



Are We Engaging Students? Insights from the NSSE

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Background

UW-La Crosse has made use of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) to collect data from our First Year (FY) and Senior students (SR) about :

(1) our ability to engage them in meaningful activities and campus experiences that support learning

and

(2) how often they are spending their time and energy on tasks shown by research to support learning .

We have participated 8 times since 2000 and are on a three year cycle. Our next administration will be in 2014 .

The results from the survey have been used to:

- Understand student access to High Impact Practices in support of Inclusive Excellence
- Support assessment of learning in General Education and the College of Business
- Support UW-L’s participation in the Voluntary System of Accountability “College Portrait” for future students.
- Provide evidence for accreditation reviews by the Higher Learning Commission
- Academic and Student Affairs units to assess student learning and provide data for needs analyses.
- Understand student experiences of writing activities

Key Findings

51% of the FY and SR students responded to the 2011 survey. A set of items (green table) indicated some patterns of strengths. These focused on our level of support for students and participation in group learning.

UW-L scores for FY and SR on 4 of the 5 Benchmarks (item clusters) surpassed our UW Peers. Scores on the Supportive Campus Environment benchmark were higher than all three comparison groups for both FY and SR students. Student Faculty Interaction for FY is a concern (maroon table)

Key Findings

Highest Performing Items Relative to UW Comprehensives

Question	Percentage of students who...	UW-L	Comparison Groups		
			UW Comp.	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2011
First-Year Students					
2e.	Said courses emphasized applying theories or concepts to new situations ¹	81%	72%	75%	76%
10a.	Said the institution emphasizes studying and academic work ¹	89%	80%	82%	83%
1h.	Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments ²	58%	44%	43%	45%
10b.	Said the institution provides substantial support for academic success ¹	84%	75%	78%	79%
10e.	Said the institution provides substantial support for students' social needs ¹	59%	47%	51%	51%
Seniors					
3a.	Read more than 10 assigned books or book-length packs of readings	38%	31%	32%	32%
1h.	Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments ²	78%	66%	60%	60%
7b.	Participated in community service or volunteer work	71%	64%	56%	60%
7h.	Completed a culminating senior experience (capstone, thesis, comp. exam)	38%	30%	30%	32%
10e.	Said the institution provides substantial support for students' social needs ¹	49%	37%	38%	39%

¹Combination of students responding “Very Much” or “Quite a Bit”

²Combination of students responding “Very Often” or “Often”

UW-L Benchmark Comparisons	Class	UW-L	Comparison Groups		
			UW Comp.	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2011
Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)					
<i>How challenging is your institution's intellectual and creative work?</i>	First-Year	54	+		
	Senior	57	+		
Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)					
<i>Are your students actively involved in their learning, individually and working with others?</i>	First-Year	43	+		
	Senior	53	+	+	+
Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)					
<i>Do your students work with faculty members inside and outside the classroom?</i>	First-Year	30		-	-
	Senior	42			
Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)					
<i>Do your students take advantage of complementary learning opportunities?</i>	First-Year	25	+	-	-
	Senior	41	+	+	
Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)					
<i>Do your students feel the institution is committed to their success?</i>	First-Year	65	+	+	+
	Senior	64	+	+	+

Next Steps

We will participate in NSSE in spring 2014. Reports broken down by academic major as well as College/School can be made available to you.

Instructors may also tailor a derivative of NSSE called CLASSE for course specific use.

UW-L Please contact Patrick Barlow for more information on how to access NSSE results and make use of them in your college, program, or classes.

For more information about this survey please visit:
<http://nsse.iub.edu/html/about.cfm>