2012 Invitation to Participate

“At a time when US standards for higher education are being evaluated in a competitive global context, NSSE data provide real insights into the qualities of the campus learning environment.”

— Molly Corbett Broad, President, American Council on Education

Register by September 15, 2011 at nsse.iub.edu
NSSE’s Next Decade

Since NSSE’s inception in 2000, more than 1,400 colleges and universities have used it as part of their assessment programs. NSSE remains committed to its core mission to document engagement by students, faculty, and institutions in empirically proven educational activities. More than ever, concern about student learning outcomes requires that institutions examine the extent to which their students engage in educational practices that promote learning and development.

We continually seek new ways to improve the quality and utility of NSSE data for informing programs and practices that foster student engagement. Over the past year, NSSE has enhanced its services by updating resources on its Web site, creating a psychometric portfolio that presents studies of validity, reliability, and other indicators of data quality, and developing a new interactive tool to display NSSE results online.

NSSE Update in 2013

An updated version of NSSE—NSSE 2.0—will launch in 2013. The update will incorporate what we have learned over the past decade while preserving NSSE’s signature focus on diagnostic and actionable information for institutions. With an updated survey, we aim to:

- Refine existing measures and scales, including NSSE benchmarks;
- Incorporate new measures related to effective teaching and learning;
- Improve the clarity and applicability of the survey language, including terms related to online instruction;
- Eliminate the use of outdated terminology, primarily related to technology.

The planned enhancements reflect our continued commitment to improve and address contemporary assessment needs. NSSE 2.0 will respond to both institutional feedback and recent advances in educational and survey research. Keep track of NSSE 2.0 progress on our Web site (nsse.iub.edu/nsse2013).

What Are the Benefits of Participating?

Institutions use NSSE to measure aspects of the student experience that are consistent with good practice in undergraduate education. Participating institutions use their NSSE results in many ways, including:

- Accreditation self-studies
- Assessment and improvement
- Benchmarking
- Curricular reform
- Faculty and staff development
- Institutional research
- Retention
- State system comparisons
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 comparison groups.

- **Benchmark Report** – Compares your students’ scores on the five NSSE benchmarks of effective educational practice to those of students at your comparison institutions. For repeat participants, compares your benchmark results over time.

- **Specialized Summary Reports** – Major Field, Executive Snapshot and Student Experience in Brief reports.

- **Student Data File** – Includes raw student responses to all survey items, including student identifiers, to facilitate your own within-institution analyses.

- **Annual Results** – Reports on new findings, NSSE initiatives, and the landscape of undergraduate assessment.

What Other Resources are Available?

- **Accreditation Toolkits** – Highlight ways to incorporate NSSE data into regional and specialized accreditation efforts.

- **Additional User Tools** – Resources to support using your NSSE results in the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA), sharing results with internal and external audiences via a facilitation guide, PowerPoint template, Multi-Year Data Analysis Guide, and more.

- **Educational Events** – Opportunities to attend regional and campus workshops and Webinars to stimulate discussion about ways to use NSSE data.

For examples of these materials and additional information, visit: [nsse.iub.edu](http://nsse.iub.edu)

“NSSE not only provides participating institutions a valid and reliable sense of how their students are learning through engagement with the institution, but also how this compares to other institutions. That’s powerful information for a student-centered institution.”

— David A. Longanecker, President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
How Is NSSE Administered?

NSSE is administered using standardized, state-of-the-art procedures each spring term to first-year students and seniors at baccalaureate-granting 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 graduating senior students;
- Work with NSSE to customize invitation materials and to ensure compliance with protocols pertaining to research with human subjects.

NSSE...

- Assigns a project service team to guide institutions through the participation process;
- Selects random samples from student population files (census administration is standard for Web-only administrations, unless a smaller sample is requested);
- Sends survey invitations to all sampled students, and follows up with non-respondents;
- Provides a password-protected, Web-based interface for institutions to monitor survey administration and to download reports and data;
- Prepares institution-specific reports of results.

“Colleges and universities derive enormous internal value from participating in NSSE; of equal importance is the reassurance to their external publics that a commitment to undergraduate education and its improvement is a high priority.”

—Muriel A. Howard, President, American Association of State Colleges and Universities

Hunter College CUNY
Modes of Administration

Both Web-based and paper modes are available. We recommend a Web-only administration because the larger samples lead to more accurate population estimates at the same cost. See our Web site (nsse.iub.edu/html/survey_modes.cfm) for more tips on choosing the best mode for your institution, or call our office to speak with a Project Services team member.

