What Is NSSE?

Nearly 1,400 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada use NSSE to understand the extent to which students, faculty, and institutions engage in effective teaching and learning activities, and to develop programs and practices that foster student engagement. The NSSE instrument is short, reliable, and easy for students to complete. It asks undergraduates about how they spend their time in and out of class, how they feel the institution has contributed to their development, and how they rate the quality of their interactions with faculty and students, as well as the value of other important educational activities.

Survey Administration

At IUPUI, the survey is administered during the spring semester to a census of first-year and senior students. OSDAE works with NSSE to customize invitation materials and coordinate survey administration at IUPUI.

On February 23rd, every first-year and senior student enrolled in all schools at the IUPUI campus will receive an e-mail from Chancellor Bantz and IUPUC Vice Chancellor Marwan Wafa encouraging them to participate in the survey.

Why Participate in NSSE?

Assessing student engagement is a central component of evaluating overall educational effectiveness. IUPUI uses NSSE data to identify aspects of the undergraduate experience inside and outside the classroom that can be improved to better promote good practices in undergraduate education. Here are some examples of specific improvements NSSE prompted at IUPUI:

- Data from NSSE revealed a need to develop spaces to foster educationally effective interactions like group study locations, group hangout locations, and student-focused services centralized in one building. This information influenced the design and organization of the Campus Center.
- Previous NSSE results showed that first-year students who participated in Themed Learning Communities (TLCs) were more engaged in their college experience than students who did not. IUPUI expanded the TLC program.
- University College integrated diversity-related themes into the curriculum for Summer Bridge and First-Year Seminar courses.
- NSSE data were among several sources that informed the creation of the new Office of Educational Partnerships and Student Advocacy, in the Division of Student Life. NSSE data revealed that IUPUI students spend more time caring for dependents and less time socializing with their peers than students at similar institutions. This unit will oversee the expansion of programs and services in academic engagement, off-campus life, student advocacy, and parent and family relations.
- Data from NSSE has been used in the decision to assign University College students their own advisor.

How Can I Help?

- Post the NSSE flyer to your Oncourse or Canvas announcements
- Remind students in class about the importance of participating in this survey
- Spread the word to others who have contact with first-year or senior students
- Please do not contact students directly through email, as there are limitations on this in the survey administration.