

Many BCSSE items are used to compute scales that parallel the NSSE Engagement Indicators, grouped within four themes. Other BCSSE scales and measures further query beginning students' preparation and expectations.

Theme

Scales and Other Measures

Academic Challenge

Quantitative Reasoning

During your last year of high school, about how often did you do the following?

Response options: Very often, Often, Sometimes, Never

- Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information (numbers, graphs, statistics, etc.)
- Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)
- Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information

Learning Strategies

During your last year of high school, about how often did you do the following?

Response options: Very often, Often, Sometimes, Never

- Identified key information from reading assignments
- Reviewed your notes after class
- Summarized what you learned in class or from course materials

Learning with Peers

Collaborative Learning

During the coming school year, about how often do you expect to do each of the following?

Response options: Very often, Often, Sometimes, Never

- Ask another student to help you understand course material
- Explain course material to one or more students
- Prepare for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students
- Work with other students on course projects or assignments

Discussions with Diverse Others

During the coming school year, about how often do you expect to have discussions with people from the following groups?

Response options: Very often, Often, Sometimes, Never

- People of a race or ethnicity other than your own
- People from an economic background other than your own
- People with religious beliefs other than your own
- People with political views other than your own

Experiences with Faculty

Student-Faculty Interaction

During the coming school year, about how often do you expect to do each of the following?

Response options: Very often, Often, Sometimes, Never

- Talk about career plans with a faculty member
- Work with a faculty member on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)
- Discuss your academic performance with a faculty member
- Discuss course topics, ideas, or concepts with a faculty member outside of class

Campus Environment

Challenging, Supportive, and Stimulating Environment

How important is it to you that your institution provide each of the following?

Response options: Very important (6) to Not important (1)

- A challenging academic experience
- Support to help students succeed academically
- Opportunities to interact with students from different backgrounds (social, racial/ethnic, religious, etc.)
- Help managing your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
- Opportunities to be involved socially
- Opportunities to attend campus activities and events
- Learning support services (tutoring services, writing center, etc.)

Scales and Other Measures

Other BCSSE Scales

Academic Preparation

How prepared are you to do the following in your academic work at this institution?

Response options: Very prepared (6) to Not at all prepared (1)

- Write clearly and effectively
- Speak clearly and effectively
- Think critically and analytically
- Analyze numerical and statistical information
- Work effectively with others
- Use computing and information technology
- Learn effectively on your own

Academic Perseverance

During the coming school year, how certain are you that you will do the following?

Response options: Very certain (6) to Not at all certain (1)

- Study when there are other interesting things to do
- Find additional information for course assignments when you don't understand the material
- Participate regularly in course discussions, even when you don't feel like it
- Ask instructors for help when you struggle with course assignments
- Finish something you have started when you encounter challenges
- Stay positive, even when you do poorly on a test or assignment

Academic Difficulty

During the coming school year, how difficult do you expect the following to be?

Response options: Very difficult (6) to Not at all difficult (1)

- Learning course material
- Managing your time
- Getting help with school work
- Interacting with faculty

Other BCSSE Measures

High School Writing and Reading

During your last year of high school, about how many papers, reports, or other writing tasks of the following lengths did you complete?

Response options: None, 1–2, 3–5, 6–10, 11–15, 16–20, More than 20

- Up to 5 pages
- Between 6 and 10 pages
- 11 pages or more

During your last year of high school, of the time you spent preparing for class in a typical 7-day week, about how much was on assigned reading?

Response options: Very little, Some, About half, Most, Almost all

Academic Help-Seeking

During the coming school year, about how often do you expect to seek help with coursework from the following sources?

Response options: Very often, Often, Sometimes, Never

- Faculty members
- Academic advisors
- Learning support services (tutoring, writing center, success coaching, etc.)
- Friends or other students
- Family members
- Other persons or offices