How Institutions Use NSSE Results

Lessons from the Field, Volumes 1–4

Each year, more campuses use their NSSE results in innovative ways to improve the undergraduate experience. Lessons from the Field—Volume 4: Digging Deeper to Focus and Extend Data Use, released in 2017, describes how institutions use NSSE data to enhance undergraduate teaching and learning. All four volumes in this series are available for download from the NSSE website.
nsse.indiana.edu/html/lessons_from_the_field.cfm

Search Tool for Examples of NSSE, FSSE, and BCSSE Data Use

NSSE’s searchable database of examples contains over 1,000 ways campuses have used their results to improve undergraduate education. Search by keyword, institution name, institution type, or category of use such as accreditation, general education, retention, and advising.
nsse.indiana.edu/html/using_nsse_db

Making NSSE Results Public

Many colleges and universities have posted their NSSE results on their websites. View exemplary website displays and the resource Guidelines for Display of NSSE Results on Institution Websites to develop appropriate and communicative displays of results.
nsse.indiana.edu/html/inst_web_site_display.cfm

Annual Results Institutional Examples

NSSE’s Annual Results features stories from participating institutions that illustrate how NSSE data have been used in initiatives such as redesigning the first-year seminar, engaging commuter students in high-impact practices, and improving academic writing instruction.
nsse.indiana.edu/html/annual_results.cfm

Data and Results Guides

NSSE Data User’s Guide

The NSSE Data User’s 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.
nsse.indiana.edu/html/data_users_guide.cfm

The NSSE Data User’s Guide and worksheets are presented and discussed in the webinar, Increase Dissemination and Discussion of Results: Introducing the NSSE Data User’s Guide. View the webinar:
nsse.indiana.edu/webinars/archives.cfm

NSSE Response Rate FAQ

What is a “good” response rate? Does a low rate automatically jeopardize data quality? This FAQ helps users respond to such questions and facilitate broader conversations about assessing survey data quality. Recent NSSE research that demonstrates the reliability of estimates based on surveys that have a minimum number of respondents is highlighted.
nsse.indiana.edu/pdf/Resp_Rate_FAQ.pdf

Accreditation Toolkits

NSSE Accreditation Toolkits offer guidelines for incorporating NSSE into accreditation self-studies and ways to map specific items from the NSSE instrument to accreditation standards. Regional and specialized toolkits are aligned with the NSSE survey.
nsse.indiana.edu/links/accred_toolkits
NSSE Item Campuswide Mapping
Updated NSSE Items Mapped to Institution Departments, Units, Committees, Functional Areas, and Interest Groups

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 range of campus interest groups including career services, student activities, writing centers/programs, general education and academic support services. The mapping highlights where student engagement results might be useful across the institution.

nsse.indiana.edu/pdf/NSSE_Item_Campuswide_Mapping.pdf

The NSSE Degree Qualifications Profile Toolkit

The Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP), created by Lumina Foundation for Education, proposes specific proficiencies that benchmark associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees. The information in the NSSE DQP Toolkit prompts institutions to examine the overlap between their NSSE results and the DQP learning outcomes expected of all students earning a bachelor’s degree. NSSE items from 2006–2012 are mapped to these criteria.

nsse.indiana.edu/links/DQP_toolkit

A Guide to Contextualizing Your NSSE Data: Cognitive Interviews and Focus Groups

To help institutional users develop a deeper understanding of their students’ responses to NSSE, A Guide to Contextualizing Your NSSE Data provides step-by-step information about planning and conducting modified cognitive interviews and focus groups and gathering data from them.

nsse.indiana.edu/links/cognitive_interviews

NSSE Sightings

NSSE’s new blog features research publications, conference presentations, webinar summaries, institutional use stories, and opinion pieces and interviews on engagement topics. Blog posts are written by the researchers themselves, usually with links to the full paper.

nssesightings.indiana.edu

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @NSSEsurvey

NSSE User Workshops

NSSE occasionally sponsors workshops—hosted by participating institutions—where users, faculty, administrators, and institutional researchers come together to better use and understand their NSSE data, with session topics such as:

• Approaches to Longitudinal Analysis
• Using NSSE to Explore Campus Issues and Take Action
• Using BCSSE and NSSE to Help Retention Efforts

Materials from these and other sessions at the April 2015 workshop held at Bucknell University are available on the NSSE User Workshop website.

nsse.indiana.edu/html/workshops_2015_Bucknell.cfm

NSSE co-sponsored the Teaching and Learning National Institute (TLNI), held at The Evergreen State College, July 31–August 3, 2016. This residential institute provided 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.

