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A Guide to Your NSSE 2006 Institutional Report

The substantial amount of rich information in this NSSE *Institutional Report* can be a challenge to navigate and digest. Reading the binder from front to back may not be the best way to get the information you need right now. This guide is designed to help you to locate and correctly interpret the different data displays and reports in the binder, and – equally important – to provide ideas about using this information to improve the undergraduate experience of your students.

Report Organization

The NSSE 2006 *Institutional Report* is divided into four main sections according to the Table of Contents and colored tabs in the binder.

- SECTION I: NSSE – *National Survey of Student Engagement* (indicated by dark blue tabs)
- SECTION II: FSSE – *Faculty Survey of Student Engagement* (indicated by plum tabs)
- SECTION III: BCSSE – *Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement* (indicated by gold tabs)
- SECTION IV: *Additional Resources* (indicated by light blue tabs)

Descriptions of Report Contents

What Reports are Included in Each Section of this Binder?

SECTION I: NSSE

- *Respondent Characteristics* – A snapshot of how well your respondents represent your school's actual first-year and senior student populations. Provides response rates and sampling errors for your institution and comparison groups (selected peers or consortium, Carnegie peers, and the NSSE 2006 cohort). This report is not weighted.
- *Frequency Distributions* – The number and weighted percent of student responses to all survey items for your institution and comparison groups, reported separately for first-year and senior students.

- *Mean Comparisons* – Tables of weighted means, statistical tests, and effect sizes for all survey items comparing your institution to your comparison groups, with separate results provided for first-year and senior students.
- *Benchmark Comparisons* – Five clusters of effective educational practice: (1) level of academic challenge, (2) active and collaborative learning, (3) student-faculty interaction, (4) enriching educational experiences, and (5) supportive campus environment. Results include weighted means, statistical tests, and effect sizes comparing your institution to your comparison groups.

SECTION II: FSSE (*FSSE 2006 participating schools only*)

- *Respondent Characteristics* – Selected background characteristics of faculty members who responded to the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement. Much of these data are



not contained on the institutional data file in order to protect respondents' identities.

- *Frequency Distributions* – The response percentages to each item on FSSE broken down by the level of the students taught by faculty members.
- *FSSE-NSSE Combined Report* – A template for identifying interesting ways to look for gaps in perceptions between faculty responses and student responses.

SECTION III: BCSSE (BCSSE 2005-2006 Participating Schools only)

- *Respondent Characteristics* – Sampling, response rates, and the characteristics of your BCSSE-NSSE respondents in relation to the first-year student population of your institution. Includes demographic statistics related to gender and enrollment status.
- *BCSSE-NSSE Combined Report* – Cross-tabulated results of students' corresponding BCSSE and NSSE responses. Shows the relationship between the value first-year students place on learning activities and their reported engagement in these activities.

Where Can I Learn More About the Data and Technical Properties in this Report?

NSSE comparison reports are typically accompanied by a technical overview document designed to guide users through interpreting results (e.g. *Interpreting the Frequency Distributions Report* and *Interpreting the Mean Comparisons Report* which precede the actual reports). These documents provide information concerning the sampling and weighting procedures used for various reports, specific statistical tests employed, and examples of how to interpret results.

Other resources include:

- Data codebook(s), detailing survey variable names, descriptions, and response values, are also provided on the *Institutional Report CD* for your reference.
- *Psychometric Properties of NSSE*, found at the end of the NSSE (dark blue) section of the report, responds to common questions about the psychometric properties of the survey instrument.
- *Working with NSSE Data: A Facilitator's Guide* in the Additional Resources (light blue) section of the report explains in everyday language the various statistical terms and examples used in the reports.
- Additional materials related to technical properties and statistics are on the NSSE Web site at www.nsse.iub.edu/html/2006_inst_report.htm.

Where Can I Find Ideas and Tools to Help My Institution Use NSSE Data Effectively?

The *Additional Resources* (light blue) section of the 2006 *Institutional Report* is designed to help users share and effectively use their NSSE data. This section describes efforts of the NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice (NSSE's research, outreach, and service arm) and provides an array of user tools:

- *Working with NSSE Data: A Facilitator's Guide* describes ways to share results on your campus;
- *Using NSSE Data* provides examples of how NSSE data have been used to guide educational policy and practice on various campuses;
- *Accreditation Toolkit* notes linkages between NSSE survey items and guidelines established by the various regional accrediting bodies;
- *A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College: Are you asking the right questions?* is designed to provide prospective students with questions to ask about student engagement during the college search process.

Supplemental resources, such as a sample NSSE 2006 PowerPoint presentation, are included on the 2006 *Institutional Report CD*.

What is Included on the 2006 Institutional Report CD?

ALL SCHOOLS RECEIVE:

- NSSE 2006 Institutional Data File (SPSS 13.0)
- NSSE 2006 Comparison Group Information (Excel 2003)
- NSSE 2006 Respondent Characteristics (Excel 2003)
- NSSE 2006 Frequency Distributions (Excel 2003)
- NSSE 2006 Mean Comparisons (Excel 2003)
- NSSE 2006 Benchmark Comparisons (Excel 2003)
- NSSE 2006 Student Comments (Excel 2003)
- Psychometric Properties of NSSE (PDF)
- NSSE 2006 Overview (PDF)
- Using NSSE Data (PDF)
- Accreditation Toolkit (PDF)
- Working with NSSE Data: A Facilitator's Guide (PDF)
- NSSE PowerPoint Presentation (Microsoft PowerPoint)*
- NSSE 2006 Codebook (Excel 2003)*

