

Item by Item Comparisons of the Original and Updated NSSE

View survey instruments at nsse.iub.edu/links/surveys

(August 2014)

Original NSSE Items and Variables (2012 Version)			Updated NSSE Items and Variables (2014 Version)			Comparison ⁴
Item #	Variable name	Item Wording	Item #	Variable name	Item Wording	2012–2014
1a	clquest	<i>How often...</i> Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	1a	askquest	<i>How often...</i> Asked questions or contributed to course discussions in other ways	Min
1b	clpresen	<i>How often...</i> Made a class presentation	1i	present	<i>How often ...</i> Gave a course presentation	Min
1c	rewropap	<i>How often...</i> Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	1b	drafts	<i>How often...</i> Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	=
1d	integrat	<i>How often...</i> Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources				Del
1e	divclass	<i>How often...</i> Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments	2c	RIdiverse	<i>How often...</i> Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender, etc.) in course discussions or assignments	Min
1f	clunprep	<i>How often...</i> Come to class without completing readings or assignments	1c	unprepared	<i>How often...</i> Come to class without completing readings or assignments	=
1g	classgrp	<i>How often...</i> Worked with other students on projects during class				Maj
1h	occgrp	<i>How often...</i> Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	1h	CLproject	<i>How often...</i> Worked with other students on course projects or assignments	Maj
1i	intideas	<i>How often...</i> Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions	2a	RIintegrate	<i>How often...</i> Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments	Maj
1j	tutor	<i>How often...</i> Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	1f	CLexplain	<i>How often...</i> Explained course material to one or more students	Maj
1k	commproj	<i>How often...</i> Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course	12	servcourse	About how many of your courses at this institution have included a community-based project (service-learning)	Maj ^{1, 2}
1l	itacadem	<i>How often...</i> Used an electronic medium (listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment				Del
1m	email	<i>How often...</i> Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor				Del
1n	facgrade	<i>How often...</i> Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor				Del
1o	facplans	<i>How often...</i> Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	3a	SFcareer	<i>How often...</i> Talked about career plans with a faculty member	Min
1p	facideas	<i>How often...</i> Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	3c	SFdiscuss	<i>How often...</i> Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with a faculty member outside of class	Min

1. Changed stem

2. Changed resp. options

3. Online item only

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1q	facfeed	<i>How often...</i> Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance	5e	ETfeedback	<i>To what extent have your instructors...</i> Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments	Maj
1r	workhard	<i>How often...</i> Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations				Del
1s	facother	<i>How often...</i> Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)	3b	SFOtherwork	<i>How often...</i> Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)	Min
1t	oocideas	<i>How often...</i> Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)				Del
1u	divrstud	<i>How often...</i> Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own	8a	DDrace	<i>How often have you had discussions with people from the following groups? ...</i> People of a race or ethnicity other than your own	Maj ¹
			8b	DDeconomic	<i>How often have you had discussions with people from the following groups? ...</i> People from an economic background other than your own	
1v	diffstu2	<i>How often...</i> Had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values	8c	DDreligion	<i>How often have you had discussions with people from the following groups? ...</i> People with religious beliefs other than your own	Maj ¹
			8d	DDpolitical	<i>How often have you had discussions with people from the following groups? ...</i> People with political views other than your own	
2a	memorize	<i>Coursework emphasis...</i> Memorizing facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in pretty much the same form	4a	memorize	<i>Coursework emphasis...</i> Memorizing course material	Maj
2b	analyze	<i>Coursework emphasis...</i> Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components	4c	HOanalyze	<i>Coursework emphasis...</i> Analyzing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	Maj
2c	synthesz	<i>Coursework emphasis...</i> Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships	4e	HOform	<i>Coursework emphasis...</i> Forming a new idea or understanding from various pieces of information	Maj
2d	evaluate	<i>Coursework emphasis...</i> Making judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and interpreted data and assessing the soundness of their conclusions	4d	HOevaluate	<i>Coursework emphasis...</i> Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	Maj
2e	applying	<i>Coursework emphasis...</i> Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	4b	HOapply	<i>Coursework emphasis...</i> Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new situations	Min
3a	readasgn	<i>During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?...</i> Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	16	reading	Of the time you spend preparing for class in a typical 7-day week, about how much is on <i>assigned reading</i> ?	Maj ^{1, 2}
3b	readown	<i>During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?...</i> Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment				Del

