

Assessment Spotlight: Housing and Residential Education

Mission

Housing & Residential Education (HRE), a team of dedicated student leaders and staff, serves the University community by encouraging, facilitating, and supporting the learning and development of all residents while creating an inclusive and safe living environment.

Assessment

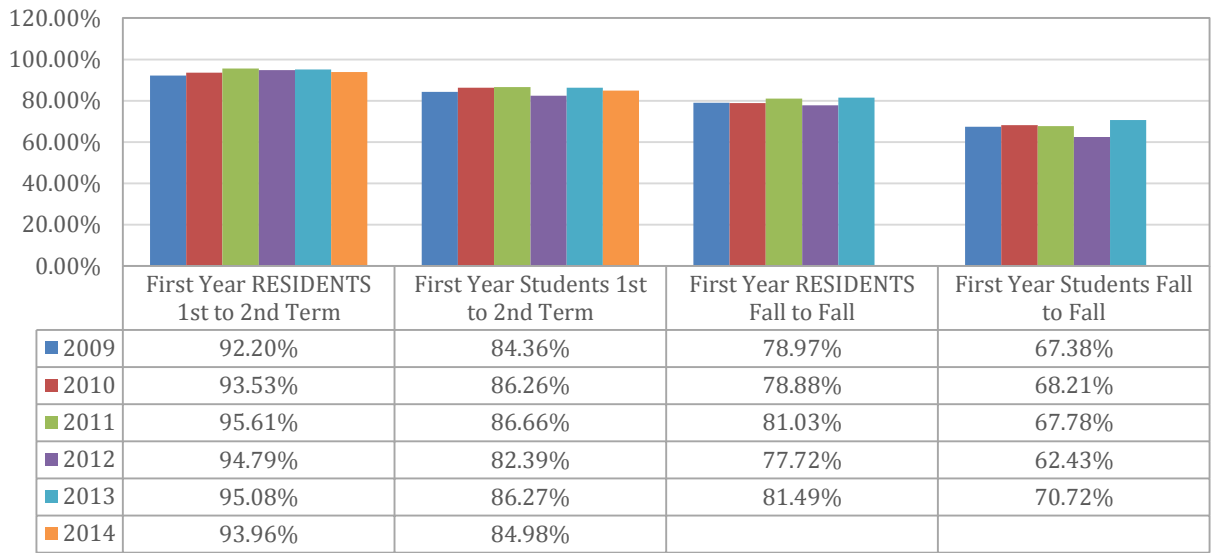
In order to fulfill the mission, HRE has a robust assessment plan to align with the University of Utah's Big Goal of Promoting Student Success. As a key contributor to student engagement, HRE utilizes a range of metrics to ensure mission fulfillment. A more detailed assessment plan based on key activities can be found [here](#). The following is a summary of key assessment strategies for the unit.

Occupancy and Demographics: Maintaining 95% occupancy is a goal of HRE. This goal was exceeded during 2014-2015 with a 96% occupancy rate. Increasing the number of First Time Freshmen who live on campus to 50% is another important goal that was established based on the retention and engagement literature. In 2014-2015, 47.8% of FTF were housed on campus which is an increase from the previous year (46.9%). Increasing the diversity of students who live in the residence halls to reflect the growing diversity of students is another important goal. In 2014-2015, HRE saw an increase of 1.6%, with 26.76% of occupants self-reporting as students of color from the US. Approximately 14% of students who reside in the halls are international students. This number decreased from 19.4% in 2013. Approximately 24.35% of students who live in HRE are Honors students. Brailsford and Dunlavey Program Management Firm have been retained to update the Housing Master Plan for the campus, with an eye to increasing the opportunities for students to live on campus.

