The NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice develops user resources and provides assistance with using student engagement results to improve student learning and institutional effectiveness. Institute staff have completed a major national study of high-performing colleges and universities, made dozens of presentations at national and regional meetings, and worked with many campuses to enhance student success.

NSSE Institute staff activities have included:

- Collaborating with the Association of College and University Housing Officers–International (ACUHO–I) to revisit research that compares the engagement experiences of students living in residence halls with those of students living off campus.
- Presenting a workshop at a state university system conference for faculty interested in using NSSE data to assess participation in high-impact practices.
- Designing a day-long retreat with administrators and faculty at an urban research university to review their NSSE and FSSE data and to identify institutional policies and practices that promote or inhibit student persistence and academic success.
- Facilitating a workshop for the Higher Education Data Sharing (HEDS) Consortium on the use of student engagement data and ways to interest faculty in results.
- Advising teams at a national summer institute on learning communities on using NSSE results to develop and assess the effectiveness of learning communities.

These examples illustrate the range of services offered and the diverse institutions and organizations served. Customized workshops and consultations are available for institutions, state systems, and organizations.

**Outreach Services**

**Webinars**

Free live, prerecorded, and archived webinars continue to be popular among NSSE campus project managers, faculty administrators, institutional researchers, and student affairs professionals who want to better use and understand their NSSE, BCSSE, and FSSE data. Each hour-long webinar includes a PowerPoint presentation and a question-and-answer period. All webinars are recorded and available on the NSSE website for later or repeated viewing.

**NSSE User Workshops**

New in 2016, NSSE is co-sponsoring the Teaching and Learning National Institute, to be held at The Evergreen State College, July 31–August 3, 2016. This residential institute will provide a learning space for campus teams to develop evidence-based action plans for initiatives fostering teaching that sparks engaged student learning and strategies to engage their teaching colleagues in elaborating and institutionalizing these action plans.

www.evergreen.edu/washingtoncenter/tlni/index

Presentations and resources from the NSSE User Workshop hosted by Bucknell University are archived on the workshop web page. More than 80 participants—including 6 NSSE staff members, 23 NSSE campus project managers, and a broad range of campus representatives—convened to exchange strategies for analyzing data, engaging various campus audiences in making use of survey findings for assessment and accreditation, and advancing use of NSSE results.

nsse.indiana.edu/html/workshops_2015_Bucknell.cfm

**Interested in Hosting a NSSE User Workshop?**

If you are interested in hosting a NSSE user workshop at your institution or have questions about workshops, please contact Jillian Kinzie at 812-856-1430 (toll free 866-435-6773) or jikinzie@indiana.edu
**System and Consortium Workshops**

Customized workshops can be developed for systems and consortia. NSSE staff members work with systems and individual institutions to offer institution-based, regional, system, and consortium in-person and web-based workshops. Topics include using NSSE data for assessment, applying strategies for system data sharing, and integrating NSSE into accreditation and systemwide quality improvement plans.

**Resources**

**NSSE Survey Update**

Resources associated with the updated survey can be found on the NSSE Update web page. Find an item-by-item comparison showing how the survey was updated from 2012 and learn more about the transition from NSSE’s five benchmarks to ten Engagement Indicators.

nsse.indiana.edu/nsse-update

**Refreshing Engagement: NSSE at 13**

Read the *Change* magazine Editor’s Choice article summarizing lessons learned from NSSE’s first 13 years and describing features of the updated survey.

nsse.indiana.edu/links/NSSE_2013_discussion

**Presentations on the Updated Survey**

- **NSSE 2013: Discussion of the New Survey and Reports.** In this webinar session, participants learned about survey updates, including changes to survey measures, along with issues related to transitioning to the new survey.

nsse.indiana.edu/links/NSSE_2013_discussion

- **The NSSE Update: Analysis and Design of Ten New Engagement Indicators.** In the update of the NSSE instrument, ten new rigorously tested Engagement Indicators replace the original Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice. NSSE research analysts have evaluated the quality of these indicators using descriptive analysis and studies of validity, reliability, and survey construction. This webinar provides useful information regarding the development of the indicators, along with insights from the analyses. View these recorded webinars at your convenience.

nsse.indiana.edu/webinars

**NSSE Data User’s Guide—Redesigned and with Worksheets!**

Although NSSE’s redesigned reports and new resources for creating customized reports from the updated NSSE are designed to increase data use, determining how best to engage campus audiences with results and influence campus action can be still challenging. To help institutions address this challenge, we have updated the *NSSE Data User’s Guide*. The guide outlines strategies and topics for consideration when communicating results and provides worksheets with exercises to facilitate the use of NSSE data for accountability, assessment, and improvement. If the path to data use does not readily emerge in reviewing your institution’s NSSE data and reports, this guide provides suggestions and worksheets to help campus leaders facilitate discussions with stakeholders to make meaning from NSSE results, identify priorities for action, and formulate plans for improvement.

nsse.indiana.edu/html/data_and_results_guide.cfm

To learn more about how to use this guide and the worksheets, view the recorded webinar, *Increase Dissemination and Discussion of Results: Introducing the NSSE Data User’s Guide*.

nsse.indiana.edu/webinars/archives.cfm

**Lessons from the Field—Volumes 1, 2, and 3**

Each year, more campuses use their NSSE results in innovative ways to improve the undergraduate experience. NSSE’s *Lessons from the Field* series serves as a repository of practical ideas for NSSE institutions to improve evidence-based assessment and improvement initiatives. The three volumes in the series are available for download from the NSSE website.

nsse.indiana.edu/links/lessons_home
NSSE Item Campuswide Mapping Toolkit

Updated NSSE Items Mapped to Institution Departments, Units, Committees, Functional Areas, and Interest Groups

Tightening connections between NSSE results and the interests of campus departments and units is a proven strategy for broadening and strengthening investment in student engagement and increasing data use. Specific NSSE reports and results are likely to have particular relevance for different campus departments, units, and committees.

