National Survey of Student Engagement

What it's about—
You are invited to participate in a research study about your college experiences. The information from this National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is used by faculty and administrators at your institution and by other higher education leaders to improve the collegiate experiences of undergrads. Study participants are primarily first-year and senior students selected from the bachelor’s degree-seeking students at your institution.

Students from hundreds of other colleges and universities are also being asked these same questions—about how they spend their free time, what they feel they have gained from classes, and their interaction with faculty and other students. Filling out the questionnaire takes about 15 minutes. Your participation is completely voluntary. Declining participation or leaving the study will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled.

Things you should know—
This survey is conducted on behalf of your institution by the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research; we will send your identified responses to your school for institutional assessment. Your school and the Center will make every effort to keep your responses confidential, although we cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality. No information associated with your name will ever be released publicly, but personally identifiable survey responses may be inspected by university and government organizations when required by law.

If you have questions at any time about the study or the procedures, you may contact the National Survey of Student Engagement at nsse@indiana.edu or by calling 812-856-5824.

For questions about your rights as a research participant or to discuss problems, complaints or concerns about a research study, or to obtain information or offer input, contact the IUB Human Subjects Office, 530 E Kirkwood Ave, Carrickmichael Center, L03, Bloomington IN 47408, 812-855-3067 or by e-mail at iub_hsoc@indiana.edu.

On to the survey—
If you have read this form and agree to take part in this survey, click the “Proceed to the survey” button.
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Very Often</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions</td>
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<td>Made a class presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Come to class without completing readings or assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worked with other students on projects during class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments</td>
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</table>

Continue
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Very Often</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Used an electronic medium (listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class</td>
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</table>

[Continue]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Very Often</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic</td>
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<tr>
<td>performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's</td>
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<tr>
<td>standards or expectations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework</td>
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<tr>
<td>(committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of</td>
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<tr>
<td>class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity</td>
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<td>than your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>Had serious conversations with students who are very different from you</td>
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<tr>
<td>in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal</td>
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<tr>
<td>values</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following mental activities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Very much</th>
<th>Quite a bit</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Very little</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorizing facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in pretty much the same form</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Making judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and interpreted data and assessing the soundness of their conclusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Continue
During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?

Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings

- None
- 1-4
- 5-10
- 11-20
- More than 20

Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment

- None
- 1-4
- 5-10
- 11-20
- More than 20

Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more

- None
- 1-4
- 5-10
- 11-20
- More than 20

Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages

- None
- 1-4
- 5-10
- 11-20
- More than 20

Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages

- None
- 1-4
- 5-10
- 11-20
- More than 20
In a *typical week*, how many homework problem sets do you complete?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of problem sets that take you <strong>more</strong> than an hour to complete</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>1-2</th>
<th>3-4</th>
<th>5-6</th>
<th>More than 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of problem sets that take you <strong>less</strong> than an hour to complete</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>1-2</th>
<th>3-4</th>
<th>5-6</th>
<th>More than 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</table>

Continue
Select the circle that best represents the extent to which your examinations during the current school year have challenged you to do your best work.

Very little

Very much

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Continue
During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Very Often</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attended an art exhibit, play, dance, music, theater, or other performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participated in activities to enhance your spirituality (worship, meditation, prayer, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Continue
Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate from your institution?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Done</th>
<th>Plan to do</th>
<th>Do not plan to do</th>
<th>Have not decided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community service or volunteer work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign language coursework</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study abroad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent study or self-designed major</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Continue
Select the circle that best represents the quality of your relationships with people at your institution.

**Relationships with other students**
- Unfriendly, Unsupportive, Sense of alienation
- Friendly, Supportive, Sense of belonging

**Relationships with faculty members**
- Unavailable, Unhelpful, Unsympathetic
- Available, Helpful, Sympathetic

**Relationships with administrative personnel and offices**
- Unhelpful, Inconsiderate, Rigid
- Helpful, Considerate, Flexible
### About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?

#### Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours per week</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1-5</th>
<th>6-10</th>
<th>11-15</th>
<th>16-20</th>
<th>21-25</th>
<th>26-30</th>
<th>More than 30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Working for pay on campus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours per week</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1-5</th>
<th>6-10</th>
<th>11-15</th>
<th>16-20</th>
<th>21-25</th>
<th>26-30</th>
<th>More than 30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Working for pay off campus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours per week</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1-5</th>
<th>6-10</th>
<th>11-15</th>
<th>16-20</th>
<th>21-25</th>
<th>26-30</th>
<th>More than 30</th>
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</thead>
</table>

#### Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours per week</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1-5</th>
<th>6-10</th>
<th>11-15</th>
<th>16-20</th>
<th>21-25</th>
<th>26-30</th>
<th>More than 30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Continue
About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?

Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)

- 0 Hours per week
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26-30
- More than 30

Provisioning care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.)

- 0 Hours per week
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26-30
- More than 30

Commuting to class (driving, walking, etc.)

- 0 Hours per week
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26-30
- More than 30
To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very much</th>
<th>Quite a bit</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Very little</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providing the support you need to thrive socially</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Using computers in academic work</td>
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Continue
To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Very much</th>
<th>Quite a bit</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Very little</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquiring a broad general education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing clearly and effectively</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaking clearly and effectively</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thinking critically and analytically</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyzing quantitative problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Using computing and information technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working effectively with others</td>
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</table>

Continue
To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Very much</th>
<th>Quite a bit</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Very little</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voting in local, state, or national elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning effectively on your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding yourself</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solving complex real-world problems</td>
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<td>Developing a personal code of values and ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributing to the welfare of your community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing a deepened sense of spirituality</td>
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Continue
Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?

- Definitely yes
- Probably yes
- Probably no
- Definitely no
Select your year of birth:
- 1991
- 1990
- 1989
- 1988
- 1987
- 1986
- 1985
- 1984
If other year, enter here: 19

Your sex:
- Male
- Female

Continue
Are you an international student or foreign national?
- Yes
- No

What is your racial or ethnic identification? (Select only one.)
- American Indian or other Native American
- Asian, Asian American, or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- White (non-Hispanic)
- Mexican or Mexican American
- Puerto Rican
- Other Hispanic or Latino
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to respond

Continue
What is your current classification in college?
- Freshman/first-year
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Unclassified

Did you begin college at your current institution or elsewhere?
- Started here
- Started elsewhere

Since graduating from high school, which of the following types of schools have you attended other than the one you are attending now? (Select all that apply.)
- Vocational or technical school
- Community or junior college
- 4-year college other than this one
- None
- Other

Continue
Thinking about this current academic term...

How would you characterize your enrollment?

- Full-time
- Less than full-time

Are you taking all courses entirely on-line?

- Yes
- No

Continue
Your institution will not receive your identified response to the following question. Only an overall summary of responses will be provided.

Do you have any disabilities? (Select all that apply.)

- No, I do not have any disabilities
- Yes, I have a sensory impairment (vision or hearing)
- Yes, I have a mobility impairment
- Yes, I have a learning disability
- Yes, I have a mental health disorder
- Yes, I have another disability
- I choose not to answer

Continue
Are you a member of a social fraternity or sorority?
- Yes
- No

Are you a student-athlete on a team sponsored by your institution’s athletics department?
- Yes
- No

Continue
On what team(s) sponsored by your institution's athletics department are you an athlete? (Select all that apply.)

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Cross Country
- Fencing
- Field Hockey
- Football
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Ice Hockey
- Track & Field
- Lacrosse
- Rifle
- Rowing
- Skiing
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Water Polo
- Wrestling
- Other, specify:

Continue
What have most of your grades been up to now at this institution?

- A
- A-
- B+
- B
- B-
- C+
- C
- C- or lower

Which of the following best describes where you are living now while attending college?

- Dormitory or other campus housing (not fraternity/sorority house)
- Residence (house, apartment, etc.) within **walking distance** of the institution
- Residence (house, apartment, etc.) within **driving distance** of the institution
- Fraternity or sorority house
- None of the above
What is the highest level of education that your father completed?
- Did not finish high school
- Graduated from high school
- Attended college but did not complete degree
- Completed an associate's degree (A.A., A.S., etc.)
- Completed a bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)
- Completed a master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)
- Completed a doctoral degree (Ph.D., J.D., M.D., etc.)