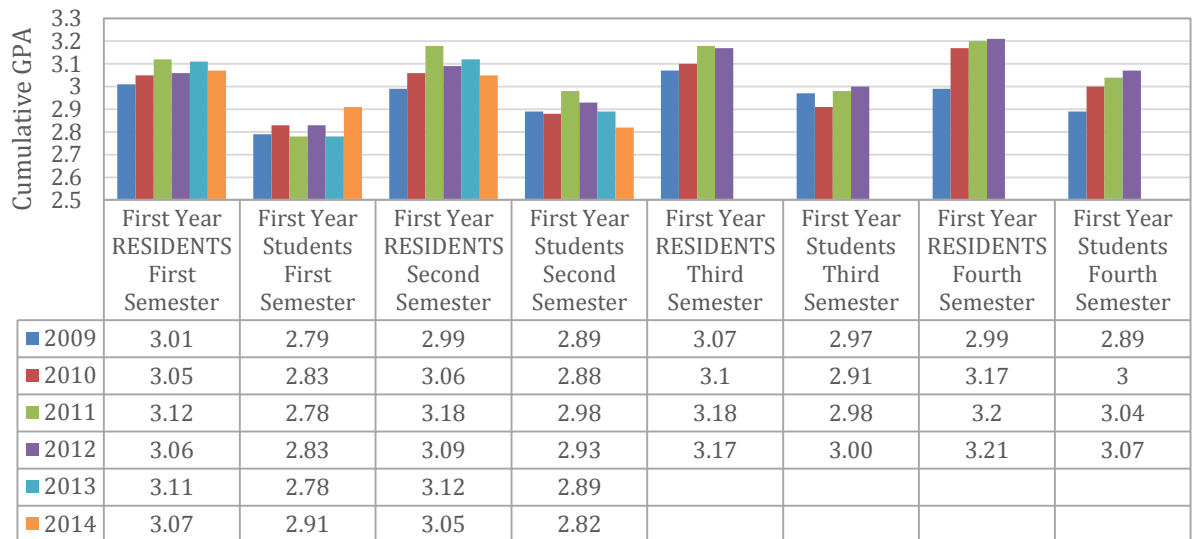
Retention and GPA

The Office of Budget and Institutional Analysis (OBIA) reports retention and GPA data for first-time freshmen students who live on campus versus students who do not. Students who live on campus have a higher GPA than do students who do not from their first semester through their fourth semester. Students who live on campus are retained at a higher rate than students who live off campus.

Resident Retention in Comparison to Cohort



Resident Cumulative GPA in Comparison to Cohort



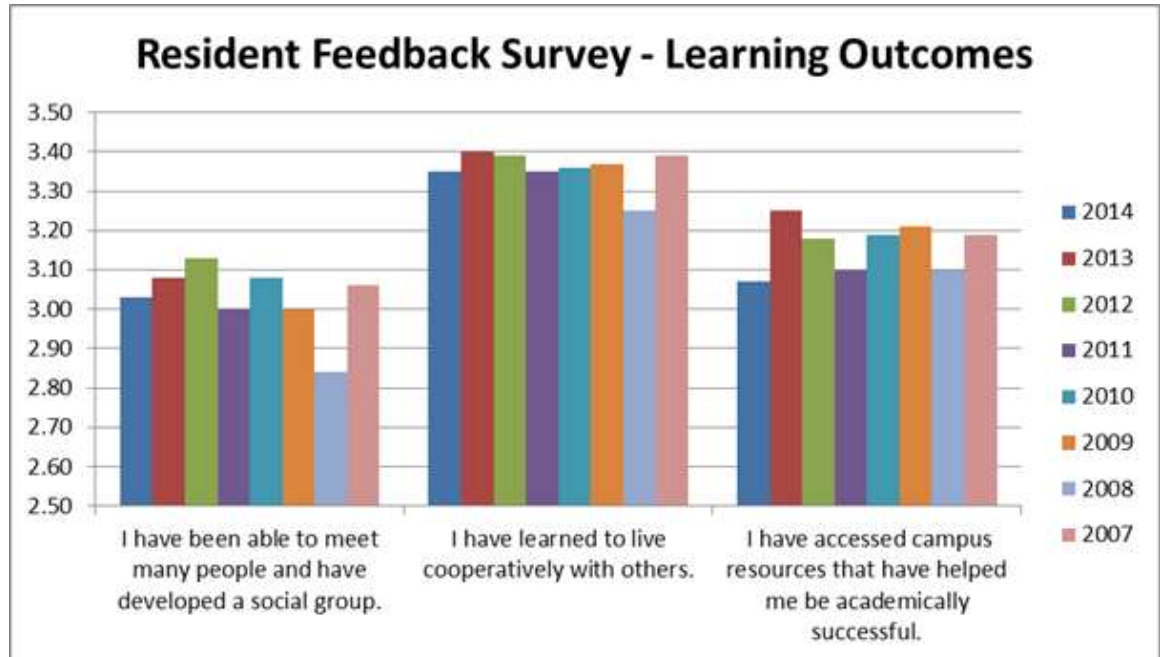
Resident Feedback Survey

This comprehensive survey assesses multiple aspects of the on-campus residence experience. While this survey addresses satisfaction, it also provides data related to learning outcomes and campus engagement behaviors. Data are also used as a performance evaluation for HRE staff. Results are shared within HRE and with campus partners. Data are used to improve programs, services and learning opportunities. This survey is administered each fall semester. During 2014, the response rate was 37%.

Learning Outcomes:

Living on campus provides students with an opportunity to develop community with

other students as well as greater opportunities to connect with campus resources, core learning outcomes with HRE. The following learning outcomes trend data is tracked and used by HRE staff to shape curriculum and programming.



Other Key Findings:

- Over 72% of students strongly agree or agree that they have been able to meet many people and have developed a social group while living on campus. Over 83% of students strongly agree or agree that they are getting the “college experience” that they anticipated. These are two of four of HRE’s learning objectives for residents. While these data suggest that students are connecting with other students, HRE continues to foster development of a campus community through programming and events for students to engage with other students.
- More than 72% of residents do not know who their Assistant Residential Education Coordinator (AREC) is and more than 70% do not know how to contact them. A total 78% of residents surveyed did not know who their Residential Education Coordinator (REC) was. This information has been used to develop better communication and visibility of these key staff members within the residence halls as well as to provide feedback to staff as a performance measure.
- A majority of residents feel that their Resident Advisor (RA) or Community Manager (CM) seek to understand their interests and needs of all residents and plan programs accordingly. A majority of residents also feel that their RA and CM make them feel comfortable, safe and valued in the community and

that they would feel comfortable approaching their RA and CM for personal concerns.

- Overall, students were satisfied with their interaction with HRE staff (central office and facilities).

Additional Metrics:

In addition to department tracked data, HRE also uses findings from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and the Graduating Student Survey to develop strategies for curriculum and programs.