

Autumn 2013 Transfer Student Mid-Semester Assessment Report

What has been surprising (for the better) about your first semester at Ohio State?

- Overall positive campus community (peer interactions): **22.59%**
- Helpful faculty/staff members (advisors and instructors most discussed): **16.53%**
- Ease of navigating campus (transportation, finding buildings and classes): **13.22 %**
- Number of supportive resources: **13.22%**
- Small feel of campus: **10.19%**
- Amount of activities, events, and opportunities to get involved: **9.37%**
- Other responses included the themes of:
 - *Increased academic rigor (and being successful)*
 - *The large campus*
 - *Small class sizes despite such a large student population*
 - *Overall ease of transition, and the diversity of the campus*

"I transferred from a very small college, so being a commuter student at Ohio State has really been a massive shift for me, seeing how large the campus and student body is. I like it because it has allowed to join and partake in a lot of events, clubs and groups that I didn't have the chance to at my previous college. I also have met a lot of great people here through my classes and groups I attend that I would have never met otherwise, giving me rewarding experiences and friends that I care a lot about."

"All of the faculty cares about the students, the university is so student-orientated and anything you could possibly think of wanting to do is made possible here. The opportunities are endless."

"I knew the quality of teaching would be better than my previous school, but the extent to which the teaching is better has been shocking and pleasing. This and the fact the campus life makes me proud of my school has made this experience one which I wish I had begun earlier."

What has been disappointing about you first semester at Ohio State?

- Course difficulties (frustration with instructors, rigor, results): **17.45%**
- Nothing: **10.8%**
- Lack of community/ friends: **10.53%**
- Transportation (parking, buses): **7.48%**
- Impersonal Interactions (specific to instructors and advisors): **7.2%**
- Hard to connect with involvement opportunities (lack of communication, not enough time, finding appropriate programs, football tickets): **5.54%**
- Cost of Resources (parking, printing, football tickets): **4.99%**
- Class Size (too large): **4.16%**
- Impact of being a non-traditional student (age, parents, military experience, coming from work force) on being engaged in the student life: **3.88%**

- Other responses included the themes of:
 - *Campus dining and food*
 - *Survey course*
 - *Feeling treated like a freshman*
 - *Lack of communication about program deadlines*
 - *Transfer credit,*
 - *Campus safety*

"My classes have been very disappointing about my first semester here. I had to get about 10 or more of my previous classes re-evaluated, and about two did not transfer. The most disappointing of all is that most of my tests are not how well you know the material, but how well you know how to take that specific professors exams."

"I struggle to keep up with my course work on top of work and being a parent. Sometimes I feel like I am out of my element because everything is designed for students with little or few other obligations."

"I wanted to apply for chemical engineering in the spring semester but I missed the deadline. No information was given to me when to apply and I could not find it on the website, very disappointing that I will now have to wait another semester to apply for next autumn."

"My first semester was spring. I was disappointed by the unclear expectations of the chemistry department. I was also disappointed that so many students were not learning the material in chemistry but that actual comprehension was not considered an important factor in the class. Students were expected to fail. I found this to be an indicator of a poorly designed curriculum."

What do you know now that you wish you had known prior to starting at Ohio State?

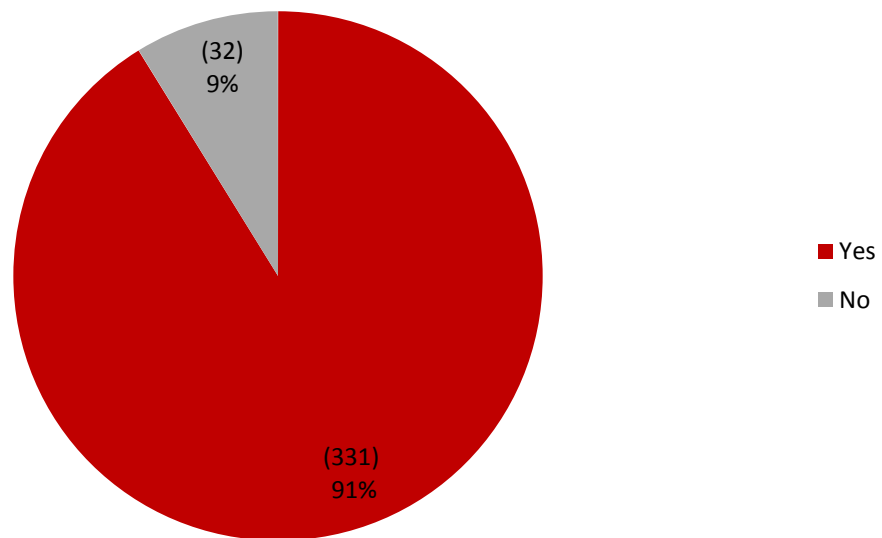
- Academic Expectations (time management skills, balancing a more rigorous course load, study skills) **13.24%**
- N/A **12.68%**
- Majors (how to apply for direct admittance, degree track, requirements prior to transferring, GE requirements, transfer credit evaluation sooner) **12.39%**
- Scheduling and Course Selection **8.45%**
- Commuting Issues (parking, travel time to campus) **7.04%**
- Information about Bus Routes (on and off campus) **5.92%**
- To take advantage of campus resources for success (tutoring) **3.99%**
- Dining/ Meal Plan options **3.38%**
- Other responses included the themes of:
 - *Understanding financial aid* (internal and external)
 - *The limitations to student experience as a non-traditional student*
 - *Knowledge of the honors program*
 - *To get involved early*
 - *To attend Ohio State sooner*

