Practical Applications for Using BCSSE - NSSE Data

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SPRING NSSE USERS WORKSHOP
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Where to start?

Research
OR
Institutional Needs
OR
The Data

Hint for #1 Example: Benchmark comparisons
Notice the commonality in examples—Institutional Needs

Example #1:
Institutional Needs and Data Driven

• Institutional Importance:
  o Academic Challenge
    • Even though it is not statistically significant, the Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) benchmark score is lower than the top 10% schools.
  o Retention
  o Data Driven
    o NSSE Benchmarks

Example #1:
Methodology

• Merge at least 3 databases
  • BCSSE → NSSE → local database
    (Summer 2007) (Spring 2008)
    725 merged w/ 600 results in 330 First-year students

Example #1:
Benchmark Comparison

Example #1:
SFI Items

These items are also in BCSSE.
We can do a few things:
1. We can control for it
2. We can use it in a GAP analysis

It would be nice to know the means and its context to other schools.
But first...
Q&A

- **Satisficing**: similar to a “good enough” approach for accomplishing goals
  - Examples...
- Lots of goals and a limited resources
- Of the 4 SFI items, which do you think carries the most weight and why?
  1. Discussing grades
  2. Discussing ideas from classes
  3. Work on non-class activities with faculty
  4. Receive prompt feedback

Example #1: GAP Analysis

- AC scores are coded into 4 tiers
  - 1st tier
  - 2nd tier
  - 3rd tier
  - 4th tier
- Create GAP scores for the 4 BCSSE-NSSE items

Example #1: Means and Context to other schools

- Example #1: GAP Analysis
- Example #1: Means and Context to other schools

Example #1: Prompt written or oral feedback on academic performance

- What does this tell us?
  - Written feedback – perhaps in class
  - Oral feedback – perhaps out of class
  - Office hours
  - “Other” times to share with students
- What are some implications for...
  - Faculty
  - Administration/staff
  - Students
Example #1:
Retention

As actual approaches or exceeds expectations, the AC tiers increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effect Size</th>
<th>Significant</th>
<th>Power</th>
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Example #2:
Institutional Needs and Research Driven

- Providing evidence for measuring / monitoring the institutional mission.
- IR working with the office of Academic Affairs.
- Nothing statistical about this example.

Example #1:
Closure

- At Elon, faculty time with students outside of class appears to have a positive impact on academic challenge and retention...
  - Implications for planning, processes, and procedures
  - Sensitive Topics – such as grade distributions, accountability measurements, research and teaching,
- Information shared with the first-year experience committee
Institution-Wide Assessment Reports

- Used for accreditation purposes
- Provides documentation
- Keeps measurability a focus
- On-going
  - Next topic is the impact of the 5-Elon Experiences
    - Study Abroad
    - Service
    - Internships/Coops
    - Undergraduate Research
    - Leadership