2015 Invitation to Participate

NSSE
national survey of student engagement

“NSSE not only provides participating institutions a valid and reliable sense of how their students are learning through engagement with the institution but also how this compares to other institutions. That’s powerful information for a student-centered institution.”

— David A. Longanecker, President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Register by September 25, 2014 at nsse.iub.edu
The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was created to accomplish two core objectives:

1. Refocus the national discourse about college quality on teaching and learning; and
2. Provide colleges and universities with diagnostic, actionable information that can inform efforts to improve the quality of undergraduate education.

In an educational context that supports and promotes student success, NSSE achieves these objectives by documenting the extent to which first-year and senior students engage in educational practices that research has found to be related to learning and development.

Since its first national administration in 2000, more than 1,500 bachelor’s-granting institutions—from research universities to baccalaureate colleges—have adopted NSSE as an important component of their assessment programs. NSSE results inform accreditation self-studies, benchmarking efforts, faculty development programs, strategic plans, improvement initiatives, recruitment materials, and more.

How Is the Updated NSSE Different?

NSSE exemplifies continuous improvement in its own products and processes, and nothing is more important than the clarity and currency of the survey itself. Making its debut in 2013—after more than three years of collaborative analysis, evidence-based item refinement, pilot testing, and student interviews—the updated NSSE incorporates content enhancements as well as new items and customization options that sustain the survey’s relevance and value to participating institutions.

New and updated survey content includes the following:

- Learning strategies
- Collaborative learning
- Quantitative reasoning
- High-impact practices
- Experiences with faculty and teaching practices
- Modified terminology to better suit online education

Customization options include topical modules—sets of specialized questions that can be appended to the core survey. Module topics include academic advising, writing experiences, civic engagement, experiences with diversity, global perspectives, development of transferable skills, experiences with information literacy, and learning with technology.

View the updated survey online
nsse.iub.edu/links/surveys

Two-year colleges may use the Community College Survey of Student Engagement
www.ccsse.org
What Does a Participating Institution Receive?

Institutions receive detailed analyses and information tools including:

**Customized Institutional Report**—A collection of reports describing your students’ experiences, broken out by class year with statistical comparisons to three customizable comparison groups; highlights include:

- **NSSE Snapshot**—A concise 4-page summary with visual displays of key results.
- **Engagement Indicators**—Diagnostic, actionable information on important aspects of the undergraduate experience, alongside information on comparison institutions.
- **High-Impact Practices**—Your students’ participation in enriching experiences relative to that of students at comparison institutions.

**Online Institutional Report**—A secure Web-based version of your Institutional Report that you can easily share with others at your institution.

**Customized Major Field Report**—Especially useful for institutions with multiple schools or colleges, providing within- and between-institution comparisons of the experiences of students in customizable groups of related majors.

**Student Data File**—Includes student identifiers, survey responses, and composite measures to facilitate your own analyses and linkage with other student data.

For examples of these materials and other information visit [nsse.iub.edu](http://nsse.iub.edu)

What Other Resources Are Provided?

**Institution Interface**—A secure online environment for all aspects of your NSSE administration.

**Report Builder–Institution Version**—An interactive online tool for generating customized reports about your students and those at other institutions.

**Annual Results**—Key findings from the latest NSSE administration with examples of how institutions make effective use of NSSE data.

**Accreditation Toolkits**—NSSE survey items mapped to accreditation standards, and ways to incorporate NSSE data into regional and specialized accreditation efforts.

**User Tools**—Resources to support effective sharing and use of your results such as a facilitation guide, Psychometric Portfolio, tips for using NSSE results in the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA), and more.

**Educational Opportunities**—Free Webinars to stimulate discussion about using NSSE data; fee-based consultations and workshops also available.
How Is NSSE Administered?

NSSE handles all aspects of survey administration, including invitations, reminder messages, delivery of the online survey, and compilation of data. This ensures comparability across institutions.

Survey administration begins as early as February (subject to an institution’s calendar) and closes June 1st. While NSSE has discontinued the paper survey option, institutions may elect to contact students by regular mail instead of email (with a reduced sample size).

Participating Institutions . . .

- Provide a student data file containing contact information for all first-year and senior students;
- Develop promotional campaigns to encourage survey participation;
- Customize invitation materials, including institutional signatories that students will recognize; and
- Work with NSSE to ensure compliance with protocols for research with human subjects.

NSSE . . .

- Assigns a Project Services team to guide institutions through the survey administration process;
- Provides a secure Web-based interface for institutions to upload materials, customize invitations, schedule recruitment messages, monitor survey administration, and download reports and data;
- Sends survey invitations to all sampled students and reminder messages to nonrespondents; and
- Delivers customized reports, data files, and additional resources for institutional improvement efforts.

Recruitment Method

Institutions choose whether NSSE will recruit survey participants by email or regular mail. Email contact allows for a census of eligible students. Both methods provide student-specific login information to access the online survey.

- **Email**—All eligible students receive recruitment messages by email.
- **Regular Mail**—A random sample of students receive two recruitment letters containing login information to access the online survey. Nonrespondents receive a reminder postcard and up to two email reminders.

The email recruitment method allows for a census of all eligible first-year and senior students by default, but institutions may request a random sample.
What Customization Options Are Available?

NSSE provides several opportunities for survey and report customization. Institutions may add up to two short topical modules or they may participate in a consortium that includes additional questions; consortium participants may select one topical module. Multi-campus systems may register as a system to coordinate their activities and receive a multi-campus report.

