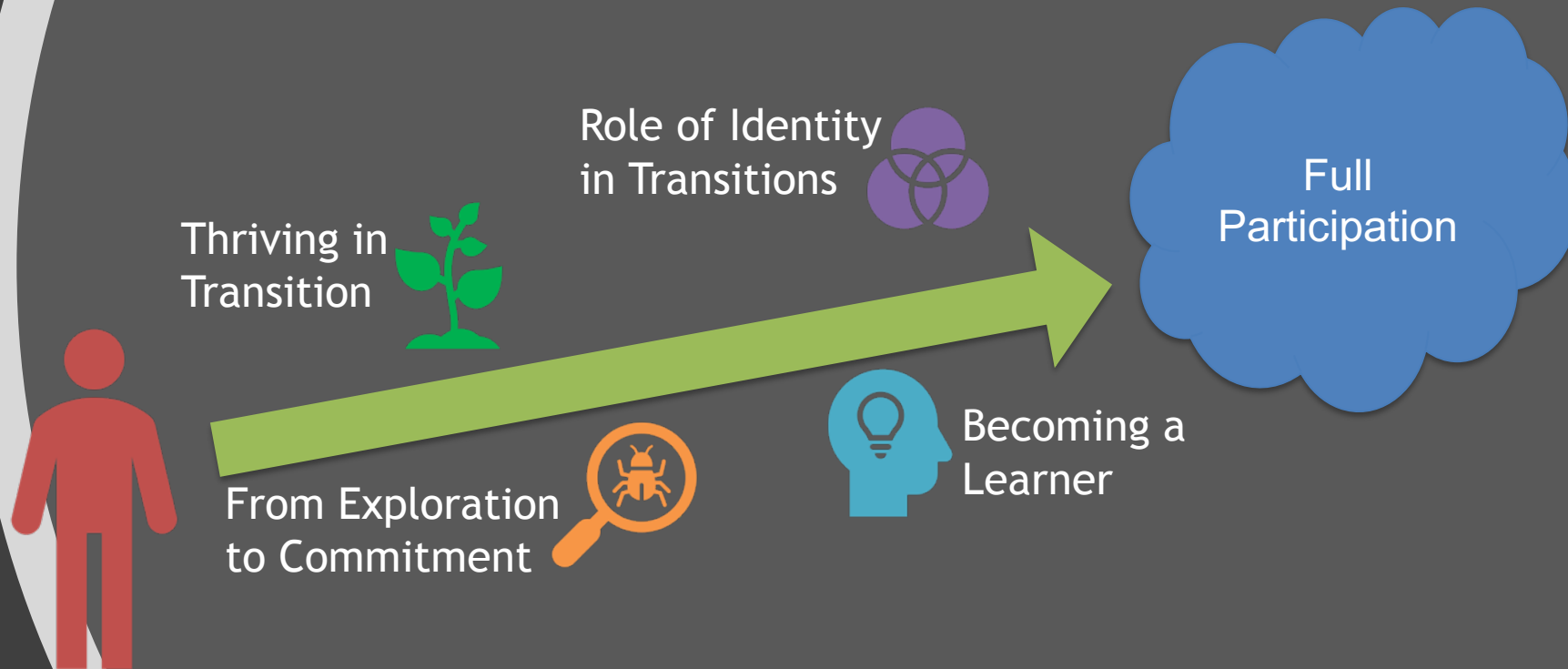


# Supporting Transitions





# The Process of Transition



Other perspectives help illuminate Students in Transition

# Future Center Research

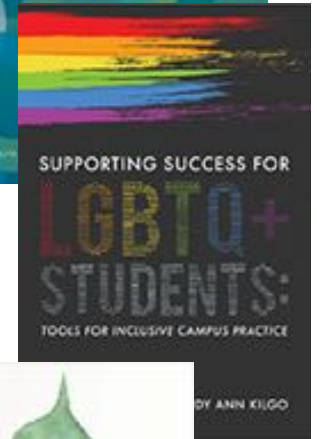
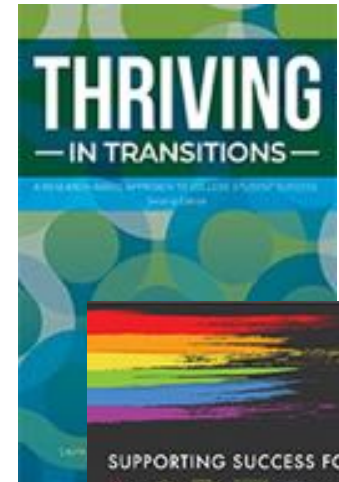
- National Survey on Transfer Student Experiences (2021)
- Peer Leadership
- National Survey on The First-Year Experience (2022)
- Role of Advising in Holistic Support of Student Success
- Bite-sized Research Reports - “Lunchable Research”

# Upcoming Events

- Online Courses:
  - Proving and Improving: Foundations of First-Year Assessment (4/26-5/21)
  - Understanding and Supporting Student Transfer Success (6/7-7/2)
  - Creating a Comprehensive, Connected, and Coordinated First-Year Experience (7/5-7/30)
- Conferences
  - National Conference on Students in Transition
    - Jacksonville, FL, October 2-4 2021
  - Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience
    - Orlando, FL, February 12-15, 2022

# Recent Publications

- Thriving in Transitions: A Research-Based Approach to College Student Success (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)
  - Laurie A. Schreiner, Michelle C. Louis and Denise D. Nelson
- Supporting Success for LGBTQ+ Students: Tools for Inclusive Campus Practice
  - Cindy Ann Kilgo
- Promoting Belonging, Growth Mindset, and Resilience to Foster Student Success
  - Amy Baldwin, Bryce Bunting, Doug Daugherty, Latoya Lewis and Tim Steenbergh



# For More Information

Visit [www.sc.edu/fye](http://www.sc.edu/fye)

