The NSSE Update: New Opportunities to Assess Liberal Learning

The Updated NSSE: New Opportunities to Assess Liberal Learning

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Overview

• What is NSSE?
• Why Update Now?
• Connecting NSSE to Liberal Learning
• Updated survey - item changes and new content
• What about the Benchmarks?
• New Reports
• Preparing for the Updated NSSE

What is NSSE?

Assessing Student Engagement:

• What students do -
  • What matters most is what students do, not who they are.
• What institutions do -
  • Using effective educational practices to induce students to do the right things

What is NSSE?

• NSSE annually gathers valid, reliable information on the extent to which students engage in and are exposed to proven educational practices that correspond to desirable learning outcomes.
  • Over 1,500 bachelor’s degree-granting colleges and universities
  • More than a million college students surveyed every year
  • Canada, Mexico, Australia, South Africa and many other countries

Why Update Now? Purpose

• After more than a decade in the field, we know more about what matters to student success, institutional improvement efforts, and properties of the NSSE survey itself
  • NSSE must stay relevant to current issues & concerns
  • Starting in 2005, we kept the survey largely unchanged for longitudinal comparisons with the aim of rolling out major updates at longer-term intervals

Why Update Now? Goals

• Maintain our core purpose of assessing student engagement in effective educational practices to inform improvement efforts
• Stay current with movements and trends in higher education
• Improve clarity, consistency, and applicability of the survey
• Improve the properties of existing measures
• Incorporate new measures relevant to effective teaching and learning
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Connecting the Updated NSSE to Liberal Learning

- Deep Approaches to Learning
  - Higher-Order Learning
  - Reflective and Integrative Learning
- Time on Task, Course Challenge
- Writing and Reading
- Learning Strategies
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Learning with Peers
- Perceived Gains in Learning and Development

Connecting the Updated NSSE to Liberal Learning

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World
- Intellectual and Practical Skills, including
  - Integration and Analysis
  - Written and Oral Communication
- Personal and Social Responsibility, including
- Integration and Applied Learning, including

Considering item changes...

- How did your favorite items fare in the update?
- What questions do you have about modifications?
- What concerns do you have about assessing topics of interest to your faculty and programs?
- How will you prepare for 2013 results?

If you are concerned about the loss of specific items or content areas please contact us to discuss how to address!

How did the NSSE items change?

- About a quarter of NSSE 2013’s items are new, and nearly the same proportion remained unchanged. Of the half that changed, an equal number were modified in major or minor ways. Deleted items maintained the overall length.

How did the NSSE items change?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Survey</th>
<th>2013 Survey</th>
<th>Comparison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How often... Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in</td>
<td>How often... Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How often... Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor</td>
<td>How often... Connected your learning to societal problems or issues</td>
<td>Del</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How often... Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor</td>
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<td>New</td>
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<tr>
<td>How often... Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)</td>
<td>How often... Explained course material to one or more students</td>
<td>Maj</td>
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</table>
How can you track item changes?

- Item by Item Comparisons of NSSE 2012 and NSSE 2013:
  - nsse.iub.edu/pdf/NSSE 2012-2013 Item Comparisons.pdf

What do item comparisons suggest for tracking over time?

- Many items can continue to be tracked
- Most minor and even some major modified items can be tracked (criterion reference, adopt comparison to above the average)
- Consider how new items might help enhance what you’re trying to assess in terms of effective educational practice

New Content in 2013

- Teaching Practices
  - To what extent have your instructors...
    - Clearly explained course goals and requirements
    - Taught course sessions in an organized way
    - Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points
    - Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments
  - Wabash National Study found that this measure had the strongest relationship with desired learning outcomes

- Quantitative Reasoning
  - How often have you...
    - Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information (numbers, graphs, statistics, etc.)
    - Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)
    - Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information

- Learning Strategies
  - How often have you...
    - Identified key information from reading assignments
    - Reviewed your notes after class
    - Summarized what you learned in class or from course materials

- We also now offer topical modules:
  - Academic advising
  - Civic engagement
  - Transferable skills
  - Experiences with diversity
  - Writing
  - Technology
  - Additional modules will be developed over time—send us your great ideas!

View modules: http://nsse.iub.edu/html/modules.cfm
### What will happen to the NSSE benchmarks?

**Level of Academic Challenge**
- Time, effort, and coursework emphasis on intellectually challenging and creative work.

**Active and Collaborative Learning**
- Active involvement in learning and working with others.

**Student-Faculty Interaction**
- Interacting with faculty as mentors and instructors in and out of the classroom.

**Enriching Educational Experiences**
- Complementary learning activities in and out of the classroom that augment the curriculum.

**Supportive Campus Environment**
- Perceptions of support for academic and nonacademic success.

### NSSE Benchmarks vs. NSSE 2013 Engagement Content

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<th>NSSE 2013 Engagement Theme</th>
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<td>High-Impact Practices</td>
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**NSSE 2013 Engagement Content**

- The updated student-faculty interaction theme is enhanced by a second measure about effective teaching.
- Selected items will be reported separately as high-impact practices. Interactions with diverse others are moved to learning with peers.
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How will this affect longitudinal comparisons?

• The NSSE Benchmark scores will no longer be calculable after 2013, but the themes addressed within the benchmarks will carry forward.

Engagement Indicators and High-Impact Practices

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<td>• Discussions with Diverse Others</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Student Faculty Interaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teaching Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Quality of Interactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Supportive Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-Impact Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Community, Cultivating Experience, Study Abroad, Service Learning, Research with Faculty, Leadership Position, Internship</td>
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2012 Level of Academic Challenge Benchmark

• Combined measure of expectations, higher-order learning, reading, writing.

2013 Academic Challenge content area

• Engagement Indicators (aggregate scores):
  • Higher-Order Learning
  • Reflective & Integrative Learning
  • Learning Strategies
  • Quantitative Reasoning

• Other reported measures:
  • Reading
  • Writing
  • Study Time
  • Course Challenge
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How will this affect longitudinal comparisons?

Who on campus might be interested in expanded and new content?

How will NSSE reports change?

Meaningful, actionable data about educational quality
Updated resources and tools (Accreditation Toolkits, Facilitators Guide)
Customizable comparison groups
What do you most want to see retained?
What NSSE data, report, or feature is most important to you and your campus?

Re-familiarize yourself with the NSSE data you already have
What was most valued (items, benchmark scores, multi-year data etc.) and how will this be affected for 2013?
Review the updated NSSE survey
http://nsse.iub.edu/html/survey_instruments.cfm
and Topical Modules
http://nsse.iub.edu/html/modules.cfm
What report templates can you envision in advance of receiving results?

Find new allies! NSSE has many new measures and features – who might be attracted?
How might you involve new audiences in survey promotion?
Who might benefit from a survey preview?
Who is likely interested in new measures? Modules?

Share feedback:
http://nsse.iub.edu/nsse2013/
What other questions do you have?

Ideas, feedback, and questions:
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