
NSSE 2016

Senior Transitions: Open-Ended Responses

American University of Beirut

The final question of the Senior Transitions module asked students to respond to the following question in an open text box:

"Is there anything your institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or further education? Please describe. "

Important:

- Confidential student responses to this question appear on the following pages. Because open-ended responses are confidential, student identifiers are not given in this report but are provided in a separate SPSS data file. For this reason, please use discretion when using, storing, and disseminating the SPSS file.
- These open-ended responses appear exactly as the students entered them and **may not be suitable for distribution without prior review**. Faculty members, administrators, or other students may be mentioned by name, and responses were not edited for grammar, offensive language, excessive length, or otherwise questionable content.
- Open-ended responses are sorted by class, enrollment status, and sex. Information for these variables was provided by your institution.

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Class	Enrollment	Sex	Open-Ended Response
Senior	Full-time	Female	Needs better academic advisors
Senior	Full-time	Female	No
Senior	Full-time	Female	Add more interesting economics electives
Senior	Full-time	Female	Apply theories or theorems to real life. Although economics is quite theoretical, professors could have reflected the course material using real life incidents, cases etc, in order to solidify the outcome of each course.
Senior	Full-time	Female	They could have included an extra semester or year for psychology students as undergraduates to experience being a psychologists with professional psychologists so that we can know what we want to pursue in our lives later on. Moreover, more courses could have been given that concern psychology such as Industrial and Organizational Psychology.
Senior	Full-time	Female	AUB could have provided one on one career counseling
Senior	Full-time	Female	1- better grading system 2- job fairs that imply to all majors not just business and engineering
Senior	Full-time	Female	It would have been much better if we had more major courses or more elective courses from within the major. Also it would have been very useful to learn concrete methods for economic analysis (applied econometrics...). Unfortunately, we mainly learn theories and wind up forgetting must of what we were taught!
Senior	Full-time	Female	Relate what we cover within our classes to real life scenarios and/or situations.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Emphasized a little less on the old-school pure examination style. This could be slightly destructive to people who do not excell at taking exams.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I have talked to several students about this issue- there should be a mandatory class that give you the necessary steps for resumes, personal statements, applications etc. I had no idea how to write a resume or have an idea of my personal statement when applying to graduate school. It doesnt need to be a class, maybe hold graduate study programs at night regarding the application process, gres etc.
Senior	Full-time	Female	provided a course in my desired graduate studies which is Industrial/Organizational Psychology and perhaps helped me choose a graduate school that would best fit me
Senior	Full-time	Female	Provide more advice in career procedures and keep in mind that students have no experience in finding jobs. Try to do workshops for career searches and applications rather than CVs and presentations only.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Discussing more real life problems and how they can be solved instead of studying theories. We need more practical education and to be provided with tools that could help us apply our knowledge to the real world
Senior	Full-time	Female	Focus more on practical work and experience rather than just course work and grades.
Senior	Full-time	Male	More information on careers of previous - recent - graduates from medical school, in order to know what to expect
Senior	Full-time	Male	I study physics for the love of it. Or at least that's what I wish I do. But the load of coursework between all 5 courses I'm taking does not allow me to study for the sake of understanding, and forces me to put grades first and understanding second, because I do not wish to waste time repeating courses. I wish the material in some courses would be more intuitive than technical.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Be less corrupt, be less profit focused and respect the privacy of my records and not share them with third parties.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Teach me real life skills I will need after graduating Encourage involvement in extracurriculars Make it easier to find research opportunities Slow the darn pace down! The class pace is way too fast, and the semesters way too short. There is little to no retention of information after completing a course.

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Senior	Full-time	Male	Being an economics student taking finance courses I have realized that there is a HUGE difference in the qualification of professors at OSB. The business school employs people with professional experience in that domain, people how have worked in companies before, while the economics department has academic professionals that memorize the book and present it in class. I thank our department is very undervalued given that most of its students are hard workers unlike business students, however AUB provides them with internship programs and better opportunities than our department. I have also discovered that this phenomena with unqualified teachers is present in many other departments. On another note I do not think AUB provides its students with a decent "college life" the student life here is very depressing there is no recreational place for students to hangout and spend time (fraternities are one example). Especially during winter when all we can do is stand under the rain or suffocate with 8,000 students in the cafeteria. Another thing AUB can do is get organizations and other institutions to interact with students will teaching them some lessons. An example is the kunhadi seatbelt test or the F1 tire chaining challenge that AUB used to do a couple of years ago. And although this might not seem as a problem it real would have been nice to something like that.. Finally, AUB does not have a proper place where students can study. Jafet is book 24 hours a day 7 days a week mostly by engineering students and premeds that actually live there. I think devoting a building just for student purposes would solve both problems.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Allow for better places for student-to-student relations. Allowed for better student societies. Dedicated time to careers outside of business and engineering.
Senior	Full-time	Male	the quality of advising services have declined for the few 5 years. Faculty who are not interested in helping student shouldn't be forced to do so. Few professors have sufficient interpersonal skills to be of any use of students. Advising position should, therefore, not be given to professors arbitrarily. Too much emphasis on book-learning, not enough on developing skills dealing with real-life problem solving. Some courses (math, computer science, philosophy, CVSP) do touch upon practical day-to-day issues, but too many professors teach according to a rigid, scholastic (even dogmatic) framework.
Senior	Full-time	Male	jobs for grads
Senior	Full-time	Male	NA
Senior	Not full-time	Female	Advising from my specific advisor was good. Other professors are not interested in helping students: even after asking for advice multiple times and sending multiple emails, some professors would not answer. Lack of a real premed advising center is frustrating and debilitating for students wanting to apply abroad.