



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

First Year Experience Program Mid Semester Survey Report

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Fall 2011

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Mid-Year Freshman Survey is designed to assess the freshman students' opinion about their experience from their first day at AUC until the day of the survey administration (September 4th-March 15th, 2011).

The survey was developed by the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) in cooperation with the Core Curriculum Office. The survey was distributed to the students on the 4th day of the FYE program in March 15th, 2011. One thousand eighty five students (1085) participated in the FYE program and 984 students completed and returned the survey (90.7%).

Methodology and Organization of the Report

This report is divided into five sections. In the *first section*, students' experiences with AUC's services and facilities is presented in a frequency table. In the *second section* students' evaluation of their academic experience is presented. In the *third section*, students' levels of agreement with several general statements about their life at AUC are presented. In this third section, the survey responses values are collapsed into the four categories of "Combined Agree" (Strongly Agree and Agree); "Combined Disagree" (Strongly Disagree and Disagree); "Neutral" and "NA" (not applicable). In the *fourth section*, student's spending hours studying outside the class room is presented. In the *fifth section*, open ended question is presented separately in Appendix B.

Appendix A

Section I

Students' experience with AUCs' services and facilities:

In this section we present students' options to their exposure to AUCs' services and facilities during the first semester. The value of responses was Yes/No.

When we asked students if they:

- **Participate in the first-year experience program**, students reported yes=93.1%, no=4.3%, 0.3% NA and 2.3% did not report this question.
- **Declare a major**, students reported yes=24.4%, no=71.6%, NA=1.8% and 2.1% did not report this question.
- **Use the library facilities**, students reported yes=88.9%, no=7.6%, 1.1% NA and 2.3% did not report this question.

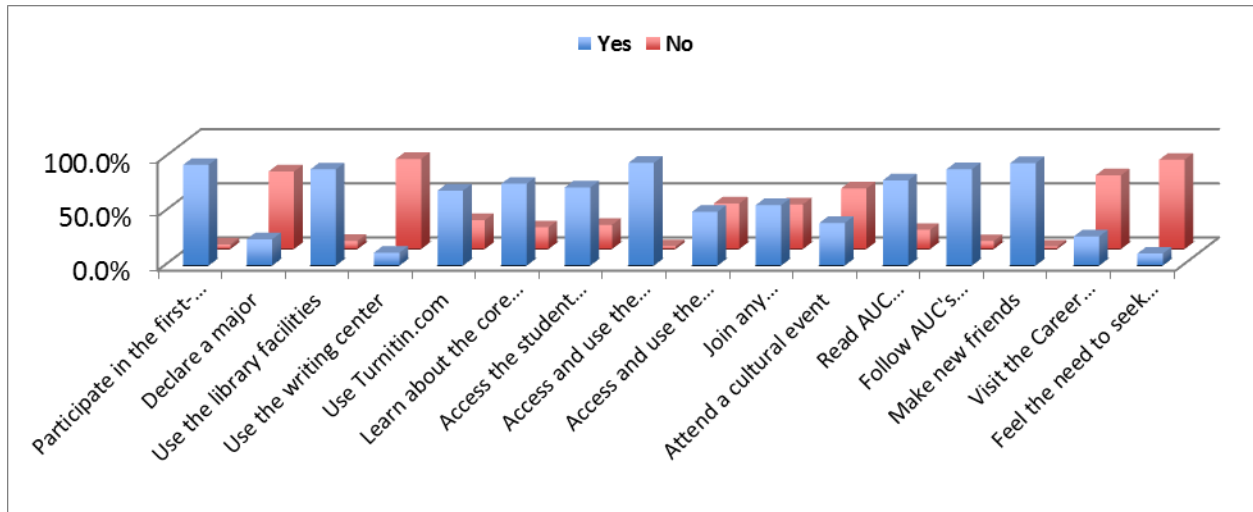
- **Use the writing center**, students reported yes=12%, no=83.2%, NA=2.2% and 2.5% did not answer this question.
- **Use Turnition.com**, students reported yes=69.3%, no=26.7%, NA=0.9% and 3% did not report this question.
- **Learn about the core curriculum requirements**, students reported yes=75.6%, no=20.1%, NA=1.7% and 2.5% did not report this question.
- **Access the student portal**, students reported yes=72.2%, no=22.4%, NA=2.8% and 2.6% did not report this question.
- **Access and use the blackboard**, students reported yes=94.9%, no=2.7%, NA=0.2% and 2.1% did not report this question.
- **Access and use the web for students**, students reported yes=49.8%, no=42.1%, NA=5.2% and 2.9% did not report this question.
- **Join any extracurricular activity**, students reported yes=55.9%, no=41.3%, NA=0.7% and 2.1% did not report this question.
- **Attend a cultural event**, students reported yes=39.4%, no=56%, NA=1.8% and 2.7% did not report this question.
- **Read AUC announcements in your email account**, students reported yes=78.8%, no=17.7%, NA=1.1% and 2.4% did not report this question.
- **Follow AUC's standards for academic integrity**, students reported yes=89%, no=7.4%, NA=1% and 2.5% did not report this question.
- **Make new friends**, students reported yes=94.6%, no=2.4%, NA=0.2% and 2.7% did not report this question.
- **Visit the Career Advising and Placement Services (CAPS)**, students reported yes=27%, no=68.1%, NA=1.7% and 3.2% did not answer this question.
- **Feel need to seek support for psychological difficulties?(i.e. problems with your friends, family, emotions?)**, students reported yes=11.2%, no=82.5%, NA=3.5% and 2.8% did not report this question..

