

## NSSE 2011 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.

#### 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.

#### Weighting

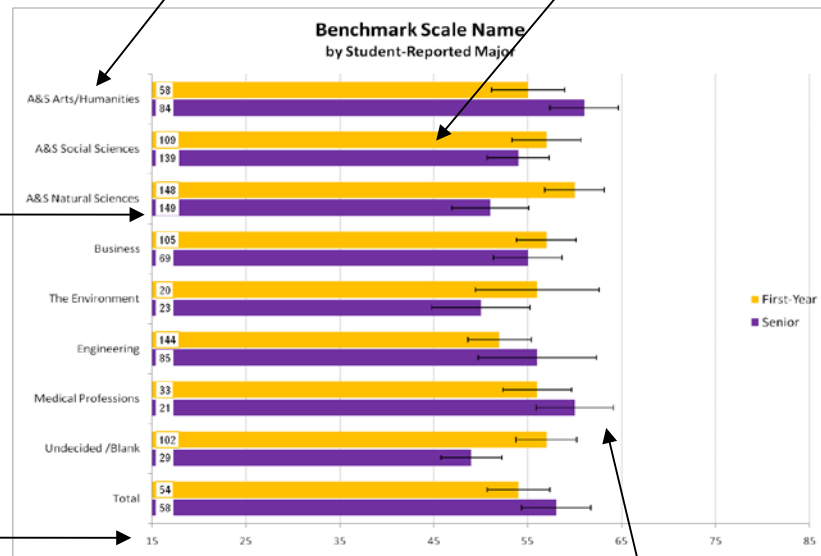
All major field results displayed in this report are unweighted.

#### 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.



#### Error Bars/Confidence Intervals

Error bars around each mean show the bounds of the 99% confidence interval (mean  $\pm$  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 Natural Sci.	A&S Social Sci.	Built Environ.	Business	Engineer- ing	Environ- ment	Medical Professions	Other	Undecided	Total
Level of Academic Challenge	<i>Mn</i>	51.6	55.4	56.3	55.6	51.8	53.8	54.1	56.0	52.1	52.5	54.3
	SD	12.1	12.7	13.0	12.1	10.3	12.0	9.7	12.7	6.5	11.8	12.3
	<i>n</i>	103	308	175	18	39	175	47	105	7	233	1210
Active and Collaborative Learning	<i>Mn</i>	38.4	38.6	41.1	39.8	39.6	38.7	35.2	37.7	42.3	39.5	39.0
	SD	14.6	17.3	14.5	13.6	13.0	15.1	13.8	15.8	14.0	15.4	15.5
	<i>n</i>	111	333	194	20	44	191	48	118	8	248	1315
Student- Faculty Interaction	<i>Mn</i>	27.5	29.2	31.1	32.2	29.4	28.1	26.0	28.9	33.3	30.6	29.4
	SD	15.7	19.9	16.1	17.0	19.0	16.9	17.0	17.9	19.0	18.2	17.9
	<i>n</i>	106	310	175	18	41	179	47	109	7	234	1226
Enriching Educational Experiences	<i>Mn</i>	32.3	30.1	33.4	30.1	33.5	28.9	28.9	30.5	37.1	28.6	30.5
	SD	13.5	14.9	13.2	10.3	12.5	12.7	12.1	12.6	14.0	14.0	13.7
	<i>n</i>	102	304	172	18	39	174	47	106	7	227	1196
Supportive Campus Environment	<i>Mn</i>	53.7	57.9	56.6	64.6	57.6	54.7	56.1	54.7	51.4	56.7	56.4
	SD	17.2	17.8	17.4	16.1	16.1	16.0	20.8	18.9	15.1	16.6	17.4
	<i>n</i>	99	302	170	17	39	170	47	104	7	220	1175

