

# NSSE 2023 Key Findings

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Office of Institutional Research, Assessment,  
and Planning



# NSSE Background

Spring 2023 - UWL First Year and Senior students

- NSSE administered every 3 years
- Multiple recruitment methods & incentives
- Response rate better than comparable institutions



COHORT (N)	UWL RESPONSE RATE	NSSE RATE SCHOOLS 5-10K
FIRST YEAR (747)	30%	20%
SENIORS (578)	24%	19%



# 2023 Three Comparison Groups

## UW Comprehensives :

- all 10 UW system comprehensive campuses participated. (1,455 FY; 1,477 SR)

## IPEDS peers:

- 11 schools of similar size, program array Appalachian State, Rowan Univ. SUNY- Cortland, SUNY-Brockport, Univ. Mary Washington, UM-Duluth, UNC-Wilmington, Univ Northern Iowa, UW-Eau Claire, West Chester Univ., Winona State. (4,251 FY; 5,227 SR)

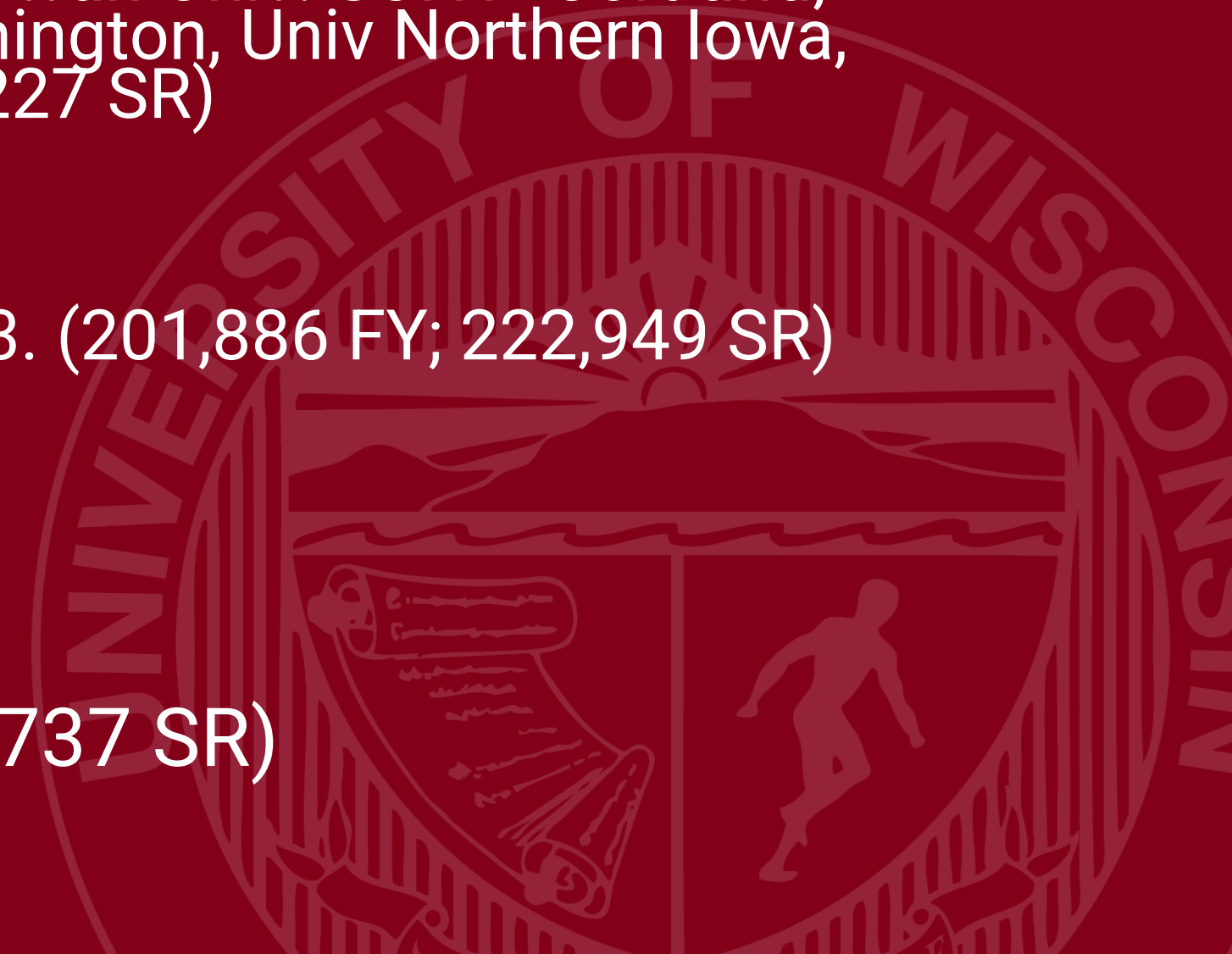
## NSSE 2022/2023 Cohort:

