Sets of related survey items are now organized into ten Engagement Indicators, which are grouped within four themes adapted from NSSE’s former Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice. Forty-seven survey items are included in the Engagement Indicators (see reverse side). In addition, six items from the former Enriching Educational Experiences benchmark are now reported separately as High-Impact Practices.

From Benchmarks to Engagement Indicators and High-Impact Practices

**NSSE Benchmarks 2000 - 2012**

- **Level of Academic Challenge**
  - Expanding to focus on distinct dimensions of academic effort, including new topics of interest. In addition, key items on reading, writing, and study time will be reported in this theme.

- **Active and Collaborative Learning**
  - Modified to emphasize student-to-student collaboration. Updated diversity items from Enriching Educational Experiences have been moved here.

- **Student-Faculty Interaction**
  - The updated Student-Faculty Interaction indicator is joined by a second measure about effective teaching practices.

- **Supportive Campus Environment**
  - Expanded to focus separately on interactions with key people at the institution and perceptions of the institution’s learning environment.

**Key Changes**

**Engagement Indicators**

- Higher-Order Learning
- Reflective & Integrative Learning
- Learning Strategies
- Quantitative Reasoning

**Theme: Academic Challenge**

- Collaborative Learning
- Discussions with Diverse Others

**Theme: Learning with Peers**

- Student-Faculty Interaction
- Effective Teaching Practices

**Theme: Experiences with Faculty**

- Quality of Interactions
- Supportive Environment

**Theme: Campus Environment**

- Selected items are reported separately as High-Impact Practices. Items measuring discussions with diverse others were moved to the Learning with Peers theme.

**High-Impact Practices**

- Learning Community
- Service-Learning
- Research with a Faculty Member
- Internship or Field Experience
- Study Abroad
- Culminating Senior Experience
Learning with Peers

**Collaborative Learning**

*During the current school year, how often have you:*
- Asked another student to help you understand course material
- Explained course material to one or more students
- Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students
- Worked with other students on course projects or assignments

**Discussions with Diverse Others**

*During the current school year, how often have you had discussions with people from the following groups:*
- People from a race or ethnicity other than your own
- People from an economic background other than your own
- People with religious beliefs other than your own
- People with political views other than your own

Experiences with Faculty

**Student-Faculty Interaction**

*During the current school year, how often have you:*
- Talked about career plans with a faculty member
- Worked with a faculty member on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)
- Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with a faculty member outside of class
- Discussed your academic performance with a faculty member

Effective Teaching Practices

*During the current school year, to what extent have your instructors done the following:*
- Clearly explained course goals and requirements
- Taught course sessions in an organized way
- Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points
- Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress
- Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments

Campus Environment

**Quality of Interactions**

*Indicate the quality of your interactions with the following people at your institution:*
- Students
- Academic advisors
- Faculty
- Student services staff (career services, student activities, housing, etc.)
- Other administrative staff and offices (registrar, financial aid, etc.)

Supportive Environment

*How much does your institution emphasize the following:*
- Providing support to help students succeed academically
- Using learning support services (tutoring services, writing center, etc.)
- Encouraging contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial/ethnic, religious, etc.)
- Providing opportunities to be involved socially
- Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counseling, etc.)
- Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
- Attending campus activities and events (performing arts, athletic events, etc.)
- Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues

High-Impact Practice Items

*Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate?*
- Participate in a study abroad program
- Work with a faculty member on a research project
- Complete a culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, portfolio, etc.)
- About how many of your courses at this institution have included a community-based project (service-learning)?