

NSSE (2008) Survey Items for First-Year Students by Enrollment Status in the Following Fall

NSSE Item	Not Retained n=46	Retained n=246	Sig	Effect Size
1. Academic and Intellectual Experiences				
<i>In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=Never, 2=Sometimes, 3=Often, 4=Very often</i>				
1a. Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	2.65	2.69		
1b. Made a class presentation	1.98	2.13		
1c. Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	2.26	2.39		
1d. Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources	2.63	3.02	**	0.45
1e. Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments	2.43	2.76	*	0.38
1f. Come to class without completing readings or assignments	2.02	2.09		
1g. Worked with other students on projects DURING CLASS	2.43	2.41		
1h. Worked with classmates OUTSIDE OF CLASS to prepare class assignments	1.98	2.30	*	0.36
1i. Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions	2.49	2.67		
1j. Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	1.49	1.67		
1k. Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course	1.44	1.58		
1l. Used an electronic medium (listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment	2.32	2.58		
1m. Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor	2.85	3.22	**	0.46
1n. Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	2.46	2.67		
1o. Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	2.02	2.17		
1p. Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	1.73	1.91		
1q. Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance	2.46	2.70		
1r. Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	2.38	2.66		
1s. Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)	1.51	1.67		
1t. Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)	2.53	2.65		
1u. Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own	2.62	2.63		
1v. Had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values	2.62	2.64		

Two-tailed t-tests * significant at $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Effect size is the difference in the means divided by the standard deviation

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2. Mental Activities				
<i>During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following mental activities? 1=Very little, 2=Some, 3=Quite a bit, 4=Very much</i>				
2a. Coursework emphasized: MEMORIZING facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in pretty much the same form	2.87	2.89		
2b. Coursework emphasized: ANALYZING the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering	2.85	3.08		
2c. Coursework emphasized: SYNTHESIZING and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships	2.82	2.86		
2d. Coursework emphasized: MAKING JUDGMENTS about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and interpreted	2.64	3.00	*	0.43
2e. Coursework emphasized: APPLYING theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	2.90	3.07		
3. Reading and Writing				
<i>During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done? 1=None, 2=1-4, 3=5-10, 4=11-20, 5=More than 20</i>				
3a. Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	3.05	3.30		
3b. Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment	2.22	1.90		
3c. Number of written papers or reports of <u>20 PAGES OR MORE</u>	1.46	1.24		
3d. Number of written papers or reports <u>BETWEEN 5 AND 19 PAGES</u>	2.03	2.26		
3e. Number of written papers or reports of <u>FEWER THAN 5 PAGES</u>	2.89	3.20		
4. Problem Sets				
<i>In a typical week, how many homework problem sets do you complete? 1=None, 2=1-2, 3=3-4, 4=5-6, 5=More than 6</i>				
4a. Number of problem sets (problem-based homework assignments) that take you <u>MORE</u> than an hour to complete	2.76	2.65		
4b. Number of problem sets (problem-based homework assignments) that take you <u>LESS</u> than an hour to complete	3.32	2.92		

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5. Examinations				
<i>1=Very little to 7=Very much</i>				
5. Mark the box that best represents the extent to which your examinations during the current school year have challenged you to do your best work.	4.92	5.24		
6. Additional Collegiate Experiences				
<i>During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=Never, 2=Sometimes, 3=Often, 4=Very often</i>				
6a. Attended an art exhibit, play, dance, music, theater, or other performance	2.16	2.06		
6b. Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities	2.68	2.81		
6c. Participated in activities to enhance your spirituality (worship, meditation, prayer, etc.)	1.83	1.65		
6d. Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	2.24	2.44		
6e. Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective	2.44	2.64		
6f. Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept	2.51	2.88	*	0.42
7. Enriching Educational Experiences (original coding)				
<i>Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate from your institution? 1=Have not decided, 2=Do not plan to do, 3=Plan to do, 4=Done</i>				
7a. Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	2.82	2.78		
7b. Community service or volunteer work	2.79	2.86		
7c. Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together	2.24	2.29		
7d. Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements	1.88	2.04		
7e. Foreign (additional) language coursework	2.71	2.52		
7f. Study abroad	2.06	2.24		
7g. Independent study or self-designed major	2.06	1.94		
7h. Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)	2.00	2.06		
8. Quality of Relationships				
<i>Select the circle that best represents the quality of your relationships with people at your institution.</i>				
<i>1=Unfriendly, Unsupportive, Sense of alienation to 7=Friendly, Supportive, Sense of belonging</i>				
8a. Quality: Your relationships with other students	4.35	5.30	***	0.61
8b. Quality: Your relationships with faculty members	4.29	5.05	**	0.52
8c. Quality: Your relationships with administrative personnel and offices	3.47	4.52	**	0.62

