Paying Attention to the Middle Child: Mānoa Sophomore Experience

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## UHM Drop-Out Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011 Cohort</th>
<th>Percent Loss</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; → 2&lt;sup&gt;n&lt;/sup&gt; year</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; → 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; year</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; → 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; year</td>
<td>4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; → 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Year</th>
<th>Percent Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Manoa Institutional Research Office, University of Hawaiʻi System (2013).
Sophomore Slump

• Second efforts have difficulty meeting or surpassing standards of the first
• Thrill of college subsides and reality sets in
• Period of developmental confusion
• Uncertainty in major, career, or personal identity
• The “forgotten year” or “middle child syndrome”
• May start as early as second semester of the first year
• Three general areas that cause sophomores the most stress:
  o Academics
  o Personal
  o Relationships
Manoa Sophomore Experience (MSE)

- Formed in Spring 2010
- Initiated by the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education
- 16 committee members representing student and academic affairs, and current students
- Mission: Help sophomores navigate academic requirements and campus life so they become engaged with the campus community and invested in their college experience
Assessment Methods

Online Survey
Focus Groups
Written Assignment
Themes

Peer mentoring/guidance
Interaction with faculty
Major/career confusion
Lack of finances
Lack of connections
Recognition in 1st year
Current Programming

Peer Mentor

• Assist with major/career confusion & fulfill MAC mandatory advising requirement
• Financial aid and general campus referrals
• Provide opportunities for connections on- and off-campus

Promotion

• Freshman seminars
• Weekly Campus Center table
• Involvement Fair
Current Programming

Scholarship

- “Manoa Sophomore Experience Achievement Scholarship”

MSE Registered Independent Organization

- Social activity
- Student feedback and brainstorming of future MSE programming

“Fraps & Sweets”

- Interaction with faculty, alumni and local professionals
- Provide perspective and advice to current students
Current Programming

**Spring Fling “Happy Hour”**
- Opportunity for students to meet other students and form friendships
- Interaction with faculty in informal setting

**Recognition Event**
- Recognize transitioning freshmen and sophomore students
- Award MSE scholarship(s)
- Guest speaker(s)
- Network with other students
Future Programming

- New Student Orientation breakout sessions
- Student Involvement Fair
- Fall “Fraps & Sweets” and “Happy Hour” events
- 2014 Homecoming Fair
- “What I Know Now that I Wish I Knew Then” videos
- Partnership with Exploratory Initiative
Recommendations

• Be aware of the sophomore slump
• Proactively engage in discussing sophomores' college experiences
• Encourage students to participate in Mānoa Sophomore Experience events
• Provide guidance on major and career decisions
• Host social events to help establish and strengthen departmental connections
Contact Us!

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