2016 Invitation to Participate

"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

Register by September 25, 2015 at nsse.iub.edu
Two-year colleges may wish to use the Community College Survey of Student Engagement www.ccsse.org

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was created to accomplish two core objectives:

1. Refocus the national discourse about college quality on teaching and learning; and
2. Provide colleges and universities with diagnostic, actionable information that can inform efforts to improve the quality of undergraduate education.

NSSE achieves these objectives by documenting the extent to which first-year and senior college and university students engage in educational practices that research has found to be related to learning and development.

Since its first national administration in 2000, more than 1,500 bachelor’s-granting institutions—from research universities to baccalaureate colleges—have adopted NSSE as an important component of their assessment programs. NSSE results inform accreditation self-studies, benchmarking efforts, faculty development programs, strategic plans, improvement initiatives, recruitment materials, and more.

Updated in 2013

NSSE exemplifies continuous improvement in its own products and processes, and nothing is more important than the clarity and currency of the survey itself. In 2013, after more than three years of collaborative analysis, evidence-based item refinement, pilot testing, and student interviews—NSSE was updated to incorporate content enhancements and customization options that sustain the survey’s relevance and value to participating institutions.

New and updated survey content includes the following:

- Learning strategies
- Collaborative learning
- Quantitative reasoning
- High-impact practices
- Experiences with faculty and teaching practices
- Modified terminology better suited to online education

Customization options include topical modules—specialized question sets that, if chosen, are appended to the core survey. Modules cover a wide range of topics such as academic advising, first-year experiences and senior transitions, writing experiences, civic engagement, experiences with diversity, development of transferable skills, experiences with information literacy, and learning with technology.

View the updated survey online
nsse.iub.edu/links/surveys
What Does a Participating Institution Receive?

Institutions receive detailed analyses and information tools including:

**Customized Institutional Report**—A collection of reports describing your students’ experiences, broken out by class year with statistical comparisons to three customizable groups of institutions. Highlights include:

- **NSSE Snapshot**—A concise 4-page summary with graphic displays of key results.
- **Engagement Indicators**—Diagnostic, actionable information on important aspects of the undergraduate experience, alongside information for comparison institutions.
- **High-Impact Practices**—Your students’ participation in enriching experiences relative to that of students at comparison institutions.

**Online Institutional Report**—A secure web-based version of your Institutional Report that you can easily share with others at your institution.

**Customized Major Field Report**—Especially useful for institutions with multiple schools or colleges, providing within- and between-institution comparisons of the experiences of students in customizable groups of related majors.

**Student Data File**—Includes student identifiers, survey responses, and composite measures to facilitate your own analyses and linkage with other student data.

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

What Other Resources Are Provided?

**Institution Interface**—A secure online environment for all aspects of your NSSE administration.

**Report Builder–Institution Version**—An interactive online tool for generating customized tables containing results for your students and those at other institutions.

**National Reporting**—Findings from the latest NSSE administration and examples of how institutions make effective use of NSSE data.

**Accreditation Toolkits**—NSSE survey items mapped to accreditation standards and ways to incorporate NSSE data into regional and specialized accreditation efforts.

**User Tools**—Resources to support effective sharing and use of your results such as the NSSE Data User’s Guide, the NSSE Psychometric Portfolio, tips for using NSSE results in the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA), and more.

**Educational Opportunities**—Free webinars to stimulate discussion about making the most of your NSSE participation. Fee-based consultations and workshops are also available.
How Is NSSE Administered?

NSSE handles all aspects of survey administration, including invitations, reminder messages, delivery of the online survey, and compilation of data. This ensures comparability across institutions.

Survey administration begins as early as February (subject to an institution’s calendar) and closes June 1st. NSSE is administered exclusively online, but institutions may elect to contact students by email or regular mail.

Participating Institutions . . .

- Provide a student data file containing contact information for all first-year and senior students;
- Develop promotional campaigns, which may include incentives, to encourage survey participation;
- Customize invitation materials, including signatories and email sender names that students will recognize; and
- Work with NSSE to ensure compliance with protocols for research with human subjects.

NSSE . . .

- Assigns a Project Services team to guide institutions through the survey administration process;
- Provides a secure online interface for institutions to upload materials, customize invitations, schedule recruitment messages, monitor survey administration, and download reports and data;
- Sends survey invitations to all sampled students and reminder messages to nonrespondents, while monitoring response rates; and
- Delivers customized reports, data files, and additional resources for evidence-based improvement efforts.

Recruitment Method

Institutions choose whether NSSE will recruit survey participants by email or regular mail. Email contact allows for a census of eligible students. Both methods provide student-specific login information to access the online survey.

- **Email**—All eligible students receive invitation and reminder messages by email.
- **Regular Mail**—NSSE draws a random sample of students who receive two recruitment letters containing login information to access the online survey. Nonrespondents receive a reminder postcard and up to two email reminders.

The email recruitment method allows for a census of all eligible first-year and senior students by default, but institutions may request a random sample.
What Customization Options Are Available?

NSSE provides several opportunities for survey and report customization. Institutions may add up to two short topical modules or they may participate in a consortium that includes additional questions; consortium participants may select one topical module. Multi-campus systems may register as a system to coordinate their activities and receive a multi-campus report.

