A Summary of Student Engagement Results

Student engagement represents two critical features of collegiate quality. The first is the amount of time and effort students put into their studies and other educationally purposeful activities. The second is how institutional resources, courses, and other learning opportunities facilitate student participation in activities that matter to student learning. NSSE surveys first-year and senior students to assess their levels of engagement and related information about their experience at your institution.

This Snapshot is a concise collection of key findings from your institution’s NSSE 2014 administration. We hope this information stimulates discussions about the undergraduate experience. Additional details about these and other results appear in the reports referenced throughout.

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Key:

△ Your students’ average was significantly higher (p < .05) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

▽ Your students’ average was significantly lower (p < .05) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.

Your students’ average was significantly lower (p < .05) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

No significant difference.

High-Impact Practices

Due to their positive associations with student learning and retention, special undergraduate opportunities are designated "high-impact." For more details and statistical comparisons, see your High-Impact Practices report.

First-year
Learning Community, Service-Learning, and Research w/Faculty

Senior
Learning Community, Service-Learning, Research w/Faculty, Internship, Study Abroad, and Culminating Senior Experience

Comparison Group
The comparison group featured in this report is Peers. See your Selected Comparison Groups report for details.
Academic Challenge: Additional Results

The Academic Challenge theme contains four Engagement Indicators as well as several important individual items. The results presented here provide an overview of these individual items. For more information about the Academic Challenge theme, see your Engagement Indicators report. To further explore individual item results, see your Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons, the Major Field Report, the Online Institutional Report, or the Report Builder—Institution Version.

Time Spent Preparing for Class
This figure reports the average weekly class preparation time for your first-year and senior students compared to students in your comparison group.

Reading and Writing
These figures summarize the number of hours your students spent reading for their courses and the average number of pages of assigned writing compared to students in your comparison group. Each is an estimate calculated from two or more separate survey questions.

Challenging Students to Do Their Best Work
To what extent did students’ courses challenge them to do their best work? Response options ranged from 1 = "Not at all" to 7 = "Very much."

Academic Emphasis
How much did students say their institution emphasizes spending significant time studying and on academic work? Response options included "Very much," "Quite a bit," "Some," and "Very little."
Item Comparisons

By examining individual NSSE questions, you can better understand what contributes to your institution's performance on Engagement Indicators and High-Impact Practices. This section displays the five questions on which your first-year and senior students scored the highest and the five questions on which they scored the lowest, relative to students in your comparison group. Parenthetical notes indicate whether an item belongs to a specific Engagement Indicator or is a High-Impact Practice. While these questions represent the largest differences (in percentage points), they may not be the most important to your institutional mission or current program or policy goals. For additional results, refer to your Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons report.

First-year

Highest Performing Relative to Peers

- Participated in a learning community or some other formal program where... (HIP)
- Spent more than 15 hours per week preparing for class
- Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information (QR)
- Institution emphasis on encouraging contact among students from different backgrounds (SE)
- Worked with a faculty member on activities other than coursework (SF)

Lowest Performing Relative to Peers

- Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept (RI)
- Assigned more than 50 pages of writing (RI)
- Quality of interactions with faculty (QI)
- Included diverse perspectives (RI)
- Institution emphasis on attending campus activities and events (SE)

Senior

Highest Performing Relative to Peers

- Participated in a learning community or some other formal program where... (HIP)
- Instructors provided feedback on a draft or work in progress (ET)
- Instructors taught course sessions in an organized way (ET)
- Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (QR)
- Reviewed your notes after class (LS)

Lowest Performing Relative to Peers

- Participated in a study abroad program (HIP)
- Quality of interactions with faculty (QI)
- Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept (RI)
- Included diverse perspectives (RI)
- Quality of interactions with other administrative staff and offices (QI)

Percentage Point Difference with Peers

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Included diverse perspectives (…) in course discussions or assignments (RI)
Quality of interactions with other administrative staff and offices (…)(QI)

Percentage Point Difference with Peers
-30 -20 -10 0 10 20 30
Item #
11c. 15a. 6a. 14d. 3b.
-13 -15 -15 -16 -17
2f. 7. 13c. 2c. 14h.
-17 -15 -16 -17 -17
11d. 13c. 2f. 2c. 13e.
-9 -9 -11 -11 -12

a. The displays on this page draw from the items that make up the ten Engagement Indicators (EIs), six High-Impact Practices (HIPs), and the additional academic challenge items reported on page 2. Key to abbreviations for EI items: HO = Higher-Order Learning, RI = Reflective & Integrative Learning, LS = Learning Strategies, QR = Quantitative Reasoning, CL = Collaborative Learning, DD = Discussions with Diverse Others, SF = Student-Faculty Interaction, ET = Effective Teaching Practices, QI = Quality of Interactions, SE = Supportive Environment. HIP items are also indicated. Item numbering corresponds to the survey facsimile included in your Institutional Report and available on the NSSE Web site.
b. Combination of students responding "Very often" or "Often."
c. Combination of students responding "Very much" or "Quite a bit."
d. Rated at least 6 on a 7-point scale.
e. Percentage reporting at least "Some."
f. Estimate based on the reported amount of course preparation time spent on assigned reading.
g. Estimate based on number of assigned writing tasks of various lengths.