

Washington State University - Pullman Campus

Benchmark Comparisons August 2010



Interpreting the Benchmark Comparisons Report

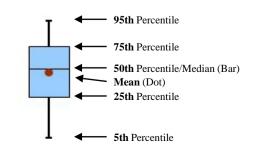
To focus discussions about the importance of student engagement and to guide institutional improvement efforts, NSSE created five Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice: Level of Academic Challenge, Active and Collaborative Learning, Student-Faculty Interaction, Enriching Educational Experiences, and Supportive Campus Environment. This Benchmark Comparisons Report compares the performance of your institution with your selected peers or consortium. In addition, page 9 provides two other comparisons between your school and (a) above-average institutions with benchmarks in the top 50% of all NSSE institutions and (b) high-performing institutions with benchmarks in the top 10% of all NSSE institutions. These displays allow you to determine if the engagement of your typical student differs in a statistically significant, meaningful way from the average student in these comparison groups. They also provide more insight into how the student experience varies on your campus and in comparison groups. Additional details regarding how benchmarks are created can be found on the NSSE Web site.

nsse.iub.edu/links/institutional reporting

Class and Sample Statistical Significance Effect Sizea Means are reported for Benchmarks with mean differences that are larger than would be expected by Effect size indicates the chance alone are noted with one, two, or three asterisks, denoting one of three practical significance of the first-year students and seniors. Institutionsignificance levels (p<.05, p<.01, and p<.001). The smaller the significance level, mean difference. It is the smaller the likelihood that the difference is due to chance. Please note that calculated by dividing the reported class levels are used. All randomly statistical significance does not guarantee that the result is substantive or mean difference by the selected students are important. Large sample sizes (as with the NSSE project) tend to produce more pooled standard deviation. In statistically significant results even though the magnitude of mean differences may practice, an effect size of .2 is included in these analyses. Students in be inconsequential. Consult effect sizes to judge the practical meaning of the often considered small. .5 targeted or locally moderate, and .8 large. A administered positive sign indicates that oversamples are not vour institution's mean was included. greater, thus showing an Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) affirmative result for the institution. A negative sign NSSEville State Mid Fast Public NSSE 2010 indicates the institution lags behind the comparison group, suggesting that the student behavior or institutional Mean dent Benchi practice represented by the The mean is the arithmetic item may warrant attention. average of the student level benchmark scores. **Benchmark Description Box and Whiskers Charts** & Survey Items A visual display of first-year and A description of the senior benchmark score benchmark and the individual dispersion for your institution items used in its creation is and your selected comparison or evel of Academic Challenge (LAC) Items provided. consortium groups.

Box and Whiskers Key

A box and whiskers chart is a concise way to summarize the variation of student benchmark scores. This display compares the distribution of scores at your institution, in percentile terms, with that of your comparison groups. The ends of the whiskers show the 5th and 95th percentile scores, while the box is bounded by the 25th and 75th percentiles. The bar inside the box indicates the median score, and the dot shows the mean score.





Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

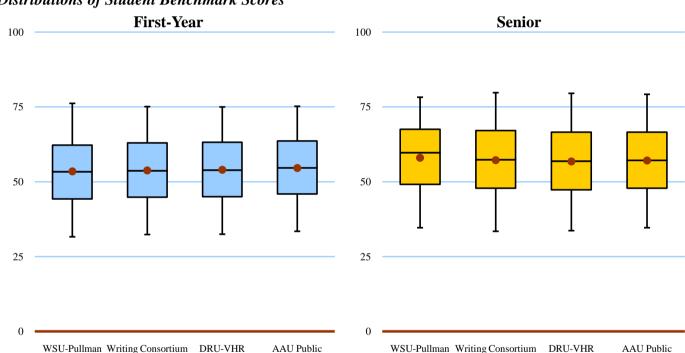
Mean Comparisons

Washington State University - Pullman Campus compared with:

_		7	Vriting							
	WSU-Pullman	Co	nsortiu	m	DR	U-VHR		AAl		
				Effect			Effect			Effect
Class	Mean	Mean	Sig a	Size b	Mean	Sig a	Size b	Mean	Sig a	Size b
First-Year	53.5	53.8		02	54.0		04	54.6		09
Senior	58.0	57.2		.06	56.8		.09	57.1		.07

^a * p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

Distributions of Student Benchmark Scores



Note: Each box and whiskers chart plots the 5th (bottom of lower bar), 25th (bottom of box), 50th (middle line), 75th (top of box), and 95th (top of upper bar) percentile scores. The dot shows the benchmark mean. See page 2 for an illustration. See pages 10 and 11 for percentile values.

Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) Items

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote high levels of student achievement by emphasizing the importance of academic effort and setting high expectations for student performance.

Hours spent preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, etc. related to academic program)

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

Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more, between 5 and 19 pages, and fewer than 5 pages

Coursework emphasizes: Analysis of the basic elements of an idea, experience or theory

Coursework emphasizes: **Synthesis** and organizing of ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations

and relationships

Coursework emphasizes: **Making of judgments** about the value of information, arguments, or methods Coursework emphasizes: **Applying** theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations

Working harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations

Campus environment emphasizes: Spending significant amount of time studying and on academic work

b Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.



Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)

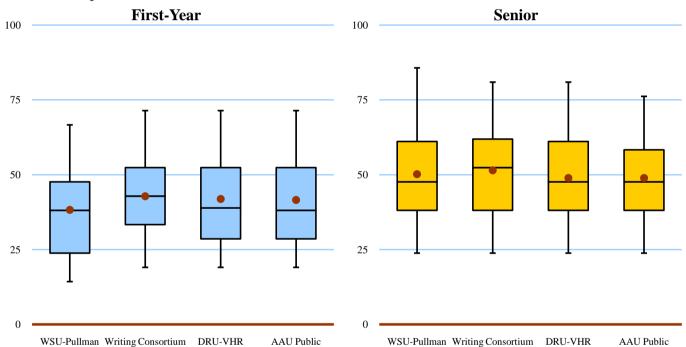
Mean Comparisons

Washington State University - Pullman Campus compared with:

		7	Writing								
	WSU-Pullman	Co	nsortiu	m	DR	U-VHR		AAU			
				Effect			Effect			Effect	
Class	Mean	Mean	Sig a	Size b	Mean	Sig a	Size b	Mean	Sig ^a	Size b	
First-Year	38.3	42.8	***	28	41.9	***	22	41.6	***	20	
Senior	50.2	51.5		07	48.9		.08	48.9		.08	

^a * p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

Distributions of Student Benchmark Scores



Note: Each box and whiskers chart plots the 5th (bottom of lower bar), 25th (bottom of box), 50th (middle line), 75th (top of box), and 95th (top of upper bar) percentile scores. The dot shows the benchmark mean. See page 2 for an illustration. See pages 10 and 11 for percentile values.

Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) Items

Students learn more when they are intensely involved in their education and asked to think about what they are learning in different settings. Collaborating with others in solving problems or mastering difficult material prepares students for the messy, unscripted problems they will encounter daily during and after college.

Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions

Made a class presentation

Worked with other students on projects during class

Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments

Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)

Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course

Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)

^b Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.



Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)

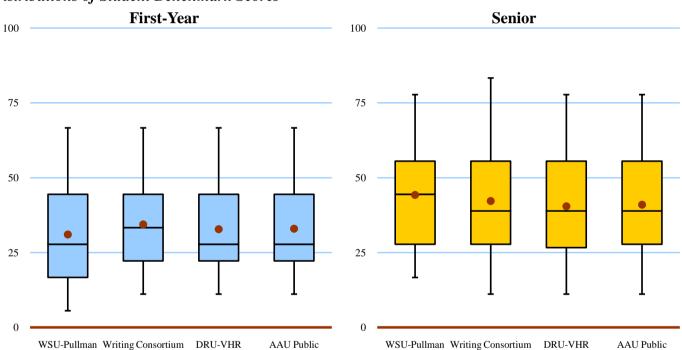
Mean Comparisons

Washington State University - Pullman Campus compared with:

		7	Writing							
	WSU-Pullman	Co	nsortiu	m	DR	U-VHR		AAU		
				Effect			Effect		Effect	
Class	Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Size b	Mean	Sig a	Size b	Mean	Sig a	Size b
First-Year	31.0	34.4	***	19	32.8		10	33.0	*	11
Senior	44.2	42.2		.10	40.4	**	.19	41.0	**	.16

^a * p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

Distributions of Student Benchmark Scores



Note: Each box and whiskers chart plots the 5th (bottom of lower bar), 25th (bottom of box), 50th (middle line), 75th (top of box), and 95th (top of upper bar) percentile scores. The dot shows the benchmark mean. See page 2 for an illustration. See pages 10 and 11 for percentile values.

Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI) Items

Students learn firsthand how experts think about and solve practical problems by interacting with faculty members inside and outside the classroom. As a result, their teachers become role models, mentors, and guides for continuous, life-long learning.

Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor

Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor

Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class

Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student-life activities, etc.)

Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance

Worked on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements

^b Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.



Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)

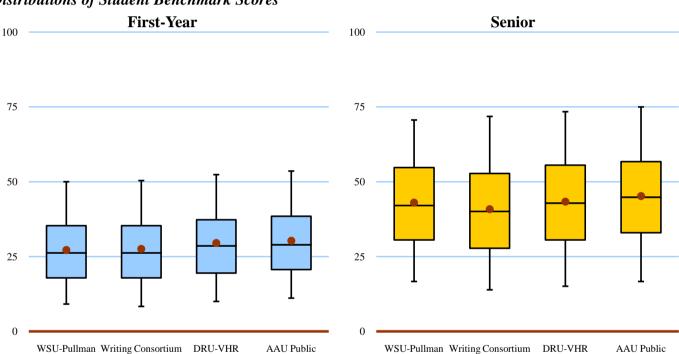
Mean Comparisons

Washington State University - Pullman Campus compared with:

_			Vriting	Ī						
	WSU-Pullman	Co	nsortiu	m	DR	U-VHR		AAU		
				Effect			Effect			Effect
Class	Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Size b	Mean	Sig a	Size b	Mean	Sig a	Size b
First-Year	27.2	27.6		03	29.5	***	18	30.3	***	23
Senior	43.0	40.8	*	.12	43.4		02	45.2	*	13

^a * p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

Distributions of Student Benchmark Scores



Note: Each box and whiskers chart plots the 5th (bottom of lower bar), 25th (bottom of box), 50th (middle line), 75th (top of box), and 95th (top of upper bar) percentile scores. The dot shows the benchmark mean. See page 2 for an illustration. See pages 10 and 11 for percentile values.

Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE) Items

Complementary learning opportunities enhance academic programs. Diversity experiences teach students valuable things about themselves and others. Technology facilitates collaboration between peers and instructors. Internships, community service, and senior capstone courses provide opportunities to integrate and apply knowledge.

Hours spent participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student gov., social fraternity or sorority, etc.)

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

Community service or volunteer work

Foreign language coursework and study abroad

Independent study or self-designed major

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

Serious conversations with students of different religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values

Serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own

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

Campus environment encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds

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

b Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.



Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)

