

UNCA participated in the spring 2000 administration of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The NSSE project annually surveys undergraduates at four-year colleges and universities to assess the extent to which they engage in a variety of good educational practices. It is cosponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and The Pew Forum for Undergraduate Learning.

Designed by national assessment experts, *The College Student Report* contains items that represent student behaviors that are highly correlated with many important learning and personal development outcomes of college.

Participants and Response Rates

The NSSE 2000 sample was comprised of 151,910 first-year and senior students who were randomly selected from electronic data files provided by the 276 participating four-year colleges and universities. The sampling procedure called for an equal number of first-year and senior students to be sent the survey with the standard sample size determined by the number of undergraduate students enrolled at the institution. Students at the majority of colleges and universities (n=223) had the option of responding either via a traditional paper questionnaire or via the World Wide Web.

The overall adjusted response rate for the NSSE 2000 was 42%. About 36% of all respondents completed *The College Student Report* using the Web and 64% completed the paper version. UNCA's overall response rate was 50%, 27% of whom completed the Web option version.

In October 2000, the NSSE administrators will release national benchmarks that will include weighting techniques to adjust for variances between the composition of the sample and the national characteristics. For example, the NSSE sample had a relatively high percentage of Research and Baccalaureate I schools as compared to the national distribution.

Results

Mean comparisons between UNCA, other participating Baccalaureate I schools (n=42) and the national unweighted sample are presented in the following tables. Items where the UNCA mean differs significantly from either comparison group are flagged.

Comparison to unweighted national averages

Overall, UNCA performed well compared to the unweighted national averages. Only when asked, "How often did you come to class unprepared?" did UNCA freshmen score less favorably than the national average. On critical measures such as (1) acquiring a broad general education, (2) relationships with faculty and (3) evaluation of entire educational experience, UNCA seniors indicated significantly more favorable responses.

Comparison to participating Baccalaureate I schools

Compared to the participating Baccalaureate I schools, UNCA freshmen were *less likely* to (1) use email to communicate with instructors or other students, (2) work with classmates outside of class, (3) receive prompt feedback from faculty, or (4) indicate that their education had contributed to their abilities to speak clearly and effectively, think critically and analytically, or work effectively with others. UNCA freshmen were *more likely* to have participated in a community project and to have worked off campus for pay.

UNCA seniors were also *less likely* to use email to communicate and were *more likely* to work off campus for pay. In addition, UNCA seniors were *less likely* to have been assigned books or book-length packs of course readings, to have tutored or taught other students, to have worked for pay on campus, or to have participated in co-curricular activities. UNCA seniors indicated that they spent more time providing care for dependents living with them. They also indicated that UNCA places less emphasis on helping them cope with non-academic responsibilities and less emphasis on providing the support needed for them to thrive socially.

National Survey of Student Engagement

Means Summary Report

University of North Carolina at Asheville

			UNCA	Bacc I	National					
Variable	Var. Name	Class	Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size	Mean	Sig ^b	Effect Size	
			1st Yr. N=99	1st Yr. N=4537				1st Yr. N=30791		
			Senior N=125	Senior N=3825				Senior N=32368		
			Total N=224	Total N=8362				Total N=63159		
COLLEGE ACTIVITIES								significantly lower		
Academic, Intellectual, and Social Experiences								significantly higher		
								<i>1=never, 2=occasionally, 3=often, 4=very often</i>		
Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	CLQUEST	1st Yr.	2.89	3.00			2.75			
		Senior	3.26	3.30			3.05			
Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor or other students	EMAIL	1st Yr.	2.72	3.05	*	-0.38	2.75			
		Senior	2.85	3.21	*	-0.42	2.83			
Made a class presentation	CLPRESEN	1st Yr.	2.01	2.20			2.14			
		Senior	2.92	2.85			2.75			
Rewrote a paper or assignment several times	REWROPAP	1st Yr.	2.54	2.40			2.39			
		Senior	2.09	2.13			2.07			
Came to class unprepared (<i>note:negatively worded question. UNCA freshmen were more likely.</i>)	CLUNPREP	1st Yr.	2.00	1.80			1.72	*	0.43	
		Senior	1.94	1.92			1.84			
Worked with other students on projects during class	CLASSGRP	1st Yr.	2.32	2.38			2.42			
		Senior	2.35	2.39			2.49			
Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	OCCGRP	1st Yr.	2.18	2.64	*	-0.58	2.39			
		Senior	2.60	2.77			2.71			

^aT-tests: institution vs. comparison group means (without your institution's data); 2-tailed, p<0.001.

^bT-tests: institution vs. national means (without your institution's data); 2-tailed, p<0.001.