- **Web-only.** Students receive all survey-recruiting messages and reminders by e-mail and complete the survey online.
- **Web+.** Students receive their first three recruiting messages by e-mail. For the fourth contact, a sample of non-respondents may receive a postal mailing (if warranted by response rates), while remaining non-respondents receive another e-mail.
- **Paper.** Students receive a paper survey in up to two postal mailings, with the option to complete the Web version. Subject to availability of e-mail addresses, students receive up to three reminders via e-mail or one reminder postcard.

When & How Do I Register for NSSE 2012?

- The deadline to register is **September 15, 2011.**
- To register, or for additional information, go to nsse.iub.edu or call 866-435-6773 toll free.

“We include NSSE measures of student engagement in our university executive dashboard and treat these measures as core indicators of institutional progress and performance.”

—James C. Votruba, President
Northern Kentucky University
What Does It Cost to Participate in NSSE?

**Registration fee**  $300 (nonrefundable; waived for 2011 BCSSE participants)

**Administration fee***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate Enrollment</th>
<th>NSSE Standard Sample Size</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>Web+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fewer than 4,000</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>1,800</td>
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<td>4,000 to 7,999</td>
<td>600</td>
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<tr>
<td>8,000 to 12,000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>3,200</td>
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<td>More than 12,000</td>
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All Web-only administrations are now offered as a census of all eligible first-year and senior students, but institutions may request a smaller sample.

*Supplemental fees may be assessed for institutions requiring special processing or additional costs. More detailed information on pricing, including withdrawal fees, non-US administrations, and pricing for institutions with fewer than 400 first-year and senior students can be found on our Web site (nsse.iub.edu/html/pricing.cfm).

**Consortia and Multi-campus Systems**

A NSSE consortium is a group of six or more institutions that append up to 20 questions to the NSSE survey. A consortium may form around a common topical interest, a similar institutional mission, or the needs of a state or university system. Consortium institutions constitute one of the three comparison groups in the Institutional Report. In addition, an aggregate consortium report is delivered to the consortium’s coordinator.

Consortium fees range from $200 to $500 per institution, depending on undergraduate enrollment.

Multi-campus systems designate a coordinator who receives a report that provides the aggregate results for their member institutions, as well as a unit record data file for the system. There is no consortium fee for multi-campus systems that do not append additional questions.

NSSE staff are available to work with consortium and system coordinators to sponsor Webinars and workshops to facilitate data use among participating institutions.

More information is available at nsse.iub.edu/html/consortia.cfm or by contacting the NSSE Consortium Manager at: consorti@indiana.edu.
Companion Surveys

Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE)

BCSSE is designed for pairing with a NSSE administration to provide an in-depth understanding of first-year students’ high school academic and co-curricular experiences, as well as their expectations for participating in educationally purposeful activities during the first college year. For institutions conducting a paired BCSSE 2011-NSSE 2012 administration (BCSSE in summer or fall followed by NSSE in spring), the NSSE registration fee will be waived (administration fees still apply).

More information about BCSSE can be found at: bcsse.iub.edu.

Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE)

FSSE complements NSSE by providing information about faculty perceptions of student engagement and actions faculty take to promote student engagement. Together, results from FSSE and NSSE can serve as a catalyst for productive discussions related to teaching, learning, and the quality of students’ educational experiences.

FSSE administration can take place concurrently with an institution’s NSSE administration or during the following spring (i.e., NSSE 2012 institutions can participate in 2012 or 2013). Faculty members are contacted via e-mail and respond online. Unlike NSSE, FSSE respondents are not identified to the institution.

More information about FSSE can be found at: fsse.iub.edu.

NSSE 2.0 coming in 2013!
nsse.iub.edu/nsse2013
When & How Do I Register for NSSE 2012?

- The deadline to register is September 15, 2011.
- To register, or for additional information, go to nsse.iub.edu or call 866-435-6773 toll free.

Important Dates to Remember for NSSE 2012

May–September 2011
- Registration for NSSE 2012 (Deadline September 15, 2011)

August 2011
- Registration confirmation
- Informational Webinars for NSSE users

September 2011
- Consortium enrollment begins (Deadline November 3, 2011)
- Customized survey invitations created by institutions

October 2011
- Customized survey invitations finalized (Deadline October 27, 2011)
- Incentives finalized

November 2011
- Student population files submitted by institutions (Deadline November 10, 2011)

January–March 2012
- Survey administrations begin (depends on academic calendar)

May 2012
- Institutions select comparison groups and major field categories for customized reports.

June 1, 2012
- Survey administration closes

August 2012
- Institutional Reports sent to participating institutions

November 2012
- Annual Results and Executive Snapshots sent to participating institutions

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Cover photos (clockwise from top): California State University - Los Angeles, Capital University, Buena Vista University, Georgian Court University, Colorado College