

**University of New Orleans
Institutional Research & Data Management
Sophomore Survey, Spring 2011
Initial Report**

Last Modified: 04/06/2011

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Introduction

The University of New Orleans' Office of Institutional Research & Data Management conducted a beta test in Spring 2011 of its sophomore survey. In the future, this survey will be conducted in the Fall. A total of 1,622 students with at least 30 credit hours but less than 60 were sent a link to the survey via their UNO email address. The survey was released on March 2, 2011 and remained open through April 1, 2011. Three reminder emails were sent to students who had not completed the survey. 241 students started the survey and 210 completed it in its entirety. Response rates for items on this survey are between 12.95% and 14.86%.

Survey Design

The Sophomore Survey was designed to gather information from undergraduate students at this particular point in their college career. Some of the items included on the Sophomore Survey also appeared on the New Student Survey administered in Fall 2010. Other items are also included in the Junior Survey. Comparisons across class standing will be possible from the information gathered on these various internal surveys. This information will aid the University of New Orleans in better understanding and meeting student needs.

Purpose of the Initial Report

This report is designed to provide quantitative information which was collected through the survey. Descriptive statistics and graphs are provided where appropriate.

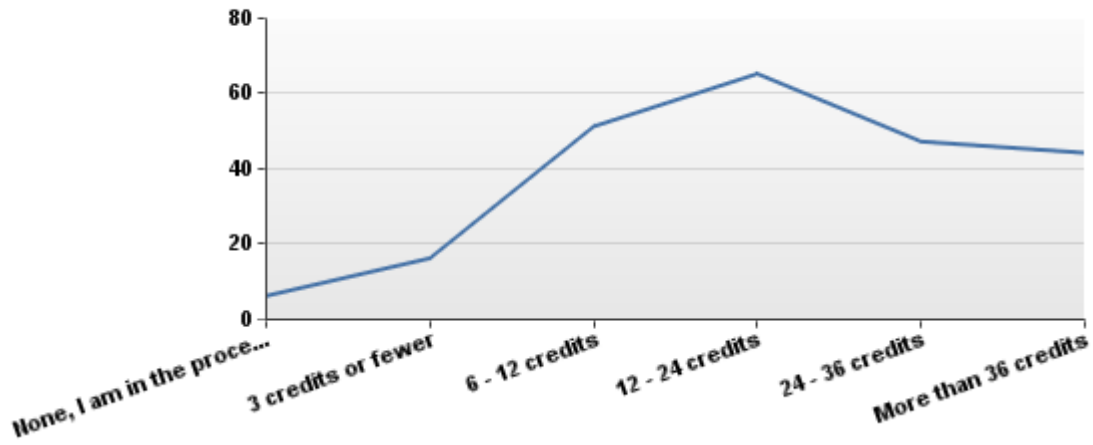
Prior Enrollment at UNO

1. Did you attend UNO during the previous academic year? (Fall 2009 - Spring 2010)

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	169	80%
2	No	43	20%
	Total	212	100%

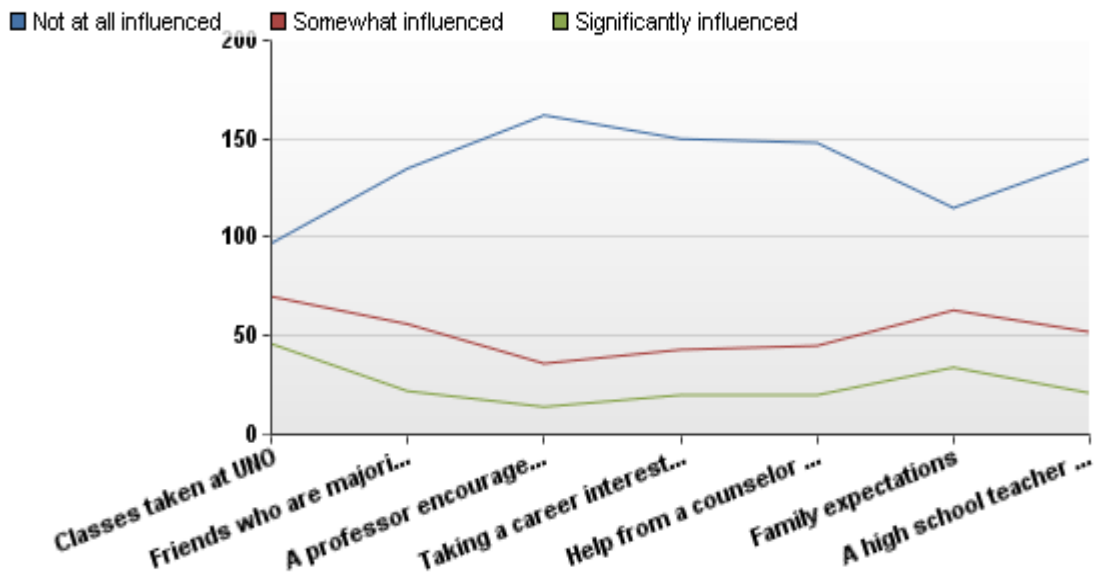
Academic Major

2. Including the courses in which you are currently enrolled, how many credits will you have taken in your major by the end of the Spring 2011 semester?



