

To represent the multiple dimensions of student engagement, NSSE reports on 10 Engagement Indicators calculated from 47 core NSSE items and grouped within four themes. Additionally, in a separate report, NSSE provides results on six High-Impact Practices, aptly named for their positive associations with student learning and retention.

Engagement Indicators

Engagement Indicators (EIs) provide valuable information about distinct aspects of student engagement by summarizing students' responses to sets of related survey questions. (Component items are listed on the next page.)

| Theme | Engagement Indicators |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Academic Challenge</i> | Higher-Order Learning Reflective & Integrative Learning Learning Strategies Quantitative Reasoning |
| <i>Learning with Peers</i> | Collaborative Learning Discussions with Diverse Others |
| <i>Experiences with Faculty</i> | Student-Faculty Interaction Effective Teaching Practices |
| <i>Campus Environment</i> | Quality of Interactions Supportive Environment |

The EIs and component items were rigorously tested both qualitatively and quantitatively in a multi-year effort that included student focus groups, cognitive interviews, and two years of pilot testing and analysis. As a result, each EI provides valuable, concise, actionable information about a distinct aspect of student engagement.

Scoring EIs

In the *Engagement Indicators* report, each EI is expressed on a 0 to 60 scale. First, component items are converted to a 60-point scale (e.g., Never=0, Sometimes=20, Often=40, and Very often=60), then averaged together to compute student-level scores. Institutional EI scores are the weighted averages of student-level scores for each class level. Student-level EI scores are provided to participating institutions in their NSSE data files.

High-Impact Practices

High-Impact Practices (HIPs) represent enriching educational experiences that can be life-changing. They typically demand considerable time and effort, facilitate learning outside of the classroom, require meaningful interactions with faculty and other students, encourage collaboration with diverse others, and provide frequent and substantive feedback. NSSE reports student participation in six HIPs: three for both first-year students and seniors, and three for seniors only (see below).

| High-Impact Practices | First-year | Senior |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------|
| Service-learning | ✓ | ✓ |
| Learning community | ✓ | ✓ |
| Research with faculty | ✓ | ✓ |
| Internship or field experience | | ✓ |
| Study abroad | | ✓ |
| Culminating senior experience | | ✓ |

Note: Survey wording is on the next page.

Scoring HIPs

For each HIP except service-learning, participation is reported as the percentage of students who responded "Done or in progress." For service-learning, it is the percentage of students for whom at least "Some" courses included a community-based project. Thus, a HIP score of 26 means that 26% of respondents participated in the activity.

NSSE founding director George Kuh recommends that all students participate in at least two HIPs over the course of their undergraduate experience—one during the first year and one in the context of their major. The *High-Impact Practices* report summarizes student participation in "1" or "2 or more" HIPs for first-year and senior students and disaggregates results by student and enrollment characteristics.

Engagement Indicators and Items

Academic Challenge

Higher-Order Learning

During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following:

- Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new situations
- Analyzing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts
- Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source
- Forming a new idea or understanding from various pieces of information

Reflective & Integrative Learning

During the current school year, how often have you

- Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments
- Connected your learning to societal problems or issues
- Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender, etc.) in course discussions or assignments
- Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue
- Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective
- Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept
- Connected ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge

Learning Strategies

During the current school year, how often have you

- Identified key information from reading assignments
- Reviewed your notes after class
- Summarized what you learned in class or from course materials

Quantitative Reasoning

During the current school year, how often have you

- Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information (numbers, graphs, statistics, etc.)
- Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)
- Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information

Learning with Peers

Collaborative Learning

During the current school year, how often have you

- Asked another student to help you understand course material
- Explained course material to one or more students
- Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students
- Worked with other students on course projects or assignments

Discussions with Diverse Others

During the current school year, how often have you had discussions with people from the following groups:

- People from races or ethnicities other than your own
- People from economic backgrounds other than your own
- People with religious beliefs other than your own
- People with political views other than your own

Experiences with Faculty

Student-Faculty Interaction

During the current school year, how often have you

- Talked about career plans with a faculty member
- Worked with a faculty member on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)
- Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with a faculty member outside of class
- Discussed your academic performance with a faculty member

Effective Teaching Practices

During the current school year, to what extent have your instructors done the following:

- Clearly explained course goals and requirements
- Taught course sessions in an organized way
- Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points
- Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress
- Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments

Campus Environment

Quality of Interactions

Indicate the quality of your interactions with the following people at your institution:

- Students
- Academic advisors
- Faculty
- Student services staff (career services, student activities, housing, etc.)
- Other administrative staff and offices (registrar, financial aid, etc.)

Supportive Environment

How much does your institution emphasize the following:

- Providing support to help students succeed academically
- Using learning support services (tutoring services, writing center, etc.)
- Encouraging contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial/ethnic, religious, etc.)
- Providing opportunities to be involved socially
- Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counseling, etc.)
- Helping you manage your nonacademic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
- Attending campus activities and events (performing arts, athletic events, etc.)
- Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues

High-Impact Practice Items

Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate?

- Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together
- Participate in an internship, co-op, field experience, student teaching, or clinical placement

- Participate in a study abroad program
- Work with a faculty member on a research project
- Complete a culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, portfolio, recital, comprehensive exam, etc.)

About how many of your courses at this institution have included a community-based project (service-learning)?