

NSSE 2009 Benchmark by Student Major Report University of Washington (Seattle)

Interpreting the Benchmark by Major Group Report

To focus discussions about the importance of student engagement and to guide institutional improvement efforts, NSSE created five Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice: Level of Academic Challenge, Active and Collaborative Learning, Student-Faculty Interaction, Enriching Educational Experiences, and Supportive Campus Environment.

NSSE urges institutions to "look within," calling attention to the need to examine variation in the student experience at your institution. Your average student does not describe all students and groups on your campus. This report provides an overview of your institution's overall benchmark scores by major field and class.

Key Terms and Features in this Report

Sample

The Benchmark Comparisons by Major Field report is based on information from all randomly selected students at UW-Seattle.

Weighting

All major field results displayed in this report are unweighted.

n

The actual number of students who contributed to the benchmark mean. Students who did not respond to at least 3/5ths of each benchmark's items were not included.

X-axis

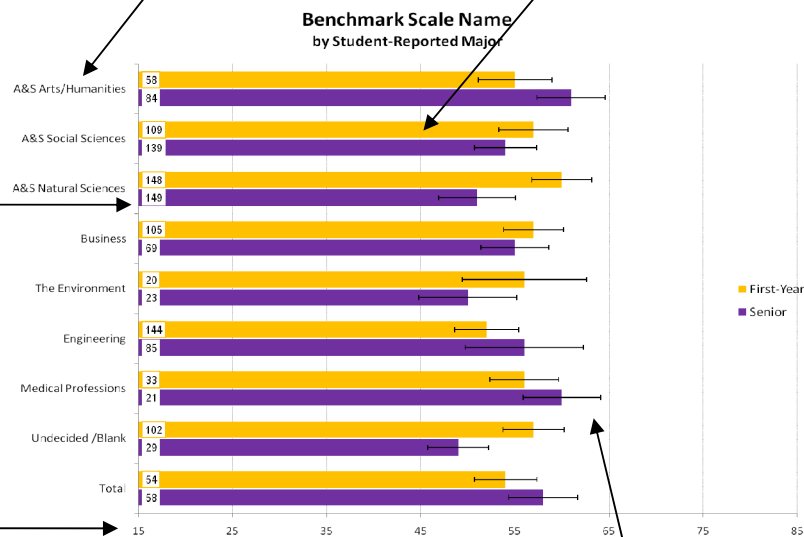
Benchmarks are computed on a 0-100 scale; however, nearly all institutional scores are between 15-85.

Major Group

Benchmark scores are reported for eight fields of student-reported major within UW-Seattle. Major classifications are based on recodes of the student-provided PRIMARY major. Major fields with less than twenty respondents in a given class are not reported.

Class

Benchmark scores are reported separately for first-year students and seniors. Institution-reported class levels are used. Note that first-year reports of major are more likely to be unstable, and interpretations of first-year results should be made with caution.



Error Bars/Confidence Intervals

Error bars around each mean show the bounds of the 99% confidence interval (mean +/- 2.6*SEM), a range of values 99% likely to contain the true population score. Where confidence intervals do not overlap between groups, a statistically significant difference (p < .01) is likely to be present.