What is the highest level of education that your mother completed?
- Did not finish high school
- Graduated from high school
- Attended college but did not complete degree
- Completed an associate's degree (A.A., A.S., etc.)
- Completed a bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)
- Completed a master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)
- Completed a doctoral degree (Ph.D., J.D., M.D., etc.)
Please enter your major(s) or your expected major(s).

Primary major (Enter only one.):

If applicable, second major (not minor, concentration, etc.):
We're sorry, but we weren't able to identify the primary major you entered.

Please select the response below that most closely matches your **primary** major.

Select from a general area below to view a list of specific majors.

- Expand all categories
- Contract all categories

**Arts & Humanities:**
**Biological Science:**
**Business:**
**Education:**
**Engineering:**
**Physical Science:**
**Professional:**
**Social Science:**
**Other:**

Continue
We're sorry, but we weren't able to identify the second major you entered.

Please select the response below that most closely matches your second major.

Select from a general area below to view a list of specific majors.

Expand all categories | Contract all categories

Arts & Humanities:
Biological Science:
Business:
Education:
Engineering:
Physical Science:
Professional:
Social Science:
Other:

Continue
If you have any additional comments or feedback that you’d like to share on the quality of your educational experience, please type them below.
THANKS FOR SHARING YOUR RESPONSES!

Your responses to the survey were successfully submitted.

Questions or comments? Contact us.

For security purposes, please close your browser window to exit the survey.
Help

How to Complete the Survey

- Returning to a Previous Page
- Using Radio Buttons
- Using Checkboxes
- Using Textboxes

Common Problems

- Submit Button Doesn’t Respond

Returning to a Previous Page

Use your browser’s back button to return to a previous page in the survey. After you finish reviewing the previous page or changing answers, select the “Continue” button to return.

Using Radio Buttons

To select a radio button, move your mouse pointer over the radio button you wish to select and click once. If you want to change your answer, just click another radio button under the same question and your previous mark will be deleted.

Using Checkboxes

Selecting a checkbox is almost exactly like selecting a radio button. Move your mouse cursor over the checkbox you wish to select and click once. Checkboxes work a bit differently when it comes to deselecting compared to radio buttons. With checkboxes one must actually re-click the selection again for the check mark to go away because more than one checkbox can be selected under a single question.

Using Textboxes

To put your answer into a textbox move your mouse pointer over any part of the textbox and click once. Then just type in your answer using the keyboard. To delete an answer double-click in the box (the text should now be highlighted) and then press either the “Backspace” or “Delete” key. When you have the correct answer in the textbox, proceed to the next question or submit button.

Submit Button Doesn’t Respond

“I keep clicking the submit/next page/continue button, but nothing happens.”

Repeatedly clicking a submit button does not make any page on the web load faster. When you click a submit button, the process of sending your information and moving onto the next page begins. If the button is clicked again, then the progress so far is abandoned, and the process starts over again from the beginning.

If it takes a long time for anything to occur after you press a submit button, it is probably because of a slow network connection, heavy network traffic, or other similar problems. In any case, the fastest procedure is to click the submit button once and wait for the network to transfer your information and load the next page. Repeatedly clicking the button will only slow the process down.
Contact Us

For technical questions regarding the survey:

E-mail: help@nssesurvey.org
Phone: 1-800-676-0390
Mail: Center for Survey Research
      Indiana University
      Eigenmann Hall 2 South
      1900 E. 10th Street
      Bloomington, IN 47406-7512
      USA

Link: Center for Survey Research Home Page

For general NSSE issues:

E-mail: nsse@indiana.edu
Mail: Center for Postsecondary Research
      Indiana University Bloomington
      1900 East 10th Street
      Eigenmann Hall Suite 419
      Bloomington, IN 47406-7512

Link: The National Survey of Student Engagement
Frequently Asked Questions

Survey Details
- What is the National Survey of Student Engagement?

Survey Administration
- How did you get my name?
- Why don’t you ask someone else?

Data Reporting
- What will you do with the data?
- Will my answers be shared with the institution?
- Are you surveying my school only?
- Are my survey responses anonymous?
- Are my survey responses confidential?

Reasons to Participate
- Why should I complete the survey?
- I get surveyed all the time. How is this survey different?
- Who is in charge of the survey?

