

# NSSE 2016 Engagement Indicators

## Comparisons with High-Performing Institutions

### Weimar Institute

#### Comparisons with Top 50% and Top 10% Institutions

While NSSE's policy is not to rank institutions (see [nsse.indiana.edu/html/position\\_policies.cfm](http://nsse.indiana.edu/html/position_policies.cfm)), the results below are designed to compare the engagement of your students with those attending two groups of institutions identified by NSSE<sup>a</sup> for their high average levels of student engagement:

- (a) institutions with average scores placing them in the top 50% of all 2015 and 2016 NSSE institutions, and
- (b) institutions with average scores placing them in the top 10% of all 2015 and 2016 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<sup>b</sup> to that of the high-performing group. However, the presence of a check mark does not necessarily 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

Theme	Engagement Indicator	Weimar Mean	Your first-year students compared with					
			NSSE Top 50%			NSSE Top 10%		
			Mean	Effect size	✓	Mean	Effect size	✓
Academic Challenge	Higher-Order Learning	43.0	40.6	.18	✓	43.0	.00	✓
	Reflective and Integrative Learning	43.6	37.6	.49	✓	40.0	.30	✓
	Learning Strategies	45.5	41.2	.31	✓	43.6	.13	✓
	Quantitative Reasoning	34.7	29.1	.35	✓	31.0	.23	✓
Learning with Peers	Collaborative Learning	32.8	35.5	-.20		37.9	-.38	
	Discussions with Diverse Others	46.4	42.8	.23	✓	44.8	.11	✓
Experiences with Faculty	Student-Faculty Interaction	25.9	23.8	.14	✓	27.2	-.08	✓
	Effective Teaching Practices	46.5	41.6	.38	✓	43.8	.21	✓
Campus Environment	Quality of Interactions	51.8	44.1 *	.67	✓	46.3	.50	✓
	Supportive Environment	43.6	39.5	.31	✓	41.4	.17	✓

Notes: Due to nonstandard sampling or response issues, all results are unweighted; Effect size: Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation; \*p < .05, \*\*p < .01, \*\*\*p < .001 (2-tailed).

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 2015

and 2016 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.