Detailed Statistics

First-Year Students

Scale		A&S Arts/ Humanit.	A&S Social Sci.	A&S Natural Sci.	Business	The Environ- ment	Engineer- ing	Medical Professions	Undecided /Blank	Total
Level of Academic Challenge	<i>Mn</i>	54.0	57.3	55.3	51.1	55.3	52.7	55.8	51.3	53.9
	SD	12.3	10.7	11.5	10.4	16.3	12.2	12.0	11.4	11.7
	<i>n</i>	58	109	148	105	20	144	33	102	742
Active and Collaborative Learning	<i>Mn</i>	37.7	40.5	37.3	38.4	40.0	37.9	45.2	39.4	39.1
	SD	13.1	15.3	14.5	13.9	14.8	14.8	13.6	15.7	14.7
	<i>n</i>	58	109	148	105	20	144	33	145	785
Student-Faculty Interaction	<i>Mn</i>	32.4	35.1	31.5	32.0	34.7	29.7	36.7	33.1	32.6
	SD	16.3	20.0	17.7	17.1	21.4	17.0	19.0	19.2	18.1
	<i>n</i>	58	108	148	105	20	144	33	114	753
Enriching Educational Experiences	<i>Mn</i>	32.5	33.9	29.3	30.5	34.9	26.7	32.7	27.5	30.1
	SD	13.4	13.0	12.1	13.3	13.9	12.4	12.6	12.8	13.0
	<i>n</i>	58	109	148	106	20	144	33	90	731
Supportive Campus Environment	<i>Mn</i>	55.2	57.0	58.0	53.0	52.2	55.9	62.0	55.8	56.3
	SD	15.3	17.9	17.6	16.9	14.9	17.1	14.3	19.0	17.1
	<i>n</i>	58	109	148	106	20	144	33	76	716

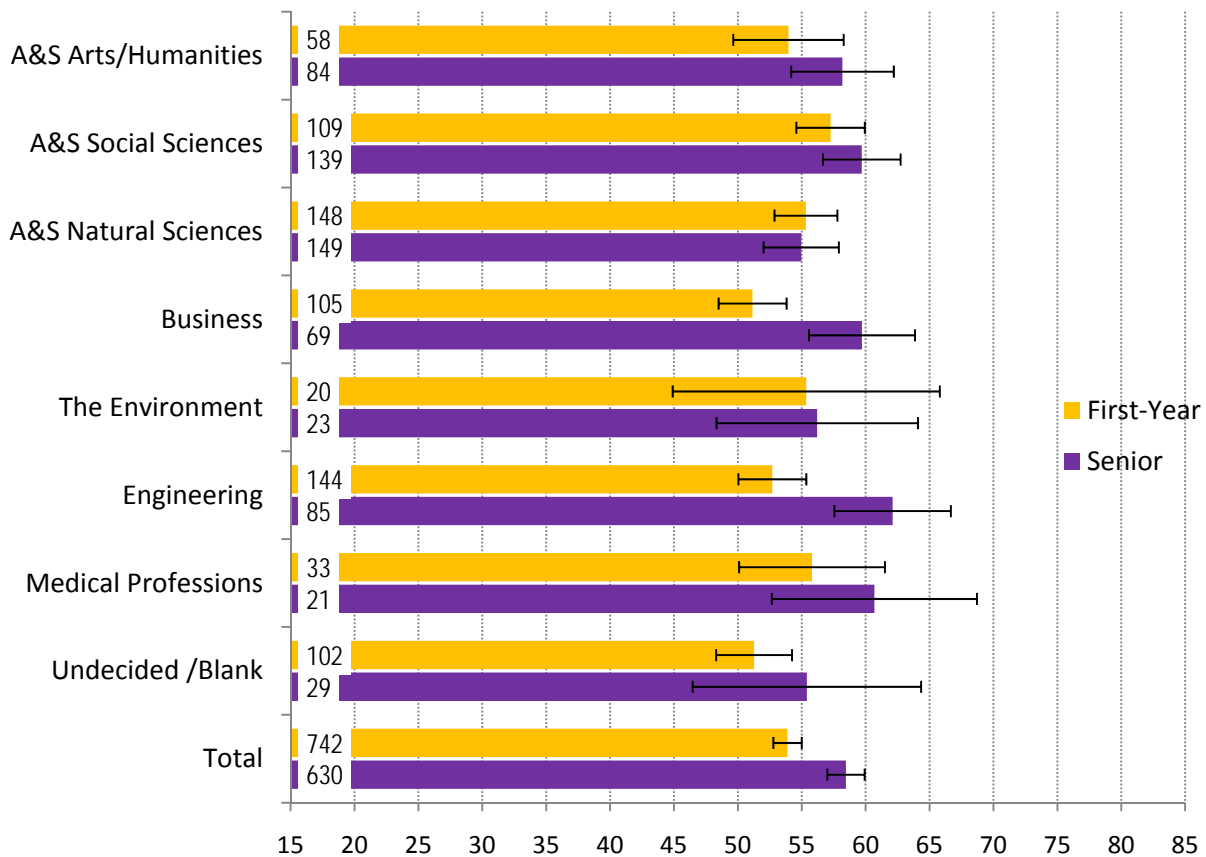
Note. The following groups had fewer than 20 respondents: Built Environments, Education, Information School, Social Work.