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3c	writemor	During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?... Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more	7c	wrlong	About how many papers, reports, or other writing tasks of the following length have you been assigned? (Include those not yet completed.)... 11 pages or more	Maj ^{1, 2}
3d	writemid	During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?... Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages	7b	wrmed	About how many papers, reports, or other writing tasks of the following length have you been assigned? (Include those not yet completed.)... Between 6 and 10 pages	Maj ^{1, 2}
3e	writesml	During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?... Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages	7a	wrshort	About how many papers, reports, or other writing tasks of the following length have you been assigned? (Include those not yet completed.)... Up to 5 pages	Maj ^{1, 2}
4a	probseta	In a typical week, how many homework problem sets do you complete?... Number of problem sets that take you more than an hour to complete				Del
4b	probsetb	In a typical week, how many homework problem sets do you complete?... Number of problem sets that take you less than an hour to complete				Del
5	exams	Select the circle that best represents the extent to which your examinations during the current school year challenged you to do your best work.	10	challenge	During the current school year, to what extent have your courses challenged you to do your best work?	Maj ²
6a	atdart07	How often... Attended an art exhibit, play, dance, music, theater, or other performance	1d	attendart	How often... Attended an art exhibit, play, or other performance (dance, music, etc.)	Min
6b	exrcse05	How often... Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities				Del
6c	worshp05	How often... Participated in activities to enhance your spirituality (worship, meditation, prayer, etc.)				Del
6d	ownview	How often... Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	2d	RIownview	How often... Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	=
6e	othrview	How often... Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective	2e	RIperspect	How often... Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective	=
6f	chngeview	How often... Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept	2f	RInewview	How often... Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept	=
7a	intern04	Done or plan to do before you graduate... Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	11a	intern	Done or plan to do before you graduate... Participate in an internship, co-op, field experience, student teaching, or clinical placement	Min ²
7b	volIntr04	Done or plan to do before you graduate... Community service or volunteer work	15e	tmservice	Hours per week... Doing community service or volunteer work	Maj ^{1, 2}
7c	lrncom04	Done or plan to do before you graduate... Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together	11c	learncom	Done or plan to do before you graduate... Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together	Min ²

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7d	resrch04	<i>Done or plan to do before you graduate...</i> Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements	11e	research	<i>Done or plan to do before you graduate...</i> Work with a faculty member on a research project	Maj ²
7e	forlng04	<i>Done or plan to do before you graduate...</i> Foreign language coursework				Del
7f	stdabr04	<i>Done or plan to do before you graduate...</i> Study abroad	11d	abroad	<i>Done or plan to do before you graduate...</i> Participate in a study abroad program	Min ²
7g	indstd04	<i>Done or plan to do before you graduate...</i> Independent study or self-designed major				Del
7h	snrx04	<i>Done or plan to do before you graduate...</i> Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)	11f	capstone	<i>Done or plan to do before you graduate...</i> Complete a culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, portfolio, etc.)	Min ²
8a	envstu	<i>Quality of your relationships with...</i> other students [1=Unfriendly, Unsupportive, Sense of alienation to 7=Friendly, Supportive, Sense of belonging]	13a	QIstudent	<i>Quality of interactions with...</i> Students [1=Poor to 7=Excellent, or Not Applicable]	Min ^{1,2}
8b	envfac	<i>Quality of your relationships with...</i> faculty members [1=Unavailable, Unhelpful, Unsympathetic to 7=Available, Helpful, Sympathetic]	13c	QIfaculty	<i>Quality of interactions with...</i> Faculty [1=Poor to 7=Excellent, or Not Applicable]	Min ^{1,2}
8c	envadm	<i>Quality of your relationships with...</i> administrative personnel and offices [1=Unhelpful, Inconsiderate, Rigid to 7=Helpful, Considerate, Flexible]	13e	QIadmin	<i>Quality of interactions with...</i> Other administrative staff and offices (registrar, financial aid, etc.) [1=Poor to 7=Excellent, or Not Applicable]	Maj ^{1,2}
9a	acadpr01	<i>Hours per week...</i> Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)	15a	tmprep	<i>Hours per week...</i> Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)	=
9b	workon01	<i>Hours per week...</i> Working for pay on campus	15c	tmworkon	<i>Hours per week...</i> Working for pay on campus	=
9c	workof01	<i>Hours per week...</i> Working for pay off campus	15d	tmworkoff	<i>Hours per week...</i> Working for pay off campus	=
9d	cocurr01	<i>Hours per week...</i> Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	15b	tmcocurr	<i>Hours per week...</i> Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	=
9e	social05	<i>Hours per week...</i> Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)	15f	tmrelax	<i>Hours per week...</i> Relaxing and socializing (time with friends, video games, TV or videos, keeping up with friends online, etc.)	Min
9f	carede01	<i>Hours per week...</i> Providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.)	15g	tmcare	<i>Hours per week...</i> Providing care for dependents (children, parents, etc.)	Min
9g	commute	<i>Hours per week...</i> Commuting to class (driving, walking, etc.)	15h	tmcommute	<i>Hours per week...</i> Commuting to campus (driving, walking, etc.)	Min

