Item Comparisons

By examining individual NSSE questions, you can better understand what contributes to your institution’s performance on the Engagement Indicators. This section displays the five questions on which your students scored the highest and the five questions on which they scored the lowest, relative to students in your comparison group. Parenthetical notes indicate whether an item belongs to a specific Engagement Indicator or is a High-Impact Practice. While these questions represent the largest differences (in percentage points), they may not be the most important to your institutional mission or current program or policy goals. For additional results, see your Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons report.

First-year

Highest Performing Relative to Southeast Private

Discussions with... People with religious beliefs other than your own (DD)
Institution emphasis on providing support for your overall well-being (SE)
Discussions with... People from an economic background other than your own (DD)
Institution emphasis on providing opportunities to be involved socially (SE)
Quality of interactions with faculty (QI)

Lowest Performing Relative to Southeast Private

Spent more than 10 hours per week on assigned reading (f)
Participated in a learning community or some other formal program where (HIP)
Discussed your academic performance with a faculty member (SF)
Worked with a faculty member on activities other than coursework (SF)
About how many courses have included a community-based project (service-learning)? (HIP)

Senior

Highest Performing Relative to Southeast Private

Worked with a faculty member on a research project (HIP)
Completed a culminating senior experience (HIP)
Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material w/other students (CL)
Worked with a faculty member on activities other than coursework (SF)
Worked with other students on course projects or assignments (CL)

Lowest Performing Relative to Southeast Private

Quality of interactions with student services staff (QI)
Quality of interactions with students (QI)
Institution emphasis on helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (SE)
Discussions with... People with political views other than your own (DD)
Quality of interactions with other administrative staff and offices (QI)

Percentage Point Difference with Southeast Private

Item #
8c. +20
14f. +14
8b. +13
14e. +11
13c. +11
16. -6
11c. -6
3d. -6
3b. -7
12. -12

Percentage Point Difference with Southeast Private

Item #
11e. +43
11f. +40
1g. +28
3b. +26
3h. +26
13d. -6
13a. -8
14g. -11
8d. -13
13e. -17

Item numbering corresponds to the survey facsimile available on the NSSE website.

a. The displays on this page draw from the items that make up the ten Engagement Indicators (EIs), six High-Impact Practices (HIPs), and the additional academic challenge items reported on page 2. Key to abbreviations for EI items: HO = Higher-Order Learning, RI = Reflective & Integrative Learning, LS = Learning Strategies, QR = Quantitative Reasoning, CL = Collaborative Learning, DD = Discussions with Diverse Others, SF = Student-Faculty Interaction, ET = Effective Teaching Practices, QI = Quality of Interactions, SE = Supportive Environment. HIP items are also indicated. Item numbering corresponds to the survey facsimile available on the NSSE website.
b. Combination of students responding "Very often" or "Often.
c. Combination of students responding "Very much" or "Quite a bit.
d. Rated at least 6 on a 7-point scale.
e. Percentage reporting at least "Some.
f. Estimate based on the reported amount of course preparation time spent on assigned reading.
g. Estimate based on number of assigned writing tasks of various lengths.