

## More First Impressions — Lane SENSE data over Time

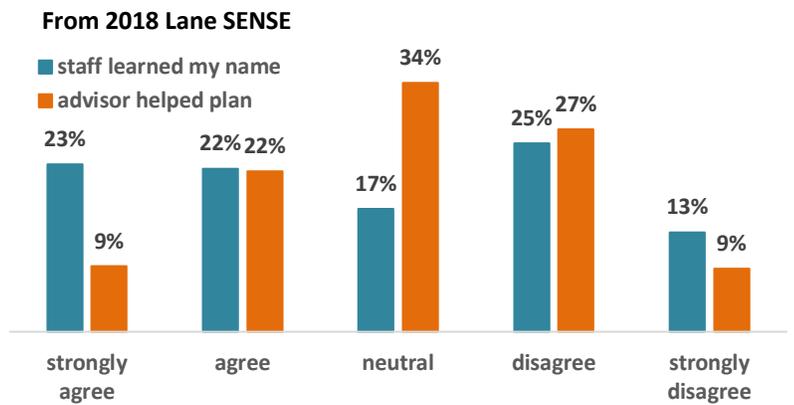
In TIPSS #30 we compared Lane’s 2018 Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) results to those of a national group of colleges for both part time and full time students across six *benchmarks of effective practice*, finding that **Lane underperformed in 11 of 12 comparisons**.

To explore whether and how students’ initial experience at Lane may be changing, we compared SENSE scores from 2012, 2015, and 2018. As seen in examples below, **these results have been quite stable**.

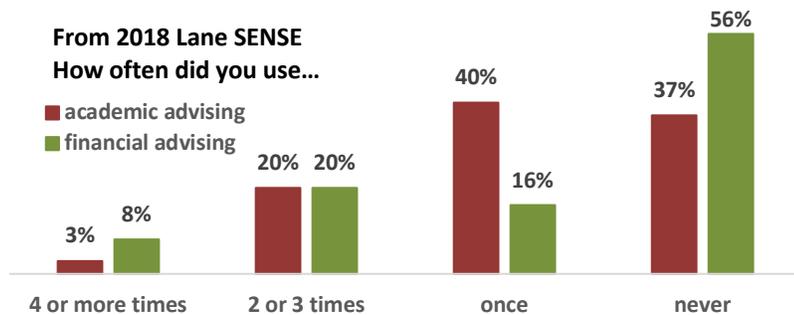
Think about your experiences from the time of your decision to attend this college through the end of the first three weeks of your first semester/quarter. Do you agree with each statement? <i>(strongly agree = 5, agree = 4, neutral = 3, disagree = 2, strongly disagree = 1)</i>	Mean Response		
	2012	2015	2018
1. The very first time I came to this college I felt welcome.	3.9	3.9	4.0
2. The instructors at this college want me to succeed.	4.3	4.3	4.2
3. <b>At least one college staff member (other than an instructor) learned my name.</b>	3.1	3.1	3.1
4. <b>An advisor helped me to set academic goals and create a plan for achieving them.</b>	3.1	3.1	3.1
5. The courses I needed to take during my first quarter were available at convenient times.	3.6	3.8	3.7

On the whole, **students’ first impressions of Lane have been relatively mediocre and unchanging**.

More nuanced information may be gained by drilling down in the data. Distributions of responses provide more insight than means. For example, although means for statements 3 and 4 are identical, 2018 responses to **“staff learned my name”** are distributed almost uniformly while those to **“advisor helped plan”** are clustered near *neutral*.



One positive finding was that the use of academic advising increased between 2012 (54% used once or more) and 2015 (64% used once or more). Still, large percentages of students reported in 2018 that they *never* used **academic advising** or that they *never* used **financial advising**. Respectively, 89% and 71% of students said they knew these services were available.



**Can we improve students’ early experiences at Lane and as a result help more of them persist and succeed?**

Explore more data from SENSE and other surveys at <https://www.lanec.edu/ir/surveys>.