- NSSE 2006 Participating School List (PDF)*
- FSSE 2006 Overview (PDF)
- FSSE 2006 Participating School List (PDF)*

FSSE PARTICIPANTS ALSO RECEIVE:

- FSSE 2006 Institutional Data File (SPSS 13.0)
- Respondent Characteristics (Excel 2003)
- Frequency Distributions (Excel 2003)
- FSSE-NSSE Combined Report (Excel 2003)

BCSSE PARTICIPANTS ALSO RECEIVE:

- BCSSE 2005-NSSE 2006 Institutional Data File (SPSS 13.0)
- Respondent Characteristics (Excel 2003)
- BCSSE-NSSE Combined Report (Excel 2003)
- BCSSE 2005 Codebook (PDF)*

(*Item is provided on *Institutional Report* CD only; not included as part of this printed report)

Where Can I Find Additional Resources Related to the NSSE 2006 *Institutional Report*?

Several important documents and resources are available on the NSSE Web site: www.nsse.iub.edu/html/2006_inst_report.htm

- Copies of the NSSE survey instrument in multiple formats (PDF, HTML)
- Grand Frequency and Mean reports by Carnegie Classification and all 2006 participating institutions.
- Selected 2006 results that can be used for comparison purposes and as examples of different ways to use NSSE data on their own (e.g., examining amount of time students spend on academic work by major or disciplinary area, evaluating the extent to which the institutions emphasizing spending significant amounts of time on academic work).
- Examples of how to display NSSE results in tables and graphs.

Improvements for NSSE 2006

What's New in Your Comparison Reports?

Based on feedback from NSSE users, several improvements were made to this year's NSSE *Institutional Report*. One important change is that Benchmark Comparisons are now included in this *Institutional Report* so that you have these results as soon as possible to guide deliberations and action. Other changes involve three aspects of the report: (a) sample, (b) weights, and (c) Carnegie comparison group.

Sample

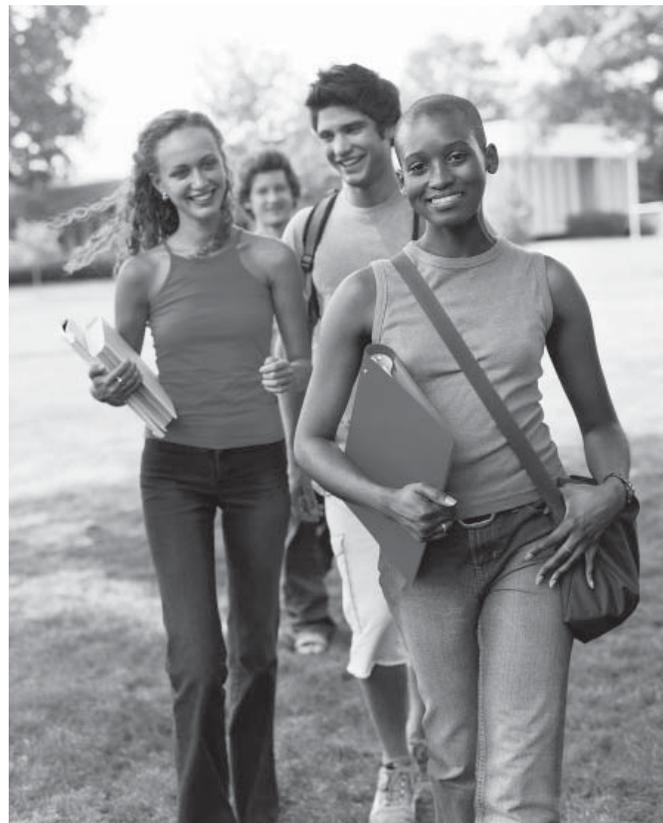
This year's comparison reports (Frequency Distributions, Mean Comparisons, and Benchmark Comparisons) are based on information from all randomly selected students for both your institution and comparison institutions. Targeted oversamples and other non-randomly selected students are *not included* in the reports. This new policy allows us to calculate proper weights and ensures consistency across all comparison reports.

Weights

The weights are applied to all comparison reports and adjust respondents within schools by sex and enrollment status and between schools to reflect respondents' relative population sizes. Weights are calculated separately for first-year students and seniors. For detailed information about weighting, please visit the NSSE Web site at www.nsse.iub.edu/html/2006_inst_report.htm.

Carnegie Comparison Group

In 2005, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching released an updated "Basic" and a new "Advanced" Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Using a Web-based tool, NSSE 2006 institutions selected their own Carnegie-defined peers using either the 2005 basic or advanced classifications, or the previous 2000 basic classification scheme. For more information about the Carnegie Classifications, visit www.carnegiefoundation.org/classifications.



What Changed on the NSSE Instrument in 2006?

Periodically new items are added to the survey instrument, or continuing items are reworded for enhanced clarity and understanding. In 2006, the item 'disted' was added to the NSSE online survey:

"Are you taking all courses entirely on-line?" (yes, no)

Additional wording changes were made in 2006 to the following items:

Item	Variable	NSSE 2005	NSSE 2006
1q.	facfeed	Received prompt feedback from faculty on your academic performance (written or oral)	Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance
7h.	snrx04	Culminating senior experience (capstone course, thesis, project, comprehensive exam, etc.)	Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)
9.	cocurr01	Specific "hours per week" labels listed as column headers for entire set of questions	Specific "hours per week" labels listed below response options for each question in set
9d.	cocurr01	Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)
18	race05	Second response option="Asian American or Pacific Islander"	Second response option="Asian, Asian American or Pacific Islander"



National Survey of Student Engagement

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