

Using NSSE Data in Accreditation and Quality Improvement Plans

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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.
 - Results provide estimate of how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from college.
 - NSSE items represent empirically confirmed ‘good practices’; behaviors associated with student learning and development.

National Survey of Student Engagement 2011

The College Student Report

1 In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? Mark your answers in the boxes. Examples: or

	Very often	Often	Some- times	Never		Very often	Often	Some- times	Never
a. Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Made a class presentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	s. Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	t. Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	u. Had serious conversations with students of a different race or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

NSSE's Big Idea



- Ask students about their experience
- Focus on *behavior*: empirically confirmed effective practices

What is Student Engagement?



Student engagement is the time and energy students devote to educationally purposeful activities – practices shown to be related to desired educational outcomes



OK, but what is Engagement?

- Challenging academic work
 - High expectations
 - Deep approaches to learning
- Quality involvement with faculty
- Enriching activities and high-impact practices
 - Active and collaborative learning
 - Powerful educational experiences
- Supportive peers, faculty, staff, campus



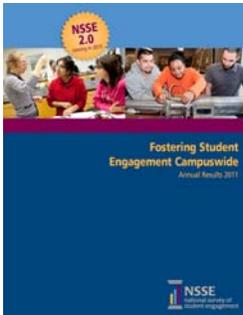
NSSE Deliverables

- **Institutional Report**
 - Comparison Reports
 - Respondent characteristics (Demographic Information)
 - Means and Frequencies (item averages & response percentages)
 - Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice
 - Multi-year BM report
 - Major Field reports
 - Additional Reports (If Applicable)
 - FSSE Report
 - BCSSE Combined Report
- Data file (student-identified)
- User Resources
 - Using NSSE Data
 - Accreditation Toolkit
 - Facilitator's Guide



NSSE Annual Results 2011 Coming November 17!!

- Sent to all current and past year participating institutions (and downloadable from website)
- Includes several recent accreditation examples:
 - Georgia State University
 - Tulane University
- NSSE Benchmark scores
 - Percentile distributions of benchmark student scores
 - Frequency distributions of items by Carnegie class





Perspectives on NSSE and Accreditation

*“Our NSSE results have provided us with a very meaningful framework for **organizing** our data and assessing our ongoing progress for our accreditation self study.”*

— Mary J. Meehan, President, Alverno College

“NSSE is used more widely today than ever as an effective way to assess what both institutions and students themselves do to foster student success.”

— Belle S. Wheelan, President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools



Rationale for Using NSSE in Accreditation



Illinois College

- Measures educational effectiveness
- Systematically identifies areas of strength and needs for improvement
- Enables benchmarking against similar & aspirational comparison groups
- Results reveal information how students use institutional resources
- Participation in NSSE demonstrates ongoing evaluation, institutional improvement & effectiveness activities
- Results are accessible and understandable by various internal and external stakeholders



Types of Measures

Process Measures

• Evidence of effective educational activity by students and institutions

Outcome Measures

• Evidence of what students have learned or can do



NSSE Accreditation Toolkits

Guide to help maximize use of NSSE data for accreditation

Background information on using student engagement in accreditation	Customized to each of the six regional accrediting bodies (and several specialized accreditors)	NSSE items mapped to accreditation standards	Vignettes from other institutions on using NSSE in accreditation
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DOWNLOAD Toolkits:
www.nsse.iub.edu
 Click on: "Tools & Services"

NSSE Institute
for effective educational practice

NSSE Accreditation Toolkits
NSSE Accreditation Toolkits provide suggestions for using NSSE results as evidence to support your institution's accreditation efforts with an emphasis on mapping student engagement results to regional and professional accreditation standards.

Accreditation Toolkits Information Sheet

Regional Accreditation Toolkits
Toolkits provide suggestions for mapping student engagement results to regional accreditation standards. We also offer sample timelines to help you decide when and how often to collect student engagement data for integration into your accreditation process. Finally, we offer examples of how other institutions in your region have used NSSE in their accreditation efforts.

