Accreditation Toolkit and Additional Resources

This document provides a snapshot of user resources that are available for download from the NSSE Web site. A Web version of this document with active links can be found at:

www.nsse.iub.edu/links/accred_resources

Accreditation Toolkits

2008 Regional Accreditation Toolkits

www.nsse.iub.edu/institute/index.cfm?view=tools/accred

NSSE Accreditation Toolkits offer guidelines for incorporating NSSE into accreditation self-studies and suggest ways to map specific items from the NSSE instrument to regional accreditation board standards. The toolkits offer sample timelines to help you decide when and how often to collect student engagement data for integration into your accreditation process. We share examples of how other institutions in your region have used NSSE in their accreditation efforts.

Toolkits available:

- Higher Learning Commission - North Central Association (HLC-NCA)
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

Specialized Accreditation Toolkits

www.nsse.iub.edu/institute/?view=tools/accred_special

Specialized accreditation toolkit guidelines provide suggestions on how institutions can incorporate NSSE results into the processes and products that support specialized and professional accreditation. Guidelines map survey items to standards related to specific programs of study.

Specialized toolkits available:

- ABET: Applied Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering, Engineering Technology, Information Systems
- Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB): Business, Accounting
- National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE): Teacher education

Publications to Enhance Educational Practice

Project DEEP Publications

NSSE carried out Project DEEP (Documenting Effective Educational Practice) from 2002 through 2007. With support from Lumina Foundation for Education and the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College, this initiative examined the everyday workings of a variety of educationally effective colleges and universities to learn what they do to promote student success. Three publications produced in conjunction with Project DEEP are helpful resource materials for institutions concerned about enhancing student learning:

www.nsse.iub.edu/links/student_success

www.nsse.iub.edu/links/assessing_conditions

www.nsse.iub.edu/links/one_size
Building Engagement and Attainment of Minority Students (BEAMS)

The Building Engagement and Attainment of Minority Students (BEAMS) project was a partnership between the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) and NSSE and more than 100 four-year institutions in the Alliance for Equity in Higher Education. Having administered NSSE at least once, these institutions committed to implementing action plans to improve the quality of the undergraduate experience on their campus and conducting another NSSE administration to assess success.

The results of the study have been published in the monograph, *Increasing Student Success at Minority-Serving Institutions: Findings from the BEAMS Project*, and in a series of 10 topical briefs based on BEAMS Project outcomes:

- Aligning Multiple Campus Initiatives
- Collecting Survey Data for Assessment
- Cultivating Generative Connections, Commitment, and Engagement Among Campus Constituencies
- First-Year Programs
- Gaining Support from Campus Leaders
- Increasing Student Engagement Through Faculty Development
- Leveraging Technology in Campus Change Initiatives
- Purposeful Co-Curricular Activities Designed to Increase Engagement
- Strengthening Writing Across the Curriculum
- Student Support Services

The monograph and briefs are available for download on the IHEP Web site, [www.ihep.org/programs/BEAMS.cfm](http://www.ihep.org/programs/BEAMS.cfm).

**NSSE Publications**

[www.nsse.iub.edu/links/publications_presentations](http://www.nsse.iub.edu/links/publications_presentations)

**Research Papers**


**Presentations**


Kinzie, J., Lindsay, N. K., & Casey, C. (2008). *Converting Data into Action: Using NSSE Results in Student Affairs*. Program presented at the ACPA Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA.


ACCREDITATION TOOLKIT & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES


**Additional Resources**

**Multi-Year Data Analysis Guide**


For institutions that have participated in NSSE over multiple years, this new publication helps with the analysis of past and present NSSE data for trends or stability. NSSE survey items, the construction of benchmarks, and the production of institutional reports have been adjusted over time. These improvements make multi-year analysis of NSSE data more complex. Thus, this guide provides resources, information and suggestions for suitable approaches to multi-year analysis, and may strengthen the validity of final conclusions. The guide aligns with the *NSSE 2008 Multi-Year Benchmark Report* which provides recalculated and comparable benchmark scores and related statistics for all years of NSSE participation.

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


The NSSE Institute developed a step-by-step guide for conducting cognitive interviews and focus groups to help institutional users develop a deeper understanding of their NSSE data. The guide describes cognitive interview and focus group methodologies, the three stages of a cognitive interview, and provides suggestions for the coding of responses. Detailed instructions are provided for planning, conducting, and gathering data from interviews and focus groups.

**Examples of NSSE Data Use**

[www.nsse.iub.edu/institute/?view=tools/index](http://www.nsse.iub.edu/institute/?view=tools/index)

NSSE has assembled collections of how participating institutions have used their NSSE results in student affairs, first-year program planning, general education program evaluation, strategic planning, accreditation efforts, and other initiatives.

- Using NSSE Data in Student Affairs
- Using NSSE to Assess the First-Year Experience
- Assessing General Education Learning Outcomes: NSSE Benchmarks and Institutional Practice
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU): Examples of NSSE Use
- How the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) Institutions are Using NSSE Data

**Encouraging Student Participation in NSSE and Disseminating Survey Results**

[www.nsse.iub.edu/institute/?view=tools/promo](http://www.nsse.iub.edu/institute/?view=tools/promo)

Find examples on the NSSE Web site of how colleges and universities have promoted the NSSE survey on campus. We have collected sample flyers, posters, and screen savers used by institutions to encourage student participation in the NSSE survey. Also provided are examples of slide presentations and print brochures that inform internal and external audiences of NSSE results.

**NSSE Users Workshops**

[www.nsse.iub.edu/fall_workshop](http://www.nsse.iub.edu/fall_workshop)

The 2008 fall NSSE users workshop will be held at the State University of New York, Brockport, on Thursday and Friday, October 16-17, 2008. Details on registration, accommodations, travel, and session schedules are available on the NSSE Institute Web site. A postcard describing the workshop is included in the User Resources section of the binder. Presentations from previous users workshop sessions are posted to the NSSE Web site, [www.nsse.iub.edu/links/workshop_presentations](http://www.nsse.iub.edu/links/workshop_presentations).

**NSSE Webinars**

In 2008, NSSE began a series of live, interactive Webinars for faculty, administrators, institutional researchers, and student affairs professionals who want to better use and
understand their NSSE, BCSSE, and FSSE data. Each hour-long Webinar includes a PowerPoint presentation and a question and answer period. All Webinars are recorded and available on the NSSE Web site for later or repeated viewing at your convenience.

Webinar topics include: Assessing the First-Year Experience, Using NSSE Data for Student Affairs, An Introduction to the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE), Multi-year Analysis of NSSE Data, and additional topics relevant to NSSE data users. Find a schedule of upcoming Webinars and links to previous recorded sessions at www.nsse.iub.edu/webinars.

The Pocket Guide to Choosing a College and the NSSE 2008 Pocket Guide Report: What Students Are Saying...

www.nsse.iub.edu/html/pocket_guide_intro.cfm

NSSE has revised and updated its pocket guide to exploring colleges. A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College: Are You Asking the Right Questions? was created as part of an ongoing public awareness campaign to refocus the national conversation about what constitutes quality in the college experience. Designed to help prospective college students and their parents in the college decision-making process, the pocket guide is also a useful resource for college admissions staff.


A Spanish version of the pocket guide, Una Guía de Bolsillo Para Escoger una Universidad, is now available.

Resources in the Institutional Report 2008 Binder

All resources and institution-specific reports provided in the NSSE Institutional Report 2008 binder are also available in electronic format via the password-protected Institution Interface on the NSSE Web site.