“Everyone wants a tool that really works. NSSE results provide faculty and staff with information they can readily use to strengthen the learning environment.”

— David E. Shulenburger, Vice President of Academic Affairs, National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges

Register by September 20, 2007 at www.nsse.iub.edu

Sponsored by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
NSSE is used more widely today than ever as an effective way to assess what both institutions and students themselves do to foster student success.”

— Belle S. Wheelan, President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

What is NSSE?

More than 1,100 four-year colleges and universities in the United States and Canada have used the National Survey of Student Engagement to better understand the extent to which students and institutions engage in empirically-confirmed effective teaching and learning activities, and to develop programs and practices that foster student engagement.

The NSSE instrument is short, reliable and easy for students to complete. It asks undergraduates about how they spend their time, what they feel they have gained from classes, their assessment of the quality of their interactions with faculty and students, and other educationally important activities. The results are organized into five benchmarks of effective educational practice:

- Level of Academic Challenge
- Active and Collaborative Learning
- Student-Faculty Interaction
- Enriching Educational Experiences
- Supportive Campus Environment

Why Should Institutions Participate in NSSE?

Institutions can use NSSE data to identify aspects of the undergraduate experience inside and outside the classroom to be more consistent with good practices in undergraduate education. Assessing student engagement is a central component of evaluating overall educational effectiveness.

Schools are using their NSSE results in many ways, including:

- Assessment and improvement
- Benchmarking
- Accountability
- Institutional research
- Accreditation and self-studies
- Retention
- Curricular reform
- Alumni outreach
- Grant writing
- Recruitment
- Faculty and staff development
- State system comparisons
- Student satisfaction
- Performance indicator

What Does a Participating Institution Receive?

Institutions receive detailed analyses and information tools, including:

- Customized Institutional Report - Presents your students’ responses by class year and provides statistical comparisons with three customized peer groups.
- Benchmark Report - Compares your students’ scores with students from peer institutions on the five NSSE benchmarks of effective educational practice.
- Institutional Data File - Includes student responses to all survey items in raw data that include student identifiers for additional, in-depth analyses.
- Accreditation Toolkit - Highlights ways to incorporate NSSE data into regional accreditation efforts.
- Additional User Tools - Enable sharing institutional NSSE results with internal and external audiences via a facilitation guide, PowerPoint template and more.

How Does NSSE Help Institutions Understand and Use Their Results?

The NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice assists colleges and universities in using student engagement data to support institutional improvement and accountability efforts.

Institute associates are available for:

- Facilitating campus workshops and retreats to stimulate discussion about ways to use NSSE data.
- Conducting assessments of campus conditions that promote student success.
- Evaluating the impact of curricular innovations and student success initiatives.
- Working with campuses, systems, and state organizations.
- Conducting research to better understand student success and educational effectiveness.

For examples of these materials and additional information visit: www.nsse.iub.edu
How is the NSSE Survey Administered?

The survey is administered each spring term (February through May) to random samples of first-year and senior students at baccalaureate colleges and universities. Two-year colleges may use the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (www.ccsse.org).

Participating institutions:
- Provide a student population data file containing contact information for all first-year and senior students;
- Work with NSSE to customize invitation materials;
- Partner with NSSE to ensure compliance with federal guidelines pertaining to research with human subjects during the survey administration process. The NSSE survey is approved annually by the Human Subjects Committee at Indiana University Bloomington. Participants should coordinate with their home institutional review boards to ensure adherence to regulations regarding the protection of human subjects.

NSSE:
- Selects random samples from student population files;
- Distributes survey invitations to all sampled students;
- Follows up with non-respondents;
- Oversees data collection and provides technical support;
- Prepares institution-specific reports of institutional results;
- Assigns a client service team to assist with an institution’s administration.

Modes of Administration

Both Web-based and paper survey administration modes are available. We recommend Web-based modes, as these enable an institution to receive a larger sample size, leading to more accurate population estimates, for the same cost. See our Web site (nsse.iub.edu/html/survey_modes.cfm) for more tips on choosing the best survey administration mode for your institution, or call our office to speak with a project associate.

- **Web-only.** Students receive all correspondence by e-mail and complete the Web version of the survey. This mode requires an accurate list of student e-mail addresses.

- **Web+.** Students receive their first three contacts by e-mail. For the fourth contact, depending upon preliminary response rates, a sample of non-respondents may receive a paper version of the survey while the remaining non-respondents receive another e-mail. This mode requires an accurate list of both student e-mail addresses and postal mailing addresses.

- **Paper.** Students receive a paper survey instrument in two postal mailings with the option to complete the Web version. Students at institutions without sufficient e-mail addresses also receive one reminder postcard. If e-mail addresses are available, students receive three reminders via e-mail instead of the paper postcard. This mode requires an accurate list of student postal mailing addresses.

“NSSE provides some of the necessary evidence needed to document the quality of the educational experience.”

— Ronald Crutcher, President, Wheaton College (MA)
How Do I Register for NSSE 2008?
To register for NSSE 2008 go to www.nsse.iub.edu.
Registration is easy, so register today!

How Can I Learn More about NSSE?
For additional detailed information about NSSE visit our Web site at www.nsse.iub.edu or call 866-435-6773 toll free.

Important Dates to Remember for NSSE 2008

May-September 2007
- Registration for NSSE 2008 on going (Deadline September 20, 2007)

August 2007
- Registration confirmation begins
- Consortium enrollment begins (Deadline October 4, 2007)

November 2007
- Institutions submit student population files (Deadline November 1, 2007)
- Institutions finalize customized survey invitations (Deadline November 1, 2007)

January/February 2008
- NSSE survey administrations begin (varies by school calendars)

June 1, 2008
- NSSE online survey closes

August 2008
- Institutional Reports sent to participating institutions

What is BCSSE? Is There Still Time to Register?
The Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE, pronounced “bessie”) is designed to be paired with a 2008 NSSE administration and measures entering first-year students’ pre-college academic and co-curricular experiences, as well as their interest in and expectations for participating in educationally purposeful activities during college. Institutions participating in both BCSSE and NSSE receive a combined BCSSE-NSSE summary report and data file with their NSSE Institutional Report in August. BCSSE may also be used as a stand-alone instrument. For registration details to survey your 2007 entering class, visit www.bcsse.iub.edu.
“NSSE results help us connect strategic planning initiatives with student learning outcomes and understand how we compare with peer institutions on these important measures.”

— Sally Mason, Provost, Purdue University

Related surveys and services:

Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE) www.bcsse.iub.edu

Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) www.fsse.iub.edu

Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE) www.lssse.iub.edu

Special Analyses www.nsse.iub.edu/special_analysis

Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research
School of Education
1900 E. Tenth Street, Eigenmann Hall, Suite 419
Bloomington, IN 47406-7512

Phone: 866-435-6773
Fax: 812-856-5150
E-mail: nsse@indiana.edu
www.nsse.iub.edu