Two Year First Year Survey

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for participating in the Two Year First Year survey, we greatly appreciate it. It takes most respondents 10-15 minutes to complete.

This survey gathers information on first-year practices and programs geared toward two-year degree-seeking students. Kindly forward to colleagues as appropriate.

Please note that the **online version of the survey** will let you know if a survey has already been submitted for your institution.

Best,
Brad Bostian and the Ithaka S+R team

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You may email us a scanned version of this PDF to tyfy@ithaka.org, or transfer your responses to the online version of the survey.

Please email us at tyfy@ithaka.org with any questions.

College Characteristics

Please provide the *full name* of your college, and the city and state in which it is located.

We would like to know if your survey response is on behalf of your district or system as a whole, or on behalf of your specific location or campus. If applicable, please include the name of the specific location or campus that you will refer to in your survey response.

College's *full* name: _____

City: _____

State: _____

College Characteristics

1. Which of these credentials/degrees do you confer at your college? Please exclude credentials conferred to your students by other institutions. [Select all that apply]

    ☐ GED

    ☐ High School Diploma

    ☐ Postsecondary Certificate (e.g. CNA, CMA, Pharmacy Tech...)

    ☐ Associate in Arts (A.A.)

    ☐ Associate in Science (A.S.)

    ☐ Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.)

    ☐ Specialized Associate degree(s) (e.g. Associate of Applied Arts, Associate of Pre-Engineering...)

    ☐ Bachelor's degree (any)

    ☐ Master's degree (any)

2. Does your college have any official articulated transfer agreements with 4-year institutions?

    ○ Yes

    ○ No

3. Does your college have any official dual admissions agreements with 4-year institutions? (i.e. agreements that guarantee eligible applicants admission to a 4-year partner school).

    ○ Yes

    ○ No

Programs & Activities for First Year Students

The next sections ask about programs or activities geared toward "first year students" at your college, **i.e. Students who are completing the first year of a two-year program.**

4. Does your college currently have a separate first year financial aid office, or one or more financial aid staff members dedicated specifically to serving first year students?

○ Yes

○ No

○ Don't know

5. Which methods, if any, does your college currently use to get first year students into college level classes as quickly as possible? [Select all that apply]

☐ Accelerated developmental or foundational classes (including modular, compressed, or integrated)

☐ Co-requisite developmental or foundational courses

☐ Self-paced developmental or foundational education online or in computer labs

☐ Diagnostic placement tests

☐ Test preparation, practice, or review sessions for students before they take a placement test

☐ Multiple or alternative measures to place students in classes (high school GPA or grades, ACT or SAT, AP or IB credit, etc.)

☐ Other [please specify]: _____

6. Does your college currently have a *separate* "first year," "first year experience" (FYE), or "year one" department, program, or office? i.e. A stand-alone department, program, or office dedicated to helping students in the first year of a two-year degree program.

    [This excludes stand-alone courses or activities that do NOT fall under a dedicated first year program, department, or office].

    ○ Yes **[SKIP TO #10 on page 4]**

    ○ No

7. Did your college have a separate "first year," "first year experience" (FYE), or "year one" department, program, or office in the past that has since been discontinued?

    ○ Yes

    ○ No

    ○ Don't know

8. Does your college currently have plans to develop a separate "first year," "first year experience" (FYE), or "year one" department, program, or office in the future?

    ○ Yes

    ○ No

    ○ Don't know

9. Does your college currently have a separate department, program, or office that is not dedicated specifically to first year students or the first year experience, but may be similar in some ways? E.g. a standalone "new student" program designed for all new students at your college.

    ○ Yes **[CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE]**

    ○ No **[SKIP TO #18 on page 6]**

10. Please write the *full name* of this department, program, or office below (e.g. "FYE program" or "New Student Office"). When you enter this in the online survey, it will be used to populate follow-up questions about it. In the rest of this paper version of the survey, we will refer to it as your college's "FYE or New Student program."

    [If there are more than one such department, program, or office at your college, please list the most comprehensive one here].

    _____

11. Which of the following characteristics determine a student's *eligibility to participate* in activities offered by your college's FYE or New Student program?   [Select all that apply]

    ☐ First time ever in college

    ☐ First time at *my* college

    ☐ In the first year of their current program (e.g. have at least 30 more credits to complete)

    ☐ Enrolled full-time only

    ☐ Meet a specific GED, high school GPA, and/or AP/IB requirement

    ☐ Degree-seeking (rather than only certificate-seeking)

    ☐ There is no clear or standard definition for eligible students at my college

    ☐ Other [please specify]: _____

12. Generally speaking, how do *most* eligible first year students participate in your college's FYE or New Student program or its activities? [select the best answer option]

    ○ The program is automatically available to all eligible students

    ○ Students apply and all eligible students applicants can participate

    ○ Students apply and only some eligible students are selected to participate based on a limited number of slots

    ○ Students are nominated to participate by faculty, administrators or staff

    ○ Other [please specify]: _____

13. Where does your college's FYE or New Student program live administratively?

   ○ Academic affairs

   ○ Student affairs

   ○ Other [please specify]: _____

14. If your college's FYE or New Student program has a mission or vision statement, please paste it in the box provided in the online survey.

15. Please provide a website URL for your college's FYE or New Student program, if available:

16. Does your college collect any student data in order to evaluate the effectiveness or success of the FYE or New Student program or its activities?

   ○ Yes

   ○ No **[SKIP TO NEXT PAGE]**

17. What student outcome measures does your college use to evaluate the effectiveness or success of its FYE or New Student program or its activities?

   If this varies year to year, please think of the most recent evaluation at your college.

   [Select all that apply]

   ☐ Number of credits earned during the first term or first year

   ☐ Term-to-term retention

   ☐ Year-to-year retention

   ☐ First term or first year GPA

   ☐ Full time enrollment status

   ☐ Enrollment in gateway courses (i.e. required college level courses)

   ☐ Completion of gateway courses (i.e. required college level courses)

   ☐ Other (please list) _____

Programs & Activities for First Year Students (continued)

18. Which of the following activities are available to *first year students* at your college?

    This includes any FYE or New Student program activities, as well as other activities that are available to first year students even if they were not specifically designed or targeted for them or if they are offered to them through other programs.

    [select all that apply]

    ☐ Orientation sessions

    ☐ First year college readiness survey

    ☐ Social events / Networking (e.g. welcome BBQ, etc.)

    ☐ First year advising (e.g. first year students are assigned to a designated first year advisor)

    ☐ Customized degree plans / guided pathways (e.g. students are provided with a highly structured plan for entering the college, and for choosing and efficiently completing a program that aligns with their personal goals)

    ☐ First year mentor program (e.g. first year students are paired with a designated mentor, separate from formal advising)

    ☐ Proactive student outreach and/or interventions based on early alerts (e.g. technology platform provides alerts to staff and/or students to promote speedy interventions)

    ☐ First year seminar or college success courses (e.g. first year seminars, study skills courses, new student experience courses, academic success courses, college 101, etc.)

    ☐ Career services (any)

    ☐ Cohort classes or learning communities (e.g. all first year students or all new nursing students enroll together in block schedules during their first term or year)

    ☐ Summer bridge program (i.e. program that prepares students for the transition into their first year at the college)

19. <u>For each activity or program you listed in #18 on page 6</u>, please indicate whether it is *required of all* first year students, *required of some* first year students (e.g. based on achievement, course of study…), or if it is *offered but not required* of any first year students:

	Required of <u>all</u> first year students	Required of <u>some</u> first year students	Not required of <u>any</u> first year students	N/A
Orientation sessions	○	○	○	○
First year college readiness survey	○	○	○	○
First year advising	○	○	○	○
Customized degree plans / guided pathways	○	○	○	○
First year mentor program	○	○	○	○
First year seminar or college success courses	○	○	○	○
Career services (any)	○	○	○	○
Cohort classes or learning communities	○	○	○	○

The next questions are about some of the activities you indicated as available to first year students at your college.

[SKIP TO THE NEXT PAGE if you did <u>not</u> select "First Year Advising" as one of the activities/programs offered to first year students at your college in #18 on page 6]

First Year Advising

20. Which of the following does <u>first year advising</u> currently cover at your college?

[select all that apply]

☐ Academic planning

☐ Major selection

☐ Time management skills

☐ Understanding developmental coursework

☐ Understanding personal college financing (e.g. financial aid, student loans…)

☐ Transfer exploration (to four-year programs or institutions)

☐ Career objectives or exploration

☐ Other [please specify]: _____

[SKIP TO THE NEXT PAGE if you did <u>not</u> select "Proactive student outreach and/or interventions based on early alerts" as one of the activities offered to first year students at your college in #18 on page 6]

Proactive Interventions for First Year Students

21. You indicated that <u>first year students receive proactive interventions based on early alerts</u>. Which of the following does your college's early alert system do when it comes to first year students?

    [select all that apply]

    ☐ It notifies instructors and/or staff when students are academically at risk

    ☐ It notifies students when they are academically at risk

    ☐ It notifies instructors and/or staff when students have a financial hold that prevents them from registering for classes or remaining enrolled

    ☐ It notifies students when they have a financial hold that prevents them from registering for classes or remaining enrolled

    ☐ It allows faculty and/or staff to submit a referral for help for the student

    ☐ It allows students to submit a referral requesting help

    ☐ Other [please specify]: _____

[SKIP TO PAGE 12 if you did <u>not</u> select "First year seminar or college success courses" as one of the activities/programs offered to first year students at your college in #18 on page 6]

First Year Seminars & College Success Courses

22. Does your college offer any of its first year seminars or courses fully online?

○ Yes

○ No

23. When it comes to <u>first year seminars/courses</u> offered at your college, which of the following types of content do they cover? [select all that apply]

☐ College success content (e.g. study skills, time management, resources available on campus…)

☐ Academic content (e.g. specific academic subject matter with academic/curricular content…)

☐ Professional or career-based content (e.g. skills-based content, cover letter and resume writing, career exploration content)

☐ Additional content not described above [please specify]: _____

[SKIP TO PAGE 12 if you did <u>not</u> select "College success content" in #23 above, otherwise continue to the next page]

24. You indicated that your college offers first year seminars/courses that cover <u>college success content</u>. Which of the following are usually included in the curriculum?

    [select all that apply]

    ☐ General college orientation (e.g. how to select and register for courses)

    ☐ Academic skills development (e.g. academic literacy, academic writing, critical thinking…)

    ☐ Study skills development (e.g. time management, textbook-reading skills…)

    ☐ College engagement / connection / belonging

    ☐ Student orientation to campus resources

    ☐ Self-exploration, personal development, and/or student well-being

    ☐ Transfer success

    ☐ Other [please specify]: _____

25. Which of the following student characteristics determine <u>which first year students are required to complete a first year college success course/seminar</u> at your college?

    [select all that apply]

    ☐ First time ever in college

    ☐ First time at *my* college

    ☐ In the first year of their current program (e.g. have at least 30 more credits to complete)

    ☐ Enrolled full-time only

    ☐ Do not meet specific GED, high school GPA, and/or AP/IB requirements

    ☐ Degree-seeking (rather than only certificate-seeking)

    ☐ Have transferred to the college

    ☐ Have specific developmental/foundational course requirements (e.g. two or more requirements in their first term…)

    ☐ All first year students are required to take a college success course or seminar.

    ☐ None. This course is optional for all first year students.

    ☐ Other [please specify]: _____

[SKIP TO THE NEXT PAGE if you did <u>not</u> select "Career services" as one of the activities/programs offered to first year students at your college in #18 on page 6]

Career Services for First Year Students

26. You indicated that career services are available to first year students at your college. Which of the following do they include?

[select all that apply]

☐ Career assessments (interest or aptitude)

☐ Career counseling

☐ Career success course(s)

☐ Career workshop(s)

☐ Career fairs or employer visits to campus

☐ Online career exploration tool/software

☐ Internship, externship, and/or apprenticeship placement support

☐ Other [please specify] _____

Programs & Activities for Subgroups of First Year Students

This is the last section of the survey. The next questions ask about programming designed for <u>specific subgroups of first year students</u> at your college.

27. For which of the following subgroups of first year students, if any, does your college have specifically-designed activities or programs? [select all that apply]

    <u>My college has activities or programs specifically designed for first year…</u>

    ☐ Female students

    ☐ Male students

    ☐ Latina/Latino students

    ☐ African-American students

    ☐ Students transferring into my college

    ☐ Students planning to transfer to a four-year program or institution

    ☐ LGBTQ students

    ☐ Veteran students

    ☐ Students with disabilities

    ☐ Low-income students / students who demonstrate financial need

    ☐ First-generation college students

    ☐ High school students or dual enrolled students

    ☐ Students identified as academically "at risk"

    ☐ High-achieving students

    ☐ None. My college does not have any activities or programs specifically designed for any subgroups of first year students.

    ☐ Other [please specify]: _____

    [SKIP TO PAGE 16 if you did <u>not</u> select "Students identified as academically 'at risk'" OR "High-achieving students" in #27 above, otherwise continue to the next page]

28. You indicated that your college has activities or programs designed specifically for <u>first year students who are academically "at risk"</u>.

    Which of the following are used to identify students who are academically at-risk at your college?

    [select all that apply]

    ☐ High school GPA below a certain cut-off

    ☐ Transfer GPA below a certain cut-off

    ☐ First term outcomes (e.g. GPA, midterm grades...)

    ☐ First-generation college student status

    ☐ Low-income status

    ☐ Part-time enrollment status

    ☐ Technological platform or system that indicates the student is "at-risk"

    ☐ GED status

    ☐ Placement test scores

    ☐ First year college readiness student survey

    ☐ Other [please specify]: _____

29. You indicated that your college has activities or programs designed specifically for <u>high-achieving first year students</u>. Which of following do these activities or programs entail? [select all that apply]

- [ ] Honors program(s)

- [ ] Targeted merit-based scholarships

- [ ] Targeted needs-based scholarships

- [ ] Tuition and/or fee discounts

- [ ] Targeted grants (e.g. retention grants, internship grants, summer grants…)

- [ ] Targeted transfer-out exploration or support

- [ ] Specialized career services or support (e.g. career assessments, workshops, counseling, internship/externship/apprenticeship placement…)

- [ ] Specialized mentorship program for high-achieving students

- [ ] Other [please specify]: _____

30. Which of the following groups of high-achieving first year students are these activities or programs designed for? [select all that apply]

- [ ] All high-achieving students

- [ ] High-achieving low-income students

- [ ] High-achieving first-generation college students

- [ ] High-achieving minority group students

- [ ] Other group(s) of high-achieving students [please specify]: _____

31. Which of the following are used to <u>identify high-achieving first year students</u> at your college? [select all that apply]

- [ ] Placement test scores (e.g. SAT, ACT, AP, IB…)

- [ ] High school GPA above a certain cut-off

- [ ] Transfer GPA above a certain cut-off

- [ ] First term outcomes at your college (e.g. GPA, midterm grades)

- [ ] First year college readiness student survey results

- [ ] Other [please specify]: _____

Challenges to first year student programming

32. Lastly, which of the following do you consider to be challenges that slow down or impede the improvement of programming for first year students <u>at your college</u>?

   [select all that apply]

   ☐ Insufficient information about best practices for working with first year students <u>in two-year programs</u>

   ☐ Insufficient financial resources

   ☐ Inadequate physical or technological infrastructure

   ☐ Resistance to change among college leadership

   ☐ Resistance to change among college faculty and/or staff

   ☐ Institutional politics

   ☐ Lack of guidance or direction from the state system office

   ☐ Insufficient information about the best technological solutions

   ☐ Other [please specify]: _____

33. Any additional comments about the survey or first year student programming at your college?

<u>Thank you for completing the Two Year First Year Survey!</u>

Please let us know whom we should send your college's survey report to and contact if we have any follow-up questions about the survey responses.

Full name: _____

Email address: _____

Title [optional]: _____

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