

NSSE 2017 U.S. Response Rates by Institutional Characteristics

The average institutional response rates for U.S. institutions in NSSE 2017 listed below are based on census-administered and randomly sampled participants only. Data were excluded from institutions participating in special research projects, that had nonstandard population files or survey administrations, or when otherwise noted that institutional characteristics were not available.

		Number of Institutions	Overall Response Rate (%)	First-year Response Rate (%)	Senior Response Rate (%)
Overall^a		648	30	29	32
Recruitment Method	Email	644	30	29	32
	Standard mail	4	15	14	17
Institutional Control	Public	280	24	23	25
	Private	368	35	34	37
Carnegie Classification ^b	Doc/Highest	29	21	21	21
	Doc/Higher	37	24	24	24
	Doc/Moderate	43	25	24	25
	Master's L	174	27	26	28
	Master's M	82	30	29	32
	Master's S	49	29	29	30
	Bac/A&S	97	39	38	41
	Bac/Diverse	96	34	31	37
Barron's Selectivity Rating ^c	Noncompetitive	15	25	22	29
	Less competitive	93	27	25	29
	Competitive	302	29	28	31
	Very competitive	102	34	33	35
	Highly competitive	25	31	31	32
	Most competitive	26	36	37	35
Institutional Locale	City	294	29	28	30
	Suburb	149	32	32	33
	Town	162	31	29	33
	Rural	43	29	26	33
Region ^d	New England	56	33	33	34
	Mid East	121	32	31	32
	Great Lakes	97	33	31	34
	Plains	65	34	32	36
	Southeast	164	28	27	30
	Southwest	59	24	21	26
	Rocky Mountains	15	31	30	32
	Far West	69	29	29	30
Total Undergraduate Enrollment	Up to 500	20	42	39	45
	501 to 1,000	88	38	36	41
	1,001 to 2,000	152	35	34	37
	2,001 to 3,000	86	32	31	33
	3,001 to 5,000	92	28	27	29
	5,001 to 10,000	114	23	22	24
	10,001 to 20,000	52	21	21	21
	More than 20,000	44	22	21	22
Full-time Student Percentage	90% or more	348	33	33	35
	80% to 89%	156	27	26	28
	60% to 79%	112	26	24	28
	Less than 60%	30	24	21	26
Female Student Percentage	90% or more	15	48	47	49
	70% to 89%	39	32	30	32
	60% to 69%	172	31	30	32
	50% to 59%	306	28	27	30
	30% to 49%	97	31	30	33
	Less than 30%	17	31	31	31

a. Includes twelve institutions not included in the NSSE 2017 Overview because they had too few respondents for inclusion in comparison groups. Institutions with first-year student data numbered 636, and those with senior data numbered 648.

b. "Other" Carnegie types were not included (40 institutions).

c. Ratings were not available for 85 institutions.

d. Two institutions in "Outlying Areas" were not included.