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- Higher Learning Commission - North Central Association (HLC-NCA)
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- View Map of Regions

Specialized Accreditation Toolkits

www.nsse.iub.edu/links/accred_toolkits

NSSE
national survey of student engagement

Accreditation Toolkit:
Mapped to 2006-2010 NSSE Survey Questions

Higher Learning Commission - North Central Association (HLC-NCA)

Introduction and Rationale for Using NSSE in Accreditation

Accreditation organizations have responded to the growing salience of learning outcomes in a

Inside

- 1 Introduction and Rationale
- 2 NSSE as a Tool for Documenting Student Learning Outcomes
- 2 NSSE and Regional Accreditation Timelines
- 4 Mapping NSSE to HLC-NCA Standards
- 10 Institutional Examples
- 15 Recent Trends in Accreditation
- 15 Accreditation Tips

and an indirect indicator of what they get out of it. That is, NSSE data show how engaged various types of students are in effective educational practices during the first and last years of college.

Second, regional and discipline- or program-specific

NSSE Items Mapped to HLC – NCA Criteria

2009 NSSE Questions	HLC-NCA	AQIP 2008	AQIP 2000
1a. Asked questions in class/contributed to class discussion	3c	1R1, 1R2, 1R3, 1R6	1R1, 1R2, 1R4
1b. Made a class presentation	3c	1R1, 1R2, 1R3, 1R6	1R1, 1R2, 1R4
1e. Included diverse perspectives in class discussions or writing assignments	3c, 4c	1R1, 1R2, 1R3, 1R6	1R1, 1R2, 1R4
5. To what extent have exams during the current year challenged you to do your best work?	3c	1R1, 1R2, 1R3, 1R6	1R1, 1R4

The Higher Learning Commission
A Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

NSSE Items Mapped to HLC – NCA Criteria

2009 NSSE Questions	HLC	AQIP 2008	AQIP 2000
8b. How would you rate the quality of your relationships with faculty members?	3c	1R5, 1R6, 3R1, 3R2, 3R3, 3R6, 4R1-4R4	1R3, 1R4, 3R1, 3R5, 4R3, 4R4
10b. To what extent does your institution emphasize providing support you need to help you succeed academically?	2b, 3d, 4d	1R5, 1R6, 3R1, 3R2, 3R3, 3R6, 4R1-4R4, 6R1, 6R2, 6R3, 6R5	1R3, 1R4, 3R1, 3R5, 4R3, 4R4, 6R1, 6R3
11e. To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your skills at thinking critically and analytically?	3c, 4b	1R1, 1R2, 1R3, 1R6	1R1, 1R4
12. Overall, how would you rate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution?	3d, 5d	1R5, 1R6, 3R1, 3R2, 3R3, 3R6, 4R1-4R4, 6R1, 6R2, 6R3, 6R5	1R3, 1R4, 3R1, 3R5, 4R3, 4R4, 6R1, 6R3

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Connecting NSSE Data to Accreditation Standards (Example)

Accreditation standard: "Demonstrate effectiveness of student academic and social support services"

Evidence for institutional self study:

- Information about availability and student use of tutoring, writing support, peer study groups, counseling services
- NSSE indicates FY & SR believe institution emphasizes spending time studying and support for student success; 79% seniors tutored or taught peers; positive correlation between peer collaboration outside of class, satisfaction and first-year retention; data higher than peer institutions
- Positive student satisfaction data about support services
- Area for improvement - seniors indicate low gains in writing and completing drafts of papers; institution responds with examination of writing requirement in senior capstone and targets seniors for increased use of writing center

Connecting NSSE Data to Accreditation Standards (Example)

Accreditation standard: "Demonstrate effectiveness of student academic and social support services"

Take a look at the NSSE survey:

- What NSSE items relate to this standard?
- What analyses could help demonstrate effectiveness on this standard?

