Engaging Faculty with NSSE Data

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Institutional Research Interest Group
NSSE Panel
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Are NSSE results relevant for individual faculty?

Faculty can use NSSE results to explore student perceptions about faculty and course contributions to:

- Active and engaging learning
- Academic culture
- Program goals or curricula
What kinds of course activities do NSSE questions cover?

NSSE includes questions about students:
- Asking questions/contributing to discussions
- Making presentations
- Writing multiple drafts of papers/assignments
- Integrating ideas/info from multiple sources
- Completing readings/assignments
- Working on group projects
- Thinking at different levels (memorization, analysis, synthesis, judgment, & application)

How can faculty use NSSE results to examine Active Learning?

- Identify NSSE questions that match specific course goals and objectives
- Identify questions with unexpectedly high or low results
- Ask faculty:
  - What are acceptable %s for 1st years and Seniors?
  - Are the results accurate? (examine syllabi)
  - Should some faculty alter their syllabi?
  - Should expectations for some courses be changed?
  - How do students know what level of thinking is required in a course?
Which NSSE questions might reflect academic culture or climate?

NSSE includes questions about opportunities to:

- Understand/examine issues from others’ perspectives
- Work with others outside of class
- Volunteer or work on community-based projects
- Discuss scholarly ideas with faculty
- Work with faculty on non-course activities or research
- Seriously engage with diverse students

Does NSSE ask questions that can inform faculty about curricula?

Students are asked whether they:

- Integrated ideas/concepts from different courses
- Have a changed understanding of an issue/concept
- Participated in community/service learning, an internship, co-op, fieldwork, study abroad, etc.
- Are expected to take a capstone, conduct research, or pass a comprehensive exam
- Acquired workforce, teamwork, writing, and problem-solving knowledge/skills
How might use NSSE results to inform their own courses/actions?

- Identify NSSE questions that match any goal or objective (course, program, strategic, etc.)
- Identify questions with unexpectedly high or low results
  - What are acceptable %s for 1st years and Seniors?
  - Contrast the percentages for highest and lowest ratings
- Faculty may want to consider altering:
  - The curriculum, courses, assignments
  - How they talk with students about expectations and achievements

How much course work emphasizes the following mental activities?

a. **Memorizing** facts, ideas, or methods
b. **Analyzing** in-depth an idea, experience, or theory
c. **Synthesizing** ideas/info/experiences in new ways
d. **Making judgments** about the value of info, arguments, or methods
e. **Applying** theories or concepts to solve problems or in new situations
Do the NSSE results inform us about students’ critical thinking?

Q2: During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following mental activities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commonwealth Campuses Combined Results (n=9)</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Often+very often</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorizing</td>
<td>2 – 15%</td>
<td>48 – 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyzing</td>
<td>0 – 5%</td>
<td>81 – 93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesizing</td>
<td>1 – 7%</td>
<td>71 – 81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making judgments</td>
<td>0 – 7%</td>
<td>66 – 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applying</td>
<td>0 – 6%</td>
<td>79 – 87%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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