Are students able to reliably estimate the number of hours they spend on co-curricular activities?

Purpose
Based on the NSSE Psychometric Reliability Framework, one way to measure reliability is to test whether or not different versions of questions produce similar results. Ideally students’ estimates of individual co-curricular activities should add up to students’ estimates of total co-curricular activities.

Data
This analysis will examine responses from 5285 first-year and 5524 senior students from thirty-three colleges and universities that participated in NSSE in 2006.

On the standard NSSE survey, all students are asked about how many hours they spend in a typical 7-day week doing the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)</td>
<td>Hours per week: 0, 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21-25, 26-30, More than 30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In 2006, a subset of students were asked to write in the a number to estimate about how many hours they spend in a typical 7-day week involved in each of the following co-curricular activities:

- Athletics (e.g. Varsity, club, intramural)
- Student government
- Academic club or honor society
- Fraternity or Sorority (social, service, and/or professional)
- Service organization
- Campus housing/residence life programming
- Performing or visual arts (e.g., band, chorus, theater, art)
- Campus newspaper or other publications (e.g., yearbook)
- Religious group
- Other (from a write-in)

This report is part of NSSE’s Psychometric Portfolio, a framework for presenting our studies of the validity, reliability, and other indicators of quality of NSSE data, available online at nsse.iub.edu/links/psychometric_portfolio.

Updated 10/13/2010
Methods
The analyses of this study are in progress.

Results
Results of this study are in progress.

References
NSSE Psychometric Portfolio. (2009). Bloomington, IN: Center for Postsecondary Research, Indiana University, School of Education.  www.nsse.iub.edu

NSSE Psychometric Reliability Framework. (2009). Bloomington, IN: Center for Postsecondary Research, Indiana University, School of Education.  www.nsse.iub.edu