

2015

# New Student Wellness Survey Exec Summary 2-2015

UNO Student Affairs  
*University of Nebraska at Omaha*

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The New Student Wellness Survey (NSWS) was first implemented in Fall 2013 based on the University's focus on student wellness and Dr. Shipp's philosophy of being "intentionally intrusive" to improve student wellbeing and experience at UNO. The survey initially consisted of 22 questions that covered the 8 areas of wellness, program completion information, and supplemental information. After the first year, we re-evaluated the survey, and expanded it to 35 possible questions and made many of the new questions dynamic or open text fields.

The NSWS project includes two major processes: data capturing and analysis, and the student follow-up. The survey was seamlessly integrated into the Orientation sign-up process, which enabled us to capture responses from the vast majority of the incoming class – 94% of new first year students and 70% of transfers in 2013. After capturing the responses, the Business Systems Intelligence office at UNO broke down the data into various categories of students and handed the lists to the wellness group to follow up with concerned students. The wellness group coordinated with multiple offices and departments across UNO to contact over 700 students in 2014 with wellness concerns.

Below are some of the major findings of the New Student Wellness Survey:

- Student feedback from the calling groups has been extremely positive. No students have been upset at being contacted and most expressed gratitude for us reaching out to them.
- The interest and participation on campus in the NSWS continues to expand. In our first year, we had a very limited number of people contacting students, but that has grown substantially as offices hear about the program.
- 91% of incoming first year students expect to graduate in 4 years or less.
- 76% of all wellness concerns were in either the Intellectual or the Financial areas, with even higher percentages in First-Gen and underrepresented groups. Math was the biggest specific concern, with almost a quarter of incoming first year students expressing apprehension.
- At UNO, 36% of first year and 58% of new transfer students expect to work 20 hours or more per week.
- The NSWS is one of the action projects highlighted in the AQIP report: "The review [of the Higher Learning Commission] is positive, and since the reviewers are told to be critical, I think it says much about the strength of your project." -- Neil Topp.