

Chapter VI: NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (NSSE)

Who takes it?

All freshmen and seniors are requested to complete the survey.

When is it administered?

In the Spring.

How long does it take for the students to complete the instrument?

15 minutes.

What office administers it?

NSSE personnel administer it online with campus coordination by the Provost's Office.

Who originates this survey?

National Survey of Student Engagement

Center for Postsecondary Research

Indiana University Bloomington

1900 East Tenth Street

Eigenmann Hall Suite 419

Bloomington, IN 47406-7512

(812) 856-5824

<http://nsse.iub.edu>;

e-mail: nsse@indiana.edu

When are results typically available?

Late summer.

What type of information is sought?

NSSE attempts to measure levels of student engagement. Spring 2008 NSSE participants answered questions in five sections: level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interactions, enriching educational experiences, and supportive campus environment. A copy of the survey is available at

http://nsse.iub.edu/pdf/NSSE2008_US_English_Paper.pdf.

From whom are the results available?

The Provost's Office.

To whom are the results regularly distributed?

The University community through a website, the University Conference, Undergraduate Council, the summer Strategic Planning and Assessment Workshop, and through this *Almanac*.

Are the results available by department or discipline?

No.

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?
Yes.

Selected NSSE 2008 Results and Interpretation Assembled for UGC by Marty Eisenberg September 2008

With the 2008 administration, NSSE allowed us to choose our comparison groups. Our comparison groups were

1. COPLAC Schools
2. Private National Liberal Arts College. These were schools identified by *US News and World Report* as being national liberal arts colleges who administered NSSE in 2008. 112 schools met this definition. The group includes a wide variety of schools with differing amounts of resources.
3. NSSE 2008. The 769 schools that administered NSSE in 2008.

Some observations

- In comparison with private national liberal arts colleges, for both first-year and seniors, Truman students report less academic challenge, less active and collaborate learning, less student-faculty interaction, fewer enriching educational experiences, and a less supportive campus environment.
- In comparison with our COPLAC peers according to Truman students, we provide more enriching educational experiences, a higher level of academic challenge for first-year students, and a less supportive campus environment for seniors.
- In comparison with all schools administering the NSSE according to Truman students, we provide a higher level of academic challenge, more student-faculty interaction for seniors, and more enriching educational experiences.

Truman students report

- Spending more time preparing for class
- Spending more time on co-curricular activities
- Spending more time relaxing and socializing
- Spending more time working for pay on campus (seniors)
- Spending less time working for pay off-campus
- Having fewer assigned readings compared to private national liberal arts colleges
- Writing fewer papers over 5 pages
- Completing more problem sets that take over an hour (freshmen)
- Completing more problem sets that take less than an hour
- More volunteer work or community service
- More foreign language
- More study abroad than COPLAC and NSSE schools
- Fewer serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity
- Fewer self reported gains in solving real world problems
- Fewer self reported gains in developing a personal code of ethics
- More memorizing facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in pretty much the same form

Summary Table

		Truman Compared to		
		COPLAC	Priv Nat'l Lib Arts	NSSE 2008
Level of Academic Challenge	FY	More	Less	More
	SR	Similar	Less	More
Active and Collaborative Learning	FY	Similar	Less	Similar
	SR	Similar	Less	Similar
Student-Faculty Interaction	FY	Similar	Less	Similar
	SR	Similar	Less	More
Enriching Educational Experiences	FY	More	Less	More
	SR	More	Less	More
Supportive Campus Environment	FY	Similar	Less	Similar
	SR	Less	Less	Similar

The table tells us that Truman provides more academic challenge for freshmen than COPLAC schools and less academic challenge than private national liberal arts schools. See the more detailed tables for the questions that make up these categories.

Level of Academic Challenge

	Truman Mean ^s	<i>Truman compared with:</i>								
		COPLAC			Priv Nat'l Lib Arts			NSSE 2008		
	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	
First-Year	54.4	52.9	**	.12	58.7	***	-.35	52.9	**	.11
Senior	58.7	57.7		.07	62.0	***	-.25	56.5	***	.15

a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size

b * p<.05 ** p<.01 *** p<.001 (2-tailed)

c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation

Compared with		COPLAC	Priv Nat'l Lib Arts	NSSE 2008
Overall	FY SR	More --	Less Less	More more
Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, etc. related to academic program)	FY SR	More More	-- Less	More More
Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	FY SR	-- --	Less Less	More More
Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more	FY SR	-- Less	Less Less	Less Less
Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages	FY SR	Less Less	Less Less	Less Less
Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages	FY SR	-- More	Less --	More more
Coursework emphasizes: Analysis of the basic elements of an idea, experience or theory	FY SR	-- --	Less Less	-- More
Coursework emphasizes: Synthesis and organizing of ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships	FY SR	-- --	Less Less	-- --
Coursework emphasizes: Making of judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods	FY SR	-- --	Less Less	-- --
Coursework emphasizes: Applying theories of concepts to practical problems in new situations	FY SR	-- --	Less Less	-- --
Working harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	FY SR	-- Less	Less Less	Less Less
Campus environment emphasizes: Spending significant amount of time studying and on academic work	FY SR	More More	More More	More More

Active and Collaborative Learning

Truman compared with:

