



NSSE

National Survey of
Student Engagement



2008 Invitation to Participate

"Everyone wants a tool that really works. NSSE results provide faculty and staff with information they can readily use to strengthen the learning environment."

— *David E. Shulenburg, Vice
President of Academic Affairs, National
Association of State Universities and
Land-Grant Colleges*

Register by September 20, 2007
at www.nsse.iub.edu

Sponsored by The Carnegie Foundation
for the Advancement of Teaching



What is NSSE?

More than 1,100 four-year colleges and universities in the United States and Canada have used the National Survey of Student Engagement to better understand the extent to which students and institutions engage in empirically-confirmed effective teaching and learning activities, and to develop programs and practices that foster student engagement.

The NSSE instrument is short, reliable and easy for students to complete. It asks undergraduates about how they spend their time, what they feel they have gained from classes, their assessment of the quality of their interactions with faculty and students, and other educationally important activities. The results are organized into five benchmarks of effective educational practice:

- Level of Academic Challenge
- Active and Collaborative Learning
- Student-Faculty Interaction
- Enriching Educational Experiences
- Supportive Campus Environment

Why Should Institutions Participate in NSSE?

Institutions can use NSSE data to identify aspects of the undergraduate experience inside and outside the classroom to be more consistent with good practices in undergraduate education. Assessing student engagement is a central component of evaluating overall educational effectiveness.

Schools are using their NSSE results in many ways, including:

- Assessment and improvement
- Benchmarking
- Accountability
- Institutional research
- Accreditation and self-studies
- Retention
- Curricular reform
- Alumni outreach
- Grant writing
- Recruitment
- Faculty and staff development
- State system comparisons
- Student satisfaction
- Performance indicator



"NSSE is used more widely today than ever as an effective way to assess what both institutions and students themselves do to foster student success."

— Belle S. Wheelan, President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

What Does a Participating Institution Receive?

Institutions receive detailed analyses and information tools, including:

- **Customized Institutional Report** – Presents your students' responses by class year and provides statistical comparisons with three customized peer groups.
- **Benchmark Report** – Compares your students' scores with students from peer institutions on the five NSSE benchmarks of effective educational practice.
- **Institutional Data File** – Includes student responses to all survey items in raw data that include student identifiers for additional, in-depth analyses.
- **Annual Report** – Discusses data trends, NSSE initiatives, and the landscape of undergraduate assessment.
- **Accreditation Toolkit** – Highlights ways to incorporate NSSE data into regional accreditation efforts.
- **Additional User Tools** – Enable sharing institutional NSSE results with internal and external audiences via a facilitation guide, PowerPoint template and more.

For examples of these materials and additional information visit: www.nsse.iub.edu

How Does NSSE Help Institutions Understand and Use Their Results?

The NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice assists colleges and universities in using student engagement data to support institutional improvement and accountability efforts.

Institute associates are available for:

- Facilitating campus workshops and retreats to stimulate discussion about ways to use NSSE data.
- Conducting assessments of campus conditions that promote student success.
- Evaluating the impact of curricular innovations and student success initiatives.
- Working with campuses, systems, and state organizations.
- Conducting research to better understand student success and educational effectiveness.



"We have found the NSSE a powerful tool in our work to increase student academic achievement and persistence."

— *Scott E. Evenbeck, Dean of University College,
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis*

How is the NSSE Survey Administered?

The survey is administered each spring term (February through May) to random samples of first-year and senior students at baccalaureate colleges and universities. Two-year colleges may use the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (www.ccsse.org).

Participating institutions:

- Provide a student population data file containing contact information for all first-year and senior students;
- Work with NSSE to customize invitation materials;
- Partner with NSSE to ensure compliance with federal guidelines pertaining to research with human subjects during the survey administration process. The NSSE survey is approved annually by the Human Subjects Committee at Indiana University Bloomington. Participants should coordinate with their home institutional review boards to ensure adherence to regulations regarding the protection of human subjects.

NSSE:

- Selects random samples from student population files;
- Distributes survey invitations to all sampled students;
- Follows up with non-respondents;
- Oversees data collection and provides technical support;
- Prepares institution-specific reports of institutional results;
- Assigns a client service team to assist with an institution's administration.

Modes of Administration

Both Web-based and paper survey administration modes are available. We recommend Web-based modes, as these enable an institution to receive a larger sample size, leading to more accurate population estimates, for the same cost. See our Web site (nsse.iub.edu/html/survey_modes.cfm) for more tips on choosing the best survey administration mode for your institution, or call our office to speak with a project associate.