Seniors

Scale		A&S Arts/ Humanit.	A&S Social Sci.	A&S Natural Sci.	Business	The Environ- ment	Engineer- ing	Medical Professions	Undecided /Blank	Total
Level of Academic Challenge	<i>Mn</i>	58.2	59.7	55.0	59.7	56.2	62.1	60.7	55.4	58.5
	SD	14.7	15.8	15.3	16.5	13.4	17.2	17.0	19.2	17.0
	<i>n</i>	84	139	149	69	23	85	21	29	630
Active and Collaborative Learning	<i>Mn</i>	48.8	45.3	42.0	54.6	46.2	48.5	51.3	52.6	48.0
	SD	14.0	13.7	13.8	13.0	13.4	15.9	12.9	17.4	14.2
	<i>n</i>	84	139	149	70	23	85	21	64	666
Student-Faculty Interaction	<i>Mn</i>	42.7	39.2	36.6	39.5	37.1	38.8	45.7	36.8	39.6
	SD	17.3	20.2	18.6	21.4	16.1	20.2	20.0	21.4	20.1
	<i>n</i>	83	139	149	68	23	85	21	37	636
Enriching Educational Experiences	<i>Mn</i>	49.1	46.7	42.9	47.9	45.7	45.3	50.9	45.6	46.7
	SD	18.2	18.6	16.8	17.1	13.8	16.5	14.2	24.3	17.9
	<i>n</i>	84	139	148	69	23	85	21	21	621
Supportive Campus Environment	<i>Mn</i>	55.6	51.6	51.2	55.0	52.3	56.1	56.8	52.8	53.6
	SD	21.0	18.2	18.1	15.6	14.8	17.9	17.9	29.7	18.3
	<i>n</i>	83	139	149	69	23	84	21	11	608

Note. The following groups had fewer than 20 respondents: Built Environments, Education, Information School, Social Work.

