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Orientation • Transition • Retention
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

2021 NODA Databank
Executive Summary

October 2021

Executive Summary

The 2021 administration of the NODA Databank highlights several ongoing challenges as a result of the COVID -19 global pandemic.

Budget Challenges

On average, department operating budgets decreased by about 20% after March 2020, with the most impacted departments being those with an operating budget over $250,000 per year. In total, half of institutions indicated their department's budget decreased after March 2020, including nearly a third that decreased at least 25%. Many institutions implemented measures such as furloughs and pay reductions as a result.

Staffing Changes

Full-time professional and graduate student staffing remained fairly consistent over the past year; however, institutions noted it was not easy to fill vacant positions due to hiring freeze s.

Programming Changes

Compared to before March 2020 , institutions saw a decrease of in -person orientation, transition, and retention programming and a sharp increase in fully online delivery. Protocols most widely implemented during the pandemic include multiple safely measures , hybrid, and virtual programming.

Resources and Professional Development

Institutions indicated that webinars, NODAfications , NODA Review, and Region Meeting/Chat/Slack as their top choices for ways to get resources from NODA. For professional development, institutions indicated a preference for larger live events like conferences , webinars , and institutes.

Introduction

NODA has conducted benchmarking surveys of Orientation, Transition, and Retention (OTR) professionals for more than two decades, with a new survey sent out approximately every three to five years. This report presents findings from the 2021 NODA Databank Survey (Databank), which follows the 2017 report. The Databank is an essential resource for NODA members that benchmarks the services, programs, and operations of orientation, transition and retention programs.

Survey Instrument

The survey instrument for the 2021 Databank was shortened significantly from the instrument typically used for a Databank administration due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Several additional questions were added to provide context around how the profession has changed during the pandemic and to address ongoing challenges.

The 2021 Databank survey included a total of 37 questions (9 categorical, 6 numeric response, 13 multi-response, 2 percent allocation, and 7 text response). Questions primarily related to five categories: departmental characteristics, budgets, staffing, programming, assessment, and professional development. Most of these categories included questions asking about the effects of COVID-19.

Administration

The 2021 Databank was launched on April 29, 2021 and closed on June 17, 2021. NODA invited institutions to participate via an open link sent via email using NODA's list of primary contacts from member institutions.

Participants

One member per institution, who is in a leadership position, was invited to participate in the survey but the survey could be filled out jointly, recognizing that different professionals may have access to different kinds of OTR data

In total, 78 institutions fully completed the survey. When including partial responses, the total number of participating institutions was 83.

Full Report

The full report includes six sections: department characteristics, budget, staffing, programming, assessment, and professional development. To view the full report, log into NODA Connect through the NODA website .