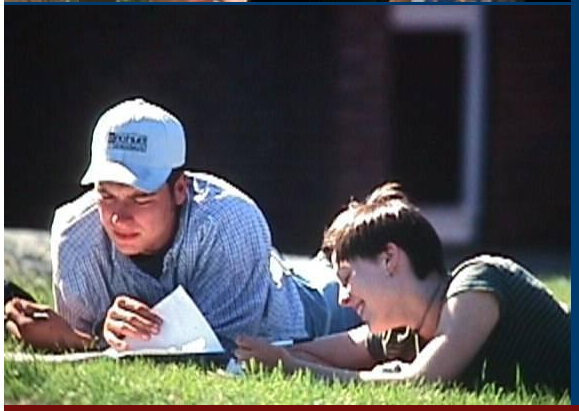

Linking BCSSE and NSSE Data to Investigate First-Year Engagement and Outcomes

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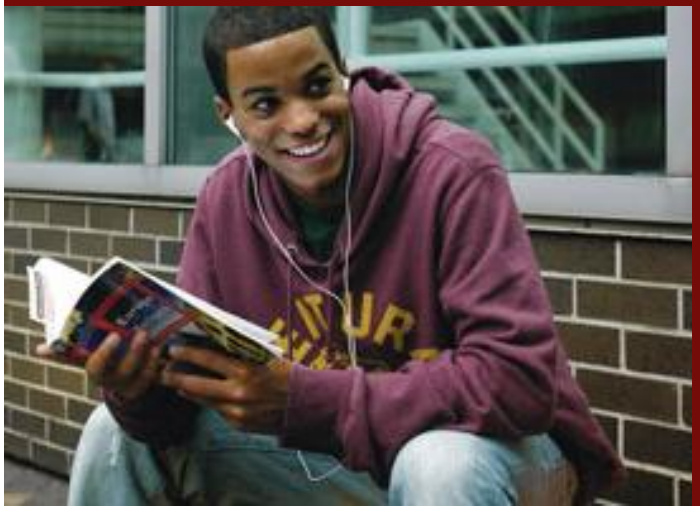