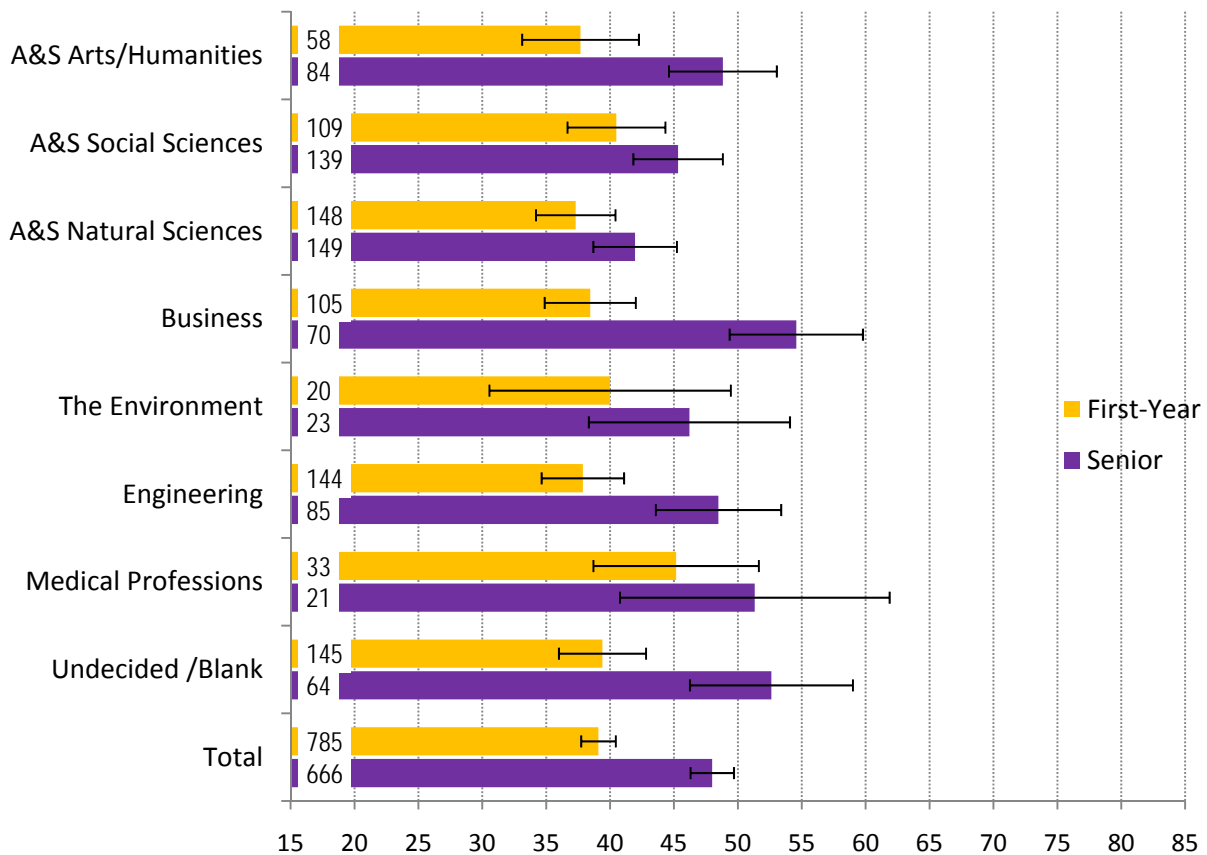
Level of Academic Challenge by Student-Reported Major
(2009)



Items

- Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, etc. related to academic program)
- Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings
- Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more; number of written papers or reports of 5-19 pages; and number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages
- Coursework emphasizes: **Analysis** of the basic elements of an idea, experience or theory
- Coursework emphasizes: **Synthesis** and organizing of ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships
- Coursework emphasizes: **Making of judgments** about the value of information, arguments, or methods
- Coursework emphasizes: **Applying** theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations
- Working harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations
- Campus environment emphasizes: Spending significant amount of time studying and on academic work

