

An Updated NSSE Survey

After years of evidence-based and collaborative testing, the updated NSSE survey is official. While survey changes range from minimal adjustments to entirely new content, the instrument maintains NSSE's signature focus on diagnostic and actionable information related to effective educational practice.

View the updated survey at
nsse.iub.edu/links/surveys

Why Update NSSE?

After more than a decade in the field, we know more about what matters to student success, institutional improvement efforts, and properties of the NSSE survey itself. Moreover, as higher education faces increasing demands for assessment data and evidence to improve educational quality, NSSE must stay relevant to current issues and concerns.

New & Updated Content

Sets of new and updated items have been rigorously tested, and are grouped within several *Engagement Indicators* in broad topic areas, including:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Academic Challenge | Experiences with Faculty |
| ✓ <i>Higher-Order Learning</i> | ✓ <i>Student-Faculty Interaction</i> |
| ✓ <i>Reflective and Integrative Learning</i> | ✓ <i>Effective Teaching Practices</i> |
| ✓ <i>Learning Strategies</i> | Campus Environment |
| ✓ <i>Quantitative Reasoning</i> | ✓ <i>Quality of Interactions</i> |
| | ✓ <i>Supportive Environment</i> |
| Learning with Peers | |
| ✓ <i>Collaborative Learning</i> | |
| ✓ <i>Discussions with Diverse Others</i> | |

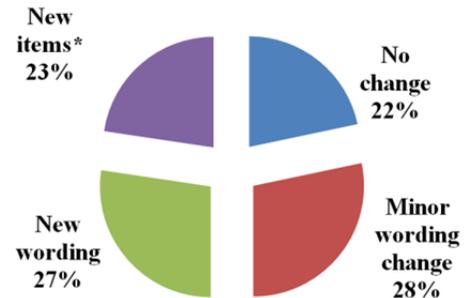
Plus, look for new summary measures of reading and writing, and a new *High-Impact Practices* report on participation in enriching activities such as learning communities, service-learning, internships, research with a faculty member, study abroad, and culminating senior experiences.

How Has the Survey Changed?

Survey changes range from new items to minor revisions. Compared to NSSE 2012, about a quarter of the questions are new, and nearly the same proportion unchanged. Of the half that has been changed, an equal number were modified in major or minor ways. Of course, it was necessary to delete some items to make room for new content. An item-by-item comparison

showing how the survey was updated – indicating items unchanged, slightly modified, significantly altered, and deleted – is available on our Web site.

nsse.iub.edu/nsse-update



* Offset by deletions

New Items

The updated survey introduces valuable new content to enrich institutional assessment efforts. Here are some examples of new items:

Quantitative Reasoning

How often have you ...

- *Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information (numbers, graphs, statistics, etc.)*
- *Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)*

Reflective and Integrative Learning

How often have you ...

- *Connected your learning to societal problems or issues*
- *Connected ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge*

**NSSE
Updated!**

Supportive Environment

How much does your institution emphasize ...

- *Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counseling, etc.)*
- *Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues*

Teaching Practices

To what extent have your instructors...

- Clearly explained course goals and requirements
- Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress

Learning Strategies

How often have you...

- Identified key information from reading assignments
- Reviewed your notes after class
- Summarized what you learned in class or from course materials

Collaborative Learning

How often have you...

- Asked another student to help you understand course material
- Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students

These are only some examples of new content. To see the entire survey, visit our Web site.

nsse.iub.edu/links/surveys

Topical Modules: Additional Question Sets

New customization options include appending tested modules, or short sets of questions, on focused topics such as academic advising, civic engagement, experiences with diversity, writing, and technology. Additional modules will be developed over time.

nsse.iub.edu/html/modules.cfm

How Do the Changes Affect Comparisons with Prior-Year Results?

Even the best surveys must be periodically revised and updated, affecting multi-year analyses such as trend studies or pre-post designs. Although many items remain unchanged, others have been modified and a few have been dropped, limiting longitudinal comparability of individual questions and historical benchmarks.

While some new results are not directly comparable to past results, institutions can still evaluate longitudinal questions. For instance, if previous comparison group results indicate above average performance in a particular area, institutions can still gauge whether they outperform the same or a similar comparison group.

We are confident that these updates enhance NSSE's value to institutions. NSSE will continue to provide useful resources and work with participating institutions to ensure maximum benefit from survey participation.

“At a time when US standards for higher education are being evaluated in a competitive global context, NSSE data provide real insights into the qualities of the campus learning environment.”

—Molly Corbett Broad, President, American Council on Education

FSSE and BCSSE

FSSE has been updated to complement NSSE's changes, and has launched a new format that combines both course-based and typical-student questions, and also introduces topical modules.

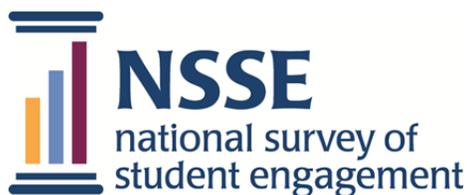
fsse.iub.edu/fsse-update

BCSSE has also been updated with new and modified items to increase alignment with NSSE for a more comprehensive analysis of the first-year experience.

bcsse.iub.edu/bcsse-update

Additional Information, Comments, and Questions

Contact us via email (nsse@indiana.edu) or phone (812-856-5824).



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