National Survey of Student Engagement Means Summary Report

Variable	Var. Name	Class	UNCA		Bacc I		National		
			Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size	Mean	Sig ^b	Effect Size
Tutored or taught other students	TUTOR	1st Yr.	1.65	1.78			1.68		
		Senior	1.81	2.10	*	-0.31	1.88		
Participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course	COMMPROJ	1st Yr.	1.78	1.37	*	0.61	1.35	*	0.67
		Senior	1.66	1.59			1.57		
Used an electronic medium (e-mail, list-serve, chat group, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment	ITACADEM	1st Yr.	2.25	2.25			2.15		
		Senior	2.23	2.23			2.22		
Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	FACGRADE	1st Yr.	2.44	2.60			2.47		
		Senior	2.84	2.77			2.63		
Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	FACPLANS	1st Yr.	2.12	2.22			2.09		
		Senior	2.47	2.71			2.38		

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National Survey of Student Engagement Means Summary Report

Variable	Var. Name	Class	UNCA			Bacc I			National		
			Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size	Mean	Sig ^b	Effect Size		
Discussed ideas from your reading or classes with faculty members outside of class	FACIDEAS	1st Yr.	1.68	1.91			1.71				
		Senior	2.06	2.26			1.98				
Received prompt feedback from faculty on your academic performance	FACFEED	1st Yr.	2.34	2.70	*	-0.44	2.49				
		Senior	2.93	2.93			2.71				
Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	WORKHARD	1st Yr.	2.38	2.65			2.57				
		Senior	2.72	2.70			2.65				
Worked with a faculty member on a research project	FACRESCH	1st Yr.	1.23	1.30			1.28				
		Senior	1.73	1.90			1.58				
Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student-life activities, etc.)	FACOTHER	1st Yr.	1.55	1.55			1.40				
		Senior	1.73	1.99			1.66				
Discussed ideas from your reading or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)	OOCIDEAS	1st Yr.	2.70	2.88			2.74				
		Senior	2.97	3.01			2.88				
Had serious conversations with other students whose religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values were very different from yours	DIFFSTUD	1st Yr.	2.65	2.77			2.51				
		Senior	2.63	2.83			2.49				
Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own	DIVRSTUD	1st Yr.	2.49	2.66			2.53				
		Senior	2.43	2.68			2.52				

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National Survey of Student Engagement
Means Summary Report

			UNCA		Bacc I		National		
Variable	Var. Name	Class	Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size	Mean	Sig ^b	Effect Size
Reading and Writing			<i>1=none, 2=fewer than 5, 3=between 5 and 10, 4=between 11 and 20, 5=more than 20</i>						
Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	READASGN	1st Yr.	3.73	3.96			3.55		
		Senior	3.32	3.80	*	-0.49	3.40		
Number of books read on your own (not assigned)	READOWN	1st Yr.	2.08	2.06			2.03		
		Senior	2.26	2.27			2.21		
Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more	WRITEMOR	1st Yr.	1.11	1.25			1.23		
		Senior	1.66	1.80			1.67		
Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 20 pages	WRITEFEW	1st Yr.	3.82	3.93			3.59		
		Senior	3.39	3.69			3.34		

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National Survey of Student Engagement

Means Summary Report

			UNCA		Bacc I		National		
Variable	Var. Name	Class	Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size	Mean	Sig ^b	Effect Size
Nature of Exams			<i>1=mostly multiple choice or short answer to 7=mostly essay or open-ended problems</i>						
Nature of the examinations taken this year at this institution	EXAMS	1st Yr.	4.22	4.53			3.78		
		Senior	4.83	5.24			4.41		
Character of Mental Activities			<i>1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much</i>						
Memorizing facts, ideas or methods from your courses and reading so you can repeat them in pretty much the same form	MEMORIZE	1st Yr.	2.51	2.64			2.81	*	-0.34
		Senior	2.47	2.33			2.57		
Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience or theory such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components	ANALYZE	1st Yr.	3.07	3.15			2.93		
		Senior	3.11	3.25			3.10		
Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships	SYNTHESZ	1st Yr.	2.79	2.85			2.61		
		Senior	2.94	3.08			2.82		
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	EVALUATE	1st Yr.	2.75	2.71			2.53		
		Senior	2.70	2.88			2.69		
Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	APPLYING	1st Yr.	2.85	2.91			2.79		
		Senior	2.98	3.11			3.01		

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National Survey of Student Engagement

Means Summary Report

UNCA	Bacc I	National
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Variable	Var. Name	Class	Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size	Mean	Sig ^b	Effect Size
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1= 5 or fewer hours/week, 2= 6-10 hours/week, 3= 11-15 hours/week, 4= 16-20 hours/week, 5= 21-25 hours/week, 6= 26-30 hours/week, 7= more than 30 hours/week

Weekly Activities

Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, lab work, rehearsing, etc., related to your academic program)	ACADPREP	1st Yr.	3.44	3.90			3.40
		Senior	3.54	3.82			3.43
Working for pay on campus	WORKON	1st Yr.	1.34	1.53			1.44
		Senior	1.45	1.81	*	-0.32	1.65
Working for pay off campus	WORKOFF	1st Yr.	1.88	1.35	*	0.50	2.06
		Senior	3.22	2.02	*	0.69	3.18

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National Survey of Student Engagement Means Summary Report

Variable	Var. Name	Class	UNCA		Bacc I		National		
			Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size	Mean	Sig ^b	Effect Size
Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	COCURRIC	1st Yr.	1.90	2.23			1.85		
		Senior	1.52	2.32	*	-0.50	1.77		
Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, exercising, playing games, etc.)	SOCIAL	1st Yr.	3.57	3.19			3.24		
		Senior	2.74	3.07			2.87		
Providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.)	CAREDEPD	1st Yr.	1.16	1.11			1.43		
		Senior	2.03	1.36	*	0.53	2.04		

Other Educational Experiences

Note: The response type of the items in this section of *The College Student Report* is categorical. Refer to frequency data for comparative results.

EDUCATIONAL AND PERSONAL GROWTH

Knowledge, Skills, and Personal Development

1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much

Acquiring a broad general education	NGNENLED	1st Yr.	3.22	3.27			3.11		
		Senior	3.62	3.55			3.33	*	0.39
Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	GNWORK	1st Yr.	2.30	2.49			2.47		
		Senior	2.81	2.88			3.00		

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National Survey of Student Engagement
Means Summary Report

Variable	Var. Name	Class	UNCA		Bacc I		National		
			Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size	Mean	Sig ^b	Effect Size
Writing clearly and effectively	GNWRITE	1st Yr.	2.93	3.04			2.88		
		Senior	3.23	3.32					
Speaking clearly and effectively	GNSPEAK	1st Yr.	2.30	2.67	*	-0.40	2.60		
		Senior	3.18	3.16					
Thinking critically and analytically	GNANALY	1st Yr.	2.96	3.23	*	-0.34	3.05		
		Senior	3.44	3.54					
Analyzing quantitative problems	GNQUANT	1st Yr.	2.48	2.71			2.62		
		Senior	3.02	2.96					
Using computing and information technology	GNCMPTS	1st Yr.	2.64	2.69			2.74		
		Senior	2.88	2.91					

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National Survey of Student Engagement Means Summary Report

Variable	Var. Name	Class	UNCA		Bacc I		National		
			Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size	Mean	Sig ^b	Effect Size
Working effectively with others	GNOTHERS	1st Yr.	2.60	2.89	*	-0.34	2.82		
		Senior	3.08	3.25			3.11		
Voting in elections	GNCITIZN	1st Yr.	1.48	1.74			1.65		
		Senior	1.69	1.84			1.72		
Learning effectively on your own	GNINQ	1st Yr.	2.81	3.03			2.95		
		Senior	3.14	3.28			3.12		
Understanding yourself	GNSELF	1st Yr.	2.77	2.99			2.87		
		Senior	3.00	3.25			3.02		
Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	GNDIVERS	1st Yr.	2.54	2.61			2.57		
		Senior	2.81	2.70			2.66		
Being honest and truthful	GNTRUTH	1st Yr.	2.66	2.88			2.77		
		Senior	2.68	2.94			2.78		
Contributing to the welfare of your community	GNCOMMUN	1st Yr.	2.33	2.41			2.21		
		Senior	2.58	2.63			2.41		

OPINIONS ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL

Institutional Emphasis

1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much

Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	ENVSCHOL	1st Yr.	3.12	3.31			3.14		
		Senior	3.26	3.27			3.12		
Providing the support you need to help you succeed	ENVSUPRT	1st Yr.	3.06	3.23			2.99		
		Senior	3.08	3.11			2.82		

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National Survey of Student Engagement
Means Summary Report

			UNCA		Bacc I		National		
Variable	Var. Name	Class	Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size	Mean	Sig ^b	Effect Size
Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds	ENVDIVRS	1st Yr.	2.78	2.59			2.49		
		Senior	2.45	2.33			2.28		
Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	ENVNACAD	1st Yr.	1.94	2.21			2.09		
		Senior	1.74	2.02	*	-0.31	1.87		
Providing the support you need to thrive socially	ENVSOCAL	1st Yr.	2.38	2.51			2.38		
		Senior	2.00	2.29	*	-0.31	2.11		

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National Survey of Student Engagement

Means Summary Report

			UNCA	Bacc I	National				
Variable	Var. Name	Class	Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size	Mean	Sig ^b	Effect Size
			<i>1=unfriendly, unsupportive, sense of alienation to 7=friendly, supportive, sense of belonging</i>						
Quality of Relationships									
Relationships with other students	ENVSTU	1st Yr.	5.52	5.62			5.48		
		Senior	5.65	5.59			5.44		
			<i>1=unavailable, unhelpful, unsympathetic to 7=available, helpful, sympathetic</i>						
Relationships with faculty members	ENVFAC	1st Yr.	5.42	5.67			5.22		
		Senior	5.98	5.88			5.38	*	0.45
			<i>1=unhelpful, inconsiderate, rigid to 7=helpful, considerate, flexible</i>						
Relationships with administrative personnel and offices	ENVADM	1st Yr.	4.67	4.89			4.58		
		Senior	4.60	4.51			4.30		
Satisfaction			<i>1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent</i>						
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	ENTIREXP	1st Yr.	3.30	3.36			3.17		
		Senior	3.46	3.44			3.21	*	0.36
			<i>1=definitely no, 2=probably no, 3=probably yes, 4=definitely yes</i>						
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	SAMECOLL	1st Yr.	3.24	3.25			3.18		
		Senior	3.32	3.21			3.11		

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