- **Topical Modules**—Short question sets may be appended to the core survey on topics such as academic advising, writing experiences, civic engagement, experiences with diversity, global perspectives, development of transferable skills, experiences with information literacy, and learning with technology.

- **Consortia**—Six or more institutions may form a consortium based on common interests, similar missions, or the needs of a multi-campus system. A consortium may append, with NSSE review, up to 20 survey items.

- **Multi-Campus Systems**—Systems receive side-by-side institutional results and member-institution data (data-sharing agreements are required for each institution). There is no fee for these services unless a system appends questions as a consortium.

- **Customized Comparison Groups**—Reports display each institution’s results alongside those for three customizable comparison groups selected from institutions that participated in NSSE in the current and most recent years.

- **Customized Major Groups**—Institutions may customize up to ten groupings of related majors for the Major Field Report.

NSSE staff members are available to work with consortium and system coordinators to provide Webinars and workshops to facilitate data use among member institutions.

See more information at nsse.iub.edu/html/administering.cfm
What Does It Cost?

Registration Fee
$300 (nonrefundable; waived for BCSSE 2014 participants)

Administration Fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate Enrollment</th>
<th>Sample Size by Recruitment Method</th>
<th>Administration Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Regular Mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 4,000&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000 to 7,999</td>
<td>(up to 25,000) first-year and senior students</td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>8,000 to 12,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 12,000</td>
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<td>2,000</td>
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* Fee<sup>a</sup> includes NSSE and FSSE fees.

- Institutions choosing the email recruitment method may request a random sample.
- Consortium fees range from $200 to $500 per institution, depending on undergraduate enrollment.
- Institutions may select one topical module at no charge. Those not participating in a consortium may select a second module for $150.
- More detailed information on pricing can be found on our Web site.

NSSE and FSSE fees will increase beginning with the 2016 administration. See nsse.iub.edu/html/2016fees.cfm for additional information.

How and when to register for NSSE 2015

Go to nsse.iub.edu
or call 866-435-6773 toll free

Register by September 25, 2014

“The new questions in NSSE seem to engage the campus much more. We’ve had a number of conversations on campus about what the data mean—more than we’ve ever had before. NSSE has resulted in great conversations that can only help us improve.”

— Nancy Grear, Director, Institutional Research & Assessment, Nazareth College
What Are NSSE’s Companion Surveys?

Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE)

FSSE complements NSSE by providing information about faculty perceptions of student engagement and actions faculty take to promote it. Together, results from FSSE and NSSE can serve as a catalyst for productive discussions related to teaching, learning, and the quality of undergraduate education.

FSSE administration can take place concurrently with a NSSE administration or the following spring (i.e., NSSE 2015 institutions can participate in FSSE 2015 or 2016). Faculty members are contacted via email and respond online. Unlike NSSE, FSSE respondents are not identified to the institution.

Parallel to the updated NSSE survey, FSSE has undergone changes to incorporate new content related to effective teaching and learning, improve the clarity and applicability of the survey, and provide a new format combining both course-based and typical-student questions. FSSE provides the opportunity to add modules or consortium questions aligned with NSSE customization. More information can be found on the FSSE Web site.

fsse.iub.edu

Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE)

A survey of students entering college, BCSSE is designed to pair with NSSE to provide an in-depth understanding of first-year students’ high school academic and co-curricular experiences, as well as their expectations for participating in educationally purposeful activities during the first college year. The $300 NSSE registration fee is waived for institutions pairing BCSSE 2014 and NSSE 2015. BCSSE was updated in 2013 to align with the updated NSSE survey. More information can be found on the BCSSE Web site.

bcsse.iub.edu

Although some graduate student instructors (GSIs) participate in the FSSE administration every year, FSSE is not intended to query GSIs in particular. FSSE-G is designed to capture the experiences, professional development, and perceptions of graduate students who teach undergraduates. More information can be found on the FSSE-G Web site.

fsse-g.iub.edu
“Colleges and universities derive enormous internal value from participating in NSSE. Of equal importance is the reassurance to their external publics that a commitment to undergraduate education and its improvement is a high priority.”
— Muriel A. Howard, President, American Association of State Colleges and Universities

**NSSE 2015 Timeline**

**Summer 2014: Register and Plan**
- Register for NSSE June to September
- View NSSE Webinars on survey administration
- Plan promotional/recruitment strategy

**Fall/Winter 2014–2015: Survey Preparation**
- Customize NSSE: choose modules, form a consortium, or register as a system
- Develop recruitment materials: population file, recruitment messages, message schedule, participation incentives
- Implement promotional campaign, activities
- Coordinate survey communications systems with campus IT professionals

**Winter/Early Spring 2015: Survey Start**
- Survey administration opens
- Reminder messages to nonrespondents

**Late Spring 2015: Survey Close**
- Customize Institutional Report: choose comparison and major field groups
- Survey administration closes June 1

**Summer/Fall 2015: Data and Report Delivery**
- Institutional Report delivered and data files available for download in August
- Major Field Report available for download in October
- Annual Results delivered in November

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**NSSE national survey of student engagement**

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**How and when to register for NSSE 2015**

Go to nsse.iub.edu or call 866-435-6773 toll free
Register by September 25, 2014

Photos (left to right)—Front cover: top, Pepperdine University, Cameron University; bottom, Newbury College. Inside: University of California Santa Cruz, The University of Texas at Brownsville, Concordia University–St. Paul, College of Mount St. Joseph. Back cover: University of Rhode Island, Lynchburg College.