Comparisons with Top 50% and Top 10% Institutions

The results below compare the engagement of your first-year and senior students with those attending two groups of institutions identified by NSSE[a] for their high average levels of student engagement:

(a) institutions with average scores placing them in the top 50% of all 2013 and 2014 NSSE institutions, and

(b) institutions with average scores placing them in the top 10% of all 2013 and 2014 NSSE institutions.

While the average scores for most institutions are below the mean for the top 50% or top 10%, your institution may show areas of distinction where your average student was as engaged as (or even more engaged than) the typical student at high-performing institutions. A check mark (✓) signifies those comparisons where your average score was at least comparable[b] to that of the high-performing group. However, the absence of a significant difference between your score and that of the high-performing group does not mean that your institution was a member of that group.

It should be noted that most of the variability in student engagement is within, not between, institutions. Even "high-performing" institutions have students with engagement levels below the average for all institutions.

First-Year Students

| | | MTSU | Your first-year students compared with | | | | | |
| | | | NSSE Top 50% | | | NSSE Top 10% | | |
Theme	Engagement Indicator	Mean	Mean	Effect size	✓	Mean	Effect size	✓
Academic Challenge	Higher-Order Learning	38.1	40.6 **	-.18		42.7 ***	-.34	
	Reflective and Integrative Learning	35.9	37.3	-.12		39.3 ***	-.27	
	Learning Strategies	39.7	41.2	-.11		43.4 ***	-.26	
	Quantitative Reasoning	26.7	28.8 *	-.13		30.6 ***	-.24	
Learning with Peers	Collaborative Learning	29.9	34.7 ***	-.35		37.0 ***	-.52	
	Discussions with Diverse Others	43.2	43.2	.00	✓	45.6 *	-.16	
Experiences with Faculty	Student-Faculty Interaction	21.1	23.3 *	-.15		26.9 ***	-.36	
	Effective Teaching Practices	41.2	42.4	-.09	✓	44.6 ***	-.26	
Campus Environment	Quality of Interactions	39.1	44.0 ***	-.43		46.0 ***	-.60	
	Supportive Environment	36.3	39.4 **	-.23		41.4 ***	-.39	

Seniors

| | | MTSU | Your seniors compared with | | | | | |
| | | | NSSE Top 50% | | | NSSE Top 10% | | |
Theme	Engagement Indicator	Mean	Mean	Effect size	✓	Mean	Effect size	✓
Academic Challenge	Higher-Order Learning	40.2	43.3 ***	-.22		45.3 ***	-.37	
	Reflective and Integrative Learning	37.4	41.1 ***	-.29		43.1 ***	-.46	
	Learning Strategies	40.1	42.5 **	-.16		44.9 ***	-.34	
	Quantitative Reasoning	29.0	31.3 *	-.13		33.0 ***	-.24	
Learning with Peers	Collaborative Learning	29.9	35.4 ***	-.40		37.7 ***	-.58	
	Discussions with Diverse Others	40.8	43.9 **	-.20		45.8 ***	-.33	
Experiences with Faculty	Student-Faculty Interaction	24.9	29.5 ***	-.29		34.4 ***	-.58	
	Effective Teaching Practices	41.7	43.1	-.10	✓	45.1 ***	-.25	
Campus Environment	Quality of Interactions	41.9	45.3 ***	-.30		47.4 ***	-.47	
	Supportive Environment	30.9	36.1 ***	-.37		39.0 ***	-.60	

Note: Results weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups); *$p<.05$, **$p<.01$, ***$p<.001$ (2-tailed); Effect size: Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.

a. Precision-weighted means (produced by Hierarchical Linear Modeling) were used to determine the top 50% and top 10% institutions for each Engagement Indicator from all NSSE 2013 and 2014 institutions, separately for first-year and senior students. Using this method, Engagement Indicator scores of institutions with relatively large standard errors were adjusted toward the mean of all students, while those with smaller standard errors received smaller corrections. As a result, schools with less stable data—even those with high average scores—may not be among the top scorers. NSSE does not publish the names of the top 50% and top 10% institutions because of our commitment not to release institutional results and our policy against ranking institutions.

b. Check marks are assigned to comparisons that are either significant and positive, or non-significant with an effect size > -.10.