“NSSE has changed the national conversation about quality in undergraduate education, providing a rich model for institutional change and improvement.”

— Joni Finney, Vice President, National Center for Public Policy in Higher Education

Register today at www.nsse.iub.edu

Sponsored by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
What is NSSE?

More than 1,000 four-year colleges and universities in the United States and Canada have used the National Survey of Student Engagement to better understand the extent to which students and institutions are engaging in empirically confirmed effective teaching and learning activities and to develop programs and practices that foster student engagement.

The NSSE instrument is short, reliable and easy for students to complete. It asks undergraduates about how they spend their time, what they feel they have gained from classes, their assessment of the quality of their interactions with faculty and students, and other educationally important activities. The results are organized into five national benchmarks of effective educational practice:

- Level of Academic Challenge
- Active and Collaborative Learning
- Student-Faculty Interaction
- Enriching Educational Experiences
- Supportive Campus Environment

Why Should Institutions Participate in NSSE?

Institutions can use NSSE data to identify and change aspects of the undergraduate experience inside and outside the classroom to be more consistent with good practices in undergraduate education. Assessing student engagement is a central component of evaluating overall educational effectiveness.

Schools are using their NSSE results in many ways, including:

- Assessment and improvement  
- Benchmarking  
- Accountability  
- Institutional research  
- Accreditation and self-studies  
- Retention  
- Curricular reform  
- Alumni outreach  
- Grant writing  
- Recruitment  
- Faculty and staff development  
- State system comparisons  
- Student satisfaction  
- Performance indicators

“NSSE should be a key instrument for every college and university that wants to improve its undergraduate education. The NSSE indicators are sound surrogates for learning and signposts of good practice.”

— Thomas Ehrlich, Senior Scholar, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
What Does a Participating Institution Receive?

Institutions receive detailed analyses and information tools, including:

- **Customized Institutional Report** – Presents students’ responses by class year and provides statistical comparisons with national and peer groups.

- **Benchmark Report** – Compares institutional performance to national benchmarks of effective educational practice.

- **Institutional Data File** – Allows additional, in-depth analyses using student-level responses to individual items.

- **Annual Report** – Discusses data trends, NSSE initiatives, and the landscape of undergraduate assessment.

- **Accreditation Toolkit** – Highlights ways to incorporate NSSE data into regional accreditation efforts.

- **PowerPoint Presentation Template** – Enables sharing institutional NSSE results with internal and external audiences.

- **Information Video** – Outlines the value of student engagement and the NSSE survey administration process along with examples of how to use NSSE data.

How Does NSSE Help Institutions Understand and Use their Results?

The NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice assists colleges and universities in using student engagement data to support institutional improvement and accountability efforts.

Institute associates are available for:

- Facilitating campus workshops and retreats to stimulate discussion about ways to use NSSE data.

- Conducting assessments of campus conditions that promote student success.

- Evaluating the impact of curricular innovations and student success initiatives.

- Working with campuses, systems, and state organizations.

- Conducting research to better understand student success and educational effectiveness.

For examples of these materials and additional information visit: [www.nsse.iub.edu](http://www.nsse.iub.edu)
How is the NSSE Survey Administered?

The survey is administered each spring, from February through May to random samples of first-year and senior students at four-year colleges and universities. Two-year colleges may use the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (www.ccsse.org).

**Participating institutions:**

- Provide a student population data file containing contact information for all first-year and senior students;
- Work with NSSE to customize invitation materials;
- Partner with NSSE to ensure compliance with federal guidelines pertaining to research with human subjects during the survey administration process. The NSSE survey is approved annually by the Human Subjects Committee at Indiana University Bloomington. Participants should coordinate with their home institutional review boards to ensure adherence to regulations regarding the protection of human subjects.

**NSSE:**

- Selects random samples from all student population files;
- Distributes survey invitations to all students;
- Follows up with non-respondents;
- Oversees data collection and provides technical support;
- Prepares institution-specific reports of institutional results;
- Assigns a client-service team to assist institutions.