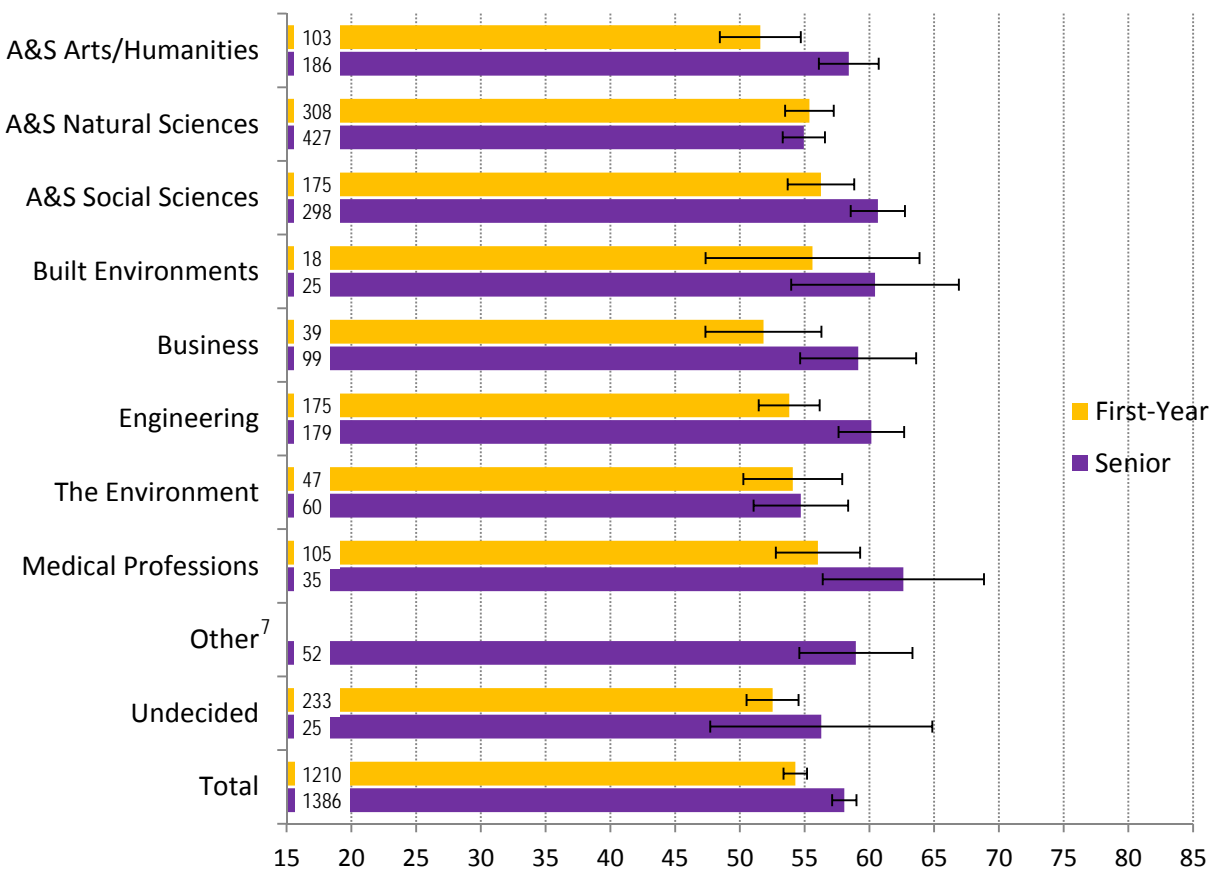
*Note.* The following groups had fewer than 20 respondents: Education, Information School, Social Work.