#	Answer	Response	%
1	None, I am in the process of declaring/changing my major	6	3%
2	3 credits or fewer	16	7%
3	6 - 12 credits	51	22%
4	12 - 24 credits	65	28%
5	24 - 36 credits	47	21%
6	More than 36 credits	44	19%
	Total	229	100%

3. Please indicate the degree to which your choice of major was influenced by each of the following:



Statistic	Classes taken at UNO	Friends who are majoring or working in this field	A professor encouraged me to go into this major	Taking a career interest survey or other self-assessment	Help from a counselor or advisor	Family expectations	A high school teacher encouraged me to go into this major
Min Value	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Mean	1.76	1.47	1.30	1.39	1.40	1.62	1.44
Variance	0.62	0.46	0.34	0.43	0.43	0.56	0.45
Standard Deviation	0.79	0.68	0.59	0.65	0.66	0.75	0.67
Total Responses	213	213	212	213	213	212	213

Discussion: Responses to this question indicate that none of the items from which students could choose were among the most influential on their choice of major. The following free response question was also included in the survey: “Why did you choose your major/field of study?” Students indicated a variety of reasons for choosing their major—from future earnings potential to an interest in their field. Coding and analysis of these responses may provide insight into why the items in the above question were categorized by students as having limited influence on their choice of major.

Living Situation

4. Where are you living during the current semester?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Off-campus: with family or relatives	110	51%
2	Off-campus: non-family home, apartment, or room	60	28%
3	On-campus: residence hall or apartment	41	19%
4	Other (please specify)	4	2%
	Total	215	100%

Discussion: Students who selected “other” indicated that they owned their own home. One student indicated that s/he did not feel the “Off-campus: with family of relatives” was inclusive of his/her living situation because s/he is an adult student living with their own spouse and children.

Degree Plans

5. What is the highest degree you intend to obtain at UNO?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	None	18	8%
2	Bachelor's	119	55%
3	Master's	42	19%
4	Doctorate	10	5%
5	Unsure	28	13%
	Total	217	100%

6. What is the highest degree you intend to obtain for your career?

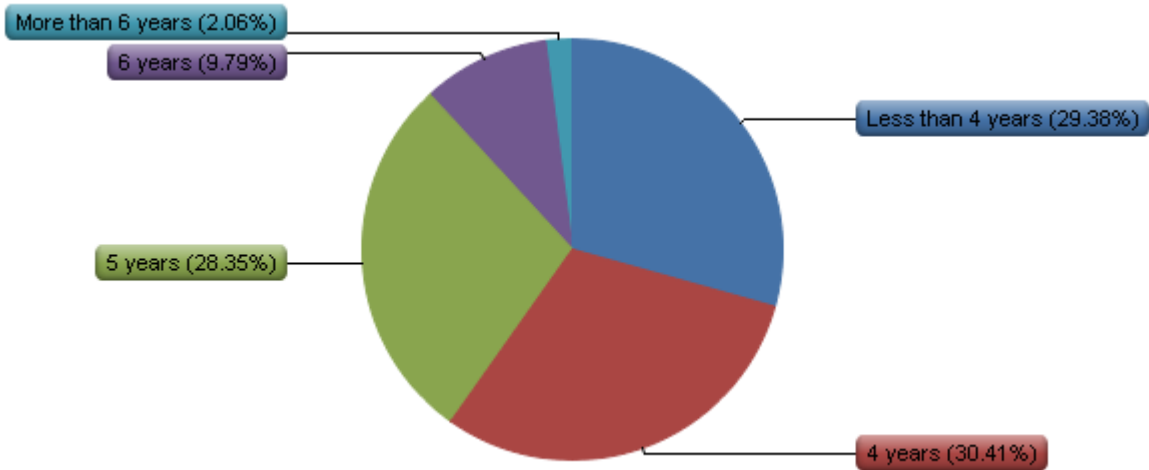
#	Answer	Response	%
1	None	4	2%
3	Bachelor's	33	15%
4	Master's	87	40%
5	Doctorate	57	26%
6	Unsure	36	17%
	Total	217	100%

7. Which of the following best describes your goal in attending UNO?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	No definite goal in mind	3	1%
2	Take a few courses in order to learn job skills	2	1%
3	Take a few courses for personal interest	2	1%
4	Take a few courses and then transfer to another college or university	16	7%
5	Get a bachelor's degree from UNO	87	40%
6	Get a bachelor's degree from UNO and continue my graduate studies here	54	25%
7	Get a bachelor's degree from UNO and continue my graduate studies at another university	53	24%
	Total	217	100%

Discussion: The majority of respondents indicated that they at least intend to obtain a bachelor's degree from UNO. 89% indicated that at least obtaining a bachelor's degree was their goal in attending UNO. 49% of respondents plan to enroll in graduate school in future with 25% indicating they plan to do so at UNO.

