

Student Engagement and Institutional Assessment: Current Trends and Future Possibilities

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NSSE is Celebrating 20 Years!

Launched in 2000, NSSE was established to serve two related objectives:

- Enrich the discourse about college quality by assessing students' exposure to and participation in *empirically supported effective educational practices*
- Provide institutions with valid, reliable, diagnostic information to inform improvement



NSSE is Entering its 3rd Decade!

In 2020, NSSE enters its 3rd decade assessing the quality of undergraduate learning and success

- The student engagement movement has changed notions of quality in higher education
- Most institutions now value a culture of evidence, promoting deep approaches to learning, developing high-impact practices, and tracking engagement indicators



The Plan for This Session

For each topic below,

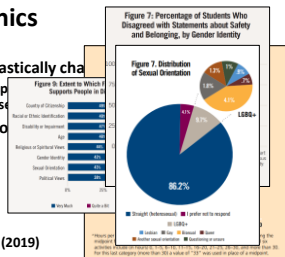
- Brief presentation of current trends from NSSE's experience
- Group discussion: Your experience and future possibilities
 1. Changing demographics
 2. Measures of engagement
 3. Approaches to assessment

Please write your ideas on the "hand-in" sheet provided. Then we wrap up with concluding thoughts



Changing demographics

- Student demographics have drastically changed
- For example, White students represent 45% (2001) to 64% (2019), largely offset by Black students
- Recent demographics updates on NSSE include:
 - Veteran status (2010)
 - Disability (2013)
 - Sexual orientation (2013)
 - Gender identity (2014)
 - Country of origin (2015)
 - Middle Eastern or North African (2019)



Changing demographics

What are the emerging demographics on your campus?

How will new kinds of students challenge and shape what we know about engagement?



Measures of Engagement

Student engagement represents two critical features of collegiate quality.

1. The amount of time and effort students put into their studies and other educationally purposeful activities.
2. How the institution deploys its resources and organizes the curriculum and other learning opportunities to get students to participate in activities that decades of research studies show are linked to student learning.



Measures of Engagement

- **Engagement Indicators (10)** – multiple dimensions of learning
- **High-Impact Practices (6)** – intensive activities associated with learning and retention
- **Academic Challenge** – Additional items such as time spent preparing for class, amount of reading and writing, perceived challenge of courses and of the overall academic emphasis of the institution
- **Perceived Gains** – Institutional contributions to knowledge and skill development
- **Topical Modules** – Additional question sets that take a deeper look on designated topics such as academic advising, experiences with writing, civic engagement, and more.



Measures of Engagement

Do current measures of engagement adequately cover what is essential to the improvement of student learning?

What new forms of engagement should we assess?



Trends in Assessment

Rapidly changing technology

↓
Mobile optimized surveys

Survey recruitment challenges

↓
Learning management systems

Desire for deeper data and content

↓
Student census "sample" & Topical Modules



Trends in Assessment

- What trends should a large-scale survey assessment project consider over the next decade to facilitate evidence-informed improvement?



Celebrate With Us at Our Reception

Provide more feedback here!