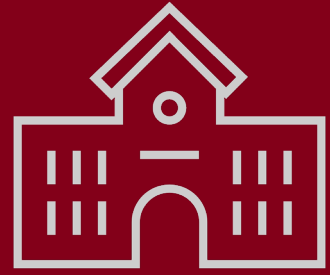
- all 796 schools who participated in NSSE in either 2022 or 2023. (201,886 FY; 222,949 SR)

## 2 Topical Module comparison groups:

*UW Consortium Items* = 10 UW Comprehensives

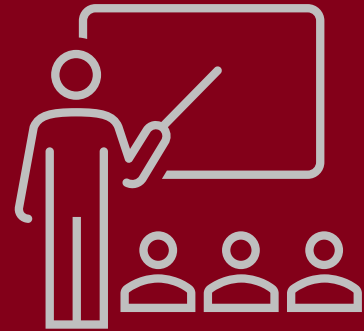
*Academic Advising Module* = 272 campuses (46,095 FY; 55,737 SR)





## Ratings of Campus Environment Split

- Seniors' ratings of campus experience, relationships on campus have decreased, First Year students improve.



## Obstacles to Academic Progress

- Same 3 concerns top list for First Year and Senior students as obstacles to progress.



## Faculty Interactions, Teaching, Advising

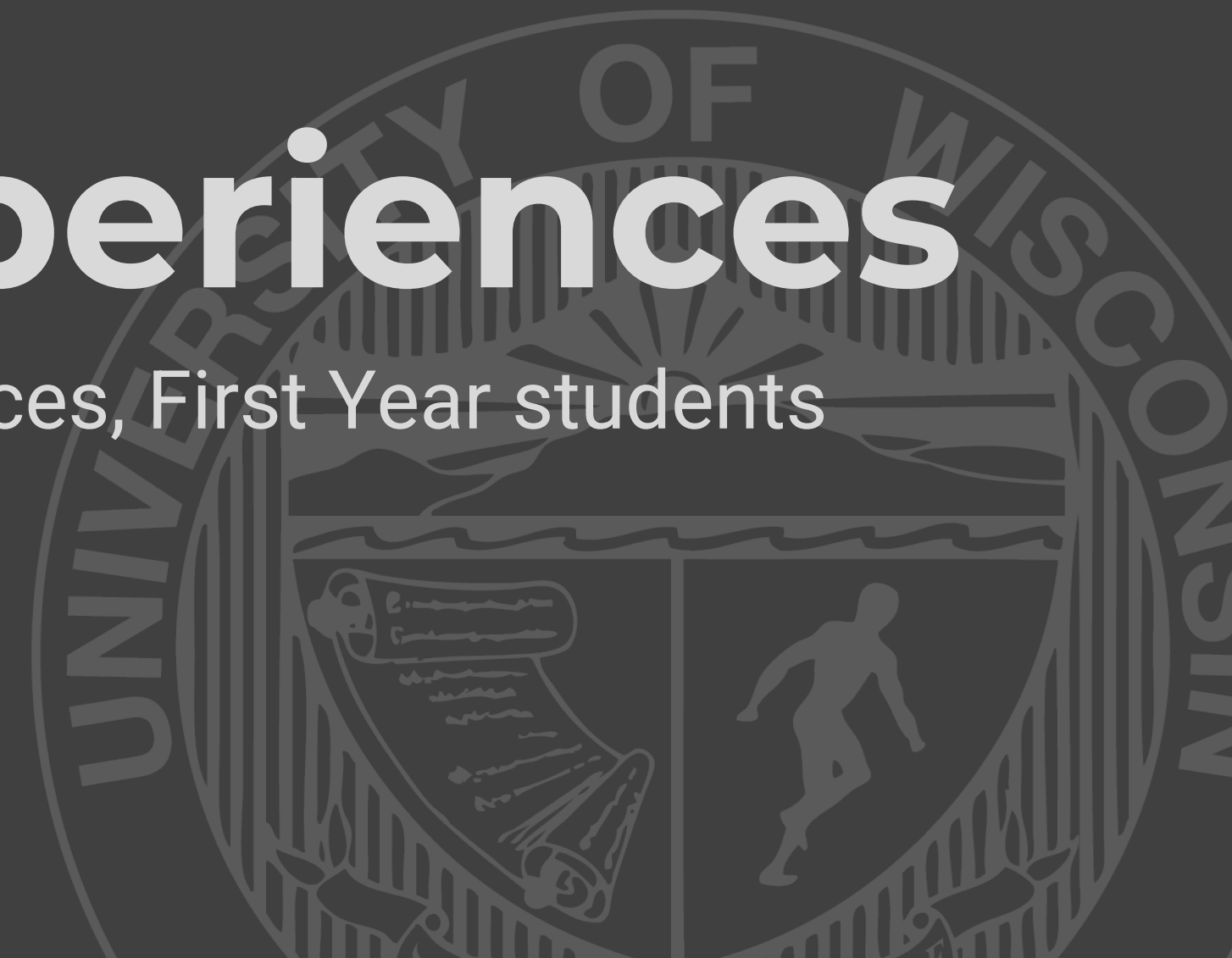
- Ratings relate lower interaction outside of class, signs of strong teaching, split issues on advising.



