2023 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
What Is the NSSE?

And Why Is It Important?

**NSSE...**

- Collects information about first-year and senior students' participation in programs and activities leading to their learning and personal development
- Captures student engagement in two areas
  - **10 Engagement Indicators**
  - **6 High-Impact Practices**
- Engagement is associated with
  - Learning
  - Satisfaction
  - Retention
- Addresses “Engagement & Well-Being” of 6 operational priorities in Graduation Initiative 2025
- Is administered every 3 years with 14 other CSU campuses

**CSU Campuses Participating in NSSE 2023**
- California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo
- California State Polytechnic University-Pomona
- California State University-Bakersfield
- California State University-Channel Islands
- California State University-Chico
- California State University-Dominguez Hills
- California State University, Fullerton
- California State University-Long Beach
- California State University, Los Angeles
- California State University, Monterey Bay
- California State University, Sacramento
- California State University San Marcos
- California State University-Stanislaus
- San Francisco State University
- San Jose State University
First-year Student Response Rate (n = 528)
Senior Student Response Rate (n = 1,133)

- NSSE 2014: 16%
- NSSE 2017: 17%
- NSSE 2020: 34%
- NSSE 2023: 15%
Engagement Indicators
Engagement Indicators (EI)

Theme 1
**Academic Challenge**
- Higher-Order Learning
- Reflective and Integrative Learning
- Learning Strategies
- Quantitative Reasoning

Theme 2
**Learning with Peers**
- Collaborative Learning
- Discussions with Diverse Others

Theme 3
**Experiences with Faculty**
- Student-Faculty Interactions
- Effective Teaching Practices

Theme 4
**Campus Environment**
- Quality of Interactions
- Supportive Environment
Engagement Indicators (EI)

Survey Question Example

**Theme 1. Academic Challenge**

1. **Higher-Order Learning**
   How much has your coursework emphasized evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source?

2. **Reflective and Integrative Learning**
   How often have you connected your learning to societal problems or issues?

3. **Learning Strategies**
   How often have you reviewed your notes after class?

4. **Quantitative Reasoning**
   How often have you used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue?

**Theme 2. Learning with Peers**

1. **Collaborative Learning**
   How often have you worked with other students on course projects or assignments?

2. **Discussions with Diverse Others**
   How often have you had discussions with people from races or ethnicities other than your own?
Theme 3. Experiences with Faculty

1. Student-Faculty Interactions
   How often have you discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with a faculty member outside of class?

3. Effective Teaching Practices
   To what extent have your instructors clearly explained course goals and requirements?

Theme 4. Campus Environment

1. Quality of Interactions
   Indicate the quality of your interactions with academic advisors.

2. Supportive Environment
   How much does your institution emphasize providing support to help students succeed academically?
The SF State 2023 result indicates a \textit{descriptive} decrease from the SF State 2020.

The SF State 2023 result indicates a \textit{descriptive} increase from the SF State 2020.

\textbf{(- difference)***} The SF State 2023 result is \textit{statistically} lower than CSU campuses' average. The p-value is flagged with one asterisk for $p < 0.05$, two asterisks for $p < 0.01$, and three asterisks for $p < 0.001$.

\textbf{(+) difference)***} The SF State 2023 result is \textit{statistically} higher than CSU campuses' average. The p-value is flagged with one asterisk for $p < 0.05$, two asterisks for $p < 0.01$, and three asterisks for $p < 0.001$. 
EI-Theme 1. Academic Challenge

First-Year Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SF 2017</th>
<th>SF 2020</th>
<th>SF 2023</th>
<th>Comparison with CSU 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CSU 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher-Order Learning</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>37.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective &amp; Integrative Learning</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>35.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Strategies</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>37.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>29.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Finding:**
- For all 4 sub-areas, scores went down from the previous survey results.
- SF State first-year students showed lower ratings on the Learning Strategies area questionnaire items compared to the CSUs.
## EI-Theme 1. Academic Challenge

### Senior Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SF 2017</th>
<th>SF 2020</th>
<th>SF 2023</th>
<th>CSU 2023</th>
<th>Significant Difference</th>
<th>Effect Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher-Order Learning</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>40.9</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>non-significant</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective &amp; Integrative Learning</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>+1.1**</td>
<td>small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Strategies</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>+1.3**</td>
<td>small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>+1.1*</td>
<td>small</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Comparison with CSU 2023

**Key Finding:**

- For all 4 sub-areas, scores went up from the previous survey results.
- SF State senior students showed higher ratings on questionnaire items of the three areas, except the *Higher-Order Learning* area compared to the CSUs.
EI-Theme 2. Learning with Peers

First-Year Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>SF 2017</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CSU 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative Learning</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>31.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions w/ Diverse Others</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>36.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Finding:**

- For all 2 sub-areas, scores went down from the previous survey results.
- SF State first-year students showed lower ratings on questionnaire items of the *Collaborative Learning* but higher ratings for the *Discussions with Diverse Others* compared to the CSU campuses.
Senior Students

**Key Finding:**

- For all 2 sub-areas, scores went down from the previous survey results.
- SF State senior students reported lower scores on items for the *Collaborative Learning* area, compared to the CSU campuses.
EI-Theme 3. Experiences with Faculty

First-Year Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Comparison with CSU 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SF 2023</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student-Faculty Interaction</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td><strong>19.8</strong></td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective Teaching Practices</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td><strong>36.2</strong></td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Finding:**
- For all 2 sub-areas, scores went down from the previous survey results.
- SF State first-year students showed lower ratings on the *Effective Teaching Practices* questionnaire items, compared to the CSU campuses.
Senior Students

**Key Finding:**

- Compared with the previous survey results, there is a descriptive increase in Effective Teaching Practices but a decrease in Student-Faculty Interaction from the seniors' perspectives.

