

## Using FSSE Data

Institutions use FSSE to provide insight into NSSE results and to gain a better understanding of student engagement on their campuses. Building on the foundation laid by *Using NSSE Data*, this guide offers topics and tips that will help you make use of your FSSE results. Many FSSE institutions share their results in practical and distinctive ways, including the following:

- Accreditation self-studies
- Assessment and improvement
- Curricular reform
- Faculty development programs
- Faculty workshops and retreats
- Grant proposals, applications, and progress reports
- Institutional research
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)

Whether you seek to include faculty and other colleagues in campus discussions or to learn how FSSE results have been used at different institutions, you will find helpful hints on these pages.



Simon Fraser University

### Where to Begin

Given the volume of information FSSE provides, you may be unsure where to begin. If you are just getting started with your FSSE results, here are five steps to guide your work. Later in this document is information on additional resources available to participating institutions.

#### Step 1. Identify resources on your campus.

Faculty colleagues, institutional researchers, centers for teaching and learning, deans, and department chairs may all be interested in your FSSE results and willing to help make meaningful use of them on your campus.

#### Step 2. Become familiar with your data file and reports.

Institutions receive a file of their raw FSSE data and customized FSSE reports. Browsing through these reports will give you a good sense of the information provided. If you have trouble deciding where to focus, consider using exercises in the *FSSE Data User's Guide*.

[nsse.indiana.edu/links/FSSE\\_DUG](https://nsse.indiana.edu/links/FSSE_DUG)

Administering Topical Module or consortium questions gives institutions additional opportunities to gain insight into aspects of their campuses, and reports for these question sets are included with your *Institutional Report*. The *FSSE Disciplinary Area Report*, delivered later in the fall, adds context to the student experience within different disciplinary areas.

#### Step 3. Know your audiences and tailor presentations for them.

Knowing your target audience can serve as a filter for your results and guide your decisions about which information to include. For example, a meeting with faculty who teach first-year courses might be the perfect occasion for sharing first-year NSSE results and lower-division FSSE results.

#### Step 4. Use online tools and resources to contextualize your results.

Highlight how your faculty compare to FSSE's total survey population by using our Sample Analyses, Summary Tables, and Interactive Data Visualizations. These and other tools and resources are outlined later in this document.

#### Step 5. Communicate your results.

Institutions share results in a number of ways, ranging from posting online to discussions at faculty meetings. How institutions share their FSSE results—the internal and external audiences they target, the channels of communication they use, the results they present—should be guided by the institutions' assessment needs and purpose for administering the survey.

## Using FSSE to Add Context to NSSE

FSSE is often used to add context to NSSE results. FSSE items that are closely parallel to items on NSSE, such as comparing student and faculty perceptions of the use of effective teaching practices or student and faculty perceptions of students' interactions with others on campus, can be used to make direct comparisons between the two surveys.

Other items on NSSE and FSSE that cover comparable content, such as student participation in High-Impact Practices and faculty values of the importance of students participating in High-Impact Practices, are less easy to compare directly. For tips and suggestions on using FSSE to add context to NSSE, view the FSSE webinar *Adding Context to NSSE with FSSE*, or contact the FSSE team ([fsse@indiana.edu](mailto:fsse@indiana.edu)). Our staff would be happy to help you make the best use of your FSSE data.

### WHAT IS YOUR FSSE DATA USE STORY?

Our growing collection of stories about how institutions use FSSE 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 our FSSE team to share examples highlighting your institution's uses of FSSE data, usage strategies, and special activities.  
[fsse@indiana.edu](mailto:fsse@indiana.edu)

## Tools and Resources

FSSE offers a variety of tools and resources for institutional users and others interested in working with FSSE data.

### FSSE Data User's Guide

This guide offers tips on using your FSSE results to facilitate workshops, presentations, and discussions about student engagement practices with others on campus. Worksheets are available to assist in data comparison.

### Publications and Presentations

FSSE staff members participate in professional meetings and conferences throughout the year. Their papers and presentations from these conferences are archived at and may be downloaded from the FSSE website.

[nsse.indiana.edu/links/publications](https://nsse.indiana.edu/links/publications)

## Interactive Data Visualizations

These interactive data dashboards are publicly available to explore aggregate FSSE results by faculty, course, and institution characteristics.

[nsse.indiana.edu/links/FSSE\\_DV](https://nsse.indiana.edu/links/FSSE_DV)

### Summary Tables

Annual, aggregate frequency reports by Carnegie Basic Classification category, disciplinary area, and employment status based on faculty responses from all participating institutions are posted on the FSSE Summary Tables website. These results can be used to put your institutions results into context.

[nsse.indiana.edu/links/FSSE\\_Overall](https://nsse.indiana.edu/links/FSSE_Overall)

### Sample Analyses

FSSE's Sample Analyses website has downloadable SPSS syntax with which participants can easily reproduce the featured illustrations with their institution's data. Sample Analyses can be used for comparative purposes to your institution's results.

[nsse.indiana.edu/links/FSSE\\_sampleAnalyses](https://nsse.indiana.edu/links/FSSE_sampleAnalyses)

### FSSE Psychometric Portfolio

FSSE has conducted a number of validity and reliability studies including studies of construct validity, internal consistency, temporal stability, equivalence, and nonresponse bias. The Psychometric Portfolio web page provides information on these issues.

[nsse.indiana.edu/links/FSSE\\_PP](https://nsse.indiana.edu/links/FSSE_PP)

### Outreach Services

**FSSE Webinars.** Free and interactive, these webinars allow participants to learn more about FSSE topics and engage with presenters and other participants. We send invitations to FSSE participants when FSSE-related webinars are scheduled. Recordings of past webinars, with their PowerPoint slides, are available on the NSSE website. To browse FSSE webinars, click "All" in the year field and enter "FSSE" in the keyword field.

[nsse.indiana.edu/links/webinar](https://nsse.indiana.edu/links/webinar)

**NSSE User Workshops.** Workshops are coordinated through the NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice and provide opportunities to gather and share ideas about how to use NSSE and FSSE results. If you are interested in participating in or hosting a workshop, contact Jillian Kinzie ([jjkinzie@indiana.edu](mailto:jjkinzie@indiana.edu)) or FSSE staff ([fsse@indiana.edu](mailto:fsse@indiana.edu)). Materials from past workshops may be found online:

[nsse.indiana.edu/links/workshops](https://nsse.indiana.edu/links/workshops)