# Areas of Key Findings

# Shift in Campus Experiences

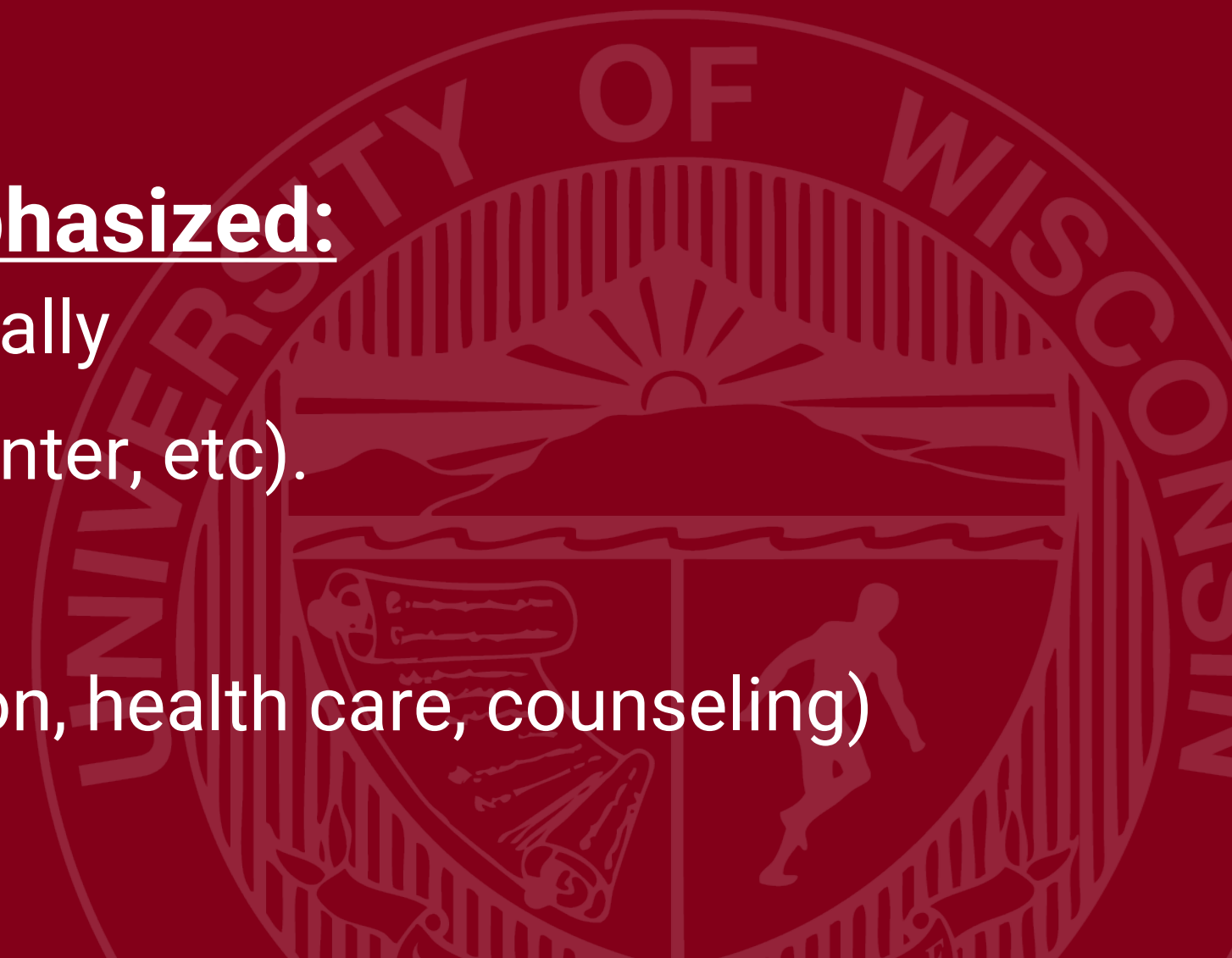
Lingering Impacts of COVID-19 on 2023 Seniors' Experiences, First Year students show improvement