To stimulate thinking and discussion about the meaning of NSSE results for particular departments, units, and committees, we mapped NSSE Engagement Indicators, High-Impact Practices, individual survey items, and Topical Modules to a campuswide range of different interest groups—including career services, student activities, writing center/program, general education, and academic support services. This mapping is intended to broaden considerations about where student engagement results might be useful.

nsse.indiana.edu/pdf/NSSE_Item_Campuswide_Mapping.pdf

A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College

NSSE’s guide to exploring colleges, A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College: Questions to Ask on Your College Visits, revised to align with the updated NSSE, was created as part of an ongoing public awareness campaign to refocus the national conversation about what constitutes quality in the college experience and includes suggestions for questions that prospective students and their families can ask when visiting campuses or exploring institution websites.

nsse.indiana.edu/html/pocket_guide_intro.cfm

A Spanish-language version of NSSE’s updated pocket guide, Una Guía de Bolsillo para Escoger una Universidad: Qué Preguntas Hacer en Tu Visita a una Universidad, is also available.

nsse.indiana.edu/pdf/PocketGuide_Spanish.pdf

The NSSE website displays a selection of comments from high school counselors, college admissions offices, and educational consultants and organizations on their uses of the pocket guide.

nsse.indiana.edu/html/pocket_guide_comments.cfm

An order form is available online for counselors and college admissions staff to request free copies of the pocket guide.

nsse.indiana.edu/html/pocket_guide_order_form.cfm

Questions drawn from the pocket guide, along with responses from the students on your campus, are provided in A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College: NSSE 2016 Answers from Students.

nsse.indiana.edu/links/institutional_reporting

A mobile version of the pocket guide—and a QR code to access it—is available on the NSSE website. Institutions can include the QR code in their recruitment, college fair, and campus tour materials.

nsse.indiana.edu/html/pocket_guide_intro.cfm

Voluntary System of Accountability

The NSSE website contains resource pages on the VSA project developed through a partnership of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). These web pages describe how NSSE results may be used to complete the Student Experiences and Perceptions section in the VSA College Portrait. A NSSE webinar, Maximizing NSSE in the VSA: Approaches to Transparency, Accountability, and Improvement, shares strategies for presenting NSSE results in the Student Experiences and Perceptions section of the VSA College Portrait as well as approaches to engaging different audiences in the data, including prospective students, the public, policymakers, and the campus community. The recording is available for viewing in the NSSE webinar archives.

nsse.indiana.edu/webinars/archives.cfm

Updated NSSE survey items included in the College Portrait and SPSS syntax to recode data for easy entry are available on the NSSE website, as well as variables and syntax for pre-2013 surveys.

nsse.indiana.edu/html/vsa.cfm
Research Initiatives

Engaging Latino Students for Transfer and College Completion

With support from The Kresge Foundation and the Greater Texas Foundation, NSSE and the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE) have joined with Excelencia in Education in a special project focused on helping 24 two- and four-year partner institutions strengthen Latino student engagement, transfer success, and college completion. Using the findings from the project’s special analyses of NSSE and CCSE data pertaining to the experiences of Latino students, partner institutions will develop action plans focused on Latino student engagement and success.

Read more about the project in Diverse: Issues in Higher Education magazine article and on the project website to learn about data work involved, including the examination of student engagement data and student cohort transfer results, as well as what teams reviewed and discussed regarding effective practices prior to the institute, to prepare for the development of a collaborative action plan to be implemented on their campuses.


National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment

Established in 2008, the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) assists institutions in discovering and adopting promising practices for assessing college student learning outcomes. NILOA’s primary objective is to discover and disseminate ways that academic programs and institutions can productively use assessment data to inform and strengthen undergraduate education as well as to communicate externally with policymakers, families, and other stakeholders.

Two NILOA projects are particularly relevant to NSSE initiatives. First, NILOA’s Transparency Framework, which provides an approach to thinking about how assessment initiatives can be displayed on institution websites, can help further efforts to display and disseminate NSSE results. Second, the NILOA report, Down and In: Assessment Practices at the Program Level, presents a picture of assessment activity at the program or department level, including topics such as the extent of faculty involvement in program-level assessment and the role of specialized accreditation. The findings in this report suggest the value of NSSE’s Major Field Report for driving data down to the program level as well as for encouraging faculty to use NSSE results to examine engagement within programs, to inform department-level improvements in teaching and learning, and to fulfill programmatic accreditation requirements.

The NILOA project is based at the University of Illinois and Indiana University. Project research staff members include NSSE Associate Director Jillian Kinzie. The NILOA initiative is guided by a national advisory panel and is supported by foundations including Lumina Foundation for Education.

www.learningoutcomesassessment.org

Other Research Collaborations

NSSE has collaborated with many higher education member groups and associations—including the Association for American Colleges and Universities, the Council of Independent Colleges, the American Association for State Colleges and Universities, and the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium—to conduct research and to advance shared efforts on assessment and the promotion of institutional effectiveness. Research and development projects have been supported by Lumina Foundation for Education, the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College, the Spencer Foundation, The Teagle Foundation, and the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative.