

# **A Census Study of Student Anxieties Related to the Quarter to Semester Conversion in the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership**

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To support the University System of Ohio Board of Regents' Strategic Plan for Higher Education, The Ohio State University is converting to a semester-based academic calendar. Given that over 50,000 undergraduate students on five campuses will convert academic courses, students have become anxious about completing degrees. In order to determine how to best help students in the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership (ACEL) in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences succeed through the transition, it was important to understand these anxieties from the student perspective. The purpose of the study was to describe student anxieties related to the quarter-to-semester conversion and design and implement a student orientation session to provide students comfort about their successful transition from the quarter system to the semester system. The objectives were to: describe student anxieties toward the quarter-to-semester conversion, design and implement an orientation session, and answer student questions in order to provide students a comfort level toward the quarter-to-semester conversion. A census study of undergraduates in three majors and two major options in ACEL was conducted. A panel of experts established content validity of the instrument, and three undergraduate animal science majors established face validity of the instrument. A priori, the researcher established a 10% confidence band as acceptable for reliability based on a test re-test survey with a one-month interval. 28 ACEL students completed the survey. The survey results indicated that students were most anxious about graduating on time, the new degree requirements on the semester system, and how academic credits would be converted from the quarter to semester system. Faculty advisors addressed these concerns during an orientation session for ACEL students, Q2S and U, to provide students a level of comfort about the quarter to semester conversion.