“NSSE data inform planning and decision making, provide a comprehensive snapshot of the quality of the undergraduate experience, and encourage institutions to adopt best models and practice.”

— James A. Anderson, Vice President of Student Success, University of New York at Albany
Modes of Administration

Both Web and paper survey administration modes are available. We recommend Web-based modes, as institutions receive a larger sample size, leading to more accurate population estimates, for the same cost. See our Web site for more tips on choosing the best survey administration mode for your institution, or call our office to speak with a project associate.

- **Web-only.** Students receive all correspondence by e-mail and complete the Web version of the survey. This mode requires an accurate list of student e-mail addresses.

- **Web+.** Students receive their first three contacts by e-mail. Depending upon preliminary response rates, for the fourth contact a sample of non-respondents may receive a paper version of the survey while the rest of the non-respondents receive another e-mail. This mode requires an accurate list of both student e-mail and postal mailing addresses. See our Web site for more details.

- **Paper.** Students receive paper copies of the survey with the option of completing a Web version. This mode requires an accurate list of student postal mailing addresses.

Institutions considering Web-only or Web+ modes should be mindful of firewall issues and proactively address them with their information technology department.

“NSSE is giving us increasingly credible evidence of student engagement in effective educational practices and allows us to compare campus findings with those of local, regional, and national peers.”

— Trudy Banta, Vice Chancellor for Planning and Institutional Improvement, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
What Does it Cost to Participate in NSSE?

**Required Fees**

**Institutional participation fee**

$300

*(non-refundable)*

**Sampling fee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate Enrollment</th>
<th>NSSE Standard Sample Size</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>Web+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 4,000</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000 to 7,999</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>2,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,000 to 12,000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 12,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Institutions with 400 or fewer students in their combined first-year and senior classes should check the Web site for costs.

**Optional Fees**

**Oversampling**

To increase the number of students surveyed on your campus beyond the standard sample sizes outlined above, request an oversample. Institutions do so for at least three reasons: (a) to raise total participation to enhance data quality, (b) to boost participation from underrepresented students, and (c) to have sufficient data to analyze at the school, department, or other subpopulation levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Fee <em>(per student)</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Web-only (NSSE administers)</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper (NSSE administers)</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper (Institution administers)</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Consortium and State or University Systems**

A consortium is a group of six or more participating NSSE colleges or universities sharing aggregated data for comparisons within their group. State or university systems may also elect this option. Consortium institutions may ask up to 20 additional questions developed and agreed upon by member institutions and approved by NSSE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate Enrollment</th>
<th>Fee <em>(per institution)</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 4,000</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000 to 7,999</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,000 to 12,000</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 12,000</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How Do I Register for NSSE 2007?

To register for NSSE 2007 go to www.nsse.iub.edu. Registration is easy, so register today!

The deadline to register is Thursday, September 21, 2006

How Can I Learn More about NSSE?
For additional detailed information about NSSE visit our Web site at www.nsse.iub.edu or call 1-866-435-6773.

Important Dates to Remember for NSSE 2007

May-September 2006
- Registration for NSSE 2007 on-going
  (Deadline September 21, 2006)

August 2006
- Consortium formation begins
  (Deadline October 5, 2006)

September 2006
- Institutions submit customized survey invitations

October 2006
- NSSE and institutions finalize consortium questions
  (Deadline October 19, 2006)
- Institutions submit student population files
  (Deadline October 31, 2006)
- Schools finalize changes to customized survey invitations (Deadline October 31, 2006)

November 2006
- NSSE sampling begins
“NSSE is as good as it gets as a tool for examining institutional and student behaviors related to learning — practices that point directly to things that faculty and institutional leaders can do something about”

— Peter T. Ewell, Vice President, National Center for Higher Education Management systems

Related surveys and services:

Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) www.nsse.iub.edu/fsse

Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE) www.nsse.iub.edu/bcsse

Special Analyses www.nsse.iub.edu/special_analysis

To register for NSSE 2007 go to www.nsse.iub.edu. The deadline to register is Thursday, September 21, 2006