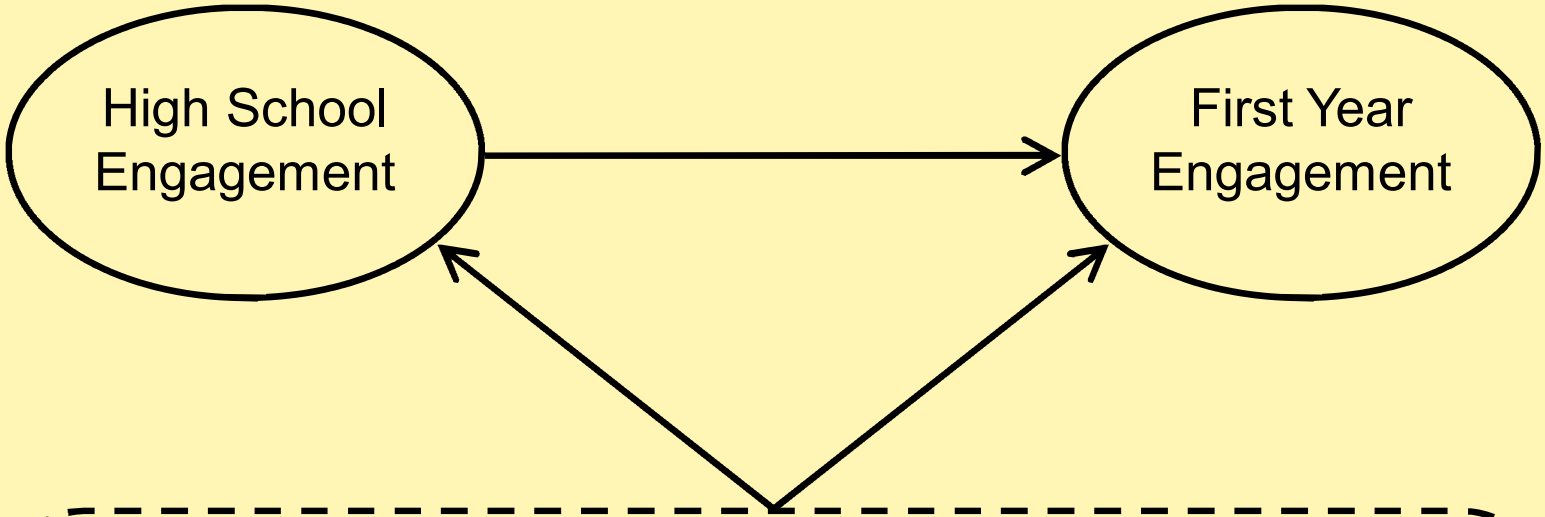
Description of BCSSE

Measures entering first-year student:

- pre-college academic and co-curricular experiences
- expectations and attitudes for participating in educationally purposeful activities

BCSSE was primarily designed as a companion survey to the *National Survey of Student Engagement* (NSSE)

BCSSE-NSSE Concept



Many factors that relate to academic engagement are present to varying degrees in high school and college, including:

- Institutional characteristics (high school and college)
- Social and family environment
- Socio-economic status
- Academic motivations and expectations
- Personality and dispositions