Descriptive Analysis for Section I

Table1

	Yes	No	NA	Missing	Total
Participate in the first-year experience program	916	42	3	23	984
	93.1%	4.3%	0.3%	2.3%	100%
Declare a major	240	705	18	21	984
	24.4%	71.6%	1.8%	2.1%	100%
Use the library facilities	875	75	11	23	984
	88.9%	7.6%	1.1%	2.3%	100%
Use the writing center	118	819	22	25	984
	12.0%	83.2%	2.2%	2.5%	100%
Use Turnitin.com	682	263	9	30	984
	69.3%	26.7%	0.9%	3.0%	100%
Learn about the core curriculum requirements	744	198	17	25	984
	75.6%	20.1%	1.7%	2.5%	100%
Access the student portal	710	220	28	26	984
	72.2%	22.4%	2.8%	2.6%	100%
Access and use the blackboard	934	27	2	21	984
	94.9%	2.7%	0.2%	2.1%	100%
Access and use the web for students	490	414	51	29	984
	49.8%	42.1%	5.2%	2.9%	100%
Join any extracurricular activity	550	406	7	21	984
	55.9%	41.3%	0.7%	2.1%	100%
Attend a cultural event	388	551	18	27	984
	39.4%	56.0%	1.8%	2.7%	100%
Read AUC announcements in your email account	775	174	11	24	984
	78.8%	17.7%	1.1%	2.4%	100%
Follow AUC's standards for academic integrity	876	73	10	25	984
	89.0%	7.4%	1.0%	2.5%	100%
Make new friends	931	24	2	27	984
	94.6%	2.4%	0.2%	2.7%	100%
Visit the Career Advising and Placement Services (CAPS)	266	670	17	31	984
	27.0%	68.1%	1.7%	3.2%	100%
Feel the need to seek support for psychological difficulties? (ie. problems with your friends, family, emotions?)	110	812	34	28	984
	11.2%	82.5%	3.5%	2.8%	100%

Figure 1



Section II

Students' evaluation of their academic experience:

