THE FIRST YEAR IS A BIG DEAL

About 25% of first-year students leave college before their sophomore year. Knowing the experiences of your students and the impact of first-year programs is key to creating positive change.

UNDERSTANDING EXPECTATIONS IS IMPORTANT.

13% of students thought they might switch majors
35% actually did

65% of students thought they would probably socialize with someone from another racial/ethnic group
95% actually did

27% of students felt the admissions or recruitment materials didn’t accurately portray campus

Only 57% were satisfied with the relevance of coursework to everyday life

14% of students sought personal counseling

COLLEGE CAN BE DEMANDING. ACADEMICS ARE ONE SOURCE OF STUDENT STRESS.

36% of students had difficulty adjusting to the demands of coursework

39% of students had a hard time developing effective study skills

48% of students struggled with effective time management

47% of students witnessed academic dishonesty or cheating

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT FOR STUDENTS IS ADJUSTING.

80% felt a sense of belonging on campus

48% had difficulty getting along with their roommate

61% felt lonely or homesick

51% of students felt overwhelmed by all they had to do

45% of students worried about their health

37% of students felt isolated from campus life

BEING INVOLVED IN COURSEWORK IS KEY.

42% of students discussed course content with other students outside of class

40% frequently felt bored in class

43% had fallen asleep in class

So, the more you get to know your students, the better you can understand their needs. With insight from CIRP’s Your First College Year Survey, the most comprehensive tool addressing first-year programming and retention strategies, you’ll be one step closer to providing the best environment for student learning.

Sources: CIRP Freshman Survey and Your First College Year Survey

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