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Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) 2011 Executive Summary

Introduction: During the spring 2011 semester, faculty who primarily teach undergraduate students at Mississippi State University (MSU) were asked to participate in the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE). The FSSE survey was created to be a complementary survey to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The FSSE survey findings provide the perceptions of how often MSU students engage in different activities, the importance faculty place on various areas of learning and development, the nature and frequency of faculty student interactions, and how faculty members organize their time in and out of the classroom. The FSSE survey results do not provide a national comparison of mean scores due to a variation of sample populations from participating institutions.

Methodology: 345 of the 828 faculty responded to the survey; giving an overall response rate of 41.6%. After removing faculty respondents that were ineligible and the College of Veterinary Medicine due to a low response rate, the total number of eligible respondents was 306; a response rate of 36.9%. Data provided in the tables is derived by analyzing only the eligible faculty respondents.

Institutions administering the FSSE survey have two options to choose from: typical student version or the course-based version. Based upon the elements in the survey instrument which best fit MSU, the typical student version was chosen.

The survey was deployed electronically by email invitation on three separate occasions. The initial invitation was sent on March 29, 2011, with one reminder less than two weeks later, and a final reminder on April 20, 2011. This gave faculty approximately a four-week window of opportunity to participate in the survey.

The FSSE results are divided into five areas which coincide with the NSSE results:

- Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)
- Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)
- Student Faculty Interaction (SFI)
- Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)
- Supportive Campus Environment (SCE).

The results provided in the table are FSSE mean scores by college along with an overall mean score for MSU 2011 faculty responses. For each question, the highest college response is denoted in **maroon bold**. Due to the low response rate in the College of Veterinary Medicine, the data was not included in the results. There are no data to compare our institutional results to national results due to the sample size of participants varying from institution to institution.



Mississippi State University

2011 FSSE Mean by College

FSSE Questions

Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

About how often has the typical [first-year student/senior student] done each of the following? 1=Never 2=Sometimes 3=Often 4=Very Often

Worked harder than usual to meet an instructor's standards or expectations

During the current school year, how much do you believe the typical [first-year student senior student]'s coursework has emphasized the following mental activities? 1=Very little 2=Some 3=Quite a bit 4=Very

Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components

Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships

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

Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations

During the current school year, about how much reading and writing do you estimate the typical [first-year student senior student] has done? 1=None; 2=Between 1 and 4; 3=Between 5 and 10; 4=Between 11 and 20

Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings

Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more

Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages

Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages

About how many hours do you think the typical [first-year student/senior student] actually spends in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following? 1=0; 2=1 - 5; 3=6 - 10; 4=11 - 15; 5=16 - 20; 6=21 - 25; 7=26 - 30; 8=More than 30

In a typical 7-day week, time spent preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)

To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=Very little; 2=Some; 3=Quite a bit; 4=Very much

Requiring students to spend significant amounts of time studying and on academic work