What is the National Survey of Student Engagement?
The National Survey of Student Engagement, or NSSE, is a survey specially designed for students like you to provide information about your undergraduate experience, including your views about the quality of your education and how you spend your time. The survey has a very broad scope in that your school is one of more than 650 universities and colleges from different parts of the US and Canada using the survey this spring. But the main reason your school is participating is that it wants to learn more about what students think and do because it wants to improve the undergraduate program at your school. This year more than 1,100,000 students will be invited to express their views and describe their experiences.

How did you get my name?
When your school got involved in this project it gave us a data file with the names and mailing addresses of all first-year students and seniors. Every first-year student and every senior at your school had an equal chance of being chosen because the names were randomly selected from the list your school provided. At some schools, all students are surveyed.

Why don’t you ask someone else?
This survey is being completed by a random sample of students, although some schools also survey additional students to get more useful results. Random sampling and high response rates are critical to collecting statistically valid results. Collecting valid data will help your school make better decisions about improving undergraduate education.

What will you do with the data?
We will present data to your institution in an Institutional Report that summarizes the responses from all students who completed the survey at your school. This report includes a data file that your school can use to examine the information in different ways; examples might include comparing the experiences of women and men or learning about the experiences of students in different major fields. This is extremely valuable because most schools do not have good information about how students spend their time and what they think of their institution.

In addition, your institution’s data will be combined with data from students across the country to generate an overall profile of the undergraduate student. This national data set will be used to conduct research to improve undergraduate education. Individual student responses are not identifiable in any reports.

Will my answers be shared with the institution?
Absolutely. One of the most important reasons to do this survey is so that your institution discovers what you and other students at your school do and think.
Are you surveying my school only?

In spring 2009, more than 650 schools will be involved in the survey. This is an annual study, so the information you provide now will become part of the national database and be used for some time to come as people compare your responses with students in the future.

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Are my survey responses anonymous?

No. When we send the final survey data file to your institution, your responses will be linked to the unique ID number your institution provided us. In some cases this number will be your institutional student ID number, while in other cases they may assign a number specific to this study. NSSE never uses Social Security numbers for identification. Though your school can identify your responses, however, we use measures to ensure the confidentiality of your responses so that no one besides your school can share your responses.

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Are my survey responses confidential?

Yes. Confidentiality of student data is a high priority at NSSE. NSSE will only release survey responses identified by student to the institution at which that student is enrolled, and even then only to personnel designated as our official contacts at that institution. Our use of student data is regulated by the U.S. federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 34CFR 99.31(a)(6)(i)), which allows educational institutions to share student data with outside agencies conducting research for the purpose of improving instruction. For the full text of FERPA: http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/pdf/ferparegs.pdf. Students should contact their own institution for information about institutional policies for protecting student records.

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Why should I complete the survey?

Simply put, your school needs to know what you think of your educational experience, the kinds of activities you do, and how you are benefiting from your studies. Without this information, it's not very easy for faculty and staff at your institution to identify the areas that can and should be improved. And because you were randomly selected from among your classmates to represent your school, it's important that you make your views known in order for the results to be valid. The more your institution knows about its students and what they do there, the more likely it is that faculty, academic and student life administrators and others can take appropriate action that will improve undergraduate education.

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I get surveyed all the time. How is this survey different?

Have you heard the expression, “think globally, act locally?” This is a national project with immediate local implications. That is, more than one million students around the country are getting the same survey. And people will be interested in what undergraduate students as a group think about their education. But it's also important that your school find out directly from you about your experience and then share what it learns through comparisons with other schools. This will, probably for the first time, give your faculty and administrators an answer to the question: “How well are we doing?”

Finally, this survey differs from most others you get because what you say will become part of a continuing national study that people at your school as well as hundreds of other institutions around the country will continue to use for the foreseeable future. So, your answers will not only help your school, but many others around the country as well.

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Who is in charge of the survey?

The project is located at Indiana University Bloomington and is directed by Alexander C. McCormick, a faculty member in the School of Education. The Center for Survey Research at IUB, directed by John Kennedy, administers the surveys. These people are supported by dozens of others who help design, package, mail, and collect the surveys and then analyze and report the results to your school and the other participating institutions around the country.

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