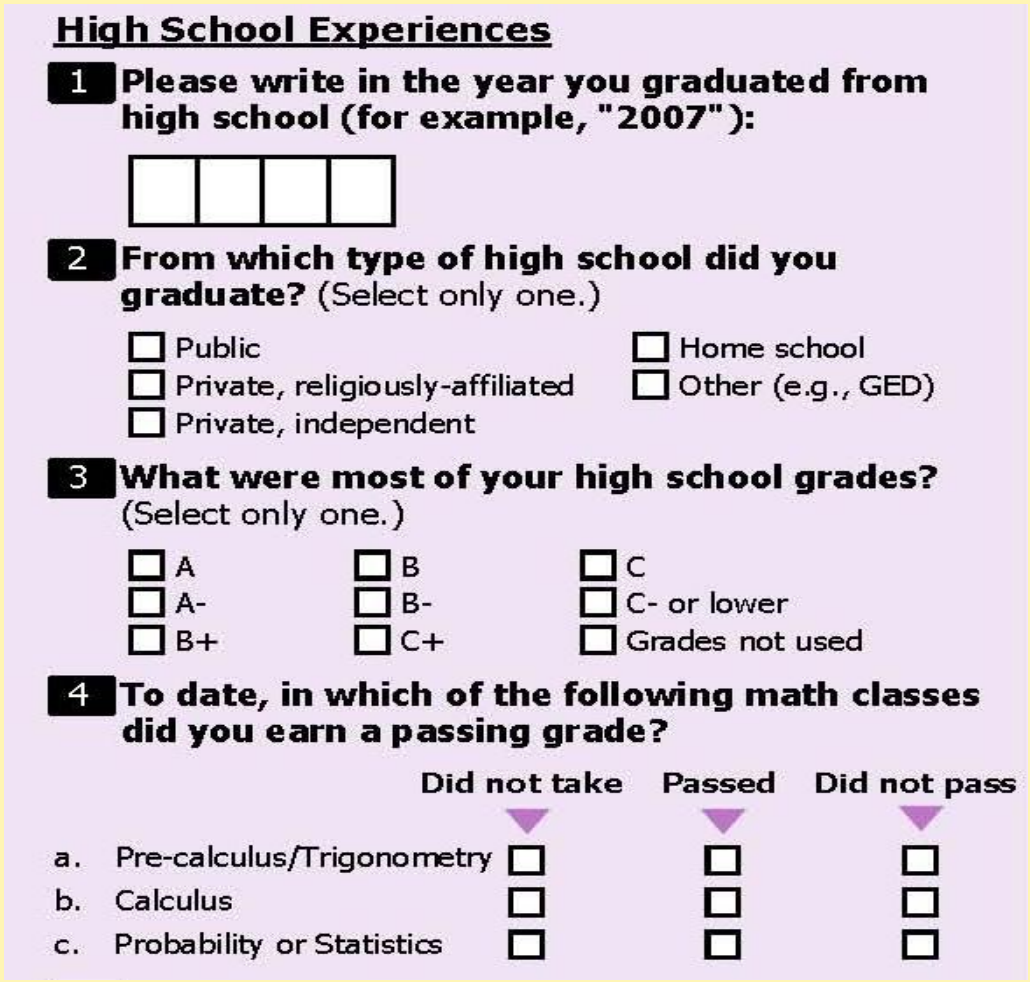
Survey Content

There are 3 sections in the BCSSE survey

1) High school experiences
2) Expectations and beliefs regarding their first-year of college
3) Background characteristics/demographics

Survey Content

High School Experiences



High School Experiences

1 **Please write in the year you graduated from high school (for example, "2007"):**

☐☐☐☐

2 **From which type of high school did you graduate?** (Select only one.)

- ☐ Public
- ☐ Private, religiously-affiliated
- ☐ Private, independent
- ☐ Home school
- ☐ Other (e.g., GED)

3 **What were most of your high school grades?** (Select only one.)

- ☐ A
- ☐ A-
- ☐ B+
- ☐ B
- ☐ B-
- ☐ C+
- ☐ C
- ☐ C- or lower
- ☐ Grades not used

4 **To date, in which of the following math classes did you earn a passing grade?**

		Did not take	Passed	Did not pass
a.	Pre-calculus/Trigonometry	☐	☐	☐
b.	Calculus	☐	☐	☐
c.	Probability or Statistics	☐	☐	☐

Survey Content

High School Experiences

9 **During your last year of high school, about how often did you do each of the following?**

		Very often	Often	Some-times	Never
a.	Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	☐	☐	☐	☐
b.	Made a class presentation	☐	☐	☐	☐
c.	Came to class without completing readings or assignments	☐	☐	☐	☐
d.	Discussed grades or assignments with a teacher	☐	☐	☐	☐
e.	Worked with other students on projects **during class**	☐	☐	☐	☐

Survey Content

First-Year Expectations

14 During the coming school year, about how often do you expect to do each of the following?

		Very often	Often	Some-times	Never
a.	Ask questions in class or contribute to class discussions	☐	☐	☐	☐
b.	Make a class presentation	☐	☐	☐	☐
c.	Work on a paper or project that requires integrating ideas or information from various sources	☐	☐	☐	☐
d.	Work with other students on projects **during class**	☐	☐	☐	☐
e.	Work with classmates **outside of class** to prepare class assignments	☐	☐	☐	☐

Survey Content

Many of these questions are designed to be matched with NSSE data.

BCSSE

8 **During your last year of high school, about h many hours did you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?**

a. Preparing for class (studying, doing homework, rehearsi
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30
Hours per week

b. Working for pay (before or after school, weekends)
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30
Hours per week

c. Participating in co-curricular activities (arts, clubs, athlet
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30
Hours per week

d. Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30 ☐ More than 30
Hours per week

13 **During the coming school year, about how many hours do you think you will spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?**

a. Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30 ☐ More than 30
Hours per week

b. Working for pay on- or off-campus
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30 ☐ More than 30
Hours per week

c. Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30 ☐ More than 30
Hours per week

d. Relaxing or socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30 ☐ More than 30
Hours per week

NSSE

9 **About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?**

a. Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30 ☐ More than 30
Hours per week

b. Working for pay **on campus**
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30 ☐ More than 30
Hours per week

c. Working for pay **off campus**
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30 ☐ More than 30
Hours per week

d. Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30 ☐ More than 30
Hours per week

e. Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)
☐ 0 ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ 16-20 ☐ 21-25 ☐ 26-30 ☐ More than 30
Hours per week

Survey Content

Expected First Year Experiences

BCSSE

14 During the coming school year, about how often do you expect to do each of the following?

	Very often	Often	Some-times	Never
a. Ask questions in class or contribute to class discussions	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Make a class presentation	☐	☐	☐	☐

NSSE

	Very often	Often	Some-times	Never
a. Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Made a class presentation	☐	☐	☐	☐

Survey Content

BCSSE Scales	
High School Academic Engagement	Engagement in educationally relevant behaviors during the last year of high school.
Expected Academic Engagement	Expected engagement in educationally relevant behaviors during the first year of college.
Expected Academic Perseverance	Student certainty that they will persist in the face of academic adversity.
Expected Academic Difficulty	Expected academic difficulty during the first year of college.
Perceived Academic Preparation	Student perception of their academic preparation.
Importance of Campus Environment	Student-rated importance that the institution provides a challenging and supportive environment.