## Senior Ratings of Campus Environment and Relationships Drop

- **Supportive Environment Indicator** scores dropped below 3 comparison groups for first time.
- **Key Items showed drop in ratings on how UWL emphasized:**
  - Providing support to help students succeed academically
  - Using Learning Support resources (tutoring, writing center, etc).
  - Proving opportunities to be involved socially
  - Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counseling)



# Senior Ratings of Campus Environment and Quality of interactions Drop in 2023



## Quality of Interactions Indicator ratings decreased from 2020

- Item scores for Faculty, Student Services, and Other staff fell in comparison to UW, IPEDS, and NSSE peers.

## Open ended comments highlighted concerns about:

- COVID-19 interruptions in connectedness with other students/faculty, mental health concerns & resources for them, advising, General Education requirements.

# NSSE 2023 Seniors' Ratings of Supportive Environment Items

Supportive Environment	UWL	Percentage point difference <sup>a</sup> between your seniors and		
		UW Comprehe nsives	IPEDS Peers	NSSE 2022 & 2023
<i>Percentage responding "Very much" or "Quite a bit" about how much the institution emphasized...</i>				
4b. Providing support to help students succeed academically	69	-2	+2	+2
4c. Using learning support services (tutoring services, writing center, etc.)	67	+2	+2	+3
4d. Encouraging contact among students from diff. backgrounds (soc., racial/eth.,)	38	-13	-13	-16
4e. Providing opportunities to be involved socially	64	-5	-2	+1
14f. Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counseling)	58	-4	-3	+0
4g. Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	25	-6	-6	-8
4h. Attending campus activities and events (performing arts, athletic events, etc.)	46	-12	-11	-8
14i. Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues	36	-6	-6	-4

Notes: Refer to your *Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons* report for full distributions and significance tests. Item numbering corresponds to the survey facsimile available on the NSSE website.

a. Percentage point difference = Institution percentage – Comparison group percentage. Because results are rounded to whole numbers, differences of less than 1 point may or may not



## Performance on Indicator Items

The table below displays how your students responded to each EI item, and the difference, in percentage points, between your students and those of your comparison group. Blue bars indicate how much higher your institution's percentage is from that of the comparison group. Dark red bars indicate how much lower your institution's percentage is from that of the comparison group.