TLNI 2017 was held July 30–August 2.

wacenter.evergreen.edu/tlni/index

NSSE Data Tools

Accessing Your NSSE Results Online

NSSE provides three ways to access your results online, all via the secure Institution Interface:

nsse.indiana.edu/links/interface

• All respondent data and reports can be downloaded from the “Data & Reports” table.
• The Online Institutional Report, a web-based version of your Institutional Report, is a user-friendly way to access and view reports in a web browser and can be accessed from the “Data & Reports” table.
• The Report Builder–Institution Version is an interactive online tool for creating tailored reports based on student and institutional characteristics.

Sample Analyses and Syntax

Our sample analyses and syntax page includes a variety of SPSS syntax files that can be used to further explore your data, for example, to create and recode variables that NSSE uses in its reports, such as dichotomized engagement variables and first-generation status. This webpage also includes code for how to conduct analyses (for example, to explore differences in student engagement with faculty by gender).

nsse.indiana.edu/html/analysis_resources.cfm
Publications to Enhance Educational Practice for Improvement

Promoting High-Impact Practices: Maximizing Educational Gains
This research brief summarizes findings on High-Impact Practices (HIPs)—including service-learning, learning communities, research with faculty, study abroad, internships, and culminating senior experiences—highlighted in NSSE Annual Results 2007 to 2012. The brief can inform campus discussions about maximizing opportunities for and benefits from HIPs.
ssse.indiana.edu/html/findings.cfm

Key Resources on High-Impact Practices

Using NSSE Data to Assess and Enhance High-Impact Practices
This webinar prepares participants to facilitate campus dialogue about HIPs and maximize the benefits of the updated NSSE survey data and reports.
ssse.indiana.edu/webinars

Ensuring Quality and Taking High-Impact Practices to Scale**
NSSE founding director George Kuh and Ken O’Donnell present research on HIPs linked to greater academic challenge, student engagement, and achievement. They discuss how these practices relate to improved retention and completion and how to ensure that all students experience multiple HIPs.

George Kuh discusses 10 educational practices that research has shown correlate with higher levels of student performance. NSSE data are used to examine practices such as learning communities, service-learning, undergraduate research, study abroad, experiences with diversity, internships, and capstone courses and projects.
**Reports can be ordered from the Association of American Colleges and Universities.
www.aacu.org/leap/hips

Project DEEP Publications
Three publications from NSSE’s 2002–2007 Project DEEP (Documenting Effective Educational Practice) target institutions concerned about enhancing student learning: Student Success in College (Kuh, Kinzie, Schuh, Whitt, & Associates, 2010), Assessing Conditions to Enhance Educational Effectiveness (Kuh, Kinzie, Schuh, & Whitt, 2005), and a second edition of One Size Does Not Fit All (Manning, Kinzie, & Schuh, 2014).
nsse.indiana.edu/html/projectdeep.cfm
nsse.indiana.edu/html/featured_publications.cfm

NSSE User Support Resources

A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College
NSSE’s popular guide to exploring colleges helps prospective college students and their parents in the college decision-making process and also serves as a useful resource for college admissions staff.
ssse.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.
ssse.indiana.edu/pdf/PocketGuide_Spanish.pdf

Use a QR code to access the mobile version of the pocket guide on the NSSE Institute website.
ssse.indiana.edu/institute

YouTube Video on Using NSSE’s Pocket Guide
This 2-minute YouTube video shows how prospective college students—while touring a campus—can benefit from using A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College: Questions to Ask on Your College Visits.
ssse.indiana.edu/links/pocket_guide_vid

Voluntary System of Accountability
NSSE is one of four assessment instruments about students’ experiences and perceptions used in the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA). SPSS syntax to recode your NSSE data for the VSA College Portrait template is available.
ssse.indiana.edu/html/vsa.cfm
Publications and Presentations

On NSSE’s Publications and Presentations web page, users can easily find NSSE-related publications, recent presentations, and scholarly papers.
nsse.indiana.edu/html/publications_presentations.cfm

Recent Publications and Conference Papers


Cole, J. S. (2016). Do later wake times and increased sleep duration of 12th graders result in more studying, higher grades, and improved SAT/ACT test scores? Sleep and Breathing, 20, 1053–1057.


Hurtado, S., & BrckaLorenz, A. (2017, March). Improving student understanding of sexual assault policies and procedures. Presentation at the American College Personnel Association Annual Convention, Columbus, OH.


Institutional Report 2017

Resources and Reports Online

NSSE resources and institution-specific reports in the NSSE Institutional Report 2017 binder are also available in electronic form via the NSSE Institution Interface.
nsse.indiana.edu/links/interface