	College of Arts & Sciences	College of Business	College of Arch., Art, & Design	College of Ag & Life Sciences	College of Education	College of Engineering	College of Forest Resources	Meridian Campus	Overall MSU FSSE Mean
	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE
Worked harder than usual to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	2.28	2.50	2.45	2.43	2.52	2.57	2.40	2.54	2.41
During the current school year, how much do you believe the typical [first-year student senior student]'s coursework has emphasized the following mental activities? 1=Very little 2=Some 3=Quite a bit 4=Very									
Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components	2.67	2.88	2.18	2.60	2.66	3.10	2.33	3.17	2.73
Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships	2.52	2.63	1.82	2.53	2.55	2.66	2.33	3.00	2.54
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	2.31	2.63	2.00	2.33	2.48	2.45	2.33	2.42	2.37
Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	2.47	2.75	1.91	2.49	2.62	2.73	1.88	2.67	2.52
During the current school year, about how much reading and writing do you estimate the typical [first-year student senior student] has done? 1=None; 2=Between 1 and 4; 3=Between 5 and 10; 4=Between 11 and 20									
Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	2.63	2.55	2.18	2.24	2.48	2.43	2.30	2.31	2.48
Number of written papers or reports of <u>20 pages or more</u>	1.59	1.61	1.36	1.59	1.58	1.68	2.00	2.08	1.63
Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages	2.13	2.00	1.64	2.05	2.06	2.21	2.40	2.46	2.12
Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages	2.80	2.61	2.18	2.63	2.74	2.39	2.50	2.77	2.66
About how many hours do you think the typical [first-year student/senior student] actually spends in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following? 1=0; 2=1 - 5; 3=6 - 10; 4=11 - 15; 5=16 - 20; 6=21 - 25; 7=26 - 30; 8=More than 30									
In a typical 7-day week, time spent preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)	3.02	3.57	3.64	3.05	2.68	3.92	3.11	2.69	3.17
To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=Very little; 2=Some; 3=Quite a bit; 4=Very much									
Requiring students to spend significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	2.52	2.63	2.82	2.70	2.53	2.93	2.90	3.15	2.67

Mississippi State University

2011 FSSE Mean by College

	College of Arts & Sciences	College of Business	College of Arch., Art, & Design	College of Ag & Life Sciences	College of Education	College of Engineering	College of Forest Resources	Meridian Campus	Overall MSU FSSE Mean
Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)									
<i>Please respond to the following question based on the typical [first-year students/seniors students] you have taught during this academic year. About how often has the typical [first-year student/senior/student] done each of the following? 1=Never; 2=Sometimes; 3=Often; 4=Very Often</i>									
Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	2.49	2.35	2.36	2.58	2.84	2.53	2.40	3.31	2.56
Made a class presentation	1.83	2.00	2.20	2.29	2.71	1.69	2.10	2.85	2.05
Worked with other students on projects during class	2.16	2.38	2.00	2.56	2.45	2.29	2.50	2.54	2.31
Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	2.26	2.36	2.27	2.83	2.45	2.78	2.70	2.92	2.49
Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	1.71	1.78	1.73	1.79	1.77	1.75	2.00	2.31	1.78
Participated in a community-based project (e.g. service learning) as part of a regular course	1.43	1.68	1.50	1.79	1.68	1.58	2.00	1.85	1.59
Discussed ideas from his or her readings or classes with others outside of class (other students, family members, co-workers, etc.)	2.06	2.00	1.90	2.13	2.13	1.98	2.22	2.62	2.09
Student Faculty Interaction (SFI)									
<i>Please respond to the following question based on the typical [first-year students/seniors students] you have taught during this academic year. About how often has the typical [first-year student/senior/student] done each of the following? 1=Never; 2=Sometimes; 3=Often; 4=Very Often</i>									
Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	2.69	2.77	3.00	2.77	2.97	2.66	2.50	3.15	2.76
Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	2.23	2.42	2.27	2.65	2.77	2.48	2.50	3.23	2.46
Discussed ideas from his or her readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	2.03	2.13	2.10	2.12	2.13	2.18	2.00	2.54	2.11
Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on his or her academic performance	3.19	3.08	3.09	3.19	3.32	3.10	3.00	3.38	3.18
Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)	1.69	1.79	1.80	1.88	1.94	2.02	2.30	2.00	1.84
<i>How important is it to you that undergraduates at your institution do the following? 1=Not important; 2=Somewhat important; 3=Important; 4=Very important</i>									
Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements	0.62	0.19	0.27	0.65	0.55	0.76	0.60	0.62	0.59



Mississippi State University

2011 FSSE Mean by College

Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)

Please respond to the following question based on the typical [first-year students/seniors students] you have taught during this academic year. About how often has the typical [first-year student/senior/student] done each of the following? 1=Never; 2=Sometimes; 3=Often; 4=Very Often

Used an electronic medium (listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment

Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than his or her own

Had serious conversations with students who are very different from him or her in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values

How important is it to you that undergraduates at your institution do the following? 1=Not important; 2=Somewhat important; 3=Important; 4=Very important

Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment

Community service or volunteer work

Participation in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together

Foreign language coursework

Study abroad

Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)

About how many hours do you think the typical [first-year student/senior student] actually spends in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following? 1=0; 2=1 - 5; 3=6 - 10; 4=11 - 15; 5=16 - 20; 6=21 - 25; 7=26 - 30; 8=More than 30

In a typical 7-day week, time spent participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.