### Seniors

Scale		A&S Arts/ Humanit.	A&S Natural Sci.	A&S Social Sci.	Built Environ.	Business	Engineer- ing	Environ- ment	Medical Professions	Other	Undecided	Total
Level of Academic Challenge	<i>Mn</i>	58.4	54.9	60.7	60.4	59.1	60.2	54.7	62.6	59.0	56.3	58.1
	SD	12.1	13.0	14.0	11.6	17.0	13.0	10.6	13.5	11.8	15.3	13.5
	<i>n</i>	186	427	298	25	99	179	60	35	52	25	1386
Active and Collaborative Learning	<i>Mn</i>	47.8	43.9	46.7	55.8	55.1	48.8	49.4	48.9	55.9	49.7	47.6
	SD	16.7	15.3	16.1	14.6	17.2	15.5	12.8	14.2	14.1	17.5	16.1
	<i>n</i>	194	456	309	25	106	188	62	36	55	26	1457
Student- Faculty Interaction	<i>Mn</i>	37.8	37.6	37.9	44.9	39.0	41.6	41.9	42.5	40.4	45.0	39.0
	SD	19.6	19.5	21.6	22.6	21.9	20.2	19.6	23.4	21.6	21.7	20.6
	<i>n</i>	187	432	298	25	100	181	60	35	51	25	1394
Enriching Educational Experiences	<i>Mn</i>	45.9	40.5	48.8	53.8	52.5	43.5	49.4	54.1	56.3	55.1	46.1
	SD	19.4	16.3	19.4	17.2	19.6	15.3	17.9	14.1	17.5	18.4	18.3
	<i>n</i>	183	420	295	21	99	176	59	35	50	25	1363
Supportive Campus Environment	<i>Mn</i>	51.9	50.4	52.2	54.2	56.6	55.9	56.8	58.2	54.2	50.3	52.8
	SD	17.3	18.6	18.9	21.4	20.5	18.2	16.9	18.1	15.3	18.4	18.6
	<i>n</i>	183	415	293	21	98	175	59	35	49	24	1352

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

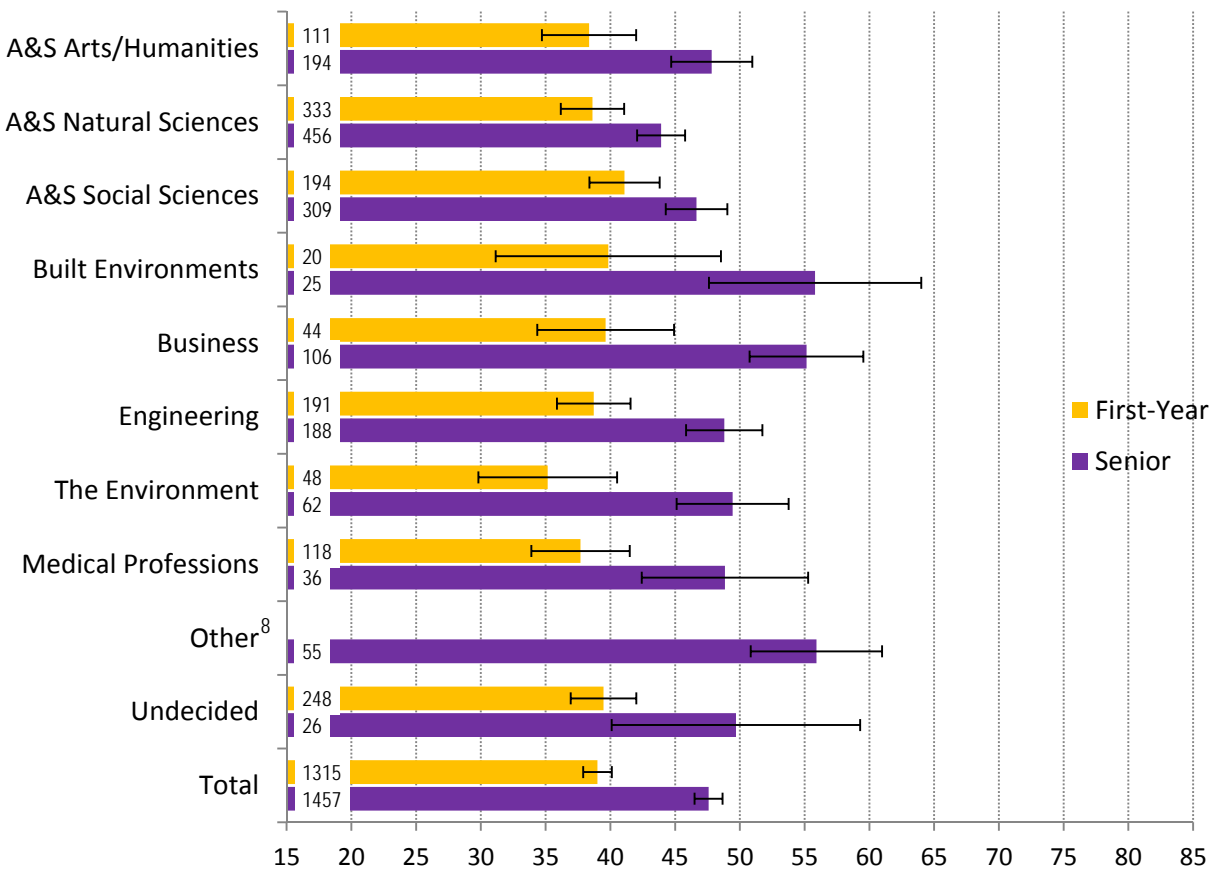
### Level of Academic Challenge by UW Major (2011)



