

SECOND YEAR EXPERIENCE (SYE) INITIATIVE

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION | ORIENTATION & TRANSITION EXPERIENCES

Vision: To provide a more coordinated and intentional second year experience to improve student success, retention, and graduation.

GOALS

SENSE OF PURPOSE

Students with a sense of purpose possess a clear understanding of why they are at the University of Minnesota and what direction they are heading. They have experienced success in the classroom and engage in the academic life of the campus. They possess enthusiasm for their academic path and understand appropriate career options. They have set realistic and attainable goals for themselves. They have hope and optimism for their remaining two years at the University.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Students with a sense of community feel like they belong at the University of Minnesota. They have the support they need to be successful from peers, faculty, and staff. They are engaged in campus life and feel a sense of ownership in creating their own University experience.

SENSE OF SELF

Students with a sense of self have increased their overall self-awareness. They experience a safe, supportive, and respectful environment in which to explore aspects of their own identity and the diversity of others. Students have improved their overall well-being relating to financial, physical, spiritual, career, and academic aspects of their lives.

STRATEGIES

SECOND YEAR ADVISORY BOARD

The Second Year Advisory Board is comprised of college and department representatives from across the Twin Cities campus. It works collectively to improve the retention of and provide opportunities for second-year students.

SECOND YEAR ROAD MAP

secondyear.umn.edu/roadmap/index.html

This road map was developed through a campus-wide effort asking student service units to identify issues or opportunities in their areas that are unique to second year students. It centralizes useful resources, lists campus event dates, and discusses transitional issues month to month. It serves as a foundation for campus partners to build strategies, communications, and programs.

THEMED MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

secondyear.umn.edu/aboutsy.html

These emails are sent monthly and are designed to provide second year students at the U with continued support and guidance that directs them toward existing campus programming and tips for succeeding in their second year. The four themes are: Engagement (study abroad, research, volunteer, involvement, etc), Major & Career, Daily Life, and Academics.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Class of 20xx Facebook pages continue community building and support class identity as students continue the freshman year to the second year. Student Transition Experience interns monitor and post to the pages throughout the year encouraging engagement in campus events that connect to the Second Year Road Map.

SYE LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES (LLC)

housing.umn.edu/llcs/second-year

Living Learning Communities are coordinated through Housing & Residence Life with various campus partners to support students who choose to stay in University housing in their second year. Three specific LLCs for second year students provide tailored programming and community building to meet student needs: College of Science & Engineering SYE LLC, Honors Second Year Experience, and the SYE Community, hosted by Orientation & Transition Experiences.

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC PLANNING & EXPLORATION (CAPE) OUTREACH

cape.umn.edu

CAPE provides specific outreach to and services for undeclared second year students to find their best-fit major. Students who do not declare their major by their second year are less likely to graduate in four years so this service provides just-in-time support.

DATA RELATING TO SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

The U of M collects and analyzes data regarding second year students' retention, graduation, and overall success and shares it with the Second Year Advisory Board on a semi-annual basis to guide strategic interventions and programs. This includes the 2017 National Sophomore Experiences Survey with over 2,149 responses that shared the extent to which students were thriving in their second year. This data is available in a dashboard for campus partners to access and analyze based on the student populations they serve.

secondyear.umn.edu

