

What Is NSSE and How Can We Use It at UNI?

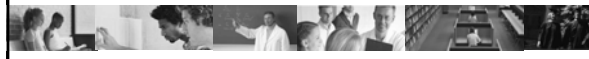
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Presentation Overview

- Introduction: NSSE & Student Engagement
- NSSE at UNI
- Using NSSE Data


An Introduction: NSSE and the Concept of Student Engagement



What is Student Engagement?

- What students *do* -- time and energy devoted to educationally purposeful activities
- What institutions *do* -- using effective educational practices to induce students to do the right things
- Educationally effective institutions channel student energy toward the right activities

Foundations of Student Engagement



Time on task (Tyler, 1930s)

Quality of effort (Pace, 1960-70s)

Student involvement (Astin, 1984)

Social, academic integration (Tinto, 1987, 1993)

Good practices in undergraduate education (Chickering & Gamson, 1987)


College impact (Pascarella, 1985)

Student engagement (Kuh, 1991, 2005)

Seven Principles of Good Practice in Undergraduate Education

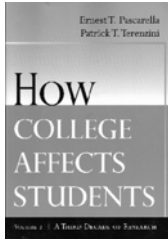
(Chickering & Gamson, 1987; Pascarella & Terenzini, 2005)

- ✓ Student-faculty contact
- ✓ Active learning
- ✓ Prompt feedback
- ✓ Time on task
- ✓ High expectations
- ✓ Experiences with diversity
- ✓ Cooperation among students



How College Affects Students

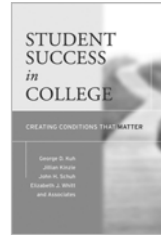
(Pascarella & Terenzini, 2005)



Because individual effort and involvement are the critical determinants of impact, institutions should focus on the ways they can shape their academic, interpersonal, and extracurricular offerings to encourage *student engagement*. – p. 602

Student Success in College: Creating Conditions that Matter

(Kuh, Kinzie, Schuh, Whitt, and Associates, 2005)



Illustrates actual institutional policies, programs, and practices that promote student success.

- Comprehensive report of in-depth study of successful educational practices across institutional types
- Practical guidance on how to implement effective practice in a variety of contexts
- Supported by Lumina Foundation for Education and the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College

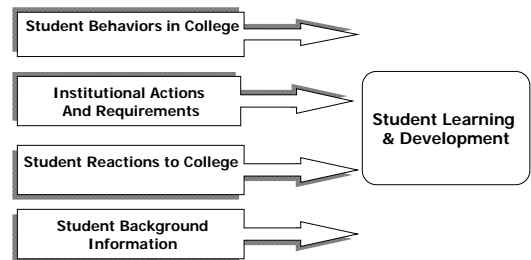
National Survey of Student Engagement

(pronounced "nessie")



College student survey that assesses the extent to which students engage in educational practices associated with high levels of learning and development

NSSE Survey Content



NSSE Indicators of Effective Educational Practice

Level of Academic Challenge

Active & Collaborative Learning

Enriching Educational Experiences

Student – Faculty Interaction

Supportive Campus Environment

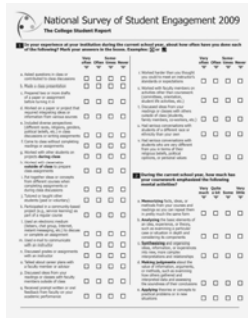
NSSE Project Scope

- Nearly 1,400 different colleges and universities
- 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Canada
- Data from more than 2,395,000 students
- Institutions include Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges, and single-gender colleges

Year	Institutions
2001	321
2002	367
2003	437
2004	473
2005	529
2006	557
2007	610
2008	769
2009	640

Survey Administration at UNI

- Administered to random samples of first-year (30 s.h. or less) & senior students
- Administration occurs in the spring academic term
- Web-based survey
- Additional consortium-based questions have been included—American Democracy Project & Writing Consortium
- Multiple follow-ups to increase response rates

A screenshot of the National Survey of Student Engagement 2009 survey instrument. It features a header with the title and logo, followed by a table of survey items. Each item is accompanied by a set of five radio buttons for response selection. The items cover various aspects of student engagement, such as 'I am challenged and motivated by my current classes' and 'I am satisfied with the quality of instruction I receive'.

How Valid is Self-Reported Data?

Research Confirms Self-Reported Data Validity When Following Conditions Exist...

- Requested information is known to respondents
- Questions are clear and unambiguous
- Respondents take questions seriously and thoughtfully
- Answering does not threaten, embarrass, or violate privacy or compel a socially desirable response

The NSSE survey instrument was designed to meet these conditions



For more details, see: Psychometric Portfolio of NSSE at <http://nsse.iub.edu/html/researchers.cfm>

NSSE at UNI



Basic Overview

- Administered by the Office of Academic Assessment
- Survey results available each year from 2006-present
- Data maintained by the Office of Institutional Research and the Office of Academic Assessment
- Consortium data sets: American Democracy Project (2006-8), Writing Consortium (2009)

NSSE Data Include:

- First-year & senior responses to individual questions
- Mean scores for benchmark areas
- Comparisons of data for UNI with selected cohort groups

Accessing UNI NSSE Data

Office of Academic Assessment

<https://www.uni.edu/assessment/nsse.shtml>

<https://www.uni.edu/assessment/data/nssedata.shtml> (CAT ID)

Office of Institutional Research

<http://www.ir.uni.edu/dbweb/NSSE> (CAT ID)

Using NSSE Data



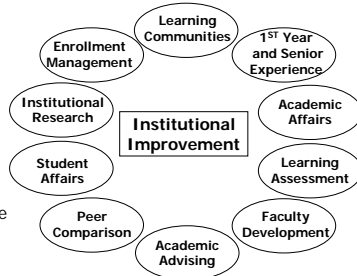
Using NSSE Data



- NSSE results are being used across all sectors and types of institutions.
- Discovering and sharing ways student engagement results are being used is one of NSSE's most important activities.
- The following slides illustrate how NSSE data can inform educational policy and practice.

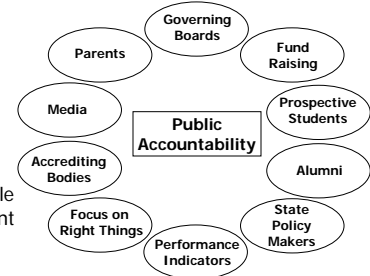
Internal Campus Uses

- Gauge status of campus priorities
- Examine changes in student engagement between first and senior years
- Assess campus progress over time
- Encourage dialogue about good practice
- Link with other data to test hypotheses, evaluate programs
- Improve curricula, instruction, services



External Campus Uses

- Assess status vis-à-vis peers, competitors
- Identify, develop, market distinctive competencies
- Provide evidence of accountability for good processes (while awaiting improvement in outcomes)



Questions & Discussion



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