#### 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

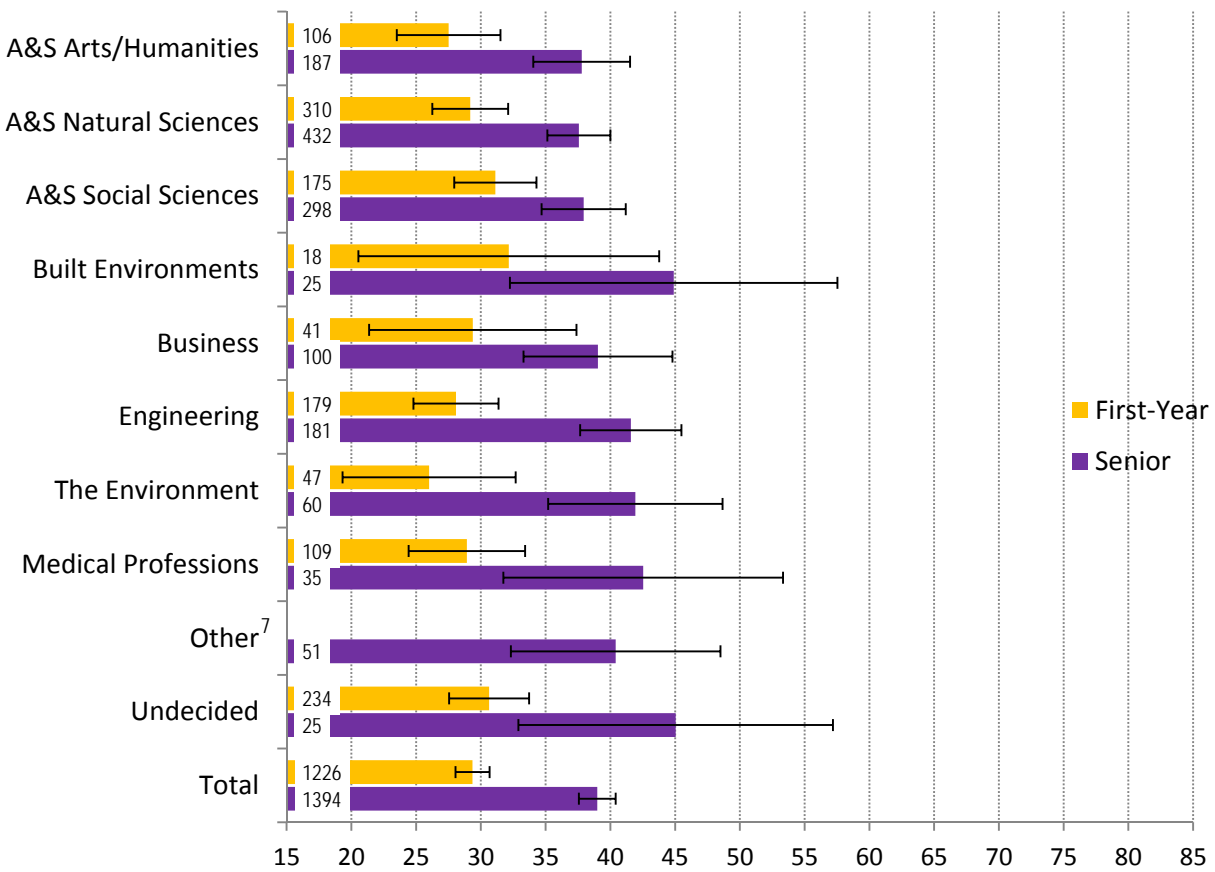
**Active and Collaborative Learning by UW Major  
(2011)**



