

The Sophomore-Year Experience: More Than Just FYE The Second Time Around

Catherine Hartman

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

American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference

July 29, 2021



History and Context

BACKGROUND ON THE SOPHOMORE YEAR



Sophomore Year Matters

- Engagement
- Focus
- Sense of Direction
- Sense of Belonging
- Interactions with Faculty

- Lead to increases in motivation, academic success, self-authorship and thriving



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Challenges Internal to Student

Academic Struggles

Lack Of Academic
Motivation

Identity Confusion

Major And Career
Indecision

Difficulty Selecting
Meaningful Campus
Engagement
Connected To
Interests

External/Campus-Level Challenges

Removal of almost all forms of campus support from the first year

Difficulty connecting to faculty in meaningful ways;

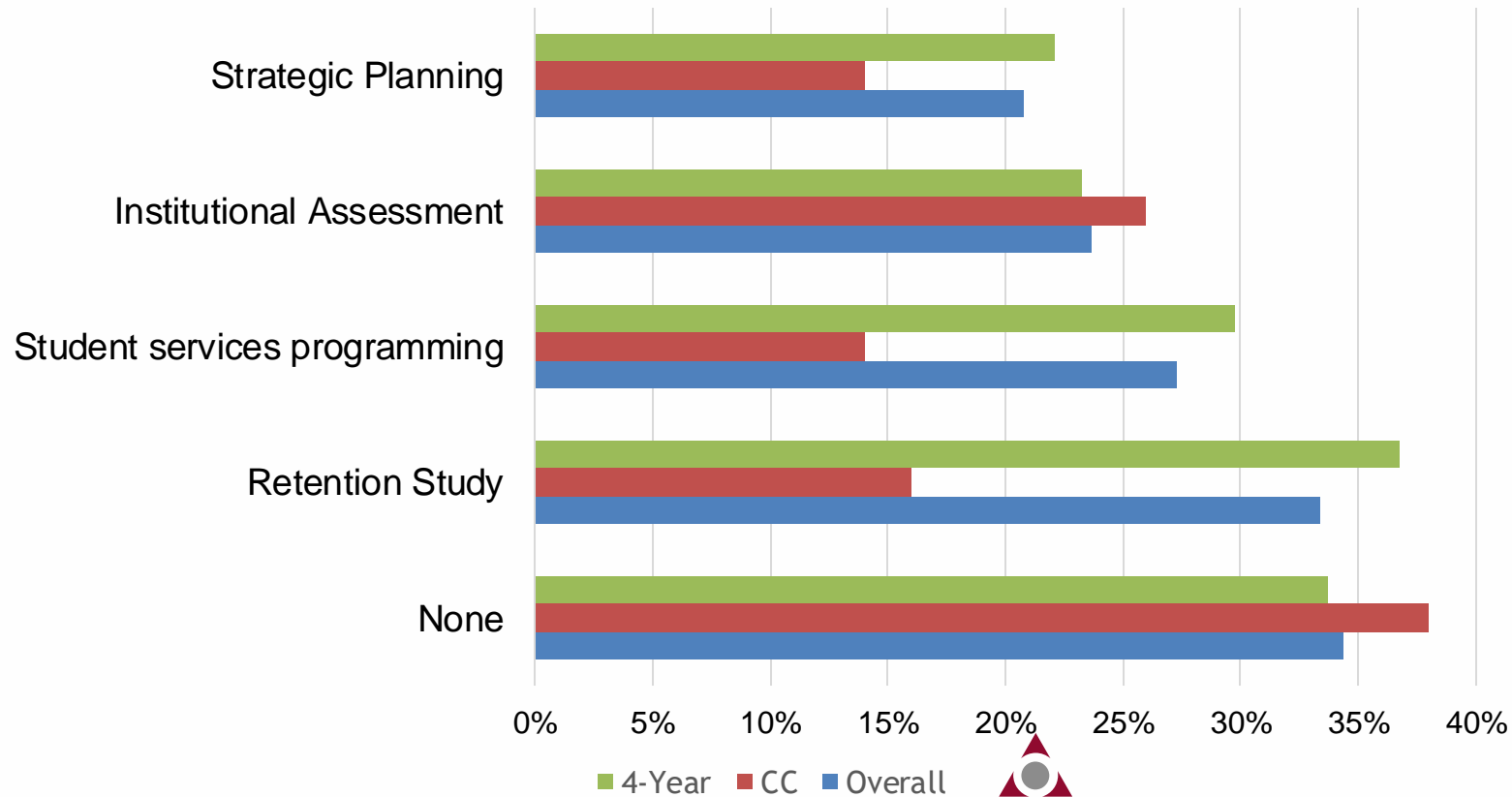
Inadequate academic advising to address meaning and purpose, which is the major developmental issue of the sophomore year;