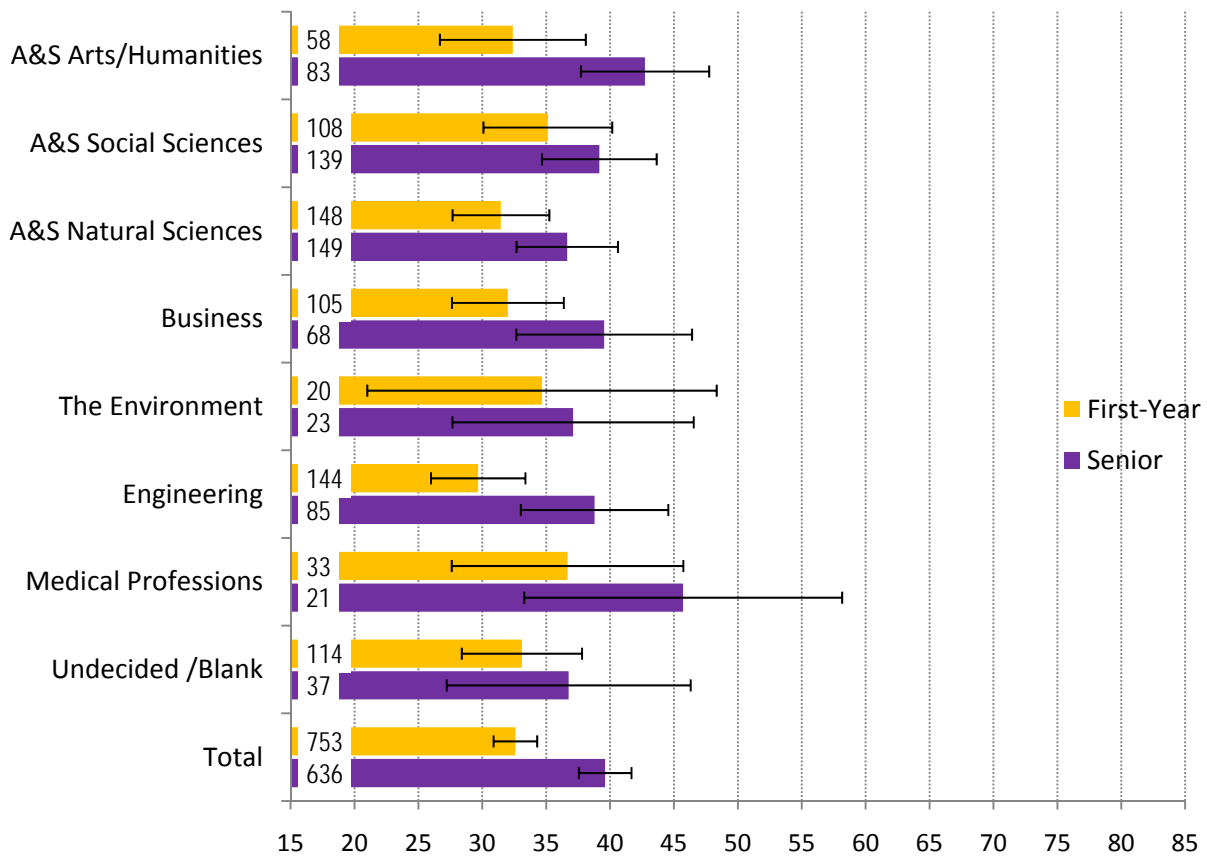
Active and Collaborative Learning by Student-Reported Major
(2009)



Items

- Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions
- Made a class presentation
- Worked with other students on projects during class
- Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments
- Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)
- Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course
- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)

