

**National Survey of
Student Engagement**
The College Student Report

• Invitation to
• Participate

*Supported by
grants from
Lumina Foundation
for Education and
the Center of
Inquiry in the
Liberal Arts at
Wabash College*

*Cosponsored by
The Carnegie
Foundation for the
Advancement of
Teaching and the
Pew Forum on
Undergraduate
Learning*



Your Invitation to Participate in NSSE 2004



NSSE should be a key instrument for every college and university that wants to improve its undergraduate education. The NSSE indicators are sound surrogates for learning and signposts of good practice.”

*—Thomas Ehrlich, Senior Scholar,
The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*

A photograph of a diverse group of five young adults, likely students, sitting on a ledge outdoors. They are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a building with large windows.

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e invite you to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) next spring. Now in its fifth year, the NSSE (pronounced “nessie”) survey has been used by more than 725 different colleges and universities. The results of the survey yield useful information about the quality of undergraduate learning on your campus and contribute to national benchmarks of effective educational practice.

The NSSE survey instrument, *The College Student Report*, is short, reliable, and easy for students to complete. The survey asks undergraduates about how they spend their time, what they feel they’ve gained from classes, their assessment of the quality of their interactions with faculty and friends, and other important activities.

What is NSSE?



NSSE adds value to several different facets of our educational mission, providing invaluable data on students' experiences and helping us evaluate the extent to which we are successfully broadening and diversifying the learning environment."

—Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

NSSE is:

- An alternative view of collegiate quality that focuses on teaching and learning.
- A versatile, research-based tool that provides usable information for institutional improvement.
- Reliable, credible information about the quality of the undergraduate experience that can be used by accreditors, prospective students, and others.
- An annual assessment of how institutions are performing on effective teaching and learning activities.

National Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice

NSSE results fall into five key clusters of activities that research studies show are linked to desired outcomes of college.

Level of Academic Challenge

Active and Collaborative Learning

Student-Faculty Interaction

Enriching Educational Experiences

Supportive Campus Environment



NSSE Survey Administration



We're in the business of constantly improving student learning. We use NSSE to structure conversations about priorities for teaching, learning, and assessing, and we are working on new ways to help prospective students and others in the college's community understand the complex factors that contribute to the college experience."

—Sister Joel Read, President, Alverno College

The survey is administered each spring to a random sample of first-year and senior students at four-year colleges and universities. Two-year colleges may use the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (www.ccsse.org).

- The survey questions can be answered via a paper questionnaire or on the Web.
- Random sampling ensures that the results are comparable, meaningful, and credible.
- Institutions provide a student data file and customized invitation letters to NSSE. All other aspects of survey administration are handled by NSSE (drawing random samples, mailing surveys, follow-up with nonrespondents, data collection, and analysis).
- Sample sizes are determined by the number of undergraduates and the survey administration mode.
- Oversampling and local administration options are available to increase the number of respondents and to reduce sampling error.



Getting Your Results



NSSE clearly identified our strengths but more importantly showed us some areas where we could improve the educational experience for our students. We have incorporated NSSE into our strategic plan and will use it as part of our comprehensive institutional assessment to strengthen our academic program...”

—Nancy Hensel, President, University of Maine at Presque Isle



NSSE schools receive a detailed analysis that includes:

■ Institutional report

Individual student responses that can be linked to other institutional data, customized reports of institutional averages and percentages of how first-year students and seniors respond to all survey items, statistical comparisons against a peer group and the national norms, and examples of how colleges and universities are using student engagement data.

■ Annual report

Summary narrative discussing the benchmarks of effective practice.

■ Benchmark report

A comparison of your institution with the national benchmarks.

■ Institutional engagement index

A comparison of actual benchmark results to predicted benchmark results produced by regression models.

■ PowerPoint presentation

A customizable presentation template to use in reporting NSSE results.

■ Information video

A short video that outlines the importance of student engagement, provides information on how the survey is administered, and includes examples of putting NSSE data to use.