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10a	envschol	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	14a	empstudy	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	=
10b	envsuprt	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically	14b	SEacademic	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Providing support to help students succeed academically	Min
10c	envdivrs	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds	14d	SEdiverse	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Encouraging contact among students from different backgrounds (social, racial/ethnic, religious, etc.)	Min
10d	envnacad	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	14g	SEnonacad	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (family, work, etc.)	Min
10e	envsocial	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Providing the support you need to thrive socially	14e	SEsocial	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Providing opportunities to be involved socially	Maj
10f	envevent	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.)	14h	SEactivities	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Attending campus activities and events (performing arts, athletic events, etc.)	Min
10g	envcompt	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Using computers in academic work				Del
11a	gngenled	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Acquiring a broad general education				Del
11b	gnwork	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	17e	pgwork	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Acquiring job- or work-related knowledge and skills	=
11c	gnwrite	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Writing clearly and effectively	17a	pgwrite	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Writing clearly and effectively	=
11d	gnspeak	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Speaking clearly and effectively	17b	pgspeak	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Speaking clearly and effectively	=
11e	gnanaly	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Thinking critically and analytically	17c	pgthink	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Thinking critically and analytically	=
11f	gnquant	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Analyzing quantitative problems	17d	pganalyze	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Analyzing numerical and statistical information	Min
11g	gncmpts	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Using computing and information technology				Del
11h	gnothers	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Working effectively with others	17f	pgothers	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Working effectively with others	=

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11i	gncitizn	How much has your experience at this institution contributed... Voting in local, state, or national elections				Del
11j	gningq	How much has your experience at this institution contributed... Learning effectively on your own				Del
11k	gnself	How much has your experience at this institution contributed... Understanding yourself				Del
11l	gndivers	How much has your experience at this institution contributed... Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	17h	pgdiverse	How much has your experience at this institution contributed... Understanding people of other backgrounds (economic, racial/ethnic, political, religious, nationality, etc.)	Maj
11m	gnprobsv	How much has your experience at this institution contributed... Solving complex real-world problems	17i	pgprobsolve	How much has your experience at this institution contributed... Solving complex real-world problems	=
11n	gnetics	How much has your experience at this institution contributed... Developing a personal code of values and ethics	17g	pgvalues	How much has your experience at this institution contributed... Developing or clarifying a personal code of values and ethics	Min
11o	gncommun	How much has your experience at this institution contributed... Contributing to the welfare of your community				Del
11p	gnspirit	How much has your experience at this institution contributed... Developing a deepened sense of spirituality				Del
12	advise	Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution?				Del
13	entirexp	How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	18	evalexp	How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	=
14	samecoll	If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	19	sameinst	If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	=
15	birthyr	Select your year of birth:	30	birthyear	Enter your year of birth: 19[] []	Min
16	sex	Your sex:	29	genderid	What is your gender identity?	Maj
			--	genderid_txt	Another gender identity, please specify: Write-in response	New
17	internat	Are you an international student or foreign national?	31	internat	Are you an international student or foreign national?	=
18	race05	What is your racial or ethnic identification? (Select only one.)	32	re_all	What is your racial or ethnic identification? (Select all that apply.)	Maj ²

