



Invitation to **Participate**

2006 NSSE

National Survey of
Student Engagement



Cosponsored by

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



“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*

Your Invitation to Participate in NSSE 2006

We invite you to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) 2006. Now in its seventh year, the NSSE (pronounced “nessie”) has been used by about 1,000 colleges and universities across the country. The results of the survey yield important information about the quality of undergraduate learning on your campus and contribute to national benchmarks of effective educational practice.

The NSSE 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 have gained from classes, their assessment of the quality of their interactions with faculty and students, and other educationally important 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



What is NSSE?

- An alternative view of collegiate quality that focuses on 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 prospective students, accreditors and others.
- An annual assessment of how colleges are engaging in effective teaching and learning activities.

NSSE Survey Administration

- The survey is administered each spring to random samples 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.
- Institutions provide a student data file and customized invitation letters to NSSE. All aspects of survey administration are handled by NSSE (drawing random samples, mailing surveys, follow-up with non-respondents, data collection, analysis and reporting).

“NSSE is one of the most powerful tools available to stimulate and guide intellectually powerful and credible conversations to focus on what needs to be changed and how.”

—John Gardner,
Executive Director,
Policy Center on the
First Year of College



“NSSE, because it’s quite efficient, quite elegantly simple, gets at key issues and allows a campus to look at itself in total.”

—Daryl Smith,
Professor, Claremont
Graduate University

Getting Your Results

NSSE schools receive a detailed analysis that includes:

- Institutional report – Individual student responses can be linked to other institutional data; customized reports 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 their engagement data.
- Annual report – An in-depth discussion of national benchmarks of effective educational practice and institutional improvement initiatives.
- Benchmark report – A comparison of your institution to national benchmarks of effective educational practice.
- Institutional engagement index – A comparison of actual benchmark results to predicted results produced by regression models.
- Accreditation toolkit – Provides suggestions for incorporating NSSE into regional accreditation processes with an emphasis on mapping student engagement results to regional accreditation standards.
- 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

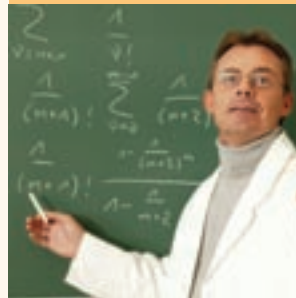
NSSE provides campuses with information that they can use almost immediately to improve various aspects of their performance and help students get the most out of their college experience. In doing so, NSSE is changing the conversation about what constitutes collegiate quality.

Schools are using their survey results in many ways, including:

- Assessment and improvement
- Benchmarking
- Accountability
- Institutional research
- Accreditation and self-studies
- Retention
- Curricular reform
- Alumni outreach
- Grant writing
- Recruitment
- Faculty and staff development
- State system comparisons
- Student satisfaction
- Performance indicators

“NSSE is giving us increasingly credible evidence of student engagement in effective educational practices and allows us to compare campus findings with those of local, regional, and national peers.”

—Trudy Banta,
Vice Chancellor
for Planning
and Institutional
Improvement, Indiana
University-Purdue
University Indianapolis



“Without persuasive evidence of the patterns of student engagement, administrators and faculty remain blind to important aspects of the undergraduate experience.”

—Lee S. Shulman,
President,
*The Carnegie
Foundation for
the Advancement
of Teaching*



Promoting Institutional Improvement

The NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice assists colleges and universities and other organizations in using student engagement data to support institutional improvement and accountability efforts. The Institute also conducts research and development activities to further the understanding of factors and conditions that contribute to student success in college and effective educational practice.

In addition, Institute associates are available to collaborate with educational agencies and organizations and to help institutions interpret and apply student engagement and related information. They conduct workshops and retreats on topics consistent with NSSE’s mission, including:

- Facilitating campus workshops and retreats with faculty members, administrators, and students to stimulate discussion and action on campus.
- Conducting assessments of campus conditions to identify institutional policies and practices that promote or inhibit student success with the goal of improving student persistence and satisfaction.
- Working with institutions on approaches to using NSSE and related data for accreditation and self-studies.
- Delivering workshops on using NSSE in assessment and improvement initiatives and using data to inform decision-making.
- Working with state and system-level organizations, institutional consortia and other organizations to improve educational practice.
- Evaluating the impact of curricular innovations and student success initiatives.
- Partnering with organizations and foundations on research projects to further our understanding of student success and institutional effectiveness.