Using NSSE Data

NSSE provides campuses with information that they can use almost immediately to improve various aspects of their performance and help students get the most out of their college experience. Schools use their NSSE results in many ways, including:

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|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| ■ Assessment and improvement | ■ Accreditation | ■ Recruitment and promotion |
| ■ Benchmarking | ■ Retention | ■ Self-studies |
| ■ Accountability | ■ Curricular reform | ■ State system comparisons |
| ■ Institutional research | ■ Alumni outreach | ■ Faculty development |
| | ■ Grant writing | |

A number of state and university systems participate in NSSE to help gauge performance in areas such as institutional effectiveness, general education, and student satisfaction.

Costs

REQUIRED

Institutional Participation Fee \$300 (*non-refundable*)

Survey Administration Mode

- **Paper.** Students receive a paper invitation to participate, a hard copy of the survey, and the option of completing a Web version of the survey.
- **Web-only.** Students receive all correspondence by e-mail and complete the Web version of the survey. This mode requires accurate student e-mail addresses.

Sampling Fee

<i>Undergraduate Enrollment</i>	<i>Sample Size Paper / Web-only</i>	<i>Fee</i>
<i>Less than 4,000</i>	<i>450 / 1,350</i>	<i>\$.3,150</i>
<i>4,000 to 15,000</i>	<i>700 / 2,100</i>	<i>\$.4,900</i>
<i>More than 15,000</i>	<i>1,000 / 3,000</i>	<i>\$.7,000</i>

Small School Sampling Fee

The fee structure below is for small schools that have less than 450 students in their combined first-year and senior classes. The fee applies for either Web-only or paper administration and is based on combined first-year and senior enrollment.

<i>Combined First-year and Senior Enrollment</i>	<i>Fee</i>
<i>Less than 200</i>	<i>\$.1,400</i>
<i>201 to 300</i>	<i>\$.2,100</i>
<i>301 to 400</i>	<i>\$.2,800</i>
<i>401 to 450</i>	<i>\$.3,150</i>

OPTIONAL

Oversampling Fee (*Highly recommended if your institution is interested in school or department level analysis.*)

<i>Survey Administration Mode</i>	<i>Fee (per student)</i>
Paper (NSSE administrators)	\$.7.00
Web-only (NSSE administrators)	\$.1.50
Local (Institution administrators)	\$.1.50

Consortium and State or University Systems

A consortium is a group of eight or more participating NSSE colleges or universities that intends to share comparative, aggregated data within their group. State or university systems can also elect this option. Consortium and system schools may ask up to 20 additional questions developed and agreed upon by member institutions.

<i>Undergraduate Enrollment</i>	<i>Fee (per institution)</i>
<i>Less than 4,000</i>	<i>\$.150</i>
<i>4,000 to 15,000</i>	<i>\$.300</i>
<i>More than 15,000</i>	<i>\$.450</i>

Registration

- Register online for NSSE 2004 at www.iub.edu/~nsse.
- Register early as space is limited. The deadline for registration is **September 22, 2003**.
- To register, you need to:
 - Provide information about your institutional contact (name, address, e-mail, phone, fax).
 - Select your mode of survey administration and corresponding sample size.
 - Indicate if you want to participate in oversampling or a consortium or state system.
 - Electronically sign the NSSE 2004 Institutional Participant Agreement.

Institutional Participant Agreement

By registering and participating in NSSE 2004, your institution agrees to the following:

- NSSE staff will use the data in the aggregate for national and sector reporting purposes and other undergraduate improvement initiatives. NSSE may also make data in which individual institutions cannot be separately identified available to researchers interested in studying the undergraduate experience.
- Your institution can use your own NSSE data for institutional purposes.
- NSSE results specific to each institution and identified as such will not be made public by NSSE except by mutual agreement between the NSSE and the institution.

Additional NSSE Services

In addition to its undergraduate survey, NSSE and its Institute for Effective Educational Practices offer a number of additional services to assist schools in maximizing their results.

These include:

- Peer comparisons and special analyses
- Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE)
- NSSE technical and norms report
- Workshops and retreats
- NSSE informational videos and college pocket guides
- Consultations

Please visit our Web site or contact NSSE for more information on these additional services and other NSSE quality-improvement initiatives.



Want more information?

Contact us at www.iub.edu/~nsse

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