ASSESSMENT: The Office of the First-Year Experience set out to see how first-year students were transitioning to Lehigh in their social and academic realms, what resources were helping their adjustment and what students had learned during their first few weeks. This survey was sent to all members of the Class of 2016 in November and 320 students responded.

ACADEMICS...
58% = easiest academic transition was “getting my school work done”
60% of students stated the most difficult academic transition was “preparing for exams”

PERSONAL/SOCIAL ADJUSTMENTS
60% = said dealing with homesickness was the easiest
61% = said making friends was easy
About 1/3 of the students said that managing money and staying connected to friends back home was the most difficult

TRANSITIONS...
82% said the people or groups helpful transitioning to Lehigh were “peers in my residence hall”*
62% reported that the people or groups most helpful transitioning to Lehigh were “Gryphons”
40% reported people or groups most helpful transitioning to Lehigh were “Orientation Leaders”
The Orientation program was the highest rated resource at 47%

RESULT OF MY FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE...
87% agreed or strongly agreed that they established academic and personal goals
48% agreed that they explored South Bethlehem
35% agreed or strongly agreed to having an increased awareness of the library resources and a better understanding of how to give feedback
37% of the students who would recommend the seminar would have altered their participation if the seminar was for credit
COMMUNICATION...

• Course Site and Portal are used 3 or more times per week by students (94% & 82% respectively)
• Students are not actively using Twitter or Lehigh Facebook pages for information

THE OFYE PLANS TO...

• Increase opportunities for students to discuss managing their money/finances during their transition
• Increase discussions about staying connected to friends back home
• Continue to expand connections to South Bethlehem
• Increase library resource awareness
• Discuss the concept of feedback and provide more opportunities for students to give and receive feedback

STUDENTS’ THOUGHTS...

“I had particularly helpful and enthusiastic leaders. I enjoyed the conversations we had, and since the class wasn’t for a grade, it was more open ended and stress free.”

“I would recommend it because I really think the small group setting helped to ease my transition. The faculty leader knew my name and was active in getting to know us. The lecture style classes do not have that—which made my transition harder.”

“I learned about campus resources and the importance of connecting with the South Bethlehem community.”

“The seminar has provided for me; the tools to be a responsible Lehigh Student.”

“By being in a group and learning how to work with each other, I gained valuable teamwork experience that I can translate to my engineering class and labs.”