Survey Administration

Paper or Web

1. Paper group administration
   - During Orientation activities, etc.
2. Web group administration
   - While students are in computer lab, etc.
3. Web email administration
   - Web link emailed to students

Survey Content & Admin.

Three reports are provided:

1. BCSSE Report (Summer/Fall 2009)
2. BCSSE Advising (Summer/Fall 2009)
3. BCSSE/NSSE report (Summer 2010)

A Campus Example

Using information contained in their reports, as well as the BCSSE and NSSE data file, here are a few things they found out about their the amount of hours per week their first-year students spent studying and preparing for class.

From the BCSSE Report

They were surprised to find out that the majority of their incoming first-year class spent less than 11 hours per week preparing for class in high school.

8. During your last year of high school, about how many hours did you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?

Preparing for class (studying, doing homework, rehearsing, etc.)	0 hours per week	40	3%	84%
	1-5 hours per week	799	52%	
	6-10 hours per week	446	29%	
	11-15 hours per week	154	10%	
	16-20 hours per week	54	4%	
	21-25 hours per week	27	2%	
	26-30 hours per week	6	0%	
	More than 30 hours per week	9	1%	
	Total	1,535	100%	

From the BCSSE Report

However, they were pleased to find out that the majority of their incoming first-year class expected to spend at least 11 hours per week preparing for class.

13. During the coming school year, about how many hours do you think you will spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?

Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)	0 hours per week	4	0%
	1-5 hours per week	52	3%
	6-10 hours per week	276	18%
	11-15 hours per week	446	30%
	16-20 hours per week	379	25%
	21-25 hours per week	221	15%
	26-30 hours per week	77	5%
	More than 30 hours per week	49	3%
	Total	1,504	100%

79%

NSSE Report

However, they were moderately pleased to find out that approximately 65% of their first-year class reported that they spent at least 11 hours per week preparing for class.

9. About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?

Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)	0 hours per week	4	1%
	1-10 hours per week	153	34%
	11-20 hours per week	185	41%
	More than 20 hours per week	108	24%
	Total	450	100%

65%

Additional Analysis

However, this institution wanted to know more. According to many advisors on this campus, students did not spend as much time studying and preparing for class because they were overwhelmed and too busy.

So the IR office was tasked with running additional analysis to further investigate.

Additional Analysis

Hours spent preparing/studying for class

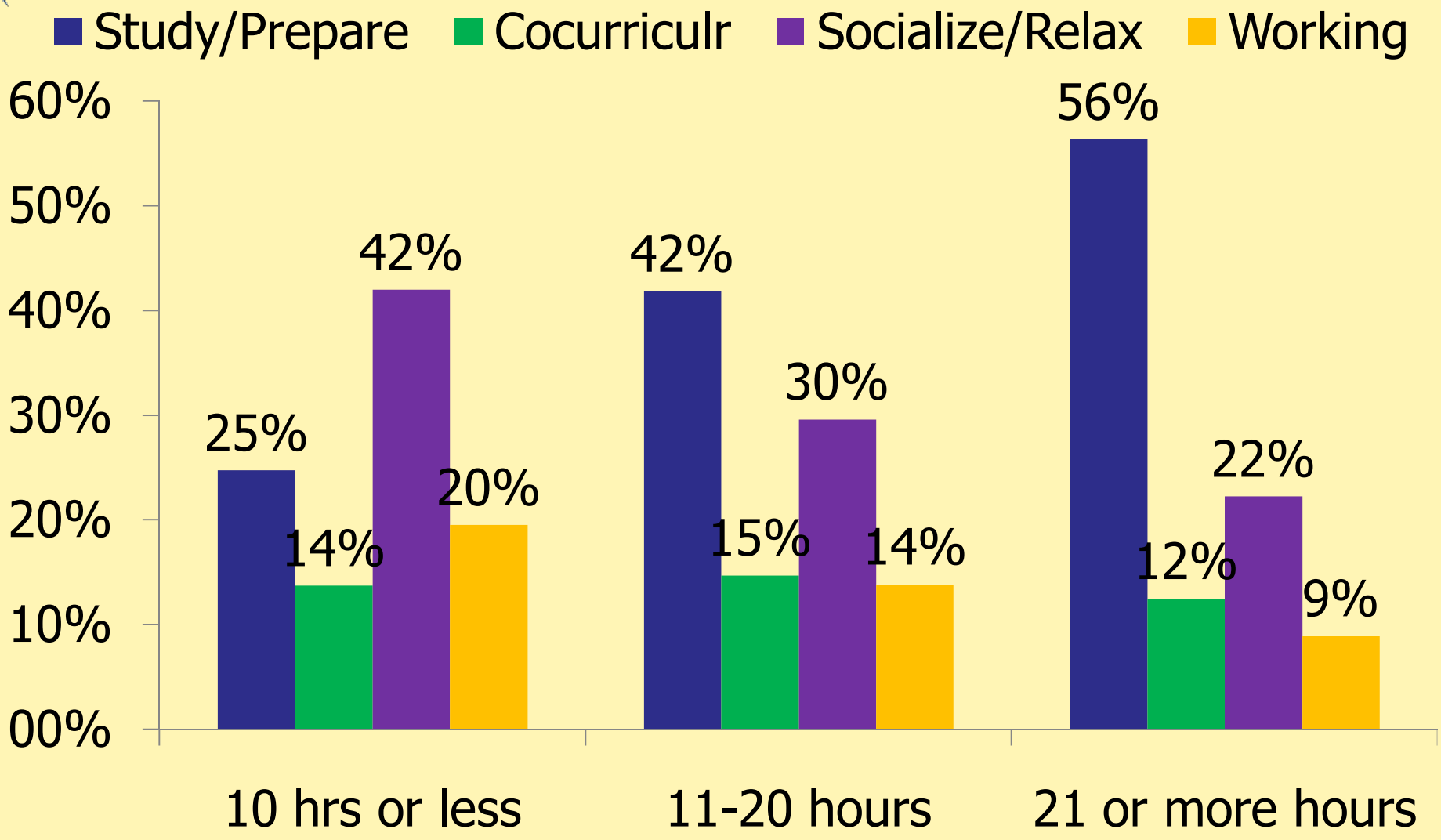
10 hours or less: 35%

11-20 hours: 41%

21 or more hours: 24%

Are the students spending 10 hours less proportionately spending more time doing other activities (e.g., working, cocurricular, etc)?

