

Using Data to Improve Student Advising

Institutions participating in BCSSE have provided examples demonstrating uses of BCSSE’s diagnostic, actionable information on beginning college students’ prior engagement and expectations to catalyze vital, sometimes challenging conversations on campus about the quality of the first-year student experience. This brief focuses on one theme among these examples.

Academic advising has a unique but important position within the academy by strengthening students’ understanding of the college curriculum and integrating learning across individual courses and co-curricular activities. Institutions that embrace this “learning-centered” philosophy help students navigate academic decisions with intentionality and guide them to educationally rich engagement opportunities. NSSE, BCSSE, and FSSE all provide important information to assist institutions in best serving their students.

ONE INSTITUTION’S EXAMPLE

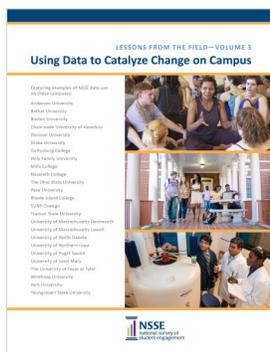
For faculty, advisors, and student affairs professionals at the **University of Louisville (UofL)**, BCSSE has become an important resource to inform decision-making. With a commitment to administer the BCSSE to every incoming first-year student cohort at summer orientation, UofL continues to integrate BCSSE’s results and advising reports in meaningful ways to support student success.

Individualized BCSSE reports are shared with academic units to help faculty get to know their incoming students. Presentations of BCSSE data (along with NSSE data) are shared with the faculty senate. Advising reports are loaded into GradesFirst, UofL’s online performance monitoring and student services system database, where academic advisors have ready access to information for appointments



University of Louisville

with students. Reports are shared with REACH, UofL’s academic support services office, to inform program needs. Finally, UofL is in the beginning stages of an initiative with advisors to include hands-on work by students with their individual reports during first-year students’ introduction to college course.



Lessons from the Field

See our *Lessons from the Field* series for many more instructive and inspiring narratives from colleges and universities describing the innovative ways they put NSSE results into action.

WHAT IS YOUR BCSSE DATA USE STORY?

Our growing collection of stories about how BCSSE institutions use their results is a shared resource for colleges and universities, and assists in our continuing efforts to improve the quality of the undergraduate experience. Please contact us to share examples highlighting your institution’s uses of BCSSE data, usage strategies, and special activities.

bcsse@indiana.edu

nse.indiana.edu/links/lessons_home