Using a Box to Think Outside of It: A Proposed Second-Year Program Evaluation Template

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How Well Do We Know Sophomores?

“Fill out the worksheet and let’s talk!”
"Over 4 million sophomores at over 4500 institutions nationwide (2010)"

"82% first-year retention status nationwide"

"70% second-year retention status nationwide"

"36% of first-years took at least one remedial course in college (2007-2008)"

"134 installed sophomore programs (2008)"

"38 programs formally assessed"
Sophomore Development

Random Exploration
- lacking personal reflection
- move through college with exuberance
- aware of choices that need to be made
- put off making those choices until later

Focused Exploration
- increased awareness of decisions
- levels of frustration with current relationships, selves, & academic experience
- question decisions made in Random Exploration
- external forces (parents, peers) play large role in decision-making

Interpersonal Wellness

Academics

Decision-Making

Moral & Ethical Wellness

Environment

Financial Wellness

Career/Major Selection

Commitment
- confident decisions about future
- clear, planned responsibility for secure future
- little doubt regarding decisions made
- resolute or relieved about decisions

Tentative Choices
- new level of responsibility when thinking about future decisions
- process for making choices is integral
- start making decisions based on personal values

“Institution with Installed SYE Program
2000 Juniors Surveyed (12% Response Rate)
Majority White, Middle-Class, Domestic Women
Wide Variety of Majors
Sophomore Program Efficacy Questionnaire (SPEQ)

Conclusions (Last Year’s Presentation)
What Hasn’t Been Assessed?

“Large-Scale, Public Institutional Assessment
  Quantitative Assessments
“Sophomore Minority Groups
  Transfers, Internationals, Underrepresented Students
“International Institutions (Structure)
“Impacts of 2nd-Year Movement
  Full Program Survey (National, Standardized)
“Impacts of Holistic, Year-Specific Approach
“Student Transition Initiatives
Student History

Program Objectives

Program Efficacy

Pieces of the Assessment Puzzle

- Experiences w/Program
- Objectives Met
- Satisfaction w/Program

Academic Success
Decision-Making
Identity
Motivation
Retention

Background Demographics
Involvement
What is Your Student History? (Background, Demographics, Involvement)

What Are Your Program Objectives? (Academics, Decision-Making, Identity, Motivation, Retention)

How Will You Measure Program Efficacy? (Experiences, Objectives Met, Satisfaction)

Other Questions to Consider: What data do you have? How is it accessed? What do you need and why? How will you gather new data? What will you do with it afterward?
Information-Sharing

“Helpful Hints
Suggestions & Recommendations
Lessons Learned
Pitfalls to Avoid
Valuable Resources
Thanks for Listening!

“Questions, Comments, Concerns?

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