Quality of Interactions	UWL	Percentage point difference <sup>a</sup> between your seniors and		
		Comprehe nsives	IPEDS Peers	NSSE 2022 & 2023
<i>Percentage rating their interactions a 6 or 7 (on a scale from 1="Poor" to 7="Excellent") with...</i>	%			
3a. Students	65	+10	+6	+6
3b. Academic advisors	43	-11	-8	-11
3c. Faculty	56	-5	-2	-1
3d. Student services staff (career services, student activities, housing, etc.)	43	-4	-1	-3
3e. Other administrative staff and offices (registrar, financial aid, etc.)	46	-3	+1	+0

## NSSE 2023 Seniors' Ratings of Quality of Interactions Items

# First Year Ratings of Campus Environment and Quality of interactions Increase



## Quality of Interactions Indicator ratings increased from 2020

- Item scores for Faculty steady, improved for Advisors, Student Services, and Other Staff.
- Indicator score was above all 3 comparison groups.

## Supportive Environment Indicator ratings improved from 2020

- Indicator score total score above all 3 comparison groups.
- Pattern shows positive swing on multiple individual items.

# Obstacles to Academic Progress

UW Consortium Items indicate First Year and Seniors struggle with similar issues



## First Year and Senior Students reported the same top 3

obstacles: (4 pt scale) 1 Not an obstacle to 4 Major Obstacle)

- Money/Finances
- Personal Health concerns (Mental/Physical)
- Lack of Personal Motivation

### Other notes:

- UWL Ratings mirror those of the UW System Ratings
- Work obligations rated more strongly by Seniors





# Obstacles to Academic Progress Items

(% indicating Major Obstacle)

## UWL First Year Students

Obstacle Type	UWL FY	UW Sys FY
Money/Finances	20%	24%
Lack of Personal Motivation	16%	24%
Personal Health Concerns (Physical/Mental)	12%	19%
Lack of Sufficient Financial Aid	10%	12%
Difficulty in Course Registration	9%	5%
Work Obligations	6%	9%
Poor Academic Performance	5%	8%
Family Obligations	4%	7%
Lack of Good Academic Advising	3%	5%

