

NSSE and The Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)

NSSE is one of four assessment instruments focused on students' experiences and perceptions for the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA). Developed as a partnership between the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU), the VSA is designed to help institutions demonstrate accountability, measure educational practices and outcomes, and assemble information that is accessible, understandable, and comparable.

NSSE-related Resources to Link to the College Portrait

Of the over 330 institutions that have registered to participate in VSA, approximately 95% have NSSE data. In addition to using NSSE results to populate the "Student Experiences and Perceptions" section of the College Portrait, NSSE reports and related resources can be added via several links in the College Portrait to provide supplementary information about how your institution evaluates the experiences of its students.

NSSE Pocket Guide Report

NSSE Benchmark Report - Level of Academic Challenge

The Student Experience in Brief: NSSEville State

National Survey of Student Engagement

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 304 randomly selected NSSEville State students on the 2009 NSSE survey.

Active Learning

How often are topics from class discussed outside of the classroom?
53% of FY students frequently discuss readings or ideas from coursework outside of class.

Do students work together on projects – inside and outside of class?
42% of FY students frequently work with other students on projects in class, 43% work with peers on assignments outside of class.

How often do students make class presentations?
43% of FY students report that they make frequent presentations in class.

How many students participate in community-based projects in regular courses?
37% of FY students frequently participate in service-learning or community-based projects during a given year, 39% 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, 86% 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?
22% of seniors frequently assist their fellow students by tutoring or teaching them.

Student-Faculty Interaction

Are faculty members accessible and supportive?
53% of FY students say their faculty are available, helpful and sympathetic.

How many students work on research projects with faculty?
By their senior year, 34% of students have done research with a faculty member.

Do students receive prompt feedback on academic performance?
60% of FY students indicate that they frequently get prompt verbal or written feedback from faculty members.

Note: FY=First-Year Student SR=Senior Student

Academic Challenge

To what degree is studying and spending time on academic work emphasized?
74% of FY students feel that this institution places substantial emphasis on academics.

Do faculty hold students to high standards?
62% of FY students frequently work harder than they thought they could to meet faculty expectations.

How much time do students spend on homework each week?
29% of FY students spend more than 15 hours per week preparing for class, 23% 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: 69%
Analyzing basic elements of an idea or theory: 75%
Synthesizing and organizing ideas: 66%
Making judgments about value of information: 67%
Applying theories or concepts: 70%

How much writing is expected?
12% of FY students write more than 10 papers between 5 and 19 pages and 22% have written a paper more than 20 pages in length.

How much reading is expected during the school year?
52% of FY students read more than 10 assigned books and packs of course readings, 15% read fewer than 5.

Do exams require students to do their best work?
40% of FY students report that their exams strongly challenge them to do their best work.

National Survey of Student Engagement

NSSE 2009 Benchmark Comparisons
NSSEville State University

Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

NSSEville State University compared with:

Mean Comparisons

Class	NSSEville State		Mid East Public		Carnegie Class		NSSE 2009	
	Mean ^a	Std. Dev. ^b	Mean ^a	Std. Dev. ^b	Mean ^a	Std. Dev. ^b	Mean ^a	Std. Dev. ^b
First-Year	52.8	53.8	-.07	53.1	-.02	53.7	-.06	
Senior	57.2	56.6	.05	56.9	.02	57.0	.01	

^a p < .05 ** p < .01 *** p < .001 (2-tailed).
^b Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.

Distributions of Student Benchmark Scores

First-Year Senior

Note: Each box and whisker chart plots the 5th (bottom of lower box), 25th (bottom of box), 50th (middle line), 75th (top of box), and 95th (top of upper box) percentiles for scores. The dot shows the benchmark mean. See page 2 for an illustration. See pages 14 and 11 for percentile values.

Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) Items

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote high levels of student achievement by emphasizing the importance of academic effort and setting high expectations for student performance.


- Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, etc. related to academic program)
- Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length papers of course readings
- Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more; number of written papers or reports of between 5 and 19 pages; and number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages
- Coursework emphasizes: Analysis of the basic elements of an idea, experience or theory
- Coursework emphasizes: Synthesis and organizing of ideas, information, or experience into new, more complex interpretations and relationships
- Coursework emphasizes: Making of judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods
- Coursework emphasizes: Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or to new situations
- Working harder than you thought you could to meet or exceed an instructor's standards or expectations
- Campus environment emphasizes: Spending significant amount of time studying and on academic work

The Student Experience in Brief, is an attractive and easy report format that institutions can use to share their NSSE results. The report provides a quick snapshot of the level of student engagement on campus and corresponds to *A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College*.

The NSSE Benchmark Report is a concise summary of some key findings from your institution's performance on NSSE.

More NSSE-related Resources for the College Portrait...

NSSE Executive Snapshot



**National Survey of Student Engagement
Executive Snapshot 2009**
NSSEville State University

Dear Colleague:
This document presents some key findings from your institution's participation in the 2009 National Survey of Student Engagement. We hope you can use this information to stimulate discussion on your campus about how to improve the undergraduate experience at NSSEville State University.