8. In how many years do you expect to complete your bachelor's degree?



#	Answer	Response	%
3	Less than 4 years	57	29%
4	4 years	59	30%
5	5 years	55	28%
6	6 years	19	10%
7	More than 6 years	4	2%
	Total	194	100%

Discussion: Looking at the responses to the above question, it appears that the question may not have been clear. The intent of the question was to determine in how many *total* years students expect to complete their bachelor's degrees. However, the question was not phrased this way. It is possible that the 29% of students who responded that they expect to complete their bachelor's degree in "Less than 4 years" could have interpreted the response as meaning less than 4 years from now. This question is repeated in the Junior Survey, but was amended to include the word "total" which should prevent future clarity issues related to this question. The question will be amended in future iterations of the Sophomore Survey as well.

9. Do you have concerns about your ability to finance your education?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	137	63%
2	No	80	37%
	Total	217	100%

10. Do you plan to enroll at UNO for the Fall 2011 semester?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	204	94%
2	No	13	6%
	Total	217	100%

11. Why don't you plan to enroll for the Fall 2011 semester?

Text Response
I'm hoping to be going to Nursing school
Transfer
The major I am considering is not offered at UNO.
too expensive, moving back with my family in baton rouge and going to lsu or southern
I am transferring to LSU to major in Environmental Management.
I hope to go to LSUHSC nursing school.
I don't like the plans of merging schools (University of Greater New Orleans). I have had several incompetent professors. UNO's administration can't make up their mind about anything, it seems.
I am trying to transfer to LSU. I am not leaving UNO because I do not like the school. I love it. Personal reasons is why I plan on transferring to LSU
Same tuition with lsu. Transfer maybe
After realizing that I didn't want to get a degree in social studies. I'm transferring to UL-Lafayette to receive a degree in kinesiology, a program that UNO cut in 2008.
move to another state
They do not have the major I am interested in.

12. Do you think you will have the financial means to continue your enrollment next semester?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	144	66%
2	Maybe	64	29%
3	No	9	4%
	Total	217	100%

Employment

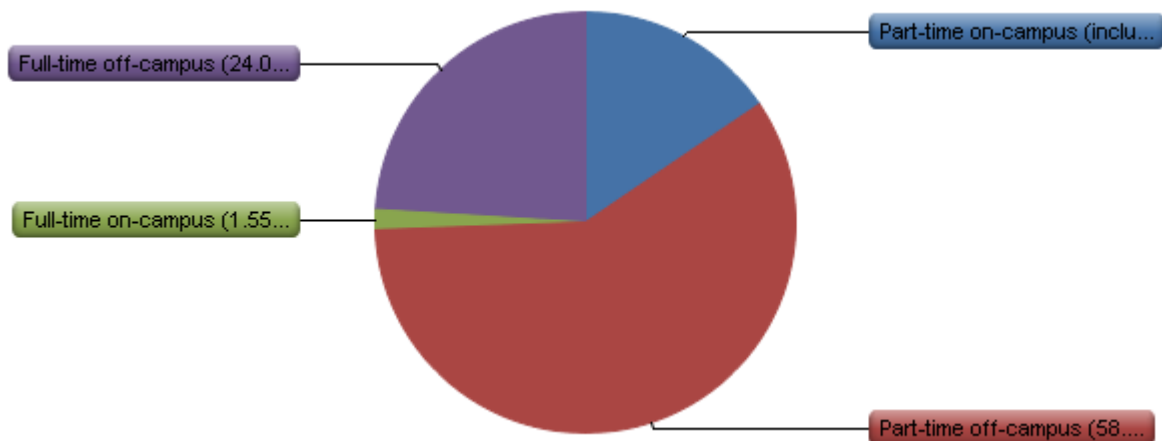
13. Are you working this semester?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	130	60%
2	No	87	40%
	Total	217	100%