Percent Hours per Week in FY

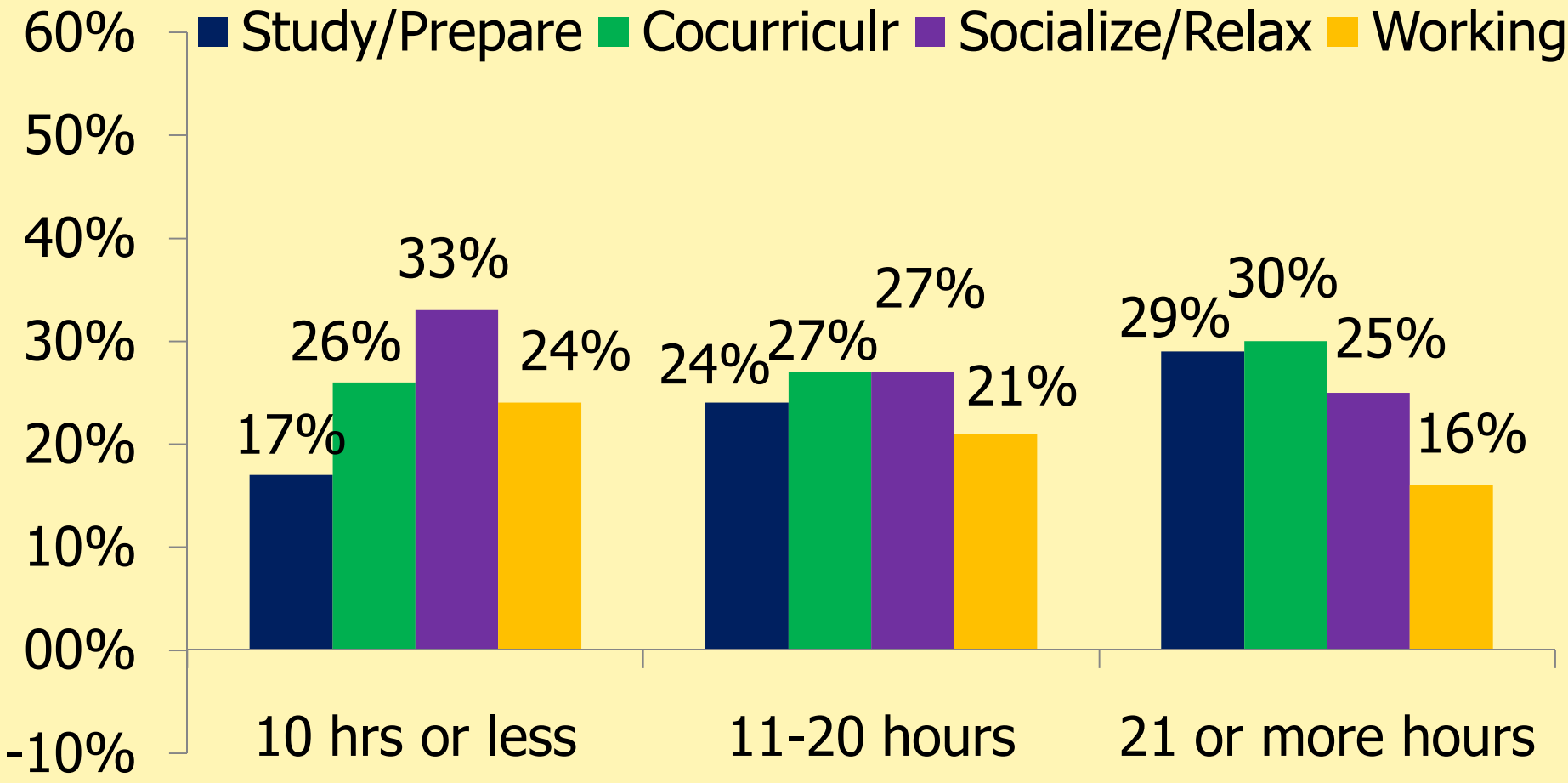


Additional Analysis

So, this institution now knows that many of the students not spending as much time studying are spending proportionately much more time socializing and relaxing.

There is a suggestion that this pattern of hours spent studying was no different for these students in high school. . .

Percent Hours per Week in HS



Additional Analysis

So what is it about their first year experience that may help us to understand why they are spending less time studying? Are they truly feeling overwhelmed, or is something else going on?

Additional Analysis

Hours/week studying	Higher Order Thinking
10 hrs or less	61.1
11-20 hours	67.6
21 or more hours	76.8

