

**2012**  
**NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**  
**SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE**  
**SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS**

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## INTRODUCTION

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was developed to achieve a greater understanding of students' educational experiences in college by exploring how institutions emphasize effective teaching practices and student engagement in various activities. The final NSSE report consists of five scales called Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice (Benchmarks). Each Benchmark consists of a group of scaled items derived from the NSSE survey. The five Benchmarks are Level of Academic Challenge (LAC), Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL), Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI), Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE), and Supportive Campus Environment (SCE). Toward the end of the survey, a series of Learning Gains items are included in order to provide an assessment of students' perceptions of their learning in college. The items in this section have been organized into three scales which reflect general areas of learning in college.

The following report is a summary of responses for seniors enrolled in the School of Liberal Arts. This report organizes the NSSE items according to scalelets, or clusters of highly related items that measure a specific aspect of the educational experiences of a group of students. Each scalelet is nested under the corresponding Benchmark with which it is associated. The table below depicts the number of scalelets in each benchmark (as well as the learning gains) for senior respondents identified as an "area of strength" (an effect size of 0.2 standard deviations greater than the IUPUI average), "asset to protect" (between 0.05 and 0.2 standard deviations greater than the average), "issue to be mindful of" (between -0.05 and -0.2 standard deviations below IUPUI average) and "opportunity for improvement" (an effect size of 0.2 standard deviations below the IUPUI average or more.)

In Spring semester 2012, a random sample of 3,860 seniors and 2,397 first-year students at IUPUI and IUPUC were invited to complete the original version of NSSE (other students completed the NSSE 2.0 pilot test, for which data is available upon request). A total of 1,043 seniors responded to the survey for a response rate of 27.0%. Of Liberal Arts respondents, 123 were seniors. For further information on NSSE, please contact Steven Graunke in the Office of Information Management and Institutional Research at [sgraunke@iupui.edu](mailto:sgraunke@iupui.edu).

**TABLE 1**  
**AREAS OF STRENGTH, ASSETS TO PROTECT, ISSUES TO BE MINDFUL OF, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT**

	Overall descriptor	Total number of Scalelets	Areas of Strength	Assets to Protect		Issues to be Mindful of	Opportunities for Improvement
<b>Level of Academic Challenge</b>	Asset to protect	3	1	0	1	1	0
<b>Active and Collaborative Learning</b>	Issue to be mindful of	2	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Student-Faculty Interaction</b>	No label	2	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Enriching Educational Experiences</b>	Asset to protect	3	1	1	0	1	0
<b>Supportive Campus Environment</b>	Issue to be mindful of	2	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Learning Gains</b>		3	1	1	0	0	1

**TABLE 2**  
**BENCHMARK, SCALELET, AND LEARNING GAINS SCORES FOR**  
**SENIORS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS**

	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>IUPUI Mean</b>	<b>Effect Size</b>
<b>Level of Academic Challenge<sup>b</sup></b>	121	58.3	14.5	1.30	56.7	0.11
Writing <sup>a</sup>	115	48.2	16.6	1.53	44.4	0.23
Higher-Order Thinking Skills	118	68.4	17.8	1.62	67.6	0.04
Course Challenge <sup>c</sup>	118	62.7	14.8	1.35	63.9	-0.07
<b>Active and Collaborative Learning<sup>c</sup></b>	123	49.2	17.5	1.56	52.4	-0.17
Active Learning	117	53.3	19.7	1.80	53.4	-0.00*
Collaborative Learning <sup>d</sup>	118	45.6	19.4	1.76	51.4	-0.29
<b>Student-Faculty Interaction</b>	119	40.1	20.7	1.87	39.8	0.01
Course Interaction	117	51.7	21.7	1.98	50.7	0.04
Out-of-Class Interaction	115	28.2	26.8	2.47	28.4	-0.01
<b>Enriching Educational Experiences<sup>b</sup></b>	119	43.2	19.5	1.77	39.8	0.19
Varied Experiences <sup>a</sup>	112	36.6	20.6	1.93	32.3	0.22
Diversity <sup>b</sup>	117	59.6	25.7	2.35	55.8	0.14
Information Technology <sup>c</sup>	114	74.7	19.0	1.76	77.7	-0.16
<b>Supportive Campus Environment<sup>c</sup></b>	119	54.3	20.5	1.86	57.0	-0.14
Support for Student Success <sup>c</sup>	118	41.8	24.4	2.22	42.9	-0.05
Interpersonal Environment <sup>d</sup>	119	66.4	21.2	1.93	71.0	-0.23
<b>Gains in General Education<sup>a</sup></b>	119	77.5	23.1	2.09	72.8	0.20
<b>Gains in Personal and Social Skills<sup>b</sup></b>	115	57.1	26.3	2.43	54.9	0.09
<b>Gains in Practical Skills<sup>d</sup></b>	118	64.9	27.3	2.49	72.5	-0.32

<sup>a</sup> “Area of strength”

<sup>b</sup> “Asset to protect”

<sup>c</sup> “Issue to be mindful of”

<sup>d</sup> “Opportunity for Improvement”

\* Effect size between -0.005 and 0.00