

As part of an ongoing public awareness campaign to refocus the national conversation about what constitutes quality in the college experience, NSSE developed *A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College*. The pocket guide is a helpful brochure that provides prospective students and their families with key questions to ask during a campus visit, allowing them to explore and more actively consider student engagement during the college choice process.

Student responses to selected questions from the pocket guide are presented in *The Student Experience in Brief*, provided in your NSSE *Institutional Report 2010*.

Who Can Use *The Student Experience in Brief*?

The Student Experience in Brief provides a snapshot of the level of student engagement on the campus. The pocket guide brochure and report were designed primarily to aid prospective students and their families during the college search process, but institutions may also find the report a valuable resource for a variety of on- and off-campus constituencies.

The Student Experience in Brief may be of special interest to admission professionals, particularly those providing the pocket guide brochure to visiting students. The results can also be used as a resource for orientation staff, advisors, faculty, and other staff or those who work regularly with first-year students.

How Can an Institution Customize and Distribute Results?

The Student Experience in Brief is designed in an attractive layout for sharing NSSE results. The report is delivered in both PDF and Word formats so that institutions can easily insert logos, campus photos, or additional information. Institutions are also encouraged to post copies of *The Student Experience in Brief* and results from their NSSE *Institutional Report 2010* in relevant areas of the campus Web site.

How Can I Get a Copy of My Institution's *The Student Experience in Brief*?

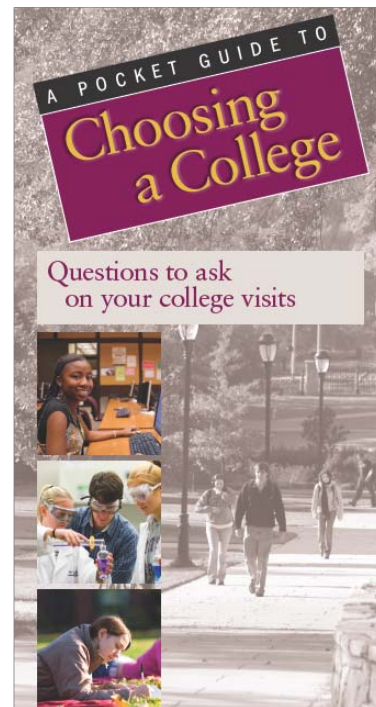
Each institution participating in NSSE designates a Campus Project Manager. This institution-based staff member serves as the primary liaison to NSSE throughout the survey administration process and is the primary recipient of NSSE correspondence and reports on your campus. Contact NSSE if you need to identify your Campus Project Manager.

How Can I Get Copies of the *Pocket Guide*?

College and university admissions offices may request up to 300 free pocket guides per year. Additional quantities are available for a small fee. More details and a PDF version of the guide are available on the NSSE Web site.

nsse.iub.edu/html/pocket_guide.cfm

If you have any questions about either resource, please feel free to contact Kathy Anderson, NSSE Institute Project Manager, at kanderso@indiana.edu, or toll-free at 866-435-6773.



**The Student Experience in Brief:
NSSEville State**



Each year the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) asks students at hundreds of colleges and universities to reflect on the time they devote to various learning activities. The topics explored are linked by previous research on student success in college.

Results from NSSE can provide prospective students with insights into how they might learn and develop at a given college. To help in the college exploration process, NSSE developed *A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College* to provide students and parents key questions to ask during campus visits.

The following responses were provided by 348 randomly selected NSSEville State students on the 2010 NSSE survey.

Active Learning

How often are topics from class discussed outside of the classroom?
59% of 1Y students frequently discuss readings or ideas from coursework outside of class.

Do students work together on projects—inside and outside of class?
44% of 1Y students frequently work with other students on projects in class. 45% work with peers on assignments outside of class.

How often do students make class presentations?
13% of 1Y students report that they make frequent presentations in class.

How many students participate in community-based projects in regular courses?
13% of 1Y students frequently participate in service-learning, community-based projects during a given year. 65% never took part in such activities.

How many students apply their classroom learning to real life through internships or off-campus field experiences?
By their senior year, 51% of students have participated in some form of practicum, internship, field experience, co-op or clinical assignment.

Do students have opportunities to tutor or teach other students?
21% of seniors frequently assist their fellow students by tutoring or teaching them.

Academic Challenge

To what degree is studying and spending time on academic work emphasized?
84% of 1Y students feel that this institution places substantial emphasis on academics.

Do faculty hold students to high standards?
83% of 1Y students frequently work harder than they thought they could to meet faculty expectations.

How much time do students spend on homework each week?
34% of 1Y students spend more than 16 hours per week preparing for class. 13% spend 5 hours or less.

What types of thinking do assignments require?
First-year students report substantial emphasis on the following activities:
Memorizing facts, ideas, or methods: 76%
Analyzing basic elements of an idea or theory: 81%
Synthesizing and organizing ideas: 82%
Making judgments about value of information: 88%
Applying theories or concepts: 78%

How much writing is expected?
3% of 1Y students write more than 10 papers between 5 and 19 pages and 12% have written a paper more than 20 pages in length.

How much reading is expected during the school year?
26% of 1Y students read more than 10 assigned books and packets of course readings. 29% read fewer than 5.

Do exams require students to do their best work?
51% of 1Y students report that their exams strongly challenge them to do their best work.

Student-Faculty Interaction

Are faculty members accessible and supportive?
40% of 1Y students say their faculty are available, helpful and sympathetic.

How many students work on research projects with faculty?
By their senior year, 18% of students have done research with a faculty member.

Do students receive prompt feedback on academic performance?
57% of 1Y students indicate that they frequently get prompt verbal or written feedback from faculty members.

Note: 1Y = First-Year Student SR = Senior Student