Sincerely,
Alexander C. McCormick
Director, National Survey of Student Engagement

What Does NSSE Tell Us About Improvements in Student Engagement Over Time?
From the outset, one of NSSE's principal goals has been to provide participating colleges and universities with diagnostic, actionable information that can be used to improve undergraduate education. In recognition of NSSE's 10th anniversary, the feature story in *NSSE Annual Results 2009* is about positive trends in student engagement.

We selected a subset of 2009 participating institutions with multi-year data, to determine whether any campuses showed trends of improving performance on NSSE's Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice or in the proportion of students participating in particular high-impact practices. As detailed in *NSSE Annual Results 2009*, we found that a considerable number of institutions showed real improvement. We were also gratified to find that patterns of diminished performance were rare.

These encouraging results, from a variety of institutional types and sizes, suggest that systematic improvement efforts at some institutions have paid off. In the coming years, we will continue our program of research on educational quality and improvement by conducting in-depth inquiry into the improvement process at selected institutions, so others can benefit from what these successful campuses have learned.

Have Student Engagement Results at NSSEville State University Changed Over Time?
We encourage institutions with results from multiple NSSE administrations to examine patterns of change in their student engagement results. Some may look for changes in the nature of student engagement, some will investigate possible trends, while others will be keen to evaluate the impact of specific campus initiatives. The adjacent table indicates what engagement data are available for these analyses at your institution, including Faculty (FSSE) and Beginning College (BCSSE) results.

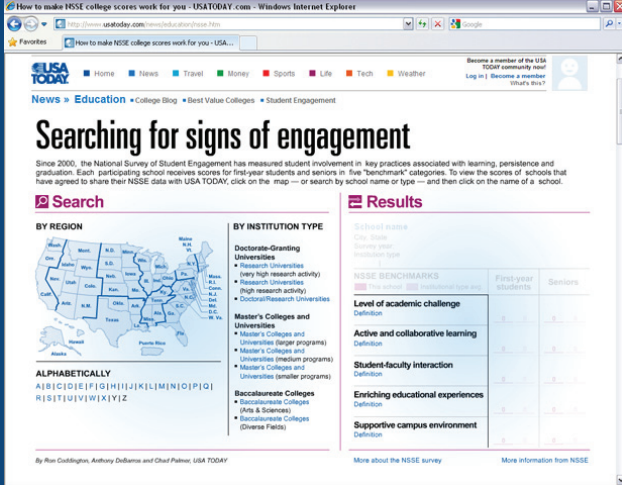
Engagement Data Available for NSSEville State
NSSE '06 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09
FSSE '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09
BCSSE '07 '08

As the number of multi-year participants has grown, we have developed new resources to help our users analyze their results over time. Consider the following:

- *Multi-Year Data Analysis Guide* (www.nsse.iub.edu/links/mytdag)
- *Multi-Year Benchmark Report* (for institutions that have participated at least twice)
- *Multi-Year Data Analysis Webinar* (www.nsse.iub.edu/webinars/archives.cfm)
- Copies of your results and data files from past administrations can be accessed through the NSSE Institution Interface (www.wcbssrv.indiana.edu/cpe/login.cfm)

The *Executive Snapshot* compares the performance of your institution with your selected comparison groups.

USA TODAY Initiative



How to make NSSE college scores work for you - USA TODAY.com - Windows Internet Explorer

USA TODAY


News » Education » College Blog » Best Value Colleges » Student Engagement

Searching for signs of engagement

Since 2006, the National Survey of Student Engagement has measured student involvement in key practices associated with learning, persistence and graduation. Each participating school receives scores for first-year students and seniors in five "benchmark" categories. To view the scores of schools that have agreed to share their NSSE data with USA TODAY, click on the map — or search by school name or type — and then click on the name of a school.

Search

BY REGION



ALPHABETICALLY
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

BY INSTITUTION TYPE

- Doctorate-Granting Universities
 - Research Universities (very high research activity)
 - Research Universities (high research activity)
 - Doctoral/Research Universities
- Master's Colleges and Universities
 - Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs)
 - Master's Colleges and Universities (medium programs)
 - Master's Colleges and Universities (smaller programs)
- Baccalaureate Colleges
 - Baccalaureate Colleges (Arts & Sciences)
 - Baccalaureate Colleges (Diverse Fields)

Results

Select name, City, State, Survey year, Institution type

NSSE BENCHMARKS

	First-year students	Seniors
Level of academic challenge Definition		
Active and collaborative learning Definition		
Student-faculty interaction Definition		
Enriching educational experiences Definition		
Supportive campus environment Definition		

By Ron Coddington, Anthony DeBame and Chad Fisher, USA TODAY

More about the NSSE survey | More information from NSSE

All baccalaureate-granting colleges and universities in the US that administered NSSE in 2006-2009 were invited to authorize the release of their benchmark scores to USA TODAY. More than 300 institutions agreed to participate.

Learn More about NSSE and VSA!

View at your convenience a recording of the Webinar, "The Transparency-Accountability Puzzle: Where Does NSSE Fit?" presented in November 2008 by NSSE Director, Dr. Alexander C. McCormick. The session is available at nsse.iub.edu/webinars/archives.cfm.

Detailed information on NSSE and VSA, and SPSS syntax to simplify recoding NSSE data for the College Portrait template, are available on the NSSE Web site, nsse.iub.edu/html/vsa.cfm.

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