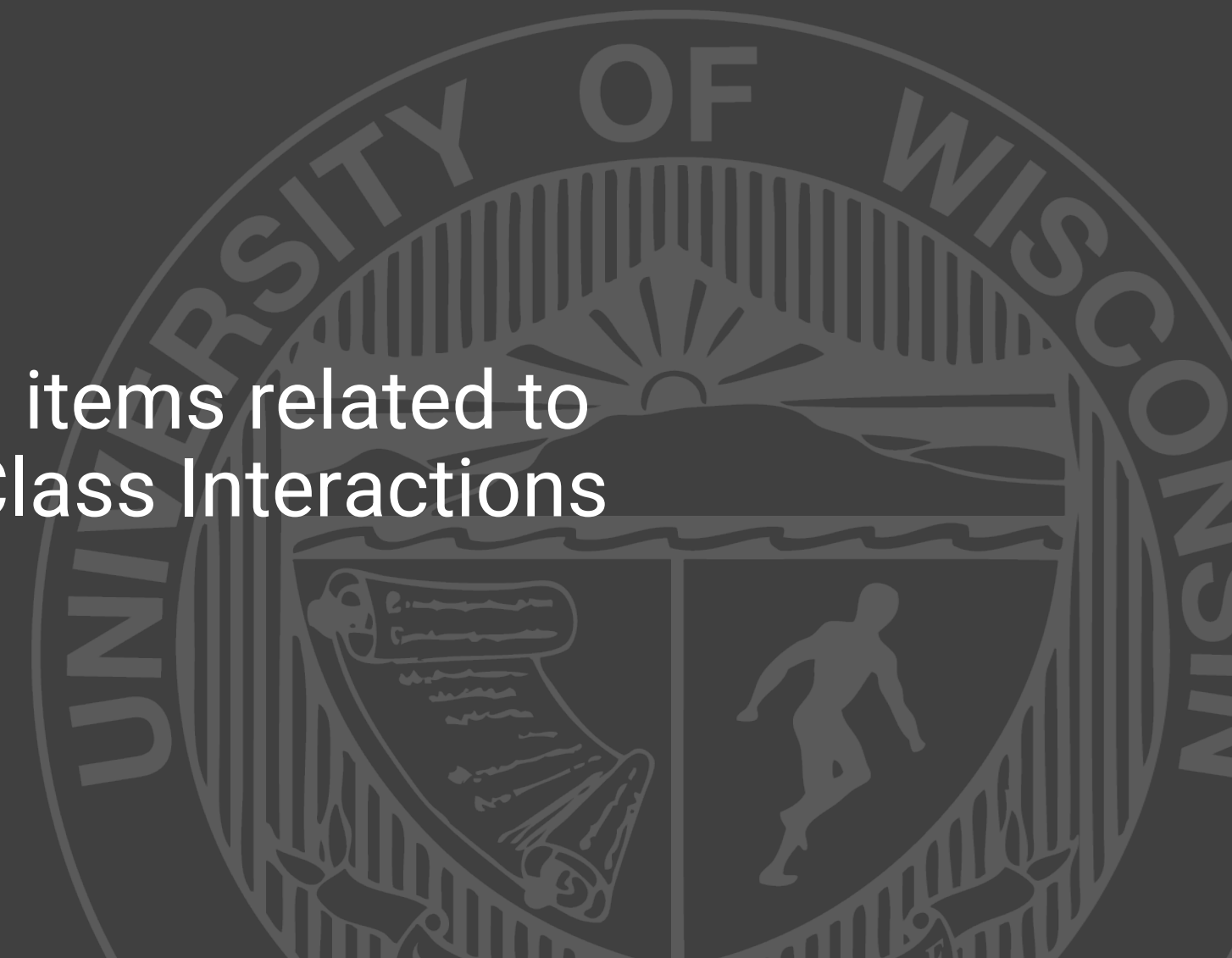
## UWL Senior Students

Obstacle Type	UWL SR	UW Sys SR
Money/Finances	22%	24%
Personal Health Concerns (Physical/Mental)	18%	18%
Lack of Personal Motivation	18%	18%
Work Obligations	15%	19%
Difficulty in Course Registration	10%	7%
Lack of Good Academic Advising	9%	9%
Lack of Sufficient Financial Aid	9%	11%
Family Obligations	6%	12%
Poor Academic Performance	4%	3%



# Changing Patterns in Faculty/Student Interactions

First Year and Senior Students showing mixed patterns on items related to Faculty/Student interactions: Teaching, Advising, Out of Class Interactions