"I wish I had known it would be more difficult to manage my time better with homework, knowing the work was going to be much harder and given out more often than it was at my previous school."

"How to apply for acceptance into my desired major. This should be a part of orientation."

"I wish that I had been advised that the BA would be a faster and cheaper alternative for me and that I could still tailor my curriculum to my interest in biological anthropology. Instead, I started toward the BS and took chemistry and trigonometry which needlessly ruined my GPA. I also wish I had known that even when you pay a ton of money for a parking pass, there is a good chance you will not find a spot to park in. I also wish I would have been given more information about participating in the honors program, because now I am graduating in a semester and it is too late for me to sign up for honors."

Did you attend a campus orientation?



After attending Orientation, how prepared were you for your first semester at Ohio State?

Very Unprepared	Somewhat Unprepared	Somewhat Prepared	Very Prepared	N/A	Rating Average
2.2% (7)	12.9% (41)	55.7% (177)	24.2% (77)	5.0% (16)	3.07
Answered Question				318	
Skipped Question				50	

What was your favorite part of Orientation?

- Campus Tour **21.68%**
- Scheduling **19.12%**
- Presentation content (getting involved, parking and transportation) **14.29%**
- Nothing **10.06%**
- Meeting Advisors **9.42%**
- Meeting other transfer students **5.84%**
- Brevity of Orientation **3.90%**
- Other responses included the themes of:
 - *Getting a general feel for the campus atmosphere*
 - *Receiving their BuckID*
 - *Orientation resources*
 - *Specific major/college breakout session*
 - *Learning the tradition and spirit of Ohio State*

What was one thing you did not enjoy about Orientation?

- Length of Orientation too long (e.g. Sitting during presentation) **19.81%**
- N/A **13.10%**
- Scheduling (rushed, chaotic) **12.78%**
- Orientation too short (lack of small group interaction, impersonal) **6.39%**
- Advising (lack of help, lines, not personal, felt rushed and chaotic) **5.11%**
- Placement Testing **4.79%**
- Irrelevant Information (could have been online, did not apply to them) **4.15%**
- Other responses included themes of:
 - *Lack of structure in the program*
 - *Cold facilities*
 - *Price to park*
 - *Not being provided lunch*

How can Orientation better prepare and accommodate incoming transfer students new to Ohio State?

- N/A **20%**
- Advisors & Scheduling (more time, information communicated before orientation) **15%**
- More information about specific resources (breakout sessions for parking and transportation, major/minor requirements, ways to get involved, financial aid, on/off-campus housing, degree audit) **13%**
- Opportunities to meet other transfer students and socialize (small groups, more interactive) **12%**
- Targeted messaging to transfer students before and during orientation (non-traditionally aged, major specific, type of institution transferred from) **12%**
- Other responses included the themes of:
 - *Longer/shorter programs*
 - *More opportunities for tour*
 - *Better signs and directions*
 - *Providing expectations and conversation about the transition*

The Transfer Student Activities Board (TSAB) is comprised of a group of experienced, upper-class transfer students who plan events and programs designed to assist with the social and academic transition of incoming transfer students new to Ohio State. Since your start at the university, have you heard of and/or attended events coordinated by TSAB?

	Response Percent	Response Count
I have heard of TSAB	79.3%	272
I have attended one or more TSAB events	20.4%	70
I have not heard of TSAB	7.9%	27

Answered Question	343
Skipped Question	25

How would you describe your intentions to transfer to Ohio State? Please check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Ohio State's <i>academic programs</i> were an important factor in deciding to transfer to Ohio State.	62.4%	211
Ohio State's <i>reputation and/or national rankings</i> were important factors in deciding to transfer to Ohio State.	53.3%	180
<i>Personal life circumstances</i> (finances, family, health, etc.) influenced my decision to transfer to Ohio State.	51.8%	175
Ohio State was one of my <i>top choice schools</i> in my college search process	48.2%	163
Ohio State's <i>location</i> was an important factor in deciding to transfer to Ohio State.	45.6%	154
I attended another institution to earn some <i>academic credits at a lower cost</i> before attending Ohio State.	38.5%	130
Ohio State's <i>cost of attendance</i> was an important factor in deciding to transfer to Ohio State.	28.7%	97

