



DEFINING AND USING PEER FIELDS FOR INTER- AND INTRA- INSTITUTIONAL COMPARISONS

Thomas F. Nelson Laird

Mahauganee D. Shaw

Antwione M. Haywood

Alexander C. McCormick

Indiana University

Center for

Postsecondary

Research

10/27/09

Presentation at the
2009 IUPUI Assessment Institute

Overview

- **Our goal**
- **Our approach so far**
 - ▣ Literature inquiry into comparison fields
 - ▣ Similar fields based on faculty characteristics
- **The beginnings of groupings**
- **Moving forward**
- **Your questions, feedback, and ideas**



NSSE Frequency Report

First-Year Students

			NSSEville State		Mid East Public		Carnegie Class		NSSE 2009	
<i>Variable</i>			<i>Response Options</i>		<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>%</i>
1a. Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	CLQUEST (ACL)	Never	1	0%	311	3%	1,171	3%	4,507	3%
		Sometimes	64	27%	3,800	35%	14,728	34%	54,486	36%
		Often	90	41%	3,613	35%	15,870	36%	56,452	35%
		Very often	69	32%	2,620	26%	12,530	28%	43,413	26%
	Total		224	100%	10,344	100%	44,299	100%	158,858	100%
1b. Made a class presentation	CLPRESEN (ACL)	Never	8	3%	1,477	15%	5,207	12%	20,011	15%
		Sometimes	110	50%	5,517	53%	22,569	51%	83,884	52%
		Often	85	37%	2,597	25%	12,382	27%	41,532	25%
		Very often	23	10%	768	8%	4,210	10%	13,673	9%
	Total		226	100%	10,359	100%	44,368	100%	159,100	100%
1c. Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	REWROPAP	Never	25	12%	1,351	13%	5,123	11%	19,433	13%
		Sometimes	81	37%	3,260	31%	13,157	29%	48,607	30%
		Often	81	34%	3,254	32%	14,406	33%	51,576	33%
		Very often	39	17%	2,474	24%	11,538	27%	38,998	25%
	Total		226	100%	10,339	100%	44,224	100%	158,614	100%

NSSE Benchmark Report

Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

Mean Comparisons

NSSEville State University compared with:

Class	NSSEville State		Mid East Public			Carnegie Class			NSSE 2009		
	Mean ^a		Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c
First-Year	52.8		53.8		-.07	53.1		-.02	53.7		-.06
Senior	57.2		56.6		.05	56.9		.02	57.0		.01

^a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

^b * p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

^c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.

Columns in Reports

- **Column 1 = A single institution**
- **Column 2 = Comparison group 1**
- **Column 3 = Comparison group 2**
- **Column 4 = Comparison group 3**



FSSE Frequency Report

- Column 1 = Faculty group 1 within inst
- Column 2 = Faculty group 2 within inst
- Column 3 = Total within inst

Faculty who teach First-year students	Faculty who teach Seniors	Faculty Total
--	------------------------------	------------------

How important is it to you that undergraduates at your institution do the following?

	<i>Variable</i>	<i>Response Options</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Col %</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Col %</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Col %</i>
a. Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	FINTERN	Not important	2	4%	1	3%	3	4%
		Somewhat important	3	6%	2	7%	5	6%
		Important	13	27%	3	10%	16	21%
		Very important	30	63%	23	79%	53	69%
		Total	48	100%	29	100%	77	100%
b. Community service or volunteer work	FVOLUNTR	Not important	5	10%	2	7%	7	9%
		Somewhat important	11	23%	4	14%	15	19%
		Important	16	33%	15	52%	31	40%
		Very important	16	33%	8	28%	24	31%
		Total	48	100%	29	100%	77	100%

Our Standard Comparisons

- **NSSE**
 - ▣ Institutional comparisons versus comparison groups
- **FSSE**
 - ▣ No institutional comparisons
 - ▣ Loose comparison by level and to NSSE findings (contextualization)
- **Problem = Faculty unconvinced, uninterested**

Our Goal

- **Create field/disciplinary comparisons for students and faculty that appeal to faculty at a single institution and to disciplinary-based groups interested in teaching and learning**



Field Comparisons

- **2 separate approaches**
 - ▣ Comparisons of a single field across institutions
 - ▣ Peer field comparisons**
- **Issues**
 - ▣ Level of comparison (area or specific field)
 - ▣ Determining peer fields