To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=Very little; 2=Some; 3=Quite a bit; 4=Very much

Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social and racial or ethnic backgrounds

	College of Arts & Sciences	College of Business	College of Arch., Art, & Design	College of Ag & Life Sciences	College of Education	College of Engineering	College of Forest Resources	Meridian Campus	Overall MSU FSSE Mean
	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE	FSSE
Used an electronic medium (listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment	2.36	2.28	2.18	2.72	2.61	2.19	2.70	3.08	2.44
Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than his or her own	2.25	2.14	2.20	2.20	2.55	2.16	1.89	2.92	2.27
Had serious conversations with students who are very different from him or her in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values	2.09	2.05	1.91	1.98	2.30	1.97	1.89	2.69	2.09
How important is it to you that undergraduates at your institution do the following? 1=Not important; 2=Somewhat important; 3=Important; 4=Very important									
Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	0.65	0.89	0.82	0.95	0.91	0.89	1.00	0.77	0.80
Community service or volunteer work	0.47	0.46	0.50	0.56	0.66	0.53	0.60	0.54	0.52
Participation in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together	0.37	0.27	0.36	0.40	0.44	0.36	0.80	0.38	0.38
Foreign language coursework	0.57	0.31	0.45	0.42	0.41	0.22	0.30	0.46	0.44
Study abroad	0.40	0.27	0.73	0.35	0.34	0.20	0.40	0.38	0.36
Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)	0.77	0.74	0.82	0.86	0.84	0.91	1.00	0.92	0.83
About how many hours do you think the typical [first-year student/senior student] actually spends in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following? 1=0; 2=1 - 5; 3=6 - 10; 4=11 - 15; 5=16 - 20; 6=21 - 25; 7=26 - 30; 8=More than 30									
In a typical 7-day week, time spent participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.	3.41	3.30	3.45	3.38	3.32	3.49	3.44	2.31	3.35
To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=Very little; 2=Some; 3=Quite a bit; 4=Very much									
Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social and racial or ethnic backgrounds	2.41	2.42	2.27	2.42	2.75	2.64	2.80	2.92	2.51



Mississippi State University

2011 FSSE Mean by College

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Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)									
<i>Select the response that you believe best represents the quality of student relationships with people at your institution. 1=Unfriendly, unsupportive, sense of alienation; 2=; 3=; 4=; 5=; 6=; 7=Friendly, supportive, sense of belonging</i>									
With other students	5.54	5.52	5.45	5.81	5.56	5.69	6.00	6.00	5.63
With faculty members	5.28	5.07	5.00	5.42	5.13	5.47	5.10	6.23	5.32
<i>Select the response that you believe best represents the quality of student relationships with people at your institution. 1=Unhelpful, inconsiderate, rigid; 2=; 3=; 4=; 5=; 6=; 7=Helpful, considerate, flexible</i>									
Student relationships with administrative personnel and offices	4.60	4.50	4.00	4.70	4.50	4.80	4.50	5.92	4.66
<i>To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=Very little; 2=Some; 3=Quite a bit; 4=Very much</i>									
Providing students the support they need to help them succeed academically	2.94	2.77	2.91	2.81	2.94	2.98	3.60	3.38	2.95
Helping students cope with their non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	2.18	2.12	2.55	2.28	2.16	2.04	2.30	2.69	2.20
Providing students the support they need to thrive socially	2.37	2.48	2.64	2.42	2.66	2.21	2.50	2.46	2.41