- **Web-only.** Students receive all correspondence by e-mail and complete the Web version of the survey. This mode requires an accurate list of student e-mail addresses.
- **Web+.** Students receive their first three contacts by e-mail. For the fourth contact, depending upon preliminary response rates, a sample of non-respondents may receive a paper version of the survey while the remaining non-respondents receive another e-mail. This mode requires an accurate list of both student e-mail addresses and postal mailing addresses.
- **Paper.** Students receive a paper survey instrument in two postal mailings with the option to complete the Web version. Students at institutions without sufficient e-mail addresses also receive one reminder postcard. If e-mail addresses are available, students receive three reminders via e-mail instead of the paper postcard. This mode requires an accurate list of student postal mailing addresses.



"NSSE provides some of the necessary evidence needed to document the quality of the educational experience."

— *Ronald Crutcher, President, Wheaton College (MA)*

What Does it Cost to Participate in NSSE?

Required Fees

Institutional participation fee \$300
(non-refundable)

Sampling fee

Undergraduate Enrollment	NSSE Standard Sample Size			Fee
	Paper	Web+	Web-only	
Less than 4,000	450	1,800	All FY & SR	\$3,375
4,000 to 7,999	600	2,400	3,000	\$4,500
8,000 to 12,000	800	3,200	4,000	\$6,000
More than 12,000	1,000	4,000	5,000	\$7,500

The sample sizes above apply only to first-year students and seniors who meet NSSE population file specifications. Final sample sizes may be less due to changes in student enrollment after samples are drawn. Institutions with 400 or fewer students in their combined first-year and senior classes should check our Web site (nsse.iub.edu/faq/ifaq.cfm#surveycost) for costs.

Optional Fees

Oversampling

To increase the number of students surveyed on your campus beyond the standard sample sizes outlined above, request an *oversample*. Institutions do so for at least three reasons: (a) to raise total participation to enhance data quality, (b) to boost participation from underrepresented students, and (c) to have sufficient data to analyze at the school, department, or other subpopulation level.

Mode	Fee (per student)
Web-only (NSSE administers)	\$1.50
Paper (NSSE administers)	\$7.50
Paper (Institution administers)	\$2.00

Consortium and State or University Systems

A consortium is a group of six or more participating NSSE colleges or universities sharing aggregated data for comparisons within their group. State or university systems may also elect this option. Consortium schools may ask up to 20 additional questions developed and agreed upon by member institutions and approved by NSSE.

Undergraduate Enrollment	Fee (per institution)
Less than 4,000	\$200
4,000 to 7,999	\$300
8,000 to 12,000	\$400
More than 12,000	\$500

How Do I Register for NSSE 2008?

To register for NSSE 2008 go to www.nsse.iub.edu. Registration is easy, so register today!

The deadline to register is
Thursday, September 20, 2007.

How Can I Learn More about NSSE?

For additional detailed information about NSSE visit our Web site at www.nsse.iub.edu or call 866-435-6773 toll free.

Important Dates to Remember for NSSE 2008

May-September 2007

- Registration for NSSE 2008 on going (Deadline September 20, 2007)

- Institutions submit student population files (Deadline November 1, 2007)

August 2007

- Registration confirmation begins
- Consortium enrollment begins (Deadline October 4, 2007)

- Institutions finalize customized survey invitations (Deadline November 1, 2007)

November 2007

- NSSE sampling begins

September 2007

- Institutions submit customized survey invitations

January/February 2008

- NSSE survey administrations begin (varies by school calendars)

October 2007

- NSSE and institutions finalize consortium questions (Deadline October 18, 2007)

June 1, 2008

- NSSE online survey closes

August 2008

- Institutional Reports sent to participating institutions

What is BCSSE? Is There Still Time to Register?

The Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE, pronounced "bessie") is designed to be paired with a 2008 NSSE administration and measures entering first-year students' pre-college academic and co-curricular experiences, as well as their interest in and expectations for participating in educationally purposeful activities during college. Institutions participating in both BCSSE and NSSE receive a combined BCSSE-NSSE summary report and data file with their NSSE Institutional Report in August. BCSSE may also be used as a stand-alone instrument. For registration details to survey your 2007 entering class, visit www.bcsse.iub.edu.

"NSSE results help us connect strategic planning initiatives with student learning outcomes and understand how we compare with peer institutions on these important measures."

— Sally Mason, Provost, Purdue University

Related surveys and services:

Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement
(BCSSE) www.bcsse.iub.edu

Faculty Survey of Student Engagement
(FSSE) www.fsse.iub.edu

Law School Survey of Student Engagement
(LSSSE) www.lssse.iub.edu

Special Analyses
www.nsse.iub.edu/special_analysis



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