One approach = ask you



Defining Peer Fields

□ Our other approaches

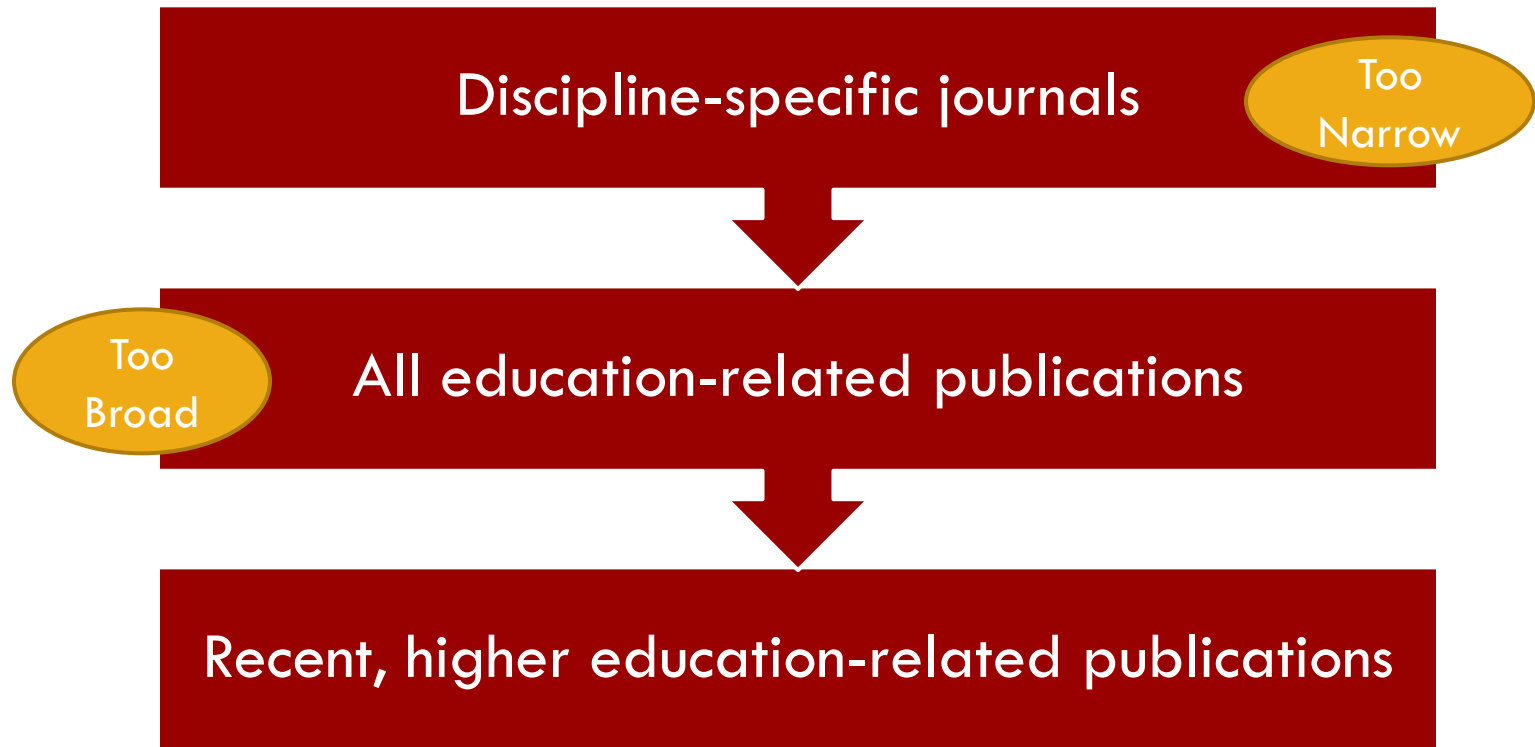
- ▣ Literature search for fields that are frequently compared to Biology, Business Administration, Engineering, and Psychology
- ▣ Like fields in terms of average hours on
 - teaching
 - research/scholarship
 - service