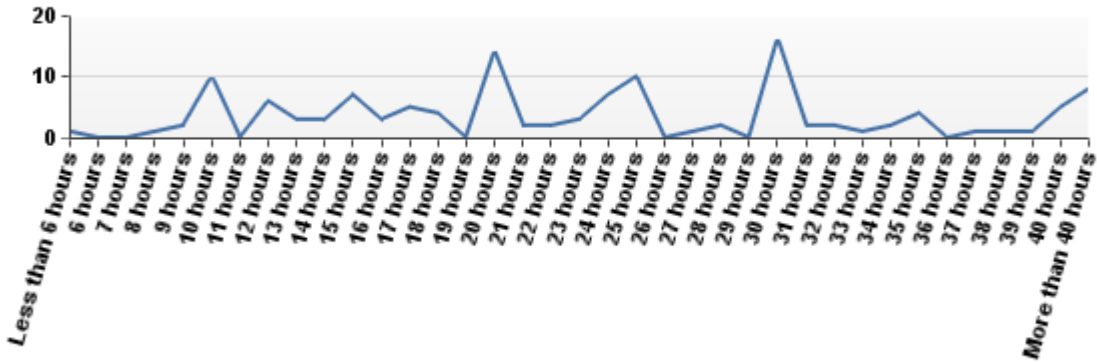
14. Which best describes your type of employment?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Part-time on-campus (including work study)	20	16%
2	Part-time off-campus	76	59%
3	Full-time on-campus	2	2%
4	Full-time off-campus	31	24%
	Total	129	100%

Discussion: Students were also asked about employment on the New Student Survey administered in Fall 2010. The results related to student employment are similar. 60% of sophomore respondents indicated they were working this semester. 61% of new UNO student respondents indicated they planned to work during the fall semester. 83% of sophomore respondents work off-campus with 24% working full-time. Of new student respondents who planned to work, 78% planned to work off-campus and 8% of those students indicated they planned to work full-time.



15. How many hours per week do you typically work during the semester?



Statistic	Value
Min Value	5
Max Value	41
Mean	23.40
Variance	91.48
Standard Deviation	9.56
Total Responses	129

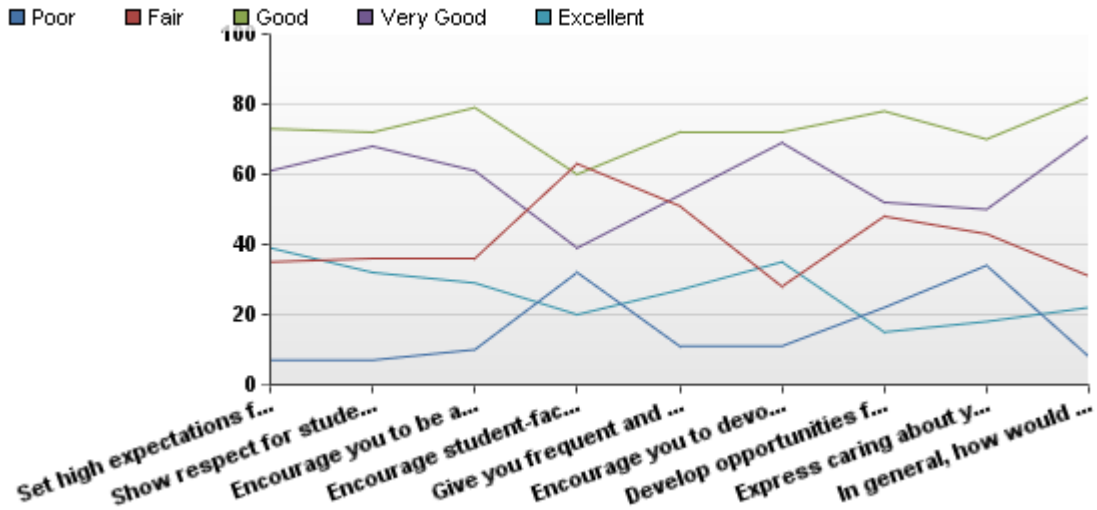
Discussion: On the New Student Survey respondents who worked were asked to indicate how many hours per week they worked within several ranges. For the Sophomore Survey, respondents were asked to indicate the number of actual hours they worked for pay in a typical week. The mean number of hours worked among sophomore respondents is 23.4 hours/week. Asking for the actual number of hours worked per work will help the university to better understand how our students spend their time.

16. Is your current employment related to your major?

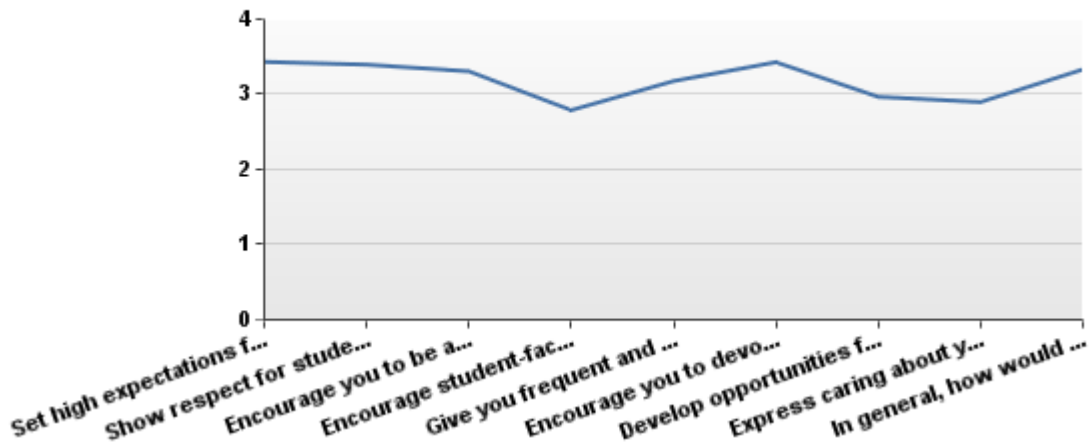
#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	37	29%
2	No	92	71%
	Total	129	100%

