



Oh! That RA Life: Lessons from a Resident Assistant

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This Project

- Research is NOT my Friend
- 1. Know what it means to create a relationship with an incoming freshman
- 2. See the value in the RA job
- 3. See the lessons learned while on the job
- How? - stories/narrative and FIG data focus

Prologue

- I Am Not Normal
- Coming Home to Laramie
- My RAs
- This Was the Job For Me
- Why?

Hi, My Name Is...

- RA Application Process
- Interviewing
- Good vs. Bad
- Tricks and Tools of the Trade
- First Impressions



RA Orientation...Yes, Even RA's Have One

- RA Youtube Videos
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUJniTi9kLY>
- Leaders in a Room of...Leaders
- Training
- Staff Bonding Time

Learning From Your Mistakes

- The First Floor Meeting
- Hard Ass vs. Mother
- Strengths and Weaknesses
- Taking Risks
- Role Modeling



Duty Rounds

- The Fun Stories
- The Long Nights
- The Safety and Security
- https://youtu.be/P5XA7_8_FvA
- Room and Board

I'll Call the Po-Po

- Police/RA Relationships



There is Always That One Kid

- Things and Personalities
- Relationships



Secrets Secrets and More Secrets

- Oh the Stories
- Telephone
- The Kids Always Know
- Is Anyone Bleeding?
- Happy Secrets
- Morals of the Story



Gifts, Pranks, and Advice

- Resident/RA Relationships
- My Kids
- Love
- Care
- Gifts
- Pranks
- Advice



The FIG Experience

- Exploring Vet Med FIG
- Exploring Majors and Careers
- Changes to the System
- Benefits and Disadvantages



FIG Data

Combined FIGs Fall 2013 Makeup: (19 FIGs)

Number of Students: 224

Percent of out-of-state students: 63%

Gender Distribution: M: 29% F: 71%

High School GPA: Average GPA: 3.55 Mode: 4

ACT Composite Score: Average Score: 25 Mode: 25

ACT MATH Score: Average Score: 24 Mode: 26

FIG Data Continued

GPA Average: 2.9

GPA Results:

< 1.74 11%

1.75-1.923 3%

2.0-2.462 10%

2.5-2.941 20%

3.0-3.467 26%

3.5-4.0 30%

Number of Students on Academic Probation

14%

Number of Students enrolled Spring 2014

93%

Number of Students who changed majors

38%

FIG Data Continued

Why did you join FIG?

(1) I liked the idea of living and taking classes with the same students.

113

(2) I was interested in the topic or theme.

88

(3) I wanted to get a head start on my chosen career path.

72

(4) My parents encouraged me to join

53

(5) I needed a class/classes and the FIG satisfied the requirements.

31

(6) I joined to be with a friend/roommate.

16

FIG Data Continued

Numbers based on number of responses: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

- Overall, The FIG program has been helpful this semester: 55, 73, 15, 3
- I would recommend the FIG program to another student: 74, 61, 9, 2
- I have met new friends by participating in the FIG program: 104, 36, 4, 2
- I was satisfied with my FIG experience: 62, 66, 13, 4
- The FIG program is worth participating in: 68, 58, 15, 2
- My FIG RA worked to support me academically: 78, 50, 11, 7
- Through the FIGs, I have made connections to other students, faculty and/or staff that will benefit me in my academic career: 77, 54, 13, 2

FIG Data Continued

Rank how positively these factors impacted you in your FIG 1-5 and N/A

Social Experience: 5, 10, 22, 48, 60, 2

Connecting with Major: 10, 8, 26, 49, 51, 4

Connecting with Instructor: 7, 12, 34, 44, 48, 0

Study sessions with RA: 31, 16, 29, 28, 30, 11

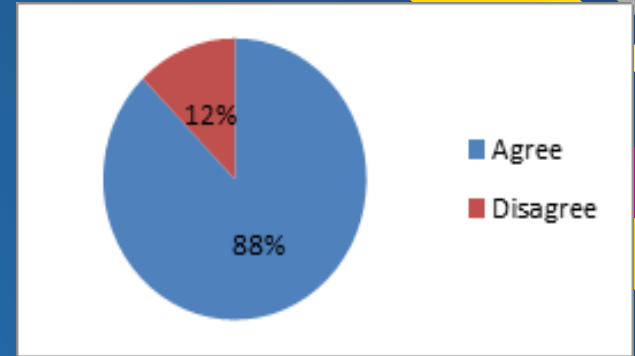
Extra-curricular within FIG: 25, 24, 31, 34, 25, 6

FIG Data Continued

I was satisfied with my FIG experience.

The FIG program is worth participating in.

My FIG RA worked to support me academically.



Through the FIGs, I have made connections to other students, faculty and/or staff that will benefit me in my academic career.

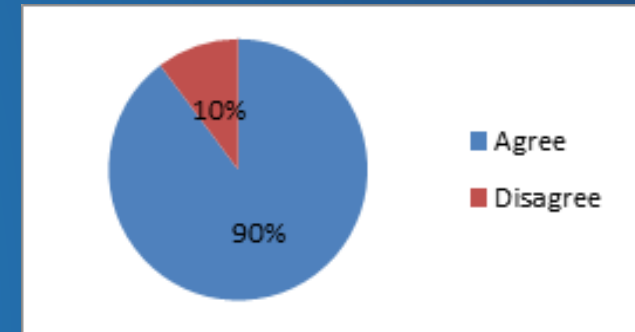


FIG Data Continued

How do you feel FIGs positively impacts students?

- I think it is a great way for students in the same area of interest to make friends. It was also really cool to get to know our instructors better outside of the classroom.
- The FIG gives many useful on campus resources, connects student who are taking the same career path and provides a community for new freshman.
- The FIGs allow students to advance academically in their major and form social bonds with other students. The RA helps the students form skills needed to survive in college.
- Easy to form study groups if you have a question you can go next door and make friends with people who will be in your classes all 4 years.

FIG Data Continued

- Participating in the FIG program has allowed me to meet other students and instructors that have helped me improve academically throughout this semester and I know it would positively impact other students as well.
- I enjoyed meeting people through the program and love that I feel confident in my major because of my involvement.
- The field trips were a lot of fun and taught me more about the subject. It's a great place to meet new people and to get adjusted to college life.
- FIGs help students to make connections with other students, teachers and RA's. This helps create a sense of community among members. FIGs also help students to explore their career field and in this care, an unchosen career field to determine if it is a good fit.

In Conclusion...

- “Residence Life & Dining Services strives to create an inclusive living and dining environment for students, families and the campus community by providing a healthy and memorable educational setting which fosters academic and personal growth, focusing on civic engagement, diversity, sustainability, wellness, safety & security,” (Call, Resident, 2014).
- The Good Days, the Bad Days
- I’m not crazy because I’m a resident assistant; I’m crazy because I like it.



WE **CAME AS**
STRANGERS
LEAVE AS
FRIENDS



References

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Questions???

