



New England Consortium on Assessment and Student Learning
Panel Study of a Sample of the Class of 2010

Round 4 Interview Schedule (Fall 2007)

To do before beginning this interview:

- Review what interviewee had to say about his/ her plans for a major. This will come up in question 5.

Ice-breakers/Warm ups:

1. When did you arrive back on campus?
2. What was the first thing you did when you got back?

1. I'd like to begin by following up with topics that came up during your previous interview.

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question 3: _____

2. I'd next like to ask about your summer and coming back to campus.

- a) What did you do during the summer? (Probes: Where were you living: away from home, with parents? If employed, were you paid? What did you enjoy most about the summer?)
- b) Did you stay in contact with college friends over the summer? (Probes: How often? In what way(s)?) Did you stay in touch or hang out with any of your high school friends?
- c) Did being away from campus for a few months change your way of thinking about the college and your first year? In what ways?
- d) What is it like to be back on campus as a sophomore? Does it feel different to be a sophomore? In what ways?
- e) What are your impressions of the new first year class?
- f) What is your housing situation this semester? How is it working out for you?
 - Are you living in the same or a different residence hall this year? How did you make your residential hall choice? So far, how does your residence hall experience this year compare to that of last year?
 - Do you have the same roommate(s) that you did last year? (If with new roommates) How did you choose your new roommate(s)?
- g) What's most on your mind as your sophomore year gets underway? Is there anything distinctive from your first year that sticks out in your mind as you begin your sophomore year?

3. Next I'd like to ask you some questions about your friends—both on campus and off campus.

- a) Have you made any new friends this semester? (Probes: On/off campus? Male/female?) How did you meet them? Is it easier or harder to make new friends this year when compared to last year?
- b) How do you stay in contact with your friends—i.e., face-to-face contact, email, phone calls, text messaging, etc.? In general, how do you prefer to communicate with your friends? Why do you prefer this (these) method(s)?
- c) Do you use Facebook? How often? What for?

4. Next I'd like to ask you some questions similar to last year about whose advice you seek when you have academic-related questions, like what courses to take or how many courses to take

- a) First, what kinds of academic questions have come up for you since the term began?
- b) Have you been able to get help with these questions? Did you go to anyone in particular?
 - **Probe** for concrete examples: what was the question, to whom did you go, what was his/her advice, were you satisfied with the interaction, etc.?
 - **Probe** to see if interviewee has approached any faculty and/or staff specifically (as opposed to students, friends, family, etc.)
- c) How often have you gone to see your professors this semester outside of class? Why did you go to see them? Have you gone to see any professors that you had last year?
- d) Is it important to you that you establish a close relationship with one or more professors while you are here?

5. Next I'd like to ask you about academic advising here at _____ College.

- a) Do you have an advisor? Is this person the same advisor you had last year?
- b) For what reasons do you go to see your advisor? What do you expect from him or her?
- c) How would you describe your relationship with your advisor?
- d) Do you see this year's advising process differently from last year's in terms of what you need or expect?

6. I'd like to focus for a few minutes on your thoughts about your major.

- a) Have you decided on a potential major (or majors)? **(If no, skip to Question 6g.)**

- b) Why did you choose this major(s)? Did you have this major in mind when you first arrived on campus as a first year student?
- c) Whom have you talked to about deciding on a major? Why did you choose these people to talk to?
- d) Have you talked to faculty in your major field(s) about your plans to major? Was that a good/useful experience for you?
- e) Do your parents have any thoughts about what you should major in?
- f) (For those considering a double major), why do you want to major in more than one field? What do you think are the pros and cons, for you, of choosing this particular combination of majors?
- g) (For those still undecided) Are you feeling pressure to make a decision?

7. Let's move on to the topic of study abroad. Are you planning to study abroad or away at some point during your college career? (If not, skip to Question 7e.)

- a) Which semesters?
- b) Where do you wish to study?
- c) How did you go about selecting a study abroad program? Whom have you talked to about deciding whether or not to study away? Why did you choose these people to talk to? What advice did they offer you?
- d) What do you hope to gain from studying abroad? Do you see studying abroad fitting with your coursework for your major? Even though you are planning to study away, were there any factors that made you think it would be better to remain on campus?
- e) If you are not planning to study abroad, what factors led you to want to remain on campus?

8. What does your course schedule look like this semester? Were you able to get into the ones you wanted? Are they interesting? Exciting? Challenging? Boring?

