

Engagement Indicators: Overview

Engagement Indicators are summary measures based on sets of NSSE questions examining key dimensions of student engagement. The ten indicators are organized within four broad themes: Academic Challenge, Learning with Peers, Experiences with Faculty, and Campus Environment. The tables below compare average scores for your students with those in your comparison groups.

Use the following key:

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- △ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- No significant difference.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ($p < .05$) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

First-Year Students

Theme	Engagement Indicator	Your first-year students compared with Minnesota	Your first-year students compared with Carnegie Class	Your first-year students compared with NSSE 2016 & 2017
Academic Challenge	Higher-Order Learning	--	--	▽
	Reflective & Integrative Learning	--	--	--
	Learning Strategies	▽	▽	▽
	Quantitative Reasoning	--	--	--
Learning with Peers	Collaborative Learning	--	--	--
	Discussions with Diverse Others	--	▽	▽
Experiences with Faculty	Student-Faculty Interaction	△	--	△
	Effective Teaching Practices	--	▽	▽
Campus Environment	Quality of Interactions	--	--	--
	Supportive Environment	--	▽	▽

Seniors

Theme	Engagement Indicator	Your seniors compared with Minnesota	Your seniors compared with Carnegie Class	Your seniors compared with NSSE 2016 & 2017
Academic Challenge	Higher-Order Learning	--	▽	--
	Reflective & Integrative Learning	--	▽	▽
	Learning Strategies	--	▽	▽
	Quantitative Reasoning	--	--	▽
Learning with Peers	Collaborative Learning	--	▽	--
	Discussions with Diverse Others	--	▽	▽
Experiences with Faculty	Student-Faculty Interaction	△	--	△
	Effective Teaching Practices	--	▽	▽
Campus Environment	Quality of Interactions	△	--	--
	Supportive Environment	--	--	--

Comparisons with Top 50% and Top 10% Institutions

While NSSE's policy is not to rank institutions (see nsse.indiana.edu/html/position_policies.cfm), the results below are designed to compare the engagement of your students with those attending two groups of institutions identified by NSSE^a for their high average levels of student engagement:

- (a) institutions with average scores placing them in the top 50% of all 2016 and 2017 NSSE institutions, and
- (b) institutions with average scores placing them in the top 10% of all 2016 and 2017 NSSE institutions.

While the average scores for most institutions are below the mean for the top 50% or top 10%, your institution may show areas of distinction where your average student was as engaged as (or even more engaged than) the typical student at high-performing institutions. A check mark (✓) signifies those comparisons where your average score was at least comparable^b to that of the high-performing group. However, the presence of a check mark does not necessarily mean that your institution was a member of that group.

It should be noted that most of the variability in student engagement is within, not between, institutions. Even "high-performing" institutions have students with engagement levels below the average for all institutions.

First-Year Students

Theme	Engagement Indicator	SMSU Mean	Your first-year students compared with					
			NSSE Top 50%			NSSE Top 10%		
			Mean	Effect size	✓	Mean	Effect size	✓
<i>Academic Challenge</i>	Higher-Order Learning	35.3	39.2 **	-.29		41.2 ***	-.44	
	Reflective and Integrative Learning	33.6	36.6 **	-.25		38.3 ***	-.38	
	Learning Strategies	33.9	39.8 ***	-.44		41.9 ***	-.58	
	Quantitative Reasoning	26.8	28.8	-.13		30.4 **	-.24	
<i>Learning with Peers</i>	Collaborative Learning	33.2	35.2	-.14		37.1 **	-.29	
	Discussions with Diverse Others	35.2	41.7 ***	-.44		43.8 ***	-.59	
<i>Experiences with Faculty</i>	Student-Faculty Interaction	24.1	23.8	.02	✓	27.2 *	-.20	
	Effective Teaching Practices	36.0	40.7 ***	-.36		42.6 ***	-.49	
<i>Campus Environment</i>	Quality of Interactions	39.9	43.8 **	-.34		46.1 ***	-.52	
	Supportive Environment	32.7	38.2 ***	-.42		40.0 ***	-.56	

Seniors

Theme	Engagement Indicator	SMSU Mean	Your seniors compared with					
			NSSE Top 50%			NSSE Top 10%		
			Mean	Effect size	✓	Mean	Effect size	✓
<i>Academic Challenge</i>	Higher-Order Learning	38.0	41.8 ***	-.29		43.3 ***	-.39	
	Reflective and Integrative Learning	35.6	40.0 ***	-.36		42.0 ***	-.52	
	Learning Strategies	35.6	40.7 ***	-.36		42.9 ***	-.51	
	Quantitative Reasoning	26.8	31.1 **	-.27		33.0 ***	-.39	
<i>Learning with Peers</i>	Collaborative Learning	30.6	35.8 ***	-.38		37.9 ***	-.54	
	Discussions with Diverse Others	36.0	42.3 ***	-.40		44.3 ***	-.54	
<i>Experiences with Faculty</i>	Student-Faculty Interaction	27.5	29.2	-.11		33.0 ***	-.35	
	Effective Teaching Practices	35.7	41.8 ***	-.45		43.8 ***	-.60	
<i>Campus Environment</i>	Quality of Interactions	43.7	44.8	-.10	✓	46.9 **	-.27	
	Supportive Environment	30.8	34.8 ***	-.29		37.2 ***	-.47	

Notes: Results weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups); Effect size: Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation; *p < .05, **p < .01, ***p < .001 (2-tailed).

a. Precision-weighted means (produced by Hierarchical Linear Modeling) were used to determine the top 50% and top 10% institutions for each Engagement Indicator from all NSSE 2016 and 2017 institutions, separately by class. Using this method, Engagement Indicator scores of institutions with relatively large standard errors were adjusted toward the mean of all students, while those with smaller standard errors received smaller corrections. As a result, schools with less stable data—even those with high average scores—may not be among the top scorers. NSSE does not publish the names of the top 50% and top 10% institutions because of our commitment not to release institutional results and our policy against ranking institutions.

b. Check marks are assigned to comparisons that are either significant and positive, or non-significant with an effect size > -.10.