Faculty, Courses, & Advising

17. Evaluate how well you feel UNO faculty do each of the following:



Student Evaluation of Faculty by Response Category
(Number of students responding in each category to each measure)



Student Evaluation of Faculty Mean Scores

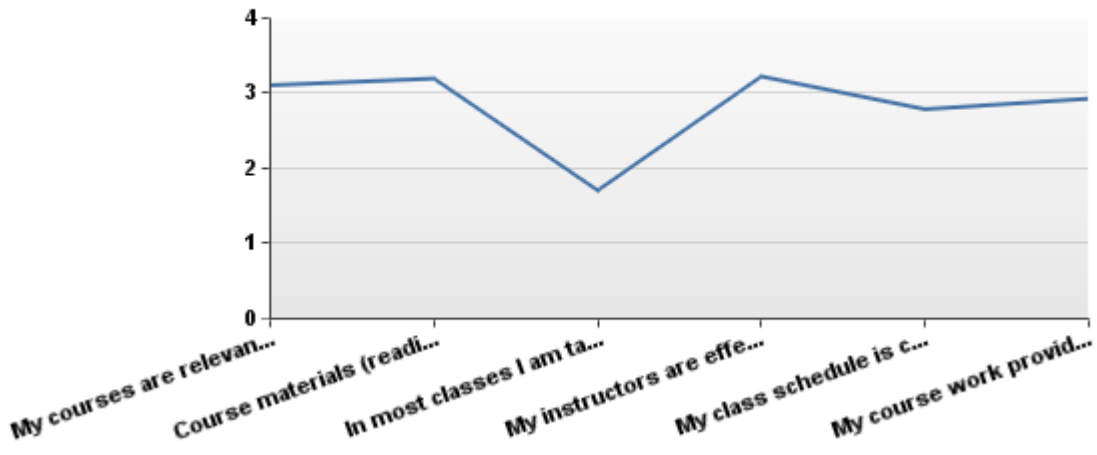
Statistic	Set high expectations for you to learn	Show respect for students' diverse talents and ways of learning	Encourage you to be an actively involved learner	Encourage student-faculty interaction outside of the classroom	Give you frequent and prompt feedback	Encourage you to devote sufficient time and energy to your coursework	Develop opportunities for you to learn cooperatively with fellow students	Express caring about your academic success and welfare	In general, how would you evaluate your instructors on the above measures?
Min Value	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Mean	3.42	3.38	3.29	2.78	3.16	3.41	2.95	2.88	3.32
Variance	1.13	1.07	1.10	1.40	1.17	1.14	1.16	1.39	0.94
Standard Deviation	1.06	1.03	1.05	1.19	1.08	1.07	1.08	1.18	0.97
Total Responses	215	215	215	214	215	215	215	215	214

Discussion: The first graph displayed for this question shows the number of student responses in each category. Most students ranked the faculty as “good” on each of the items. The means also illustrate this same finding. The following scale was used for this question: 1 = Poor, 2= Fair, 3= Good, 4 = Very Good, 5 = Excellent. Most of the means indicate that faculty were ranked between “good” and “very good.” Exceptions to this are on the following items: “Encourage student-faculty interaction outside of the classroom” (2.78), “Develop opportunities for you to learn cooperatively with fellow students” (2.95), and “Express caring about your academic success and welfare” (2.88).

18. How well you feel you are being prepared academically by faculty?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Not well at all	10	5%
2	Fairly well	48	23%
3	Well	100	48%
4	Very well	50	24%
	Total	208	100%

19. Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the statements below.



1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree.