**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.)

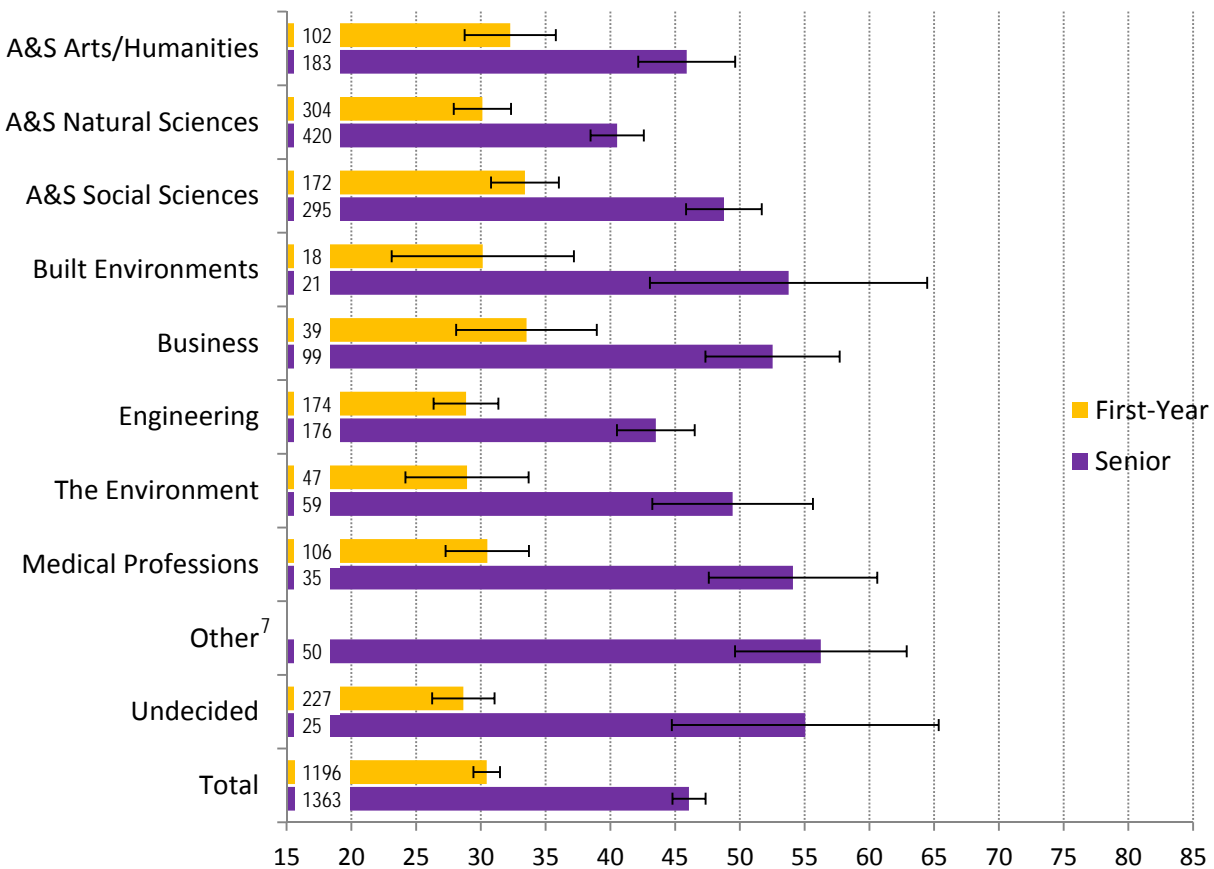
**Student-Faculty Interaction by UW Major  
(2011)**