Additional Analysis

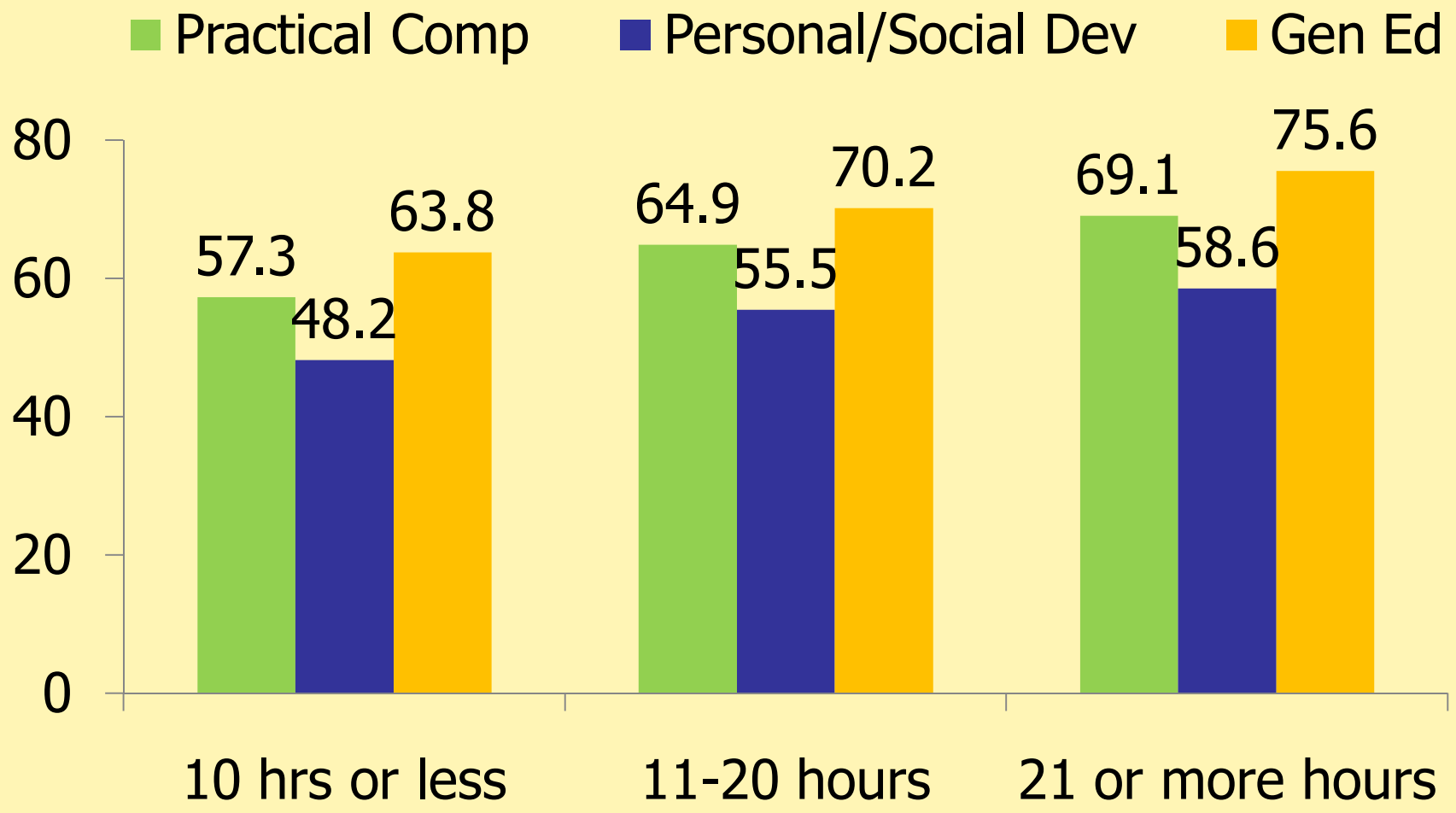
Hours/week studying	Higher Order Thinking	Challenging exams
10 hrs or less	61.1	5.1
11-20 hours	67.6	5.4
21 or more hours	76.8	5.8

Additional Analysis

Hours/week studying	Higher Order Thinking	Challenging exams	Instit emphasis on studying
10 hrs or less	61.1	5.1	3.0
11-20 hours	67.6	5.4	3.3
21 or more hours	76.8	5.8	3.5

Additional Analysis

One consequence of this lower emphasis on higher order thinking and challenging exams maybe lower gains



What they did

Through orientation programs, emphasize with new FY students:

- The importance of hours devoted to studying
- The dangers of spending too much time socializing and relaxing
- The challenges they will face in the classroom
- The institutions emphasizes academc excellence and there are support services available for all student who need them

Thank You

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Copies of the paper and PowerPoint can be found at:

www.nsse.iub.edu

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