Statistic	My courses are relevant to today's society and relate to my life	Course materials (readings, texts, films, etc.) are up-to-date	In most classes I am taught by a teaching assistant (T.A.) or graduate student and not the professor	My instructors are effective communicators with a good command of the English language	My class schedule is cohesive. I do not have too much or too little time between classes on most days	My course work provides me with an appropriate level of challenge. I am challenged enough by instructors and assignments without being overwhelmed.
Min Value	1	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	4	4	4	4	4	4
Mean	3.09	3.18	1.69	3.21	2.77	2.92
Variance	0.45	0.38	0.54	0.53	0.80	0.62
Standard Deviation	0.67	0.61	0.74	0.73	0.89	0.78
Total Responses	213	213	213	213	213	213

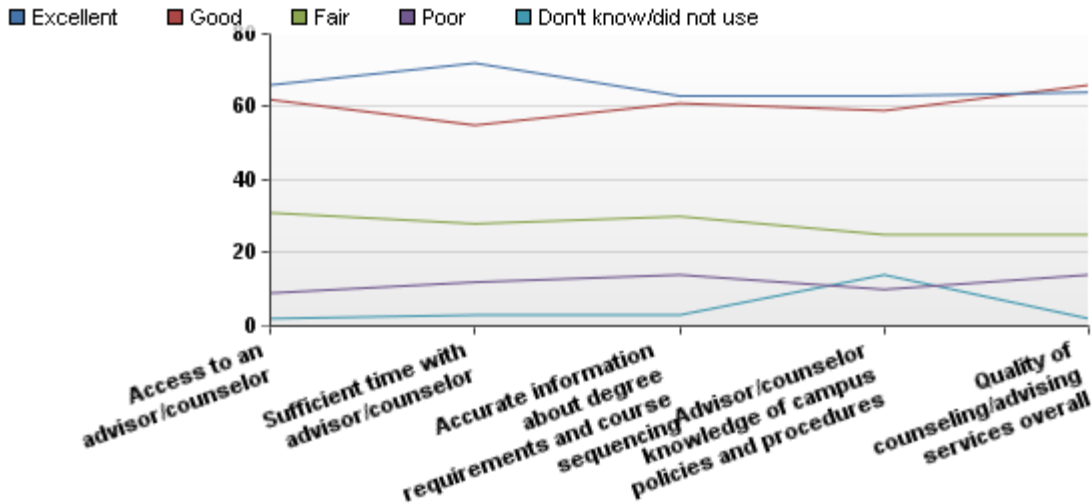
Discussion: By responding negatively to the statement “In most classes I am taught by a teaching assistant (T.A.) or graduate student and not the professor” (1.69), sophomore respondents are indicating that they are indeed taught by faculty the majority of the time. This is a positive outcome.

Lack of cohesiveness in student schedules is a potential area in which UNO could improve as is level of challenge of coursework. However, responses to the statement related to the level of challenge do not reveal whether course work is too difficult or not difficult enough. Future surveys could include a free text response to a follow-up question to this statement to provide additional understanding of students’ perceptions of the level of challenge provided at UNO.

20. If you have worked with an advisor or counselor during the past academic year, please indicate the type you saw.

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Counselor	13	6%
2	Academic advisor	133	62%
3	Other (please specify)	3	1%
4	Both (counselor and academic advisor)	24	11%
6	I have not worked with any type of advisor or counselor	41	19%
	Total	214	100%

21. Based on your experiences with advising so far, how would you evaluate advising at UNO? If you have not had enough experiences to respond to an item, please mark "Don't know/did not use."



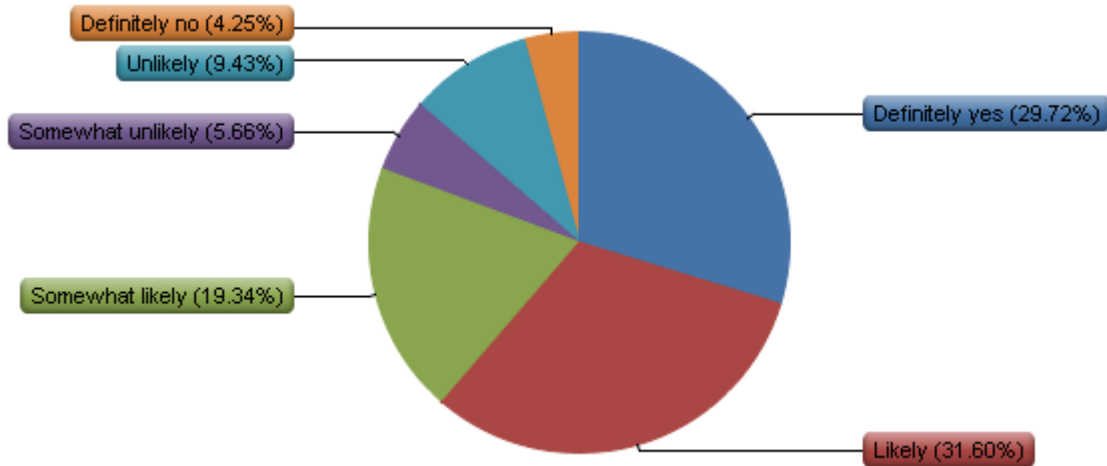
Discussion: Of student respondents who used advising and/or counseling services, the majority reported positive experiences.

