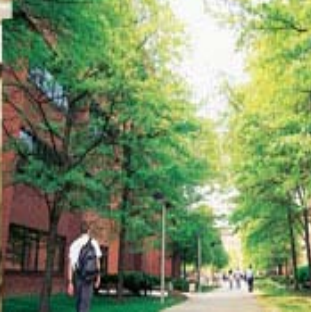


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Informing Practice & Research: Effective Uses of the NSSE Data

Maryland Association for Institutional Research

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National Survey of Student Engagement

An Overview

- Academic and Intellectual Experiences
- Mental Activities (Bloom's Taxonomy)
- Assignments and Examinations
- Extra-curricular and Co-curricular Experiences
- Enriching Educational Experiences
- Quality of relationships with students, faculty, and staff
- Time Usage
- Perceptions of Institutional Culture
- Educational and Personal Development
- Academic Advising (satisfaction with)
- Overall Satisfaction

National Survey of Student Engagement

An Overview

Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice

- Level of Academic Challenge
- Active & Collaborative Learning
- Student-Faculty Interaction
- Enriching Educational Experiences
- Supportive Campus Environment



National Survey of Student Engagement

How Can it be Useful to Institutions?

- Assess Institutional Strengths & Challenges
 - Present the most current trends in educational practices and student engagement
 - Highlight year-to-year performance improvements and declines across the Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice
 - Understand important sub-group differences within the samples of first-year and senior-level students on various aspects of academic & social engagement.



National Survey of Student Engagement

How Can it be Useful to Institutions?

- Environmental Scanning—what are students at other schools doing that our students aren't doing?
 - Evaluate your institution's performance relative to a set of institutional peers
 - Carnegie classification (provided by NSSE)
 - Hand-selected group of schools (request from NSSE)



National Survey of Student Engagement

How Can it be Useful to Institutions?

- Coordinate NSSE and FSSE participation to compare faculty and student responses on similar questions to understand any gaps between:
 - Faculty perceptions of students' educational experiences and students' reported experiences
 - Faculty academic expectations and students' reported behavior



National Survey of Student Engagement

How Can it be Useful to Institutions?

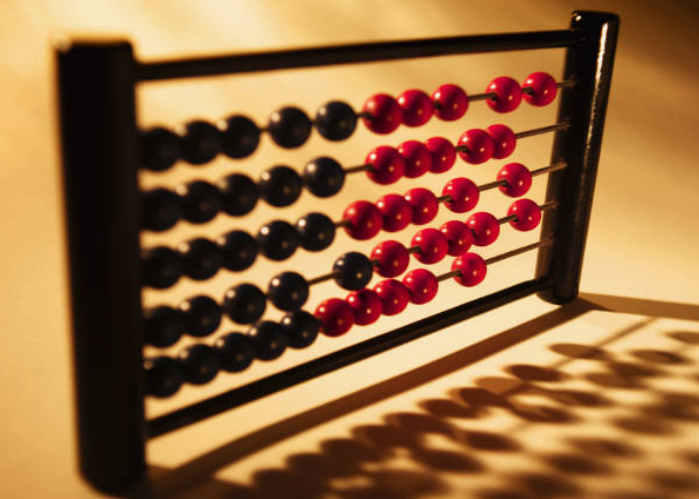
- Append institutional data to the NSSE file to:
 - Enrich analyses using the NSSE benchmarks and scales
 - Supplement (and complement) analyses that used only institutional data



Translating NSSE Results into Action: *The Early Years* (2000, 2001)

Implementation of a number of initiatives designed to increase student engagement:

- First-year seminars (FYS)
- Intro. to an Honors University (IHUS)
- New Student Book Experience
- Faculty Mentor Program
- Living Learning Communities
- Campus Connect
- Make UMBC Yours
- First Year Council
- First Year Leaders



Making Sense of it All: *Using the NSSE as a Tool in Research & Assessment*

- Longitudinal analytical report (2001, 2004, 2005)
- Assessment of First-year Experiences
- Applied Learning Experiences
- Student Employment & Retention

Visit <http://www.umbc.edu/oir/> and go to “Conference Presentations & Papers” to learn more.



Training & Development: *A Partnership between Academic & Student Affairs*

- Student Affairs' Lunch n' Learn Series—building the capacity for research and assessment on campus
 - Overview of the NSSE
 - Presentation to faculty & staff involved in IHUS
- Campus Diversity: A dialogue with Student Affairs



Tell Them About It....

Effective Ways to Communicate Results

Challenge: Communicating to Diverse Audiences

- Executives
- Faculty Members
- Experts
- Lay people



Tell Them About It....

Effective Ways to Communicate Results

Longitudinal Analytical Report (go to: www.umbc.edu/oir)

- Narrative—Executive Summary and 10-page report using 2001, 2004, and 2005 data
 - Performance improvements & declines across benchmarks over time
 - Highlighted items within benchmarks driving those differences
 - Inter-institutional comparisons
 - Explored sub-group differences within the samples on various aspects of academic & social engagement
 - Educational & Personal development items—align with MHEC & Middle States accreditation assessment guidelines
 - Satisfaction & commitment



Tell Them About It....

Effective Ways to Communicate Results

Longitudinal Analytical Report (go to: www.umbc.edu/oir)

- Visual Presentation of Results
 - Tables and charts using **bolding** and **highlighting** to note significant findings
- Technical Appendix
 - Highlights uses & misuses (limitations)
 - Comparison of respondents & non-respondents (generalizability)
 - Reliability and validity
 - Changes in the survey over time
 - How to interpret the results



On the Road Again....

Effective Ways to Communicate Results

Taking it on the Road--Presentations

- Keeping the “technical talk” at a minimum
- Using tables and charts to convey main points even when multivariate analyses were conducted
- Providing summary main points and keeping the details in your hip-pocket
- Engaging your audience in a conversation



Tricks of the Trade: *Do's and Taboos*



- Understand the political context of the NSSE on your campus
- Capitalize upon opportunities to EDUCATE and open lines of COMMUNICATION
- Be an expert
- Understand that the NSSE can *complement* institutional data sources—it is not the answer to all questions



Tricks of the Trade: *Do's and Taboos*



- Curb your enthusiasm! Don't over-generalize results
- Include a unique identifier on your file so that you can append institutional data to disaggregate the results
- Probe significant bivariate relationships with MV analysis