- a) How do they compare to your first year courses?
- b) How did you go about selecting these courses? Did you do anything differently when selecting courses this year compared to last?
- c) What is your best course this semester? Why?

9. As we have asked before, are you able to find a good balance between academics and other activities you're involved in? Have you consciously made changes in how you plan your time?

a) What extracurricular activities (or sports) are you involved in this year?

b) How does your participation in these activities compare to that of last year? (More/less participation? Same/different activities?)

10. Now I want you to think ahead to the end of this term. What would make this a successful semester for you? What are you really hoping to accomplish this semester? What would make this a successful year for you?

11. Is there anything else you'd like to say about your _____ College experience so far? Is there something we didn't talk about that you'd like to add?

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this interview. (If interviewer will change for next semester, explain this here.)



New England Consortium on Assessment and Student Learning
Panel Study of a Sample of the Class of 2010

Round 5 Interview Schedule (Spring 2008)

To do before beginning this interview:

- Review your interview summary from the fall so that you can prepare 1-3 follow-up questions. Follow-up question(s) about **international study** will be asked in **Q 2**.
- We will also collect a **year 2 writing sample**. Ask interviewee to email sample to faculty supervisor or to you in advance of the interview.

Ice-breakers/Warm ups:

- 1.How are things going?
- 2.How are you doing at this point in the semester?

1. I'd like to begin by asking you a very broad question about your college experience. In what way (or ways) would you say that you have changed over the past two years?

2. Now I'd like to return to some topics that came up in your interview from last fall. [*Note to interviewers: Do not ask about study abroad (see Q.2) or transferring or leave of absence here. (See Q. 11b)*]

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question 3: _____

3. Last fall we talked about your international study plans. Are you going abroad? [*Note to interviewers: Review Q. 7 from Round 4 Interview*]

If no,

- a) If you are not planning to study abroad, what factors led you to want to remain on campus?

GO to Q3

If yes,

- a) On which program will you study? Why did you pick this one?
- b) Whom did you talk to about your plans for international study? Why did you choose these people to talk to? What advice did they offer you?

- c) From your point of view, how would you describe the international study process? (Smooth? Difficult? Exciting? Anxiety-producing?)
- d) What do you hope to gain from studying abroad? How will your international study fit with your coursework for your major?
- e) Even though you are planning to study away, were there any factors that made you think it would be better to remain on campus?

4. Now I'd like to focus for a few minutes on some of your academic experiences this semester.

- a) Did you feel excited about any of your classes this term? Which one(s)? Why?
- b) Have you discussed your courses outside of class? Which ones? With whom?
- c) Was there any one course that changed the way you think about your academic career? How did it change your perspective?
- d) Have you taken any classes that challenged your beliefs or values? What were they? How did they challenge you?
- e) In comparison to last semester, how have you found your classes this semester (more challenging vs. less challenging; more interesting vs. less interesting; etc.)? How so?
- f) Which has been your best class (or classes) this semester? In what way was it best?
- g) Have you taken a particular course where there were challenges in writing?
- h) Which of the requirements were you most anxious about fulfilling? Why? Have you now taken a course to fulfill that requirement? What did you think? Did your skills improve? Would take another class in this subject?

5. How often do you go to office hours or speak with your professor after class? Have you worked closely with any of your professors this semester?

- a) Have you continued to interact with professors from last year?
- b) Would you consider any of your professors an informal mentor? Why?
(*Clarifying point:* Not necessarily your advisor)

6. Thinking about fall class registration:

- a) What courses are you planning to take?

- b) Why did you choose these particular courses?
- c) Whom did you talk to as you were putting together your course schedule? Did you talk to your first year advisor or another faculty member?

7. I am interested in how your sophomore year compares to your first year – academically, socially, and in other ways. Let's begin with changes, if any, in your academic life.

- a) Are you satisfied with the level of intellectual stimulation that you have experienced at _____? Do you feel more intellectually stimulated/inspired this year compared to last? How so?
- b) Has your interaction with professors outside of class changed this year when compared to first year? How so?
- c) Have you experienced any problems getting into courses that you wanted to take? (*Probe: Not offered, class cap reached, time conflict with other courses, offered at an inconvenient time, time conflict with job*)
 - How did you manage this problem? Did you approach the professor of the course?
- d) Have your study habits changed at all this academic year? If so, in what way(s) have they changed?