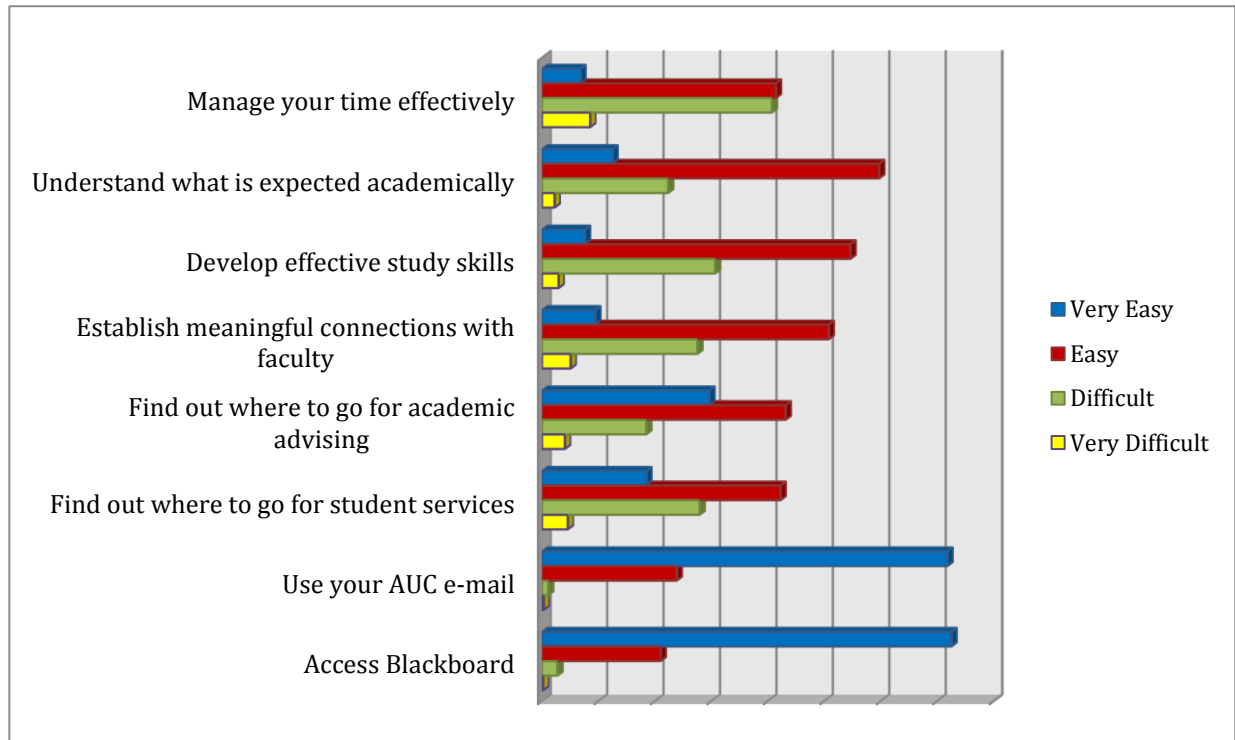
- For the question, **Manage your time effectively**, 6.8% of students reported 'Very Easy', 41.5% reported 'Easy', 40.8% reported 'Difficult', 8.5% reported 'Very difficult', 0.2% reported 'NA', and 2.2% did not report this question.
- For the question, **Understand what is expected academically**, 12.5% of students reported 'Very Easy', 59.8% reported 'Easy', 22.4% reported 'Difficult', 2.2% reported 'Very difficult', 0.3% reported 'NA' and 2.8% did not report this question.
- For the question, **Develop effective study skills**, 7.6% of students reported 'Very Easy', 54.7% reported 'Easy', 30.7% reported 'Difficult', 2.9% reported 'Very difficult', 1.3% reported 'NA' and 2.7% did not report this question.
- For the question, **Establish meaningful connections with faculty**, 9.5% of students reported 'Very Easy', 50.8% reported 'Easy', 27.5% reported 'Difficult', 5.1% reported 'Very difficult', 3.9% reported 'NA' and 3.3% did not report this question.
- For the question, **Find out where to go for academic advising**, 29.7% of students reported 'Very Easy', 43.2% reported 'Easy', 18.5% reported 'Difficult', 4.1% reported 'Very difficult', 1.7% reported 'NA' and 2.8% did not report this question.
- For the question, **Find out where to go for student services**, 18.5% of students reported 'Very Easy', 42.3% reported 'Easy', 27.9% reported 'Difficult', 4.6% reported 'Very difficult', 3.2% reported 'NA' and 3.6% did not report this question.
- For the question, **Use your AUC e-mail**, 71.8% of students reported 'Very Easy', 23.9% reported 'Easy', 1.1% reported 'Difficult', 0.3% reported 'Very difficult', no one reported 'NA' and 2.8% did not report this question.
- For the question, **Access blackboard**, 72.6% of students reported 'Very Easy', 21% reported 'Easy', 2.7% reported 'Difficult', 0.2% 'Very difficult', 0.9% reported 'NA' and 2.5% did not report this question.

Descriptive Analysis for Section II

Table 2

	Very Easy	Easy	Difficult	Very Difficult	NA	Missing	Total
Manage your time effectively	67	408	401	84	2	22	984
	6.8%	41.5%	40.8%	8.5%	0.2%	2.2%	100%
Understand what is expected academically	123	588	220	22	3	28	984
	12.5%	59.8%	22.4%	2.2%	0.3%	2.8%	100%
Develop effective study skills	75	538	302	29	13	27	984
	7.6%	54.7%	30.7%	2.9%	1.3%	2.7%	100%
Establish meaningful connections with faculty	93	500	271	50	38	32	984
	9.5%	50.8%	27.5%	5.1%	3.9%	3.3%	100%
Find out where to go for academic advising	292	425	182	40	17	28	984
	29.7%	43.2%	18.5%	4.1%	1.7%	2.8%	100%
Find out where to go for student services	182	416	275	45	31	35	984
	18.5%	42.3%	27.9%	4.6%	3.2%	3.6%	100%
Use your AUC e-mail	707	235	11	3	0	28	984
	71.8%	23.9%	1.1%	0.3%		2.8%	100%
Access Blackboard	714	207	27	2	9	25	984
	72.6%	21.0%	2.7%	0.2%	0.9%	2.5%	100%