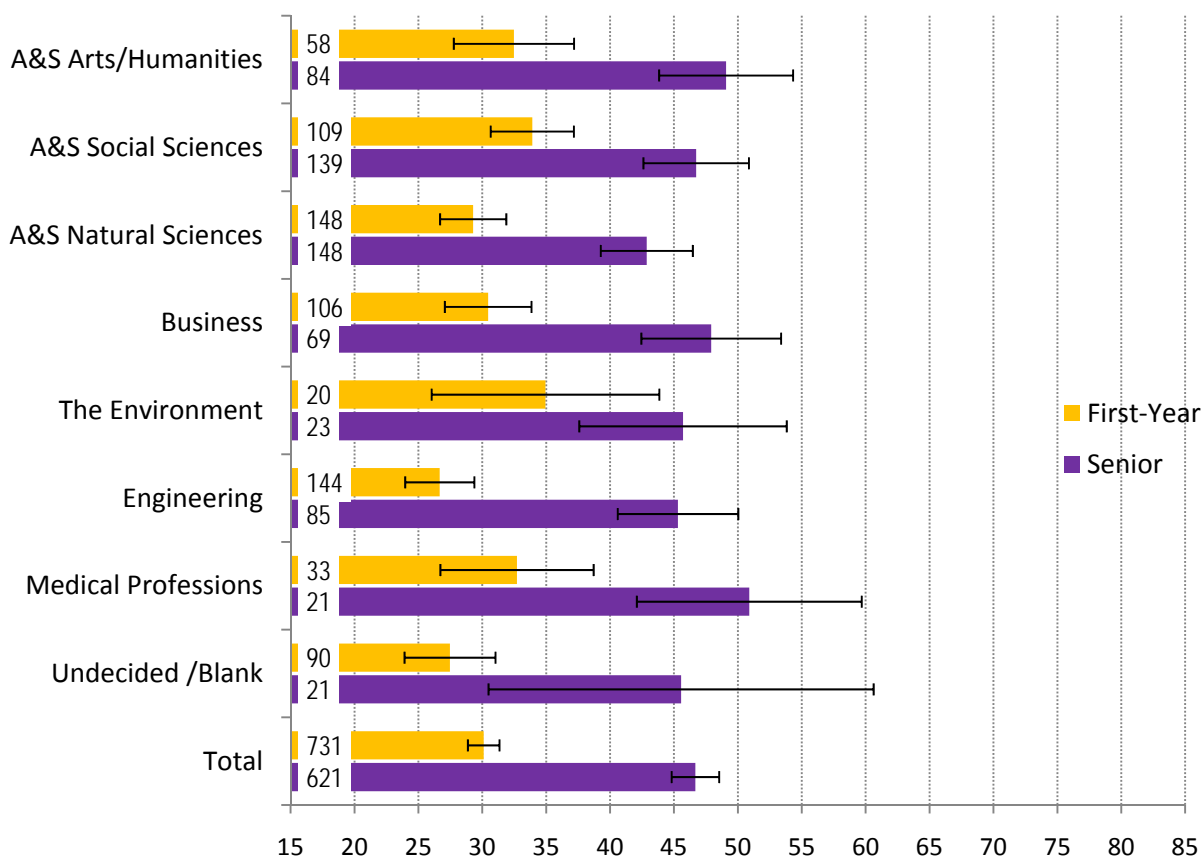
**Student-Faculty Interaction by Student-Reported Major
(2009)**



Items

- Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor
- Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor
- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class
- Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student-life activities, etc.)
- Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance
- Worked on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements

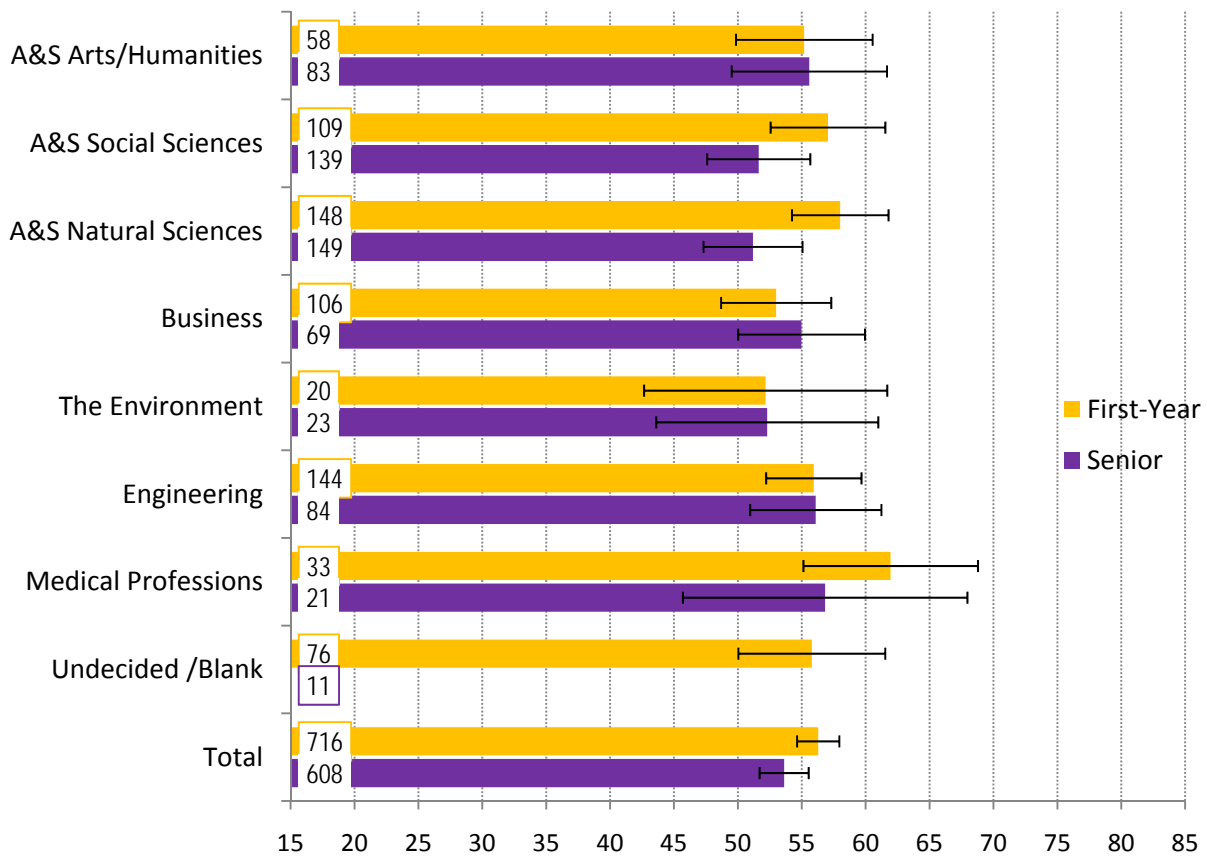
Enriching Educational Experiences by Student-Reported Major (2009)