NSSE national survey of student engagement

Mapping NSSE to Accreditation Standards

- 1 • Begin with audit of evaluation practices and extant data that can be used for accreditation
- 2 • Always use multiple sources of data
- 3 • NSSE can be linked as evidence of meeting certain accreditation standards
- 4 • NSSE is most meaningful when coupled with other forms of formative & summative data

NSSE national survey of student engagement

NSSE and Regional Accreditation Timelines

EXAMPLE: Standard Reaffirmation SACS
10 year cycle

Years 1-4	• Preplanning: Review accreditation standards, past reaffirmation materials; prepare Report; Administer NSSE
Year 5	• Impact Report due from previous reaffirmation
Year 7	• Orientation of Accreditation Leadership Team
Year 8	• Compliance Certification due; off-site peer review
Year 9	• Quality Enhancement Plan due
Year 10	• Reaffirmation decision
Year 15	• Impact Report due

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Using NSSE to Demonstrate Institutional Improvement Example

September 2011	• Register for NSSE	Strategy for demonstrating use of results for improvement: - Two NSSE administrations, prior to completing self-study. -Yr 1 NSSE = baseline -Yr 2 review results, plan action -Yr 3 implement -Yr 4 NSSE = impact
Spring 2012	• Administer NSSE	
2012-2013	• Review NSSE results • Develop action plans and area of focus	
2013-2014	• Refine and implement your action plan	
2014	• Register for 2014 NSSE to assess action plan	
2015	• Administer NSSE • Determine impact/changes on area of focus	

NSSE national survey of student engagement

Washington State University

- To support its 2009 Self-Study prepared for the NWCCU, WSU used NSSE scores over multiple years to show evidence of the impact of several programs initiated to improve student engagement and learning.
- Programs included:
 - First-year living-learning community titled "Freshmen Focus"
 - Integrated residence hall programming and co-curricular activities
 - Implementation of a new foreign language requirement for the Honors program as well as an elective for general education studies
 - Residence hall tutoring services
 - Increased emphasis on experiential learning

"Preliminary data from NSSE indicates that the pilot projects have begun to impact the student experience."

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
World Class. Face to Face.

Kennesaw State UNIVERSITY

- KSU's QEP for 2007-2012, "Global Learning for Engaged Citizenship" relied on longitudinal assessment of NSSE data and "nuggets" from 2005 NSSE results for baseline evidence of impact on student learning outcomes.
- NSSE scores from 2004, 2005, and 2006 on diversity, study abroad, and taking a foreign language were not at desired levels. The 10 goals of the QEP focused on strengthening leadership, financial, and infrastructure commitments to global learning.
- NSSE will be used biennially to assess gains in targeted areas as well for trend analysis.

NSSE national survey of student engagement

NSSE & Accreditation

How does your institution use NSSE in accreditation and quality improvement plans?

 **Final Thoughts: Accreditation Tips**

- 1 • Student engagement results provided by NSSE are a direct indicator of what students put into their education and an indirect indicator of what they get out of it.
- 2 • NSSE items can be used to analyze resources and appraise the effectiveness of the institution in fulfilling its mission.
- 3 • NSSE data are actionable
- 4 • Share NSSE results widely to expand the audience's view of the accreditation data.
- 5 • Use NSSE to identify areas of strength and to stimulate discussions related to improving teaching and learning
- 6 • Share NSSE results with appropriate campus community members
- 7 • NSSE results can help assess the degree to which the institution encourages contact among students

 **NSSE 2.0 (Coming in 2013)**

- **Development started in 2009—spring 2013 launch**
- Preserves what NSSE does well, but will integrate what we have learned over the past decade
- Goals: refines existing measures, adds new measures, removes outdated terminology, improves item clarity and applicability
- Consider what this means for your participation cycle



For more information about NSSE 2.0, see nsse.iub.edu/nsse2013 or email nsse2013@indiana.edu