**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

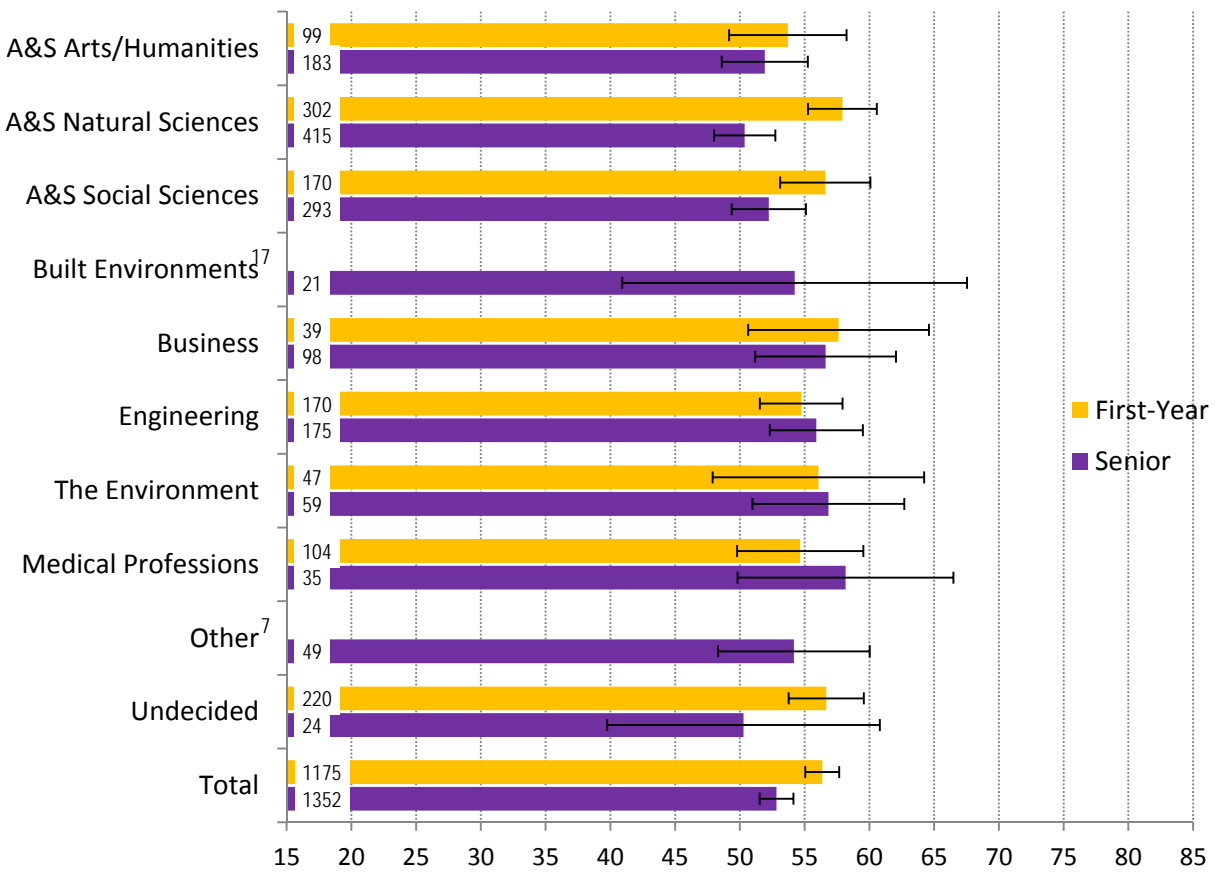
### Enriching Educational Experiences by UW Major (2011)



#### 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 UW Major (2011)



**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  
Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies  
History  
International Studies  
Law, Societies, and Justice  
Medical Anthropology  
Near Eastern Languages and Civilization  
Philosophy  
Political Science  
Social Sciences  
Sociology

### 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  
Human Centered Design and Engineering  
Industrial Engineering  
Materials Science and Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering

### Medical Professions

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

### Other

Education  
Information School  
Individualized Studies, Interschool Programs  
Social Work