

# **Student Engagement and High-Impact Practices**

Findings, Implications, and Applications from  
the Spring 2020 National Survey of Student  
Engagement **(NSSE)**

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# What is NSSE?

A **national survey** instrument that:

- annually collects information at hundreds of four-year colleges and universities
- provides data on student participation in activities and programs that promote learning and personal development.
- provides an estimate of how undergraduates (first years and seniors) spend their time and what they gain at college or university.
- provides institutions their data to identify and improve the undergraduate experience through changes in policy and practice.

NSSE has been in operation since 2000, used at more than 1,600 colleges and universities in the US and Canada. More than 90% of participating institutions administer the survey on a periodic basis. **At WP, every 2 years.**

# NSSE 2020 Measures

WHO: First-year students and seniors

WHEN: 2020 NSSE conducted March 2020 (pre-COVID-19 shutdown)

WHAT: Total 47 survey questions across 4 major themes

1. **Academic Challenge**
2. **Learning with Peers**
3. **Experiences with Faculty**
4. **Campus Environment**

# Response Rate: 30.5%

- 40% First-year (rose by 10% over 2018); 21% Seniors (dropped 11%)
- Comparable 2020 to 2018 average response (30.5% vs 31%)

# Comparison groups

- Public Master's -Large
- Regional Peers
- 4-year Residential

# Engagement Indicators: 10 (from 4 major themes)

- **Academic Challenge**

- higher-order learning
- reflective and integrative learning
- learning strategies
- quantitative reasoning

\*in some areas can include: preparing for class, course reading, assigned writing, course challenge, and academic emphasis

- **Learning with Peers**

- collaborative learning
- discussions with diverse others

- **Experiences with Faculty**

- student-faculty interaction
- effective teaching practices

- **Campus Environment**

- quality of interactions
- supportive environment

# Engagement Indicators: Overview

Use the following key:

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- △ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- No significant difference.
- ▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

## First-Year Students

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Engagement Indicator</i>	Your first-year students compared with Public Master's L	Your first-year students compared with 4 Year Res	Your first-year students compared with Regional Public
<i>Academic Challenge</i>	Higher-Order Learning	▽	▽	▽
	Reflective & Integrative Learning	▽	▽	▽
	Learning Strategies	--	▽	--
	Quantitative Reasoning	▽	▽	--
<i>Learning with Peers</i>	Collaborative Learning	--	--	--
	Discussions with Diverse Others	△	--	--
<i>Experiences with Faculty</i>	Student-Faculty Interaction	△	△	△
	Effective Teaching Practices	--	▽	--
<i>Campus Environment</i>	Quality of Interactions	▽	▽	--
	Supportive Environment	--	--	--

# In a Nutshell: First-Year Engagement

## *Academic Challenge*

- **Down across almost all indicators compared to all comparison groups**

## *Campus Environment*

- **Down compared to public masters and residential**

## *Learning with Peers*

- **Comparable and**
- **Up compared to public masters on discussions with diverse others**

## *Experiences with Faculty*

- **Up across all comparison groups student/faculty interactions**
- **Down in effective teaching compared to residentials**

# First Year Students 2020: 2016-18-20 Trend & Compared to Regional Peers

	Engagement Indicators	WPU	WPU 2020 versus		
		2020	WPU 2018	WPU 2016	Regional Peers 2020
Academic Challenge	Higher Order Learning	35.6	38	39.1	37.2
			-2.4		-1.6
	Reflective and Integrative Learning	33.2	35.5	36.7	34.7
			-2.3		-1.5
Learning Strategies	36.8	39.3	39.5	37.8	
		-2.5		-1	
Quantitative Reasoning	26.3	25.9	29.2	27	
		0.4		-0.7	
Learning with Peers	Collaborative Learning	31.8	30.2	31.6	30.7
			1.6		1.1
Discussions with Diverse Others	40.2	39.9	43.3	39.2	
		0.3		1	
Experiences with Faculty	Student-Faculty Interaction	24.1	21.4	22.4	21.3
			2.7		2.8
Effective Teaching Practices	37	39	40.1	38	
		-2		-1	
Campus Environment	Quality of Interactions	40.9	39.2	40.2	41.8
			1.7		-0.9
	Supportive Environment	35.6	37.1	36.4	35.5
			-1.5		0.1

# Engagement Indicators: Overview

## Seniors

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Engagement Indicator</i>	Your seniors compared with Public Master's L	Your seniors compared with 4 Year Res	Your seniors compared with Regional Public
<i>Academic Challenge</i>	Higher-Order Learning	--	--	--
	Reflective & Integrative Learning	--	--	--
	Learning Strategies	--	--	--
	Quantitative Reasoning	▼	▼	--
<i>Learning with Peers</i>	Collaborative Learning	--	--	▼
	Discussions with Diverse Others	--	--	--
<i>Experiences with Faculty</i>	Student-Faculty Interaction	▼	▼	▼
	Effective Teaching Practices	▼	▼	▼
<i>Campus Environment</i>	Quality of Interactions	▼	▼	--
	Supportive Environment	--	--	--

# In a Nutshell: Senior Engagement

## *Academic Challenge*

- **Comparable** - almost all indicators, all comparison groups;
- **Down** - quantitative reasoning vs. public masters, residentials

## *Campus Environment*

- **Comparable** - almost all indicators, all comparison groups;
- **Down** - quality of interactions vs. public masters, residentials

## *Learning with Peers*

- **Comparable; down** vs. regionals in collaborative learning

## *Experiences with Faculty*

- **Down** across all indicators;
- **Very significantly down** in student/faculty interactions vs. regional peers and residentials

# Senior Year Student 2020: 2016-18-20 Trends & Compared to Regional Peers

	Engagement Indicators	WPU	WPU	WPU 2020 versus	
		2020	2018	WPU 2016	Regional Peers 2020
Academic Challenge	Higher Order Learning	39.4	39.2	38.7	39.8
			0.2		-0.4
	Reflective and Integrative Learning	37.6	37.7	36.6	38.3
			-0.1		-0.7
	Learning Strategies	37.2	39	39.3	38.2
			-1.8		-1
Learning with Peers	Quantitative Reasoning	26.6	28	28.1	28.8
			-1.4		-2.2
	Collaborative Learning	30.6	32	30.7	33
Experiences with Faculty			-1.4		-2.4
	Discussions with Diverse Others	39.8	41.4	42.5	39.5
			-1.6		0.3
Campus Environment	Student-Faculty Interaction	21.4	25.1	23.1	26.4
			-3.7		-5
	Effective Teaching Practices	37.3	40	37.8	40
			-2.7		-2.7
	Quality of Interactions	39.9	39.9	39.3	41.8
			0		-1.9
	Supportive Environment	30.1	32.8	30.7	31.5
			-2.7		-1.4

# High Impact Practices (HIPs)

Includes:

- Learning Community
- Community-based Service Learning
- Work with Faculty on Research Project
- Internship/Co-op/Practicum/Clinical Experience
- Study Abroad
- Culminating Senior Experiences

# First-Year & Seniors Participation in High-Impact Practices: 2016-18-20 Trends & Compared to Regional Peers

	WPU 2020	WPU 2018	WPU 2016	Regional Peers 2020
<b>First Year</b>				
Learning Community	11%	18%	10%	9%
Service-Learning	<b>59%</b>	55%	56%	<b>52%**</b>
Research with Faculty	5%	6%	8%	4%
<b>Senior Year</b>				
Learning Community	21%	22%	16%	22%
Service-Learning	58%	66%	61%	59%
Research with Faculty	<b>8%</b>	19%	17%	<b>25%***</b>
Internship or Field Experience	<b>36%</b>	46%	45%	<b>53%***</b>
Study Abroad	<b>5%</b>	2%	3%	12%*
Culminating Senior Experience	<b>30%</b>	52%	48%	<b>46%***</b>

# Where do we go from here?