Pause and Reflect

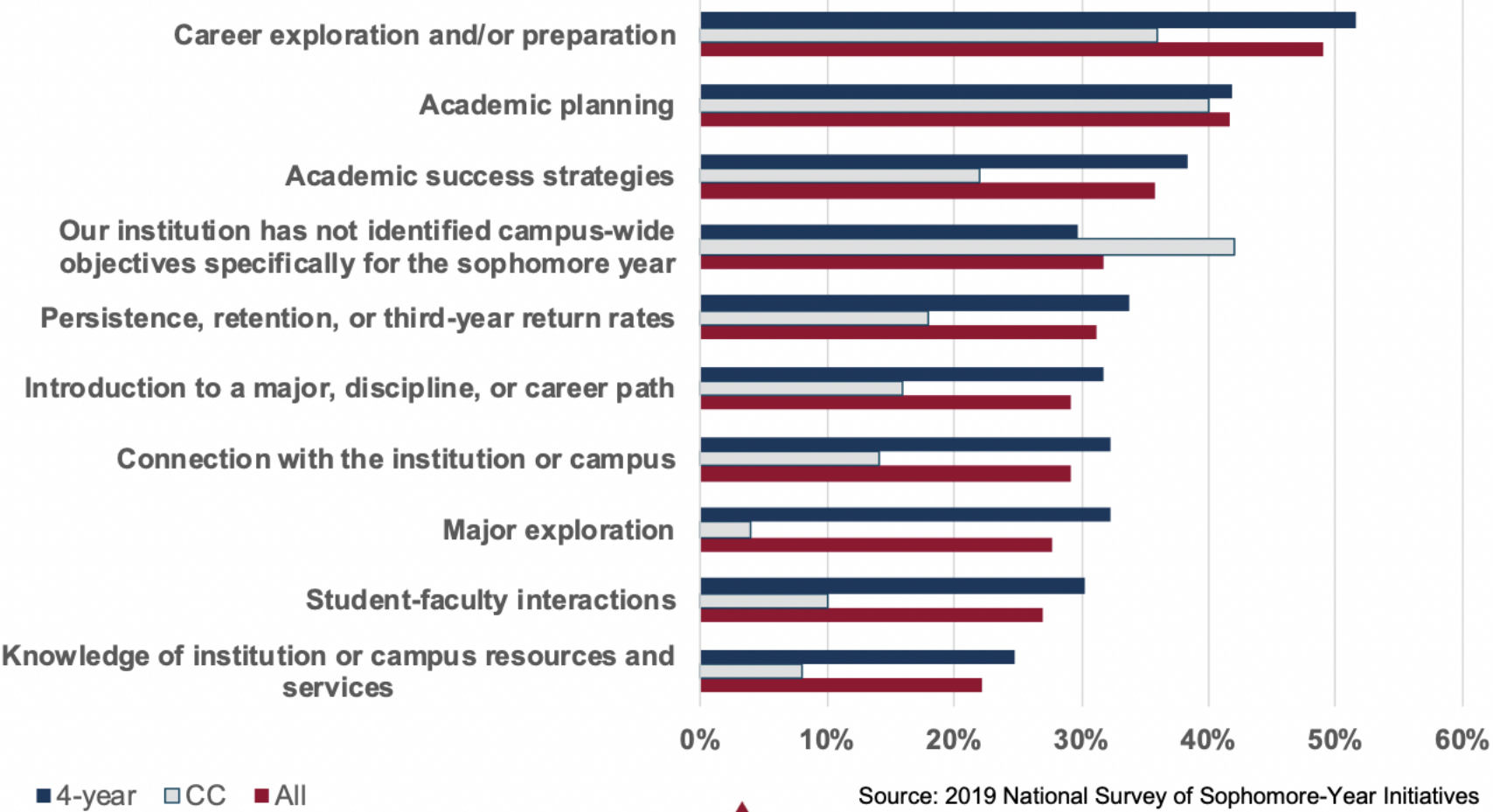
- Do you see these challenges on your campus?
- What programs and/or services does your campus have for sophomore students?

How Are Campuses Responding to the Second Year?

Institutional Efforts with Specific Focus on Sophomores



Campus-wide Objectives for Sophomore Year



Source: 2019 National Survey of Sophomore-Year Initiatives

■ 4-year □ CC ■ All



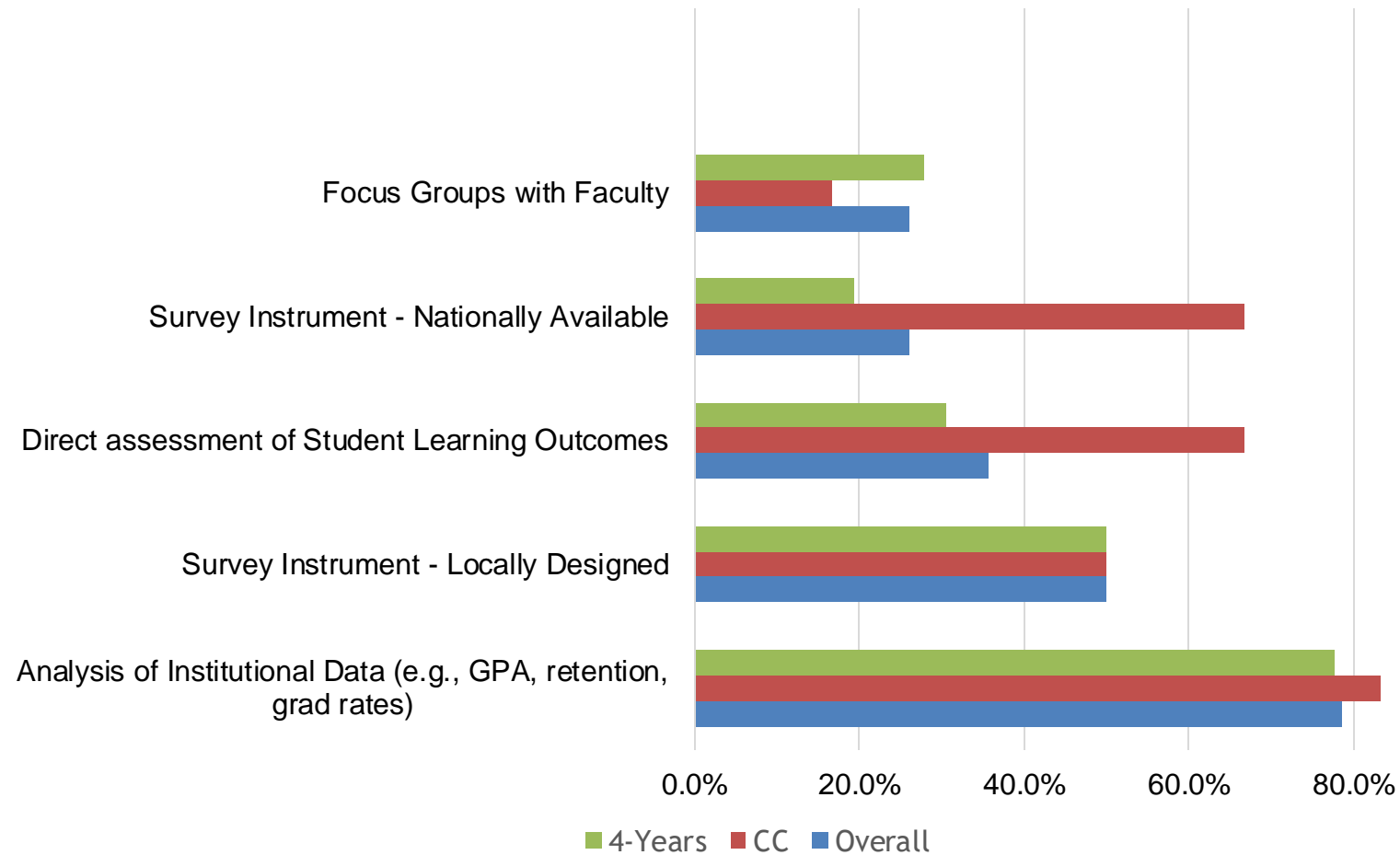
Most Frequent Sophomore-Year Initiatives

Initiatives	CC	4-Year	Overall %
Career exploration	16.0	33.3	30.5
Academic advising	26.0	30.2	29.5
Career planning	24.0	27.1	26.6
Academic coaching or mentoring	16.0	20.5	19.8
Leadership development	12.0	18.6	17.5
Major exploration and selection	4.0	20.2	17.5
Campus-based event	4.0	19.0	16.6
Early alert systems	14.0	15.9	15.6
Back-to-school events (e.g., common reading, dinners, fairs)	2.0	15.9	13.6
Peer mentoring by sophomores	6.0	15.1	13.6

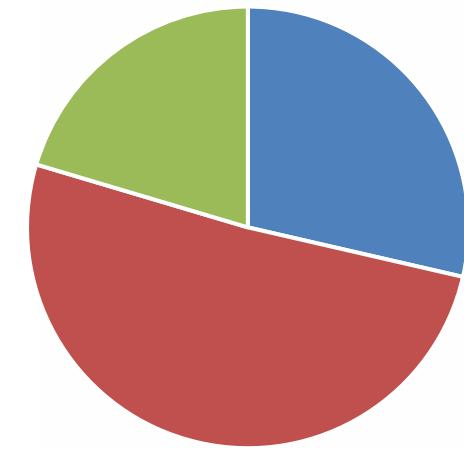
www.sc.edu/fye

Delivering on Promises: How are we Assessing?

Assessment Conducted for Academic Advising



Has academic advising been assessed or evaluated within the last three years?



■ Yes ■ No ■ I don't know

Questions for Consideration

- What is your institution trying to achieve with your sophomores?
- Which services are offered to the student population at large? How might you leverage them to have a sophomore-specific focus?
- How might the current sophomore programs, services, and initiatives be better coordinated across campus?
- How do we know that what we're doing to support sophomore student success works?