- There is no statistical difference in senior students' responses to questionnaire items between the SF State and other CSU campuses.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Significant Difference</th>
<th>Effect Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student-Faculty Interaction</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>non-significant</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective Teaching Practices</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>non-significant</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparison with CSU 2023
First-Year Students

**Key Finding:**

- In comparison with the previous survey results, there is a descriptive increase in the area of Quality of Interactions but a decrease in the Supportive Environment sub-area from the first-year students' perspectives.

- There is no statistical difference in first-year students' responses to questionnaire items between the SF State and other CSU campuses.

### Comparison with CSU 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>CSU 2023</th>
<th>Significant Difference</th>
<th>Effect Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Interactions</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>non-significant</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supportive Environment</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>non-significant</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Senior Students

Key Finding:

- For all 2 sub-areas, scores went up from the previous survey results.
- SF State senior students reported lower ratings in the area of *Quality of Interactions* compared to the CSU campuses.
High Impact Practices
High Impact Practices (HIP)

HIPs
Undergraduate Opportunities, which have positive associations with student learning and retention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Learning</th>
<th>Learning Community</th>
<th>Research with Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses that included a community-based project</td>
<td>Formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together</td>
<td>Work with a faculty member on a research project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internship or Field Experience</th>
<th>Study Abroad</th>
<th>Culminating Senior Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internship, co-op, field experience, student teaching, or clinical placement</td>
<td>Capstone course, senior project or thesis, portfolio, recital, comprehensive exam, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Key Finding:**

- Participation in one HIP is the same, but there is a decrease in the involvement in two or more HIPs from 2020 to 2023.
- The percentage of the SF State first-year students who participated in at least one HIP is higher than the CSU average of percent points.
Key Finding:

- Participation in one HIP increased, but there is a decrease in the involvement in two or more HIPs from 2020 to 2023.
- The percentage of the SF State senior students who participated in at least one HIP is lower than the CSU average of percent points.
Strengths &
Areas of Opportunity
Item Comparisons

First-Year Students
Highest Performing Items Relative to CSU Campuses -

- 8f. Discussions with... People from countries other than your own.
- 12. About how many courses have included a community-based project (service-learning)?
- 7. Assigned more than 50 pages of writing.
- 8a. Discussions with... People of races or ethnicities other than your own.
- 2c. Included diverse perspectives (...) in course discussions or assignments.

Key Finding:
SF State first-year students reported spending significantly more time involved in discussions with people from countries other than their own compared to first-year students on other CSU campuses.
Item Comparisons

First-Year Students
Lowest Performing Items Relative to CSU Campuses -

10. Extent to which courses challenged you to do your best work.
14a. Institution emphasis on studying and academic work.
16a. Spent more than 15 hours per week preparing for class.
13d. Quality of interactions with student services staff.
14h. Institution emphasis on attending campus activities and events.

Key Finding:
SF State first-year students reported having significantly less extent to which courses challenged themselves to do their best work than first-year students on other CSU campuses.
**Senior Students**

Highest Performing Items Relative to CSU Campuses -

8f. Discussions with...People from countries other than your own.

2c. Included diverse perspectives ...in course discussions or assignments.

14d. Institution emphasis on encouraging ... students from different backgrounds...

8e. Discussions with...People with sexual orientations other than your own.

6b. Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue...

**Key Finding:**

SF State senior students reported spending significantly more time involved in discussions with people from countries other than their own compared to senior students on other CSU campuses.
Item Comparisons

Senior Students
Lowest Performing Items Relative to CSU Campuses -

11a. Participated in an internship, co-op, field exp., student teach., clinical placement.
11f. Completed a culminating senior experience ...
14a. Institution emphasis on studying and academic work.
16a. Spent more than 15 hours per week preparing for class.
13a. Quality of interactions with students.

Key Finding:
SF State senior students reported less participation in internship, co-op, field experience, etc., or completing cumulating experiences than senior students on other CSU campuses.
Overall Experience
Overall Experience at SF State

Key Finding:
77% of first-year and 78% of senior students rated their overall SF State experience as "Excellent" or "Good."
Likelihood to Attend Again

Key Finding:

80% of first-year and 81% of senior students reported that they would “Definitely” or “Probably” attend this institution again.
Summary of NSSE 23

**Positive Growth**
- *Quality of Interaction*: Growth from 2020 for both first-year and senior students
- Senior students' positive growth from 2020 in the Academic Challenge and the Campus Environment
- Senior students' more robust engagement in the Academic Challenge than their counterparts on other CSU campuses
- First-year students' more robust engagement with the HIPs than their counterparts on other CSU campuses
- SF State students spending significantly more time involved in discussions with people from countries other than their own compared to counterparts on other CSU campuses

**Areas of Opportunity**
- Response rate
- First-year students' engagement in all four areas of the Academic Challenge
  - Higher-Order Learning
  - Reflective and Integrative Learning
  - Learning Strategies
  - Quantitative Reasoning
- For both student groups' engagement in one area of the Learning with Peers
  - Collaborative Learning
- *Quality of Interaction*: statistically lower ratings than the CSUs from the senior student group
- *Supportive Environment*: a decrease in the first-year student group