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9. Time Usage				
<i>About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following? 1=0 hrs/wk, 2=1-5 hrs/wk, 3=6-10 hrs/wk, 4=11-15 hrs/wk, 5=16-20 hrs/wk, 6=21-25 hrs/wk, 7=26-30 hrs/wk, 8=More than 30 hrs/wk</i>				
9a. Hours per 7-day week spent preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)	3.65	3.70		
9b. Hours per 7-day week spent working for pay <u>ON CAMPUS</u>	1.18	1.46		
9c. Hours per 7-day week spent working for pay <u>OFF CAMPUS</u>	3.88	2.89		
9d. Hours per 7-day week spent participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or	1.82	2.33	*	0.38
9e. Hours per 7-day week spent relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)	4.09	3.88		
9f. Hours per 7-day week spent providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.)	2.03	1.75		
9g. Hours per 7-day week spent commuting to class (driving, walking, etc.)	2.52	2.34		
10. Institutional Environment				
<i>1=Very little, 2=Some, 3=Quite a bit, 4=Very much</i>				
10a. Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	2.94	3.05		
10b. Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically	2.53	2.89	*	0.42
10c. Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds	2.27	2.61		
10d. Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	2.06	2.27		
10e. Providing the support you need to thrive socially	2.00	2.48	**	0.52
10f. Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.)	2.30	2.81	*	0.50
10g. Using computers in academic work	2.97	3.26	*	0.37

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11. Educational and Personal Growth				
<i>To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? 1=Very little, 2=Some, 3=Quite a bit, 4=Very much</i>				
11a. Institutional contribution: Acquiring a broad general education	2.72	3.13	*	0.48
11b. Institutional contribution: Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	2.38	2.73	*	0.36
11c. Institutional contribution: Writing clearly and effectively	2.69	3.01	*	0.36
11d. Institutional contribution: Speaking clearly and effectively	2.41	2.80	*	0.43
11e. Institutional contribution: Thinking critically and analytically	2.50	3.15	***	0.84
11f. Institutional contribution: Analyzing quantitative problems	2.34	3.00	***	0.73
11g. Institutional contribution: Using computing and information technology	2.41	3.01	***	0.68
11h. Institutional contribution: Working effectively with others	2.28	2.91	***	0.74
11i. Institutional contribution: Voting in local, state (provincial), or national (federal) elections	2.06	2.12		
11j. Institutional contribution: Learning effectively on your own	2.45	2.86	*	0.44
11k. Institutional contribution: Understanding yourself	2.06	2.73	***	0.69
11l. Institutional contribution: Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	2.22	2.74	**	0.53
11m. Institutional contribution: Solving complex real-world problems	2.16	2.69	**	0.62
11n. Institutional contribution: Developing a personal code of values and ethics	2.19	2.54		
11o. Institutional contribution: Contributing to the welfare of your community	1.91	2.23		
11p. Institutional contribution: Developing a deepened sense of spirituality	1.56	1.85		

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12. Academic Advising				
<i>1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Excellent</i>				
12. Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution?	2.42	2.86	*	0.47
13. Satisfaction				
<i>1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Excellent</i>				
13. How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	2.63	3.10	***	0.67
14. Satisfaction				
<i>1=Definitely no, 2=Probably no, 3=Probably yes, 4=Definitely yes</i>				
14. If you could start over again, would you go to the SAME INSTITUTION you are now attending?	2.59	3.11	***	0.61

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