My chosen <i>major and/or career path</i> was unavailable at my previous institution, but it is available at Ohio State.	20.7%	70
I discovered Ohio State after enrolling at another institution.	11.2%	38
I wanted to attend Ohio State as a freshman, but I was not accepted to the Columbus campus.	10.7%	36
I was admitted to Ohio State as a freshman, but I chose to attend another school to earn academic credits and/or ease the academic transition to college.	8.9%	30
	Answered Question	338
	Skipped Question	30

Other responses included the themes of:

- Tuition assistance for Ohio State employees
- Did not find fit at previous institution
- Returning from the workforce after completing some college education

What type(s) of resources did you utilize at your previous institution? What type(s) or resources are you interested in learning more about at Ohio State. Check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Academic Advising	78.0%	255
Library	76.8%	251
Financial Aid/ Scholarships	67.3%	220
Visit professor/instructor during office hours	53.8%	176
Transportation and Parking (campus shuttle/bus, parking pass, etc.)	49.5%	162
Recreational facilities/activities	47.1%	154
Campus dining/meal plan	46.2%	151
On-campus housing	45.0%	147
Technology services	29.7%	97
Tutoring/ academic assistance in Math	28.7%	94
Student Health Services	27.5%	90
Wellness resources	19.6%	64
Counseling	18.7%	61
Tutoring/ academic assistance in Science	17.1%	56
Career Services	15.9%	52
Tutoring/ academic assistance in English or writing	13.5%	44
Multicultural student services	7.6%	25
Tutoring/ academic assistance in other subject(s)	5.8%	19
Disability Services	4.9%	16
Veterans Affairs	3.4%	11
Student Legal Services	1.8%	6
Student Advocacy Center	1.5%	5
	Answered Question	327
	Skipped Question	41

Other responses included the themes of: N/A due to type of institution (military service); Student Employment

What type(s) or resources are you interested in learning more about at Ohio State? Please check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Financial Aid/ Scholarships	53.7%	160
Career Services	39.9%	119
Academic Advising	36.9%	110
Recreational facilities/activities	32.6%	96
Library	31.5%	94
Tutoring/ academic assistance in Math	25.5%	76
Tutoring/ academic assistance in Science	24.8%	74
Transportation and Parking (campus shuttle/bus, parking pass, etc.)	23.5%	70
Wellness Resources	22.5%	67
Student Health Services	20.8%	62
Counseling	17.8%	53
Visit professor/instructor during office hours	17.8%	53
Technology Services	15.1%	45
Tutoring/ academic assistance in other subject(s)	14.8%	44
Campus dining/meal plan	13.1%	39
Multicultural student services	12.1%	36
Tutoring/ academic assistance in English or writing	11.7%	35
On-campus housing	10.1%	30
Student Advocacy Center	5.4%	16
Student Legal Services	4.0%	12
Disability Services	3.7%	11
Veterans Affairs	2.3	7
	Answered Question	327
	Skipped Question	41

In which of the following activities did you participate at your previous institution? Please check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Attend campus events	42.2%	133
Student organizations	39.7%	125
Volunteer and community service	25.4%	80
<i>None</i> of the above	23.5%	74
Recreational sports	22.9%	72
Residence Life	18.1%	57
Campus employment	16.5%	52
Arts, music, performance	13.0%	41
Honors or Scholars Program	12.1%	38
Religious & Spiritual Groups	9.5%	30
Fraternity & Sorority Life	8.9%	28
Cultural groups	4.8%	15
Study Abroad	4.8%	15
Journalism/Media	3.5%	11
Undergraduate research	3.5%	11
Student government	3.2%	10
Pre-enrollment or bridge program	2.2%	7
ROTC	0.6%	2
	Answered Question	315
	Skipped Question	53

Other responses included the themes of:

- Student Athletics (7.9%)

Which of the following activities are you interested in learning more about at Ohio State? Please check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Student organizations	43.0%	135
Study Abroad	42.7%	134
Volunteer and community service	39.2%	123
Attend campus events	35.7%	112
Campus employment	33.4%	105
Recreational sports	33.1%	104
Undergraduate research	30.3%	95
Arts, music, performance	20.4%	64
Honors or Scholars Program	18.5%	58
Fraternity & Sorority Life	18.2%	57
Transfer Student Activities Board	17.8%	56
Cultural groups	13.1%	41
Residence Life	9.6%	30
None of the above	8.6%	27
Journalism/media	7.6%	24
Religious & Spiritual groups	7.6%	24
Pre-enrollment or Bridge program	1.9%	6
ROTC	1.9%	6
	Answered Question	314
	Skipped Question	54