Items

- Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority, etc.)
- Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment
- Community service or volunteer work
- Foreign language coursework / Study abroad
- Independent study or self-designed major
- Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)
- Serious conversations with students of different religious beliefs, political opinions, personal values
- Serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own
- Using electronic medium (e.g., listserv, Internet, messaging) to discuss or complete an assignment
- Campus environment encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds
- Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together

**Supportive Campus Environment by Student-Reported Major
(2009)**



Items

- Campus environment provides the support you need to help you succeed academically
- Campus environment helps you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
- Campus environment provides the support you need to thrive socially
- Quality of relationships with other students
- Quality of relationships with faculty members
- Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices

APPENDIX
Majors within Major Groups

Arts & Sciences: Arts and Humanities

Art, Art History, Design
Asian Languages and Literature
Comparative History of Ideas
Dance
Digital Arts and Experimental Media
Drama
English
French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish
Humanities
Interdisciplinary Visual Arts
Linguistics
Music, Applied Music
Scandinavian Studies

Arts & Sciences: Social Sciences

American Ethnic Studies
American Indian Studies
Anthropology
Communication
Comparative American Ethnic Studies
Economics
Geography
History
International Studies
Law, Societies, and Justice
Medical Anthropology
Near Eastern Languages and Civilization
Philosophy
Political Science
Social Sciences
Sociology
Women Studies

Arts & Sciences: Natural Sciences

Astronomy
Biology, Microbiology, Neurobiology
Chemistry, Biochemistry
Geological Sciences
Mathematics, Applied and Computational Math Sciences
Physics
Psychology
Speech and Hearing Sciences
Statistics

Business

Accounting
Business Administration
International Business

The Environment

Aquatic and Fishery Science
Atmospheric Science
Earth and Space Sciences
Environmental Science and Resource Management
Environmental Studies
Oceanography
Forest Resources
Program on The Environment

Engineering

Aeronautics and Astronautics
Aerospace Engineering
Bioengineering
Ceramic Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Computer Engineering
Computer Science and Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Engineering
Industrial Engineering
Materials Science and Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Technical Communication

Medical Professions

Health Services
Dental
Environmental Health
Health Informatics and Health Information Management
Medical Technology
Nursing
Pharmacy
Rehabilitation Medicine
Public Health