22. During the current semester, how many classes have you missed for any reason?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	1	34	19%
2	2	31	17%
3	3	32	18%
4	4	29	16%
5	5	23	13%
6	6	10	5%
7	7	4	2%
8	8	4	2%
9	9	3	2%
10	10	2	1%
11	More than 10	10	5%
	Total	182	100%

Attitudes & Involvement

23. If you had the chance to begin college again, would you still choose UNO?



#	Answer	Response	%
6	Definitely yes	63	30%
5	Likely	67	32%
4	Somewhat likely	41	19%
3	Somewhat unlikely	12	6%
2	Unlikely	20	9%
1	Definitely no	9	4%

Positive (49.53%)

Total	212	100%
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Discussion: Most student respondents were at least “somewhat likely” (81%) to choose UNO if they had the opportunity to begin college again. The majority of respondents indicated they were “likely” to do so (32%) with 30% responding that they would definitely still choose UNO.

24. What is your general attitude toward UNO?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Very negative	3	1%
2	Negative	14	7%
3	Neutral	55	26%
4	Positive	105	50%
5	Very Positive	35	17%
	Total	212	100%

Discussion: Students who responded negatively to the above were given the opportunity in a free-text response question to indicate why they were dissatisfied with their experience at UNO. Coding and analysis of these responses may provide insight into why some students are dissatisfied with their experience. It is worth noting that the majority of respondents (67%) reported having a “positive” or “very positive” attitude toward UNO.

25. Do you feel a sense of belongingness and community at UNO?

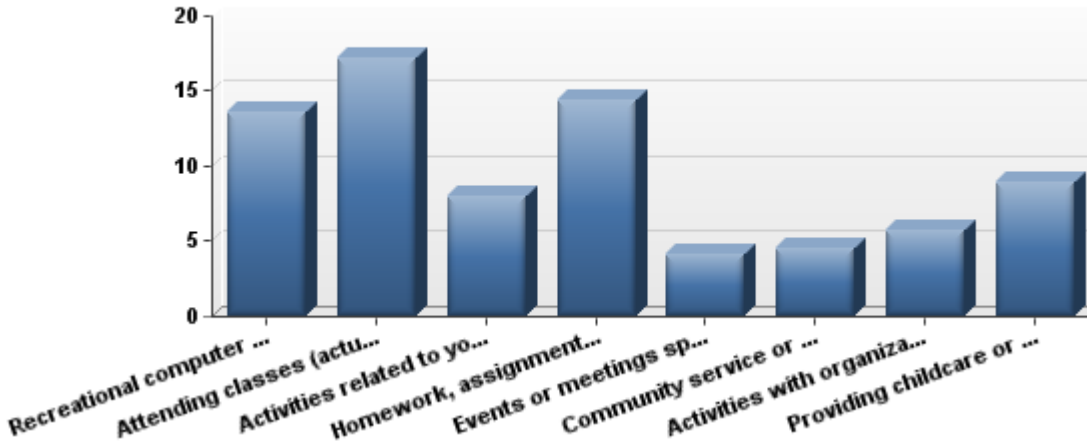
#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	124	58%
2	No	88	42%
	Total	212	100%

Discussion: This question also included a free-text follow up question. Student who indicated they felt a sense of belongingness were asked to identify what contributed to that sense. Those who reported not feeling a sense of belongingness were also given the opportunity to indicate why they did not feel such a sense at UNO.

26. How involved have you been in campus programs, activities, and organizations during the past academic year?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Not at all	91	44%
2	Slightly	70	34%
3	Moderately	35	17%
4	Heavily	11	5%
	Total	207	100%

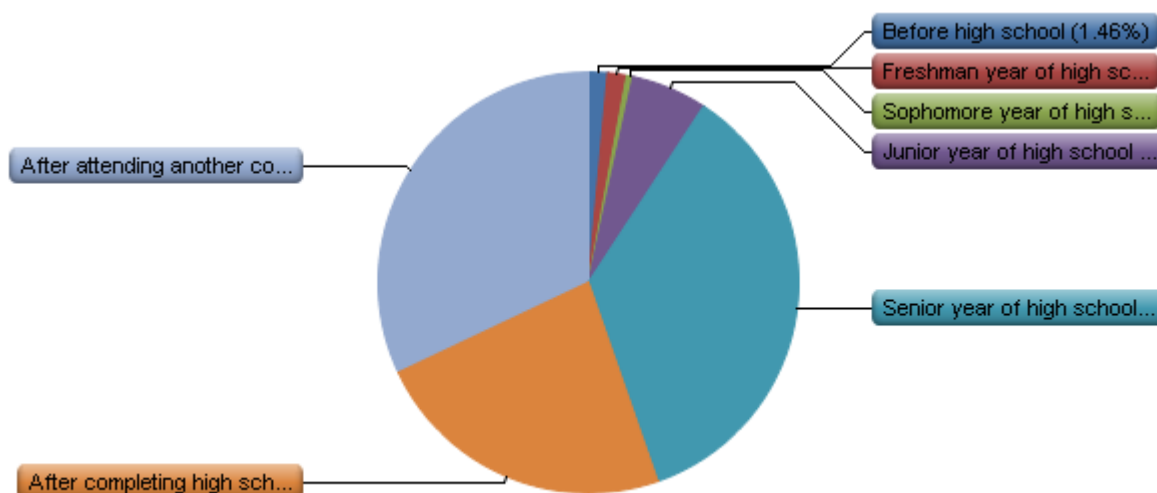
27. Indicate how many hours per week you have done each of the following in a typical week during the past academic year (Fall 2010 and Spring 2011). To select the number of hours, click or drag the bar on the left to the appropriate number. Your selected answer will appear to the right.