	Truman	COPLAC			Priv Nat'l Lib Arts			NSSE 2008		
	Mean ^s	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c
First-Year	43.2	43.2		.01	46.1	***	-.18	42.5		.04
Senior	58.751.2	52.4		-.07	53.0	**	-.10	50.8		.03

a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size

b * p<.05 ** p<.01 *** p<.001 (2-tailed)

c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation

Compared with		COPLAC	Priv Nat'l Lib Arts	NSSE 2008
Overall	FY	--	Less	--
	SR	--	Less	--
Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	FY	Less	Less	--
	SR	Less	Less	--
Made a class presentation	FY	More	More	More
	SR	Less	Less	--
Worked with other students on projects during class	FY	Less	Less	More
	SR	Less	--	--
Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	FY	More	More	More
	SR	More	More	More
Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	FY	More	Less	--
	SR	More	Less	More
Participated in community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course	FY	Less	Less	Less
	SR	--	--	--
Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)	FY	--	Less	--
	SR	Less	Less	--

Student-Faculty Interaction

Truman compared with:

	Truman	COPLAC			Priv Nat'l Lib Arts			NSSE 2008		
	Mean ^s	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c
First-Year	33.7	34.7		-.06	38.7	***	-.28	34.6		-.05
Senior	46.4	45.1		.06	50.9	***	-.21	42.3	***	.19

a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size

b * p<.05 ** p<.01 *** p<.001 (2-tailed)

c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation

Compared with		COPLAC	Priv Nat'l Lib Arts	NSSE 2008
Overall	FY	--	Less	--
	SR	--	Less	More
Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	FY	Less	Less	Less
	SR	Less	Less	--
Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	FY	More	--	--
	SR	--	Less	--
Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	FY	Less	Less	Less
	SR	Less	Less	--
Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student-life activities, etc.)	FY	--	Less	--
	SR	More	Less	More
Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance	FY	--	Less	--
	SR	Less	--	More
Worked on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements	FY	Less	Less	Less
	SR	more	--	more

Enriching Educational Experiences

Truman compared with:

	Truman	COPLAC			Priv Nat'l Lib Arts			NSSE 2008		
	Mean ^s	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c
First-Year	29.3	27.2	***	.17	31.7	***	-.19	27.5	***	.13
Senior	47.7	42.1	***	.32	52.5	***	-.27	40.4	***	.40

a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size

b * p<.05 ** p<.01 *** p<.001 (2-tailed)

c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation

Compared with		COPLAC	Priv Nat'l Lib Arts	NSSE 2008
Overall	FY SR	More More	Less Less	More More
Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority, etc.)	FY SR	More More	-- --	More More
Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	FY SR	Less Less	Less Less	Less --
Community service or volunteer work	FY SR	-- More	Less --	-- More
Foreign language coursework	FY SR	More More	-- More	More More
Study abroad	FY SR	-- More	-- Less	-- More
Independent or self-designed major	FY SR	Less Less	-- Less	Less Less
Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)	FY SR	-- More	-- --	-- Less
Serious conversations with students of different religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values	FY SR	-- --	-- --	More More
Serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own	FY SR	Less Less	Less Less	Less Less
Using electronic medium (e.g., listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment	FY SR	-- --	-- --	-- --
Campus environment encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic background	FY SR	-- Less	Less Less	-- Less
Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together	FY SR	Less Less	-- Less	Less Less

Supportive Campus Environment

Truman compared with:

	Truman	COPLAC			Priv Nat'l Lib Arts			NSSE 2008		
	Mean ^s	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c
First-Year	62.1	61.1		.05	66.9	***	-.28	61.1		.05
Senior	57.4	58.8	*	-.08	63.3	***	-.33	58.0		-.03

a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size

b * p<.05 ** p<.01 *** p<.001 (2-tailed)

c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation

Compared with		COPLAC	Priv Nat'l Lib Arts	NSSE 2008
Overall	FY	--	Less	--
	SR	Less	Less	--
Campus environment provides the support you need to help you succeed academically	FY	More	Less	More
	SR	--	Less	More
Campus environment helps you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	FY	--	Less	--
	SR	--	Less	Less
Campus environment provides the support you need to thrive socially	FY	--	Less	--
	SR	--	Less	--
Quality of relationships with other students	FY	More	--	More
	SR	More	--	More
Quality of relationships with faculty members	FY	--	Less	--
	SR	More	Less	--
Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices	FY	--	Less	--
	SR	Less	Less	Less

Time Usage

About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following? 1=0 hrs/wk, 2=1-5hrs/wk 3=6-10 hrs/wk
4=11-15 hrs/wk, 5=16-20 hrs/wk, 6=21-25 hrs/wk, 7=26-30 hrs/wk, 8=More than 30hrs/wk

Compared with		COPLAC	Priv Nat'l Lib Arts	NSSE 2008
Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)	FY SR	More More	-- Less	More more
Working for pay on campus	FY SR	Less More	Less --	Less More
Working for pay off campus	FY SR	Less Less	Less Less	Less Less
Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	FY SR	More More	-- --	More More
Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)	FY SR	-- More	More More	-- More
Providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.)	FY SR	Less Less	Less Less	Less Less
Commuting to class (driving, walking, etc.,)	FY SR	Less Less	-- More	Less less

Other questions

Compared with		COPLAC	Priv Nat'l Lib Arts	NSSE 2008
Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	FY SR	Less Less	Less --	Less Less
Come to class without completing readings or assignments	FY SR	-- More	More More	-- More
Memorizing facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in pretty much the same form	FY SR	More More	More More	-- --
Acquiring a broad general education (Gains)	FY SR	More --	-- Less	More More
Solving complex real-world problems (Gains)	FY SR	-- --	Less Less	Less Less
Developing a personal code of values and ethics (Gains)	FY SR	Less Less	Less Less	Less Less
Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution?	FY SR	Higher Lower	-- Lower	Higher Lower

To see more detail and other questions, go to <http://assessment.truman.edu/almanac/2008/index.asp>