

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) 2013

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INTRODUCTION

How often do students go to class unprepared? Do first-year students party more than seniors? To what extent do ethnic minority students feel supported by faculty and administration relative to their majority peers? These are but a few of the questions that can be explored through data from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

Since 2002 the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research has invited colleges and universities to participate in its annual survey of undergraduates in the United States and Canada. The University of Washington (Seattle; UW-S) participated that inaugural year and again biennially since 2005.

This document describes the methods of the 2013 NSSE and also serves as a compendium of several descriptive reports of UW-S results. These include frequencies and means for all items, means of aggregated scales by student major, and means by survey year.

METHOD

Instrument

Respondents completed the *College Student Report* questionnaire via the Web. The CSR's 28-multi-part items can be grouped into six categories: level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching educational experiences, supportive campus environment, and background information (e.g., demographics and grades). This year, UW opted not to include the Association of American Universities Data Exchange (AAUDE) consortium items.

Sampling

Beginning with the 2013 administration, the NSSE was a census survey, meaning that all first-year (freshmen) and senior students were invited to participate. The target population consisted of all first-year (freshmen) and senior students who were enrolled both Autumn 2012 and Spring 2013. Selection of the survey population was a multi-stage process. First, the UW Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) identified all first-year and senior students enrolled as of the tenth day of Autumn quarter, 2012. Once census data were available for Spring quarter, OEA staff verified the enrollment status of each member of the initial population, and NSSE staff removed any students who were not enrolled. The survey population consisted of 6,160 first-year and 7,980 senior students.

Recruitment

Survey recruitment consisted of a maximum of five contacts. The first contact was an invitation over the signature of Ed Taylor, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs sent in early April to students at their primary email addresses. All email messages described the purpose of the survey and notification that all survey respondents would be entered into a drawing for one of ten \$50 UW Book Store gift certificates. Over the following five weeks, students who had not responded received up to four reminder emails. All email contacts were handled by NSSE project staff but bore the signature of the Vice Provost.

RESULTS

Response Rates

The overall response rate was 18%. Specifically, 954 first-year students and 1,541 senior students fully or partially completed the questionnaire.

Women were more likely to respond than men. Among first-year students, women comprised 53% of the sample but 64% of the respondents. Among seniors, women were 50% of the sample but 65% of the respondents. Response rates did not vary by native/transfer status or under-represented minority status.

Reports

[Comparision Groups](#)

This report describes the composition of three comparison groups: AAUDE (7 schools), Basic Carnegie Classification 15 – Doctoral-granting, Very High Research Universities (21 schools), and institutions with an undergraduate profile that was similar to UW (6 schools).

[Frequency Distributions](#)

This report presents frequencies for all standard items, broken down by class rank. Frequencies are reported for UW-S students and for three comparison groups: AAUDE (7 schools), Basic Carnegie Classification 15 – Doctoral-granting, Very High Research Universities (21 schools), and institutions with a similar undergraduate profile (6 schools).

[Engagement Indicators by UW Major Group](#)

This report presents results for the ten NSSE engagement indicators by self-reported student major. In general, majors were grouped by UW-S college. Within the College of Arts & Sciences there were three groups: Arts/Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences. Undergraduate majors that represented medical professions (e.g., Nursing, Public Health, Dentistry, Medicine) formed a single group.

[AAUDE Consortium Items](#)

This report summarizes student responses to the additional AAUDE consortium items, and compares UW responses to the aggregate of the seven other AAUDE participant institutions.