Figure 2



Section III

Students' levels of agreement with several general statements about their life at AUC:

For the question, **The mid semester FYE 4th day is helpful**, 21.3% of the students reported 'combined agree', 38.4% reported 'combined disagree', 37% reported 'neutral', 0.6% reported NA and 2.6% did not report this question.

For the question, **The workshop conducted by the registrar is useful**, 27.5% of the students reported 'combined agree', 11.5% reported 'combined disagree', 38.2% reported 'neutral', 19.7% reported 'NA' and 3% did not report this question.

For the question, **The workshop conducted by the Freshman advisers is helpful**, 36.6% of the students reported 'combined agree', 12.8% reported 'combined disagree', 32.9 % reported 'neutral', 14.3% reported 'NA' and 3.4% did not report this question.

For the question, **The workshop conducted by the Career Advising and Placement Services (CAPS) is helpful**, 25.8% of students reported 'combined agree', 6.9% reported 'combined disagree', 37.3% reported 'neutral', 23.7% reported 'NA' and 6.3% did not report this question.

For the question, **Transition from school life to the university went smoothly**, 51.1% of students reported 'combined agree', 21.6 % reported 'combined disagree', 23.2% reported 'neutral', 0.4% reported 'NA' and 3.7% did not report this question.

For the question, **I have a positive experience at AUC since the beginning of classes**, 58.2% of students reported 'combined agree', 11.1% only reported 'combined disagree', 27.9% reported 'neutral', 0.2% reported 'NA' and 2.5% did not report this question.

For the question, **I was able to achieve a social life and academic balance**, 65.8% of students reported 'combined agree', 8.9% reported 'combined disagree', 22.5% reported 'neutral', no one reported NA and 2.8% did not report this question.

For the question, **I was able to develop my time management skills**, 38% of students reported 'combined agree', 22.3% reported 'combined disagree', 36.9% reported 'neutral', 0.2% reported 'NA' and 2.6% did not report this question.

For the question, **I was able to register for the courses I wanted**, 39% of students reported 'combined agree', 23.9% reported 'combined disagree', 26.7% reported 'neutral', 7.4% reported 'NA' and 2.9% did not report this question.

For the question, **Faculty members were available during the office hours**, 57.8% of students reported 'combined agree', 7.9% reported 'combined disagree' 25.3% reported 'neutral', 6.1% reported 'NA' and 2.8% did not report this question.

For the question, **Faculty members were available for consultation outside of class**, 47.3% of students reported 'combined agree', 9.7% reported 'combined disagree' 33.7% reported 'neutral', 6.1% reported 'NA' and 3.3% did not report this question.

For the question, **Classroom facilities were adequate for the needs of my courses**, 70.8% of students reported 'combined agree', 3.8% reported 'combined disagree', 21 % reported 'neutral', 1.5% reported 'NA' and 2.8% did not report this question.

For the question, **Library were adequate for my needs**, 81.3% of students reported 'combined agree', only 1.9% reported 'combined disagree', 11.6% reported 'neutral', 2.1% reported 'NA' and 3% did not report this question.

Descriptive Analysis for Section III

Table 3A
The mid semester FYE 4th day is helpful

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	210	21.3%
Combined Disagree	378	38.4%
Neutral	364	37.0%
NA	6	.6%
Missing	26	2.6%
Total	984	100%

Table 3B
The workshop conducted by the Registrar is useful

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	271	27.5%
Combined Disagree	113	11.5%
Neutral	376	38.2%
NA	194	19.7%
Missing	30	3.0%
Total	984	100%

Table 3C
The workshop conducted by the Freshman Advisors is helpful

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	360	36.6%
Combined Disagree	126	12.8%
Neutral	324	32.9%
NA	141	14.3%
Missing	33	3.4%
Total	984	100%

Table 3D
The workshop conducted by the CAPS office is helpful

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	254	25.8%
Combined Disagree	68	6.9%
Neutral	367	37.3%
NA	233	23.7%
Missing	62	6.3
Total	984	100%