#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Recreational computer use (games, blogs, Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, Skype, etc.)	1	40	13.58	10.46	194
2	Attending classes (actual hours in class sessions)	4	40	17.15	8.32	204
3	Activities related to your major or career interest	1	40	8.05	8.15	167
4	Homework, assignments, or study groups for academic courses	1	40	14.43	9.75	203
5	Events or meetings sponsored by student clubs or organizations	1	30	4.17	5.14	113
6	Community service or service-learning	1	33	4.52	6.27	85
7	Activities with organizations not affiliated with the university (community groups, religious groups, etc.)	1	40	5.68	6.95	94
8	Providing childcare or elder-care for a family member	1	40	8.91	11.61	81

Discussion: When the number of hours per week student respondents spent on the various activities above is considered along with the average number of hours worked reported (23.4), work and attending class appear to be where the majority of students' time is spent. Because the average number of hours worked is greater than the average number of hours spent on any other activity, work commitments are identifiable as a competing priority for UNO students with other university related activities including classes and co-curricular activities.

28. When did you decide to attend the University of New Orleans?



#	Answer	Response	%
1	Before high school	3	1%
2	Freshman year of high school	3	1%
3	Sophomore year of high school	1	0%
4	Junior year of high school	12	6%
5	Senior year of high school	73	35%
6	After completing high school but before starting college	48	23%
7	After attending another college; I transferred to UNO	66	32%
	Total	206	100%

29. Below are some reasons why you may have decided to pursue higher education. Please rank order the importance of each of these reasons to you. Rank the most important reason # 1 and the least important # 7. You must use each rank only once. You cannot use the same rank on more than one item.

#	Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Responses
1	To be able to get a better job	79	37	29	16	17	13	19	210
2	To gain a general education and appreciation of new ideas	18	19	31	35	45	39	23	210
3	To make me a more cultured person	8	18	16	27	36	51	54	210
4	To be able to make more money	30	51	32	24	21	25	27	210
5	To learn more about things that interest me	26	25	34	48	34	26	17	210
6	To get training for a specific career	43	23	44	24	30	22	24	210
7	To prepare for graduate or professional school	25	25	18	25	21	30	66	210
	Total	229	198	204	199	204	206	230	-

Statistic	To be able to get a better job	To gain a general education and appreciation of new ideas	To make me a more cultured person	To be able to make more money	To learn more about things that interest me	To get training for a specific career	To prepare for graduate or professional school
Min Value	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Mean	2.86	4.33	5.07	3.66	3.88	3.65	4.65
Variance	4.08	3.13	3.10	4.04	3.14	3.98	4.74
Standard Deviation	2.02	1.77	1.76	2.01	1.77	1.99	2.18
Total Responses	210	210	210	210	210	210	210

Discussion: For this question, the lower mean values indicate that student respondents ranked a particular item as more important in their decision to pursue postsecondary education. “To be able to get a better job” ranked as most important and “To make me a more cultured person” ranked as least important. This ranked item is repeated on the Junior Survey so that changes in student attitudes about reasons for pursuing higher education can be examined at different points in student academic careers.

Parental Education

30. What is the highest level of education attained by either of your parents/guardians?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Less than a High School Diploma	16	8%
2	High School Diploma or GED	76	36%
3	Associate Degree or 2-year Degree	21	10%
4	Bachelor's Degree	49	23%
5	Master's Degree	32	15%
6	Doctoral Degree	16	8%
	Total	210	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	6
Mean	3.25
Variance	2.14
Standard Deviation	1.46
Total Responses	210

31. A first-generation college student is someone who is the first person in their immediate family (parents, brothers, sisters) to pursue higher education. Would you consider yourself a first-generation college student?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	76	67%
2	No	37	33%
	Total	113	100%