- **Topical Modules**—Short NSSE-designed and -tested question sets may be appended to the core survey on topics such as academic advising, first-year experiences and senior transitions, writing experiences, civic engagement, experiences with diversity, development of transferable skills, experiences with information literacy, and learning with technology.

- **Consortia**—Six or more institutions may form a consortium based on common interests, similar missions, or the needs of a multi-campus system. A consortium may append a short set of additional survey items subject to NSSE review.

- **Multi-Campus Systems**—Systems receive side-by-side institutional results and member-institution data (data-sharing agreements are required for each institution). There is no fee for these services unless a system appends questions as a consortium.

- **Customized Comparison Groups**—Reports display each institution’s results alongside those for three customizable comparison groups selected from institutions that participated in NSSE in the current and most recent years.

- **Customized Major Groups**—Institutions may customize up to ten groupings of related majors for the Major Field Report.

NSSE staff members are available to work with consortium and system coordinators to provide webinars and workshops to facilitate data use among member institutions.

See more information at nsse.iub.edu/html/administering.cfm
What Does It Cost?

Registration Fee
$300 (nonrefundable; waived for BCSSE 2015 participants)

Administration Fee (Updated for 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate Enrollment</th>
<th>Sample Size by Recruitment Method</th>
<th>Administration Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Regular Mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 500</td>
<td>All first-year &amp; senior students</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 to 999</td>
<td>All first-year and senior students (up to 25,000 total)</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000 to 3,999</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>4,000 to 7,999</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>8,000 to 12,000</td>
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<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 12,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Institutions with fewer than 500 undergraduates may elect a local administration alternative with abbreviated data and reporting services for a reduced administration fee of $1,500.
- Institutions choosing the email recruitment method may request a random sample.
- Consortium fees range from $200 to $500 per institution, depending on undergraduate enrollment.
- Institutions may select one topical module at no charge. Those not participating in a consortium may select a second module for $150.
- Detailed information on pricing can be found on our website.

How and when to register for NSSE 2016

Go to nsse.iub.edu or call 866-435-6773 toll free

Register by September 25, 2015

“The new questions in NSSE seem to engage the campus much more. We’ve had a number of conversations on campus about what the data mean—more than we’ve ever had before. NSSE has resulted in great conversations that can only help us improve.”

— Nancy Grear, Director, Institutional Research & Assessment, Nazareth College
What Are NSSE’s Companion Surveys?

**Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE)**

Designed for entering college students, BCSSE complements NSSE by providing 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. BCSSE aligns with the updated NSSE survey. The $300 NSSE registration fee is waived for institutions pairing BCSSE 2015 and NSSE 2016.

More information can be found on the BCSSE website.
[bcsse.iub.edu](http://bcsse.iub.edu)

**Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE)**

FSSE complements NSSE by providing information about faculty perceptions of student engagement and what they do to provide effective education for their undergraduate students. Faculty are contacted via email and respond online. Participating colleges and universities receive institution-specific data files and detailed reports of their FSSE results. Used together, results from FSSE and NSSE can stimulate productive discussions related to teaching, learning, and the quality of undergraduate education.

To align with the NSSE update, FSSE incorporates new content related to effective teaching and learning, and improves the clarity and applicability of the survey. FSSE’s core instrument targets faculty members and other instructional staff. Institutions that employ graduate student instructors (GSIs) can get a more complete understanding of undergraduate education on their campus by adding GSIs to their FSSE administration. Participating GSIs receive an adaptation of FSSE that captures the experiences, professional development, and perceptions of graduate students who teach undergraduates.

Although most institutions administer FSSE concurrently with NSSE, institutions choose when to administer FSSE to fit their needs. FSSE also provides the opportunity to append topical modules or consortium questions that align with the corresponding NSSE versions.

More information can be found on the FSSE website.
[fsse.iub.edu](http://fsse.iub.edu)
NSSE 2016 Timeline

Summer 2015: Register and Plan
- Register for NSSE June to September
- View NSSE webinars on survey administration
- Plan promotional and recruitment strategy

Fall/Winter 2015–2016: Survey Preparation
- Customize NSSE: choose modules, form a consortium, register as a system
- Develop recruitment materials: population file, recruitment messages, message schedule, participation incentives
- Implement promotional campaign
- Coordinate survey communications with campus IT professionals

Winter/Early Spring 2016: Survey Launch
- Survey administration opens
- Monitor administration progress
- Reminder messages to nonrespondents

Late Spring 2016: Survey Close
- Customize Institutional Report: choose comparison groups
- Survey administration closes June 1

Summer/Fall 2016: Data and Reports Released
- Institutional Report delivered; data files downloadable in August
- Major Field Report downloadable in October
- Institutional Report Builder updated
- Annual Results delivered in November

NSSE
national survey of student engagement

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Photos (left to right)—Front cover: top, Vancouver Island University, South Dakota State University; bottom, Elon University. Page 3: Georgia Institute of Technology, Northwestern College. Page 5: University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, West Virginia State University. Back cover: Knox College, Simon Fraser University.