Table 3E
Transition from school to the university went smoothly

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	503	51.1%
Combined Disagree	213	21.6%
Neutral	228	23.2%
NA	4	.4%
Missing	36	3.7%
Total	984	100%

Table 3F
I have a positive experience at AUC since the beginning of classes

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	573	58.2%
Combined Disagree	109	11.1%
Neutral	275	27.9%
NA	2	.2%
Missing	25	2.5%
Total	984	100%

Table 3G**I was able to achieve a social life and academic balance**

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	647	65.8%
Combined Disagree	88	8.9%
Neutral	221	22.5%
Missing	28	2.8%
Total	984	100%

Table 3H**I was able to develop my time management**

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	374	38.0%
Combined Disagree	219	22.3%
Neutral	363	36.9%
NA	2	.2%
Missing	26	2.6%
Total	984	100%

Table 3I**I was able to register for the courses I wanted**

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	384	39.0%
Combined Disagree	235	23.9%
Neutral	263	26.7%
NA	73	7.4%
Missing	29	2.9%
Total	984	100%

Table 3J**Faculty members were available during the office hours**

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	569	57.8%
Combined Disagree	78	7.9%
Neutral	249	25.3%
NA	60	6.1%
Missing	28	2.8%
Total	984	100%

Table 3K**Faculty members were available for consultation outside of class**

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	465	47.3%
Combined Disagree	95	9.7%
Neutral	332	33.7%
NA	60	6.1%
Missing	32	3.3%
Total	984	100%

Table 3L**Classroom facilities were adequate for the needs of my courses**

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	697	70.8%
Combined Disagree	37	3.8%
Neutral	207	21.0%
NA	15	1.5%
Missing	28	2.8%
Total	984	100%

Table 3M
Library facilities adequate for my needs

	Frequency	Percent
Combined Agree	800	81.3%
Combined Disagree	19	1.9%
Neutral	114	11.6%
NA	21	2.1%
Missing	30	3.0
Total	984	100%

Analysis for the “Neutral” item in question #3 and compare it with the Neutral percentage during Spring 2011 and Fall 2010:

Table 1:1 shows the items where students reported a high neutral percentage. The survey questions related to students activities, time management, services and questions related to faculty members.

Here we site literature regarding survey neutral items that suggest students may be evasive or indifferent when they report neutral (1).

Table 1:1

Mid Semester Survey Questions	Neutral Percentage Fall 2011	Neutral Percentage Spring 2011	Neutral Percentage Fall 2010
The mid semester FYE 4th day is helpful	37%*	34.9%*	33.3%
The workshop conducted by the Registrar is useful.	38.2%	41.1%*	37.2%
The workshop conducted by the Freshmen Advisers is helpful.	32.9%*	24.5%	28.4%
The workshop conducted by the Career Advising and Placement Services (CAPS) is helpful.	37.3%*	32.3%	35.3%
Transition from school to the university went smoothly.	23.2%	25.0%*	21.1%
I have a positive experience at AUC since the beginning of classes	27.9%*	25.0%*	22.3%
I was able to achieve a social life and academic balance	22.5%*	19.8%*	18.4%
I was able to develop my time management skill.	36.9%	37.5%*	30.9%
I was able to register for the courses I wanted.	26.7%*	18.8%	22.2%
Faculty members were available during the office hours.	25.3%*	19.3%*	15.2%
Faculty members were available for consultation outside of class.	33.7%*	24.0%	24.5%
Classroom facilities were adequate for the needs of my courses.	21%*	15.6%	16.0%

(1) Note: "Baumgartner and Steenkamp (2001) proposed respondents might choose a middle category such as neutral "due to evasiveness . . . indecision . . . or indifference" (p. 145). None of these reasons would indicate a truly middle position and might be more equivalent to unsure".

References: Baumgartner, H., & Steenkamp, JB.

E. M. (2001). Response styles in marketing research: A cross national investigation. *Journal of Marketing Research*, 38, 143156.

*Percentage increased in the Fall 2011 comparing with the Spring 2011

Section IV

In a typical week, how many hours do you spend studying outside the classroom?

Table 4

In a typical week, how many hours do you spend studying outside the classroom?		Frequency	Percent
	1-5	394	40.0%
	6-10	327	33.2%
	11-20	184	18.7%
	21-30	37	3.8%
	30+	12	1.2%
	Missing	30	3.0%
Total		984	100%

Figure 4

