The Updated NSSE: New Opportunities to Assess Educational Quality

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SACS COC 2013 Annual Meeting
Students Are Central to Success

Audience Survey
• Have you administered the updated NSSE? Or, will you in 2014?
• Do you have NSSE results from past years?
• Have you worked with your institutions NSSE results?
• What questions do you have about using NSSE in your assessment & improvement work?

Agenda
• Current Context
• Updated NSSE
• Data for assessment, accreditation and improvement
• Discussion and Questions

What We Know About Student Success:
• Student engagement in intentionally designed educationally purposeful activities is necessary to achieve desirable learning outcomes.
• Institutions need information about students experiences to deploy resources appropriately and encourage success behaviors.

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.
What is NSSE?

NSSE annually gathers valid, reliable information on the extent to which First Year & Senior students are exposed to proven educational practices that correspond to desired learning outcomes.

- Content represents empirically confirmed good practices—activities and behaviors associated with student learning and development
- Results provide estimates of what students do and how they perceive the institution and their learning

2013: An Updated NSSE

Higher education is constantly changing, and it is important for NSSE to stay relevant to the most salient issues and priorities of institutional assessment and research.

Design Principles

- Build on NSSE’s strengths
  - Focus on behavior & effective practice
  - Actionable information
- New content must...
  - Inform engagement
  - Be based in the literature
  - Be thoroughly tested

Development Process

- Internal committee work started in 2009
- Consultation with external advisors
- Feedback from institutional users
- Experimental item testing: 2006 to 2011
- Pilot testing: 2011 & 2012
- Extensive psychometric analyses
- Focus groups and cognitive interviews

NSSE at 13!

- What we’ve learned... connect engagement data to indicators of success; student behaviors; institutional improvement is possible
- Updating NSSE... same focus; new & refined measures; updated terminology
  - Emerging areas of interest – HIPs, quantitative reasoning, effective teaching, deep approaches, topical modules

Summary of NSSE 2013 Changes

- New * 23%
- No Change 22%
- Major Modification 27%
- Minor Modification 28%

* Offset by deletions
The NSSE Benchmarks have been Retired!

- Level of Academic Challenge
  - Time, effort, and coursework emphasis on intellectually challenging 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
  - Complement the academic and nonacademic success
- Supportive Campus Environment
  - Perceptions of support for academic and nonacademic success

The Updated NSSE
From Benchmarks to Engagement Indicators and High-Impact Practices

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New Content in 2013 Example

- 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

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High-Impact Practices

- Learning Community
- Service-Learning
- Research with a faculty member
- Internship or Field Experience
- Study Abroad
- Celebrating Student Experience

Item by Item Comparisons of NSSE 2012 and NSSE 2013

nsse.iub.edu/nsse-update
Engagement Indicators and High-Impact Practices

Reporting 10 measures plus individual high-impact practices provides more specificity and more actionability

NSSE 2013 Engagement Indicators
- Higher-Order Learning
- Reflective & Integrative Learning
- Learning Strategies
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Collaborative Learning
- Discussions with Diverse Others
- Student-Faculty Interaction
- Teaching Practices
- Quality of Interactions
- Supportive Environment

High-Impact Practices
Learning Community, Capstone, Study Abroad, Service-Learning, Research w/Fac., Internship

Discussion: Getting Acquainted with Updated NSSE
1. Review Engagement Indicators (EIs)
2. Which measure is of interest to you?
3. Which EIs suggest an opportunity for accreditation efforts?

What Use Do you see for the “Discussions with Diverse Others” Measure?

Discussions with Diverse Others
During the current school year, how often have you had discussions with people from the following groups:
- People from a race or ethnicity other than your own
- People from an economic background other than your own
- People with religious beliefs other than your own
- People with political views other than your own

What Use Do you see for the Discussions with Diverse Others Items?
- Assess institutional commitment to diverse learning experiences
- Assess multicultural affairs, diversity component in curriculum,
- Where do diverse discussion levels vary? by student characteristics? Majors? Housing status...

Relationship Between Quality of Interactions Measure and Persistence

Quality of Interactions
Indicate the quality of your interactions with the following people at your institution:
- Students
- Academic Advisors
- Faculty
- Student services staff (career services, student activities, housing, etc.)
- Other administrative staff and offices (registrar, financial aid, etc.)

For further analysis....Explore relationship between Quality of Interaction and students’ rating of their “entire educational experience” & “start over” items
Additional New Content

• Topical modules:
  • Academic advising
  • Civic engagement
  • Transferable skills
  • Writing
  • Technology
  • Experiences with diversity
  • Global Perspectives
  • Information literacy experiences
• Additional modules will be developed over time — send us your great ideas!

Using NSSE Findings For Compliance Evidence at UA

1. Accreditation Toolkits
2. Learning With Technology Module
Using NSSE Findings For Compliance Evidence at UA

1. Accreditation Toolkits

2. Learning With Technology Module

NSSE Topical Module: Learning With Technology

Developed in partnership with EDUCAUSE, these questions examine the role of technology in student learning, focusing on student use of technology and perceptions of institutional support.

SACSCOC Comprehensive Standard 3.4.12

The institution's use of technology enhances student learning and is appropriate for meeting objectives of its programs. Students have access to and training in the use of technology.
Using NSSE Findings For Compliance Evidence at UA

1. Accreditation Toolkits
2. Learning With Technology Module

Issue: Transitioning to Updated NSSE

• Re-familiarize yourself with NSSE data you already have
  • What was most valued (items, benchmark scores, multi-year data etc.) and how will this be affected?
• Write up a summary of NSSE results pre-2013 as a retrospective
  • What has your campus learned? What has improved?
• Introduce Engagement Indicators & items in advance to stimulate interest in results

What other questions do you have?

Ideas, feedback, and questions:

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