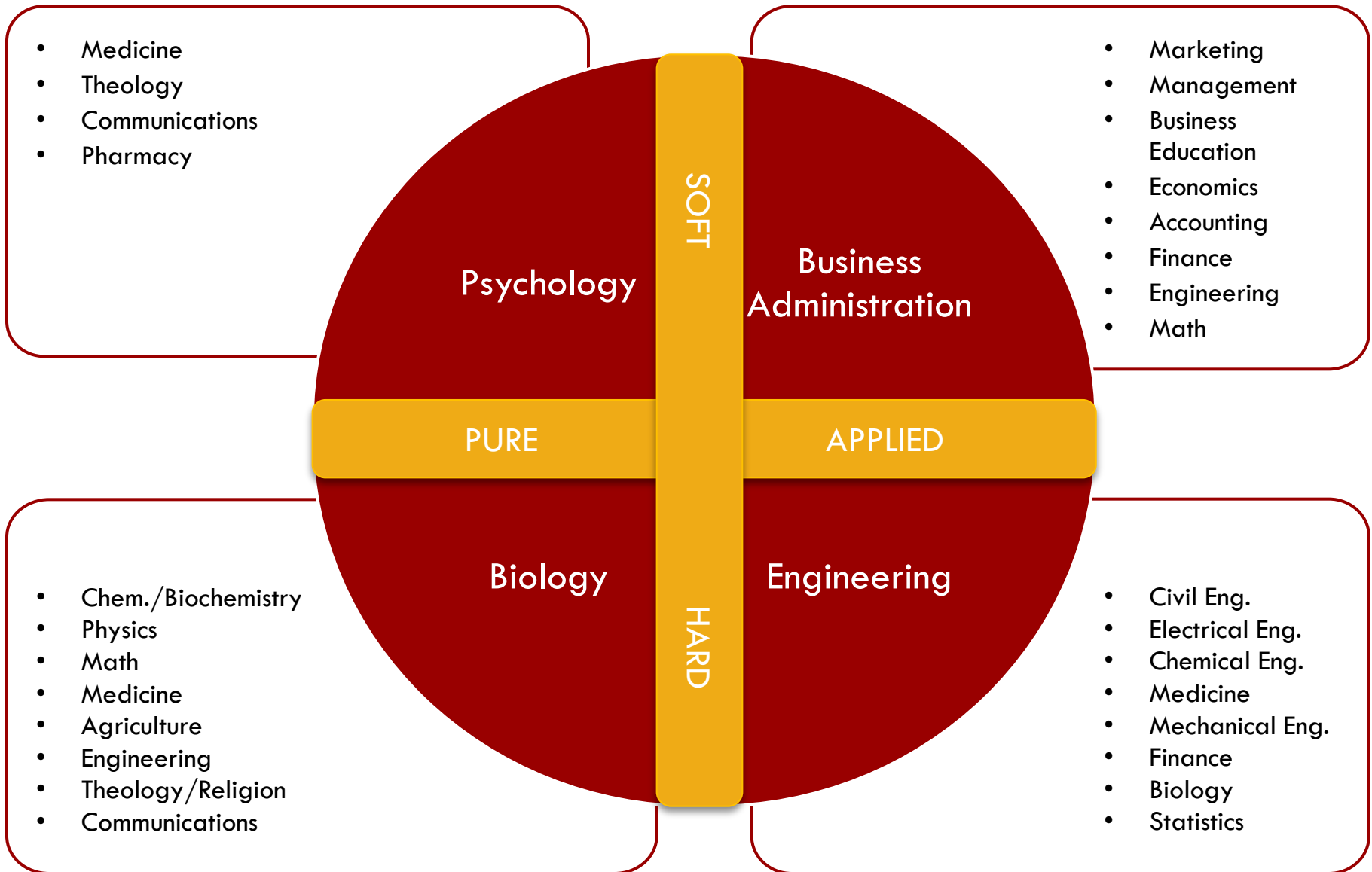
Literature Searches



Identifying Peer Fields in the Literature



Peer Disciplines Identified by Literature



Like Fields with Average Hours



Method

- Calculated average hours per week spent on teaching, research, and service by field using FSSE 2009 (67 fields)
- Identified 'distance' from field of interest
- Sum of 'distances' identified field with closest pattern of work



Fields Close to Biology

□ Teaching

- Technical/vocational
- Mathematics
- Physical education or recreation
- Physics
- Nursing
- Natural resources
- Microbiology or bacteriology
- Chemistry
- Speech
- Architecture



Fields Close to Biology

□ Research

- Statistics
- Geography
- Psychology
- Env Science
- Chemistry
- Pharmacy
- Urban Planning
- Philosophy
- History
- Art, fine and applied



Fields Close to Biology

□ Service

- Political Science
- Business Admin
- Allied Health
- Sociology
- Marketing
- Finance
- Chemistry
- Social work
- Management
- Antropology



Fields Close to Biology

- **Based on all 3 factors**
 - ▣ Chemistry
 - ▣ Geography
 - ▣ History
 - ▣ Theater or drama
 - ▣ Sociology



Fields Close to Business Admin

- **Based on all 3 factors**
 - ▣ Communications
 - ▣ Accounting
 - ▣ Language and Literature (not English)
 - ▣ Social Work
 - ▣ Journalism



Fields Close to Engineering

- **Based on all 3 factors**
 - ▣ Astronomy
 - ▣ Economics
 - ▣ Biochemistry or biophysics
 - ▣ Anthropology
 - ▣ Natural resources



Fields Close to Psychology

- **Based on all 3 factors**
 - ▣ Art, fine and applied
 - ▣ English (language and literature)
 - ▣ History
 - ▣ Journalism
 - ▣ Language and Literature (not English)



Where We Are on Groupings



Likely Comparison Fields So Far

- **Biology**
 - ▣ Chemistry and ???
- **Business Administration**
 - ▣ Accounting and ???
- **Engineering**
 - ▣ Economics/Finance and ???
- **Psychology**
 - ▣ ???

Next Steps...



We Plan to...

- **Refine & expand literature searches**
- **Add additional measures for like fields**
 - ▣ e.g., salary
- **Expand to other fields**
- **Ask faculty directly**
 - ▣ Extra items added to FSSE 2010
- **???**



Discussion