## First Year Students

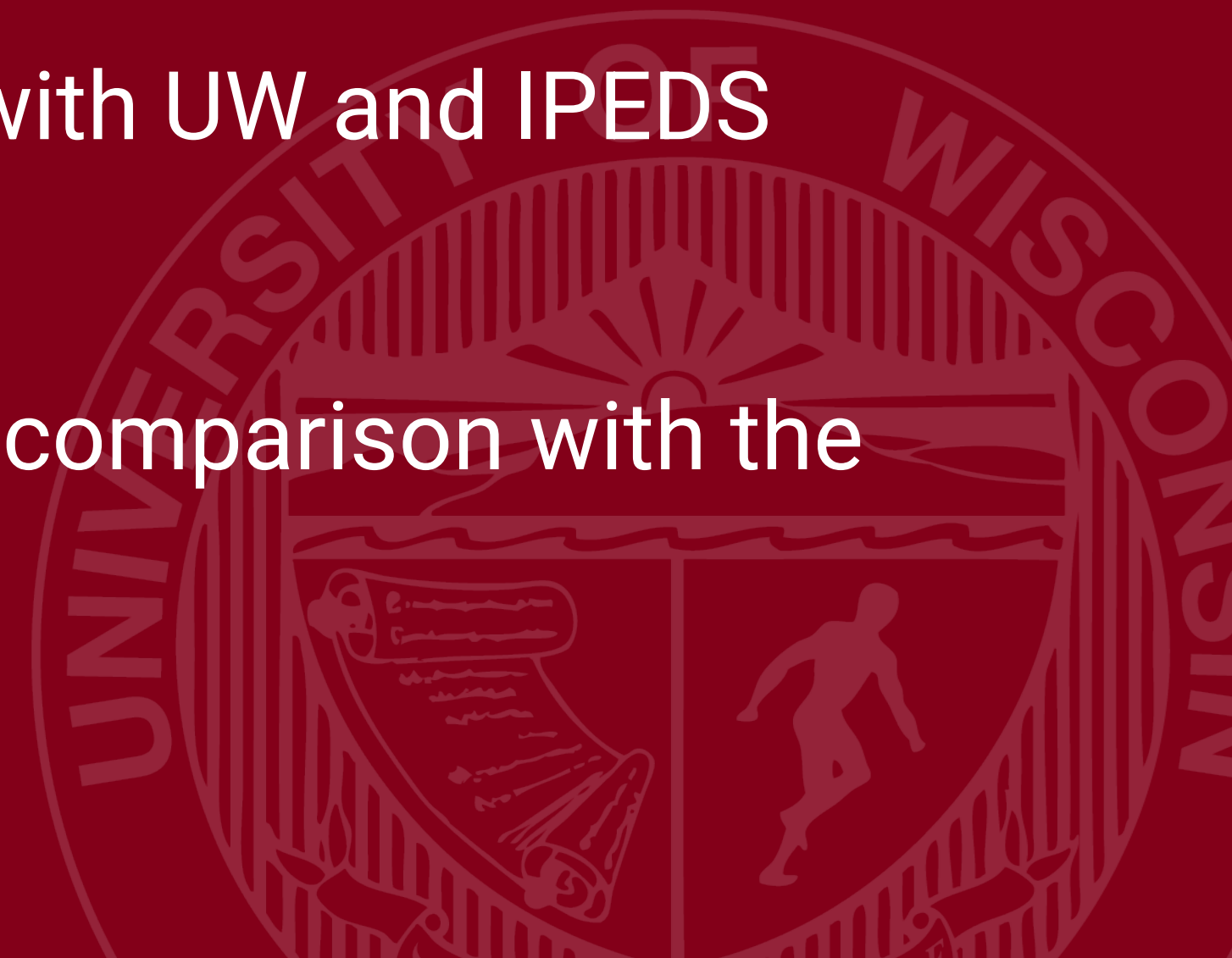
- **Faculty Student Interaction Indicator** remains below all 3 comparison groups
  - No mean difference in 2023 between FY students with FYS 100 exposure
  - Trends on UWL scores since 2014 are improving
- **Effective Teaching Practices Indicator** ratings above two comparison groups (IPEDS and NSSE overall)
- **First Year Advising Ratings** improved on several advising behaviors, above average on 6 of 10 items, below average on none.

## Senior Students

**Faculty Student Interaction Indicator** was on par with all 3 comparison groups. Item on discussing career plans with faculty endorsed by 45% of seniors.

**Effective Teaching Indicator:** UWL ratings on par with UW and IPEDS groups, above NSSE Overall group.

**Senior Student Advising Ratings** fell into negative comparison with the average on 6 items, above on 2 items.



# Advising Module Items (\* item flipped 2020 to 2023)

4 pt scale (1 Very Little to 4 Very Much)

How much have people or resources at UWL done the following?	First Year			Senior	
	UWL FY	Mod Avg		UWL SR	Mod Avg
<i>Been available when needed</i>	3	2.9		2.9	2.8
<i>Provided prompt/accurate information</i>	3*	2.9		2.7*	2.8
<i>Provided learning support resources info</i>	3*	2.9		2.6*	2.7
<i>Notified you of important dates/policies</i>	2.9*	2.8		2.7*	2.8
<i>Reached out about academic performance</i>	2.3	2.3		2	2.3
<i>Followed up about something they recommended</i>	2.5	2.4		2.1*	2.3
<i>Asked questions about your education background/needs</i>	2.3	2.3		2*	2.2
<i>Actively listened to your concerns</i>	2.9*	2.7		2.7	2.7
<i>Respected your identity and culture</i>	3.2	3.2		3.1	3.1
<i>Cared about your overall well-being</i>	3	2.9		2.9	2.8

## Summary

- Patterns show continuing impact of COVID disruption on the Senior scores and reflections on the UWL experience. First year student scores show positive signs of support.
- Obstacles related to Personal Health, Finances, and Motivation exist as targets for intervention. Give support to current efforts on mental health.
- Investments in advising continue to show return for First Year students. Continued focus on advising would be helpful across student matriculation.