Please contact us to discuss how the NSSE Institute can be helpful to you.

NSSE 2006 Registration

- Please register for NSSE 2006 online at: www.nsse.iub.edu
- Register early as space is limited. The deadline for registration is September 23, 2005.
- To register, you need to:
 - Provide information about your primary and secondary institutional contact (name, address, e-mail, phone, fax).
 - Select your mode of survey administration and corresponding sample size.
 - Indicate if you want to oversample or participate in a consortium or state system.
 - Electronically sign the NSSE 2006 Institutional Participant Agreement.

NSSE 2006 Institutional Participant Agreement

By registering and participating in NSSE 2006, 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 or students cannot be 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 except by mutual agreement between NSSE and the institution.

"We are engaged in a reform of general education, and NSSE measures are informing our discussions and proposals. I personally find NSSE very helpful as we seek to create an undergraduate environment where students are more actively engaged in the learning process."

—Loren Crabtree,
Chancellor, University
of Tennessee-Knoxville



Costs

Required

Institutional participation fee \$300
(non-refundable)

Survey administration mode

- **Paper.** Students receive paper copies of the survey with the option of completing a Web version. This mode requires an accurate list of student mailing addresses.
- ***Web+.** Students receive their first three contacts by e-mail. For the fourth contact a sample of non-respondents will receive a paper version of the survey while the rest of the non-respondents will continue to receive e-mail. This mode requires an accurate list of both student e-mail and student mailing addresses.
- ***Web-only.** Students receive all correspondence by e-mail and complete the Web version of the survey. This mode requires an accurate list of student e-mail addresses.

* Institutions considering Web+ and Web-only modes should be mindful of firewall issues and proactively address them with their information technology department.

Sampling fee

Undergraduate Enrollment	Sample Size			Fee
	Paper	Web+	Web-only	
Less than 4,000	450	1,800	All First-years & Seniors	\$3,375
4,000 to 7,999	600	2,400	3,000	\$4,500
8,000 to 12,000	800	3,200	4,000	\$6,000
More than 12,000	1,000	4,000	5,000	\$7,500

Small School Sampling Fee

The fee structure below is for small schools that have less than 400 students in their combined first-year and senior classes. The fee applies for paper, Web-only or Web+ administration and includes surveying all first-year and senior students.

Combined First-year and Senior Enrollment	Fee
Less than 200	\$1,500
201 to 300	\$2,250
301 to 400	\$3,000

Optional

Oversampling fee

Oversampling is highly recommended if your institution is interested in school or department level analysis.

Mode	Fee (<i>per student</i>)
Paper (NSSE administrators)	\$7.50
Web-only (NSSE administrators)	\$1.50
Local (Institution administrators)	\$2.00

Consortium and State or University Systems

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

Undergraduate Enrollment	Fee (<i>per institution</i>)
Less than 4,000	\$200
4,000 to 7,999	\$300
8,000 to 12,000	\$400
More than 12,000	\$500

“NSSE has elevated campus-level discussion on student engagement, providing university leaders with the comparative data needed to evaluate the campus learning environment and implement needed change.”

—Molly Broad,
President, University
of North Carolina



Additional NSSE Services

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

These include:

- Peer comparisons and special analyses
- Faculty Survey of Student Engagement
- Law School Survey of Student Engagement
- Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement
- NSSE technical and norms report
- Workshops, consultations and retreats
- NSSE informational videos and college pocket guides

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



Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research
School of Education

1900 E. Tenth Street, Eigenmann Hall, Suite 419
Bloomington, IN 47406

Phone: 812.856.5824

Fax: 812.856.5150

E-mail: nsse@indiana.edu

www.nsse.iub.edu