

Executive Summary

Belmont University Quality Enhancement Plan

Title: The Sophomore Year Experience

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- a. **Purpose** of the Sophomore Year Experience: Sophomores will engage in focused exploration of themselves and their places in the world
- b. **Key Elements** of the Sophomore Year Experience
 - The Sophomore Transitions Center will facilitate the Sophomore Year Experience
 - Student Service Tasks
 - Guide and hold accountable individual students as they develop and carry out their focused exploration plans
 - Plan, execute, and assess a convocation series for Sophomores
 - Administrative Tasks
 - Manage Sophomore Year Experience Steering Team as that group plans and executes all aspects of the Sophomore Year Experience
 - Lead the development and execution of the “Sophomore Summit” each Fall
 - Track all aspects of student involvement with the SYE
 - Staff: One full-time Director and two part-time professional “coaches”
 - Academic Components
 - COM 1100, Fundamentals of Speech Communication (required of all undergraduates prior to completion of 60 credits). Course revised to address needs of Sophomores
 - Learning Community Courses (required of all undergraduates prior to completion of 60 credits) revised such that each pair of linked courses includes significant engaged learning experiences.
 - Social and Community Components
 - Sophomore Living Experiences with enhanced residential experiences such as increased self-governance, Grab-n-Go food options, and residence hall programming specific to Sophomores
 - Sophomore Summit; held in Fall focusing on issues of concern to Sophomores
 - Sophomore Service Projects carried out primarily through residence halls (e.g. Habitat Build for a dorm or a floor in a dorm)
 - Spiritual and Character Components
 - Belmont’s “Living a Better Story” initiative
 - Spiritual discernment convocation series
 - Spring Break Immersion Trip
 - Assessment: In addition to analysis of individual components of the above key elements (employing survey tools, rubric analysis of coursework, etc.), a regression analysis will be applied to dependent variables of self-efficacy test score, meaning of life test score, retention rates, and graduation rates with a variety of features of the SYE program serving as independent variables