

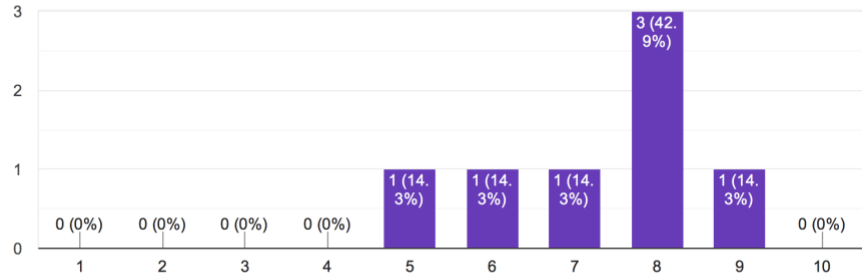
Follow-up Hands-on Survey

Our group did a survey focusing on social aspects of a student's first year of college at Northeastern. This included asking questions about how many extracurriculars they joined, how much they went out and how much

they got along with their roommate. One thing that we found is that no students had a horrible first year experience and that most had a great one. We also found that the majority of students

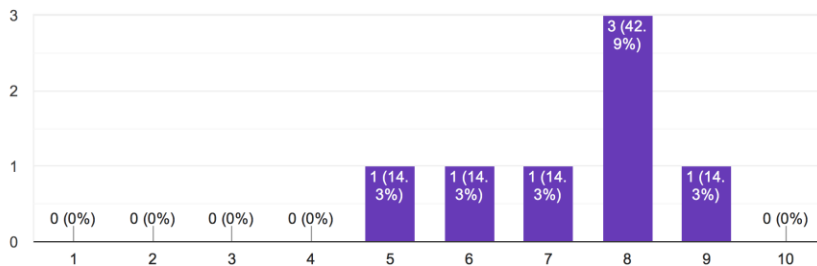
How would you rate your social experiences during your first year at Northeastern?

7 responses



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7 responses



were still friends with their first year roommates which may indicate how important your freshman roommate is to your social life that year. We were not able to include questions that tested our

hypothesis as it was a broad one that would have required many questions. Other interesting findings were that in the open-ended question some students provided interesting answers. It was also interesting to note that this was the only question that not everyone answered which shows

how respondents often find open-ended questions harder. I still believe that this was an important question to ask. In retrospect I think that the questions that we asked were good but that maybe we should have narrowed down our range of questions. Instead of focusing on all aspects of social life at Northeastern I think it would have been easier if we had only focused on one aspect such as the impact of a roommate or involvement in extracurriculars.

#### Questionnaire: First Year Experience NU

What year are you at Northeastern?

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th or 5+

Alumni

Gender?

What major are you at Northeastern?

How would you rate your social experiences during your first year at Northeastern?

Poor

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Excellent

How many roommates did you have during your first year at Northeastern?

0

1

2

3

4

Other:

Do you still consider yourself friends with your first year roommates?

Yes

No

Maybe

Not Applicable

How often did you go out during the week?

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

How many student organizations did you join during your first year at Northeastern?

0

1-3

4-6

6+

Were you employed during your first year at Northeastern?

Part-time

Full-time

No

Other:

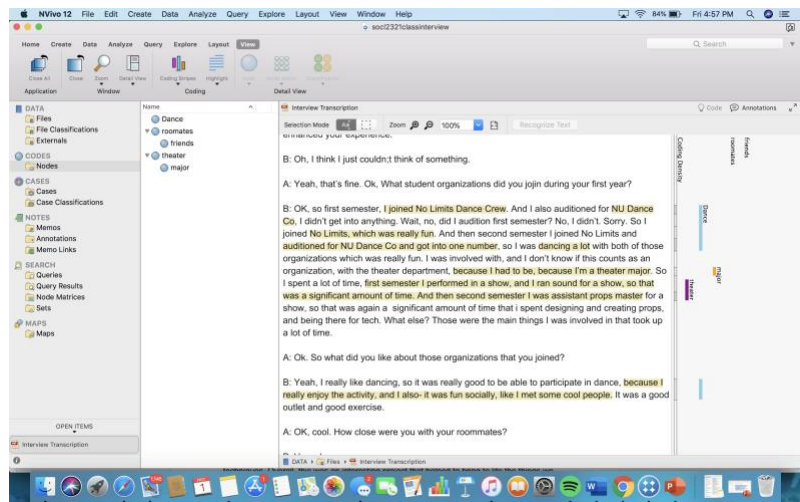
What changes (if any) would you make to your first year that you think would have enhanced your experience?

Would you be interested in a follow up interview?

(Please enter your email below)

## NVivo Project Reflection

For this group project I helped to write the survey and come up with interview questions and I interviewed Shira about her first year experience. To analyze the interview I used 'dance', 'roommates' and 'theater' as parent nodes. Under 'roommates' I created the sub node of 'friends'. I also created a sub node of 'major' under 'theater'. I created these sub nodes based on trends that I noticed. It was interesting to find that the word major was most used with regards to theater. It became more noticeable after doing NVivo that she did not use happy words to describe her work with the theater program. By noticing that she used the word major often when talking about theater it became even more evident that she felt



that this was an obligation rather than something she enjoyed. I also created the subnode of friends under roommates because of the relationship she had with her roommates. They were people that she became close to and it was evident that she truly valued their friendship and the support that they provided her during her first year at school.