8. And how about your social life (co-curricular activities)?

- a) Has your group of friends shifted? How so? Why? Has the quality of your friendships changed?
- b) Do you still live on-campus? Has residential life changed in positive or negative ways for you?
- c) Have you become involved in new activities? (e.g., job, club, off-campus activity) Have you stopped participating in activities that you did last fall or last year? Have you taken more responsibility or leadership positions in these activities?

9. Have you done any community service since coming to [school]? What kind? (service-learning or community-based learning? independent volunteering?)

- a) Why did you decide to do this? How did it go?
- b) What impact has it had on you? (Impact academic or personal life in some way?)
- c) *For Service-Learning or Community-Based research courses:* How did this work help improve your understanding of the course material?

10. I would like to ask you about the writing sample you submitted for this study.

- a) Why did you choose this writing sample?
- b) When you think about this writing sample, what distinguishes it from other things you wrote this year?

11. Next I'd like to ask about your major.

- a) Have you declared a major?

If yes,

- What did you choose to major in? What attracted you to this field? Was a specific course or specific professor instrumental in your decision? Or career plans?
- What kinds of grades had you been getting in courses in this field before officially declaring it as your major? Did those grades play a role in your decision?
- What, if anything, made you hesitate?
- Is this the major you were interested in when you entered _____?
- Did you have a hard time deciding on your major?
- Who played a significant role in helping you reach that decision?
 - Were any faculty members important in your decision?
 - Did you talk with your parents about your major?
 - Alumni?
 - Other students?
 - Staff?
- Do you now have a major advisor? How did you choose him/her?
- Are you satisfied with your decision? Do you have any lingering uncertainty?

If no ,

What has made you delay your decision?

- Have you discussed your major plans with anyone? Who? (family, faculty, other students?)
- When do you think you'll be ready to make a decision?

12. As we have asked before, do you feel that you maintain a good balance between academics and other activities you're involved in?

- a) Are there any pieces of your life that feel out of balance? (academic, social, emotional, physical, spiritual) What are you doing to cope with this/these imbalance(s)?

- b) Have you consciously made changes in how you plan your time?
- c) How are your time management skills? Any change since last year?

13. Now that you're at the end of your sophomore year, what do you think of _____ College?

- d) Are you generally happy with the college? Unhappy?
- e) Have you thought about transferring or taking time off – a leave of absence this year?
If yes,
 - Why? What other schools are you thinking about transferring to? Why those?
- f) Did things go as you expected this year? Any unexpected surprises?
- g) Have your perceptions of the college changed? How? Why?

- h) Do you feel “at home” here?

If yes,

- When you say you feel “at home,” what do you mean by that?
- When did you first have that feeling?
- What makes/made you feel “at home” here?

If no,

- Why don't you feel “at home” here?
- What might make you feel “at home” here?

14. Looking back over this past year, what do you think you will remember most about your sophomore year at _____ College?

- a) What was the high point of the year? (*Probe:* social, academic, personal)
- b) What was the low point of the year? (*Probe:* social, academic, personal)
- c) On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate this year? Why did you pick that number? What factors weighed most heavily into your thinking?
- d) In our first interview I asked you about your expectations for the year. Was your second-year at _____ what you imagined it would be? (*Probe:* academic, social, residential expectations)
- e) What advice would you give to first-years as they head into their sophomore year?
- f) Have you had an experience over the past year that has had a significant impact on you? What was it? Why did it have an effect on you?

- g) Has the national political activity of this year had an impact on you? How? Have you had any experiences at _____ that have impacted the way you think about politics? Have your views about politics changed since being at _____?

15. Now I'd like to ask about your summer plans. What will you do this summer? What led you to make this decision about your summer?

If student is doing a (job, research assistantship, internship) this summer,

- a) Why did you choose this (job, research assistantship, internship)? What factors influenced this decision (e.g., financial, proximity to home or school)?
- b) *If an internship:* Is this a paid or unpaid internship? Did you receive funding from the college to help you with an unpaid internship?
- c) Did you speak with Career Services about your summer plans?

16. What are you most looking forward to in your junior year? What are you most worried about?

17. Is there anything else you'd like to say about your _____ College experience so far? Is there something we didn't talk about that you'd like to add?

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this interview. (If interviewer will change for next semester, explain this here.)

For study abroad participants: We would like to interview you while you are away. Skype? Camera?