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19	class	What is your current classification in college?	21	class	What is your class level?	Min
20	enter	Did you begin college at your current institution or elsewhere?	25	begincol	Did you begin college at this institution or elsewhere?	Min
21	votech05 comcol05 fouryr05 none05 ocol1_05	Since graduating from high school, which of the following types of schools have you attended other than the one you are attending now? (Select all that apply.)	26	attend_voc attend_com attend_col attend_none attend_other	Since graduating from high school, which of the following types of schools have you attended other than the one you are now attending? (Select all that apply.)	Min
	veteran	Are you a current or former member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard? ³	36	veteran	Are you a current or former member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard?	=
	vetpay	<i>[If yes]</i> As part of your military experience, did you receive combat pay, hostile fire pay, or imminent danger pay?				Del
22	enrlmt	Thinking about this current academic term...How would you characterize your enrollment?	22	fulltime	Thinking about this current academic term, are you a full-time student?	Min ²
	disted	Thinking about this current academic term...Are you taking all courses entirely online? ³	23b	onlinenum	Of these, how many are <i>entirely online</i> ? [This is a follow-up to new item 23a]	Maj
		Do you have any disabilities or impairments? (Select all that apply) ³ <i>[Data not returned to institutions]</i>	37a	disability	Have you been diagnosed with any disability or impairment? <i>[If "Yes"]</i> Which of the following have been diagnosed? (Mark all that apply)	Min
23	fratsoro	Are you a member of a social fraternity or sorority?	33	greek	Are you a member of a social fraternity or sorority?	=
24a	athlete	Are you a student-athlete on a team sponsored by your institution's athletics department?	35	athlete	Are you a student-athlete on a team sponsored by your institution's athletics department?	=
24b	athteam	On what team(s) sponsored by your institution's athletics department are you an athlete? (Select all that apply.)				Del
25	grades04	What have most of your grades been up to now at this institution?	24	grades	What have most of your grades been up to now at this institution?	=
26	livenow	Which of the following best describes where you are living now while attending college?	34	living	Which of the following best describes where you are living while attending college?	Min ²

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27a	fathredu	What is the highest level of education that your father completed?				Maj ²
27b	mothredu	What is the highest level of education that your mother completed?	28	parented	What is the <i>highest</i> level of education completed by <i>either</i> of your parents (or those who raised you)?	Maj ²
28a	majrprim	Please enter your major(s) or your expected major(s).		MAJnum	How many majors do you plan to complete? (Do not count minors) [<i>One, More than one</i>]	Maj ²
			20a, 20b	MAJfirst	[<i>If answered "One"</i>] Please enter your major or expected major: [Text box]	
28b	majrsecd	If applicable, second major (not minor, concentration, etc.):		MAJsecond	[<i>If answered "More than one"</i>] Please enter up to two majors or expected majors (do not enter minors): [Text boxes]	Maj ²
			1e	CLaskhelp	<i>How often...</i> Asked another student to help you understand course material	New
			1g	CLstudy	<i>How often...</i> Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students	New
			2b	RSocietal	<i>How often...</i> Connected your learning to societal problems or issues	New
			2g	RIconnect	<i>How often...</i> Connected ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge	New
			3d	SFperform	<i>How often...</i> Discussed your academic performance with a faculty member	New
			5a	ETgoals	<i>To what extent have your instructors...</i> Clearly explained course goals and requirements	New
			5b	ETorganize	<i>To what extent have your instructors...</i> Taught course sessions in an organized way	New
			5c	ETexample	<i>To what extent have your instructors...</i> Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	New
			5d	ETdraftfb	<i>To what extent have your instructors...</i> Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	New
			6a	QRconclude	<i>How often...</i> Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information (numbers, graphs, statistics, etc.)	New

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			6b	QRproblem	<i>How often...</i> Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	New
			6c	QRevaluate	<i>How often...</i> Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	New
			9a	LSreading	<i>How often...</i> Identified key information from reading assignments	New
			9b	LSnotes	<i>How often...</i> Reviewed your notes after class	New
			9c	LSsummary	<i>How often...</i> Summarized what you learned in class or from course materials	New
			11b	leader	<i>Done or plan to do before you graduate...</i> Hold a formal leadership role in a student organization or group	New
			13b	QIadvisor	<i>Quality of interactions with...</i> Academic advisors [1=Poor to 7=Excellent, or Not Applicable]	New
			13d	QIstaff	<i>Quality of interactions with...</i> Student services staff (career services, student activities, housing, etc.) [1=Poor to 7=Excellent, or Not Applicable]	New
			14c	SElearnsup	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Using learning support services (tutoring services, writing center, etc.)	New
			14f	SEwellness	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counseling, etc.)	New
			14i	SEevents	<i>Institutional emphasis...</i> Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues	New
			17j	pgcitizen	<i>How much has your experience at this institution contributed...</i> Being an informed and active citizen	New
			23a	coursenum	How many courses are you taking for credit this current academic term?	New
			27	edaspire	What is the highest level of education you ever expect to complete?	New
			38	sexorient14	Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation? [Question administered per institution request.]	New
			--	sexorient14_txt	Another sexual orientation, please specify: Write-in response	New

1. Changed stem
2. Changed resp. options
3. Online item only
4. '=' No change, Min=minor, Maj=major, Del=deleted, New=New item