This assignment was helpful in learning about in-depth interviewing. I learned that it is important to come into the interview with a goal in mind of what you are hoping to get out of the interview. You should make sure that your research question is addressed through the questions you ask. I also learned that it is important to be flexible. During the interview I found myself asking follow up questions and other questions based on what she told me and I think that these further questions were important for getting the most out of the interview. Since I conducted the interview, I did not transcribe the interview so I did not learn too much about

transcribing interviews. But based on what I heard from my group members, transcribing is often more time consuming than it might initially seem.

I enjoyed this project because it gave me the chance to use NVivo. This software is something that I had never used before and something that I had not even heard about. I learned a lot about making nodes and highlighting. I learned the importance of planning out what nodes you want to use to best answer your research question. From this basic knowledge I feel like now have the ability to explore NVivo more and learn even more techniques. Overall, this was an interesting project that helped to bring to life the things we are learning in class and from the book.

#### Interview Transcription

A: Interviewer

B: Respondent

#### **Begin Interview**

A: Ok so I noticed that you didn't answer one of the questions in the survey, so I'm going to ask it again. If you don't want to answer it, that's fine.

B: Yeah I don't remember what I did or didn't answer

A: OK, what changes if any would you make to your first year that you think would have enhanced your experience.

B: Oh, I think I just couldn't think of something.

A: Yeah, that's fine. Ok, What student organizations did you join during your first year?

B: OK, so first semester, I joined No Limits Dance Crew. And I also auditioned for NU Dance Co, I didn't get into anything. Wait, no, did I audition first semester? No, I didn't. Sorry. So I joined No Limits, which was really fun. And then second semester I joined No Limits and auditioned for NU Dance Co and got into one number, so I was dancing a lot with both of those organizations which was really fun. I was involved with, and I don't know if this counts as an organization, with the theater department, because I had to be, because I'm a theater major. So I spent a lot of time, first semester I performed in a show, and I ran sound for a show, so that was a significant amount of time. And then second semester I was assistant props master for a show, so that was again a significant amount of time that I spent designing and creating props,

and being there for tech. What else? Those were the main things I was involved in that took up a lot of time.

A: Ok. So what did you like about those organizations that you joined?

B: Yeah, I really like dancing, so it was really good to be able to participate in dance, because I really enjoy the activity, and I also- it was fun socially, like I met some cool people. It was a good outlet and good exercise.

A: OK, cool. How close were you with your roommates?

B: Very close.

A: So what was it like living with three other roommates?

B: It was honestly great. And I know not everybody has that experience, but we just happened to be really good friends, and we lived together again this year, like by choice, so it was just like living with my friends, which was fantastic.

A: What were the living accommodations like?

B: So I was in EV. So it was- I had one roommate, and then connected by a bathroom, and then two other people. And then- now I actually live with four other people, and it was like this one girl who lived directly next door to us who basically just hung out with us all the time. But, so, my roommate and I were really close, and then we would often hang out as a whole suite, including the people in the other room.

A: How did your major affect your social experiences?

B: Ooh, so theater majors, it definitely significantly affected my social experience because I'm required to spend so much time outside of classes doing work for the major. Because you're required to be working on shows, so it took away a lot of time from doing other things I might have wanted to do, and from my friends who I lived with who are not theater people, and forced me to spend a lot of time with some theater people.

A: So then I guess it was probably easy to make friends through your major, because you spent so much time with them?

B: Yeah, I feel like I actually kind of got along with my other friends who are not in theater better. Like, I just- I don't get along with everyone in the theater department. I get along with some of the people, and nothing against them, they just aren't the type of people where we would be close friends. But I was forced to be in that environment for a significant amount of time, so. I definitely know the people in my major well, because we had those experiences together.



A: I also heard that it's like a- is it a small major? So you kind of are forced to know everyone?

B: Yes. It's bigger than I thought, but I think that's also because of the co-op program. There are people who all of a sudden are like "I'm a theater major" and I'm like "I've never seen you before" I think it's just because we miss each other because of co-op. But compared to other majors its very small, and like the theater department everyone kind of knows each other.

A: Was it easy for you to adjust to college?

B: Umm. \*Pause\* That's a big question.

A: Yeah, sorry.

B: No, it's okay. Somewhat? I think I was ready for it, so that definitely made it- it was a challenge I was eager to take it on. But there were some of course difficulties and adjusting, like how do I be an adult, how do I live on my own, but I also have always been a very independent person so I was ready for it.

A: And did your roommates play a role in making that easier?

B: Definitely. Having a support system who lived with me was really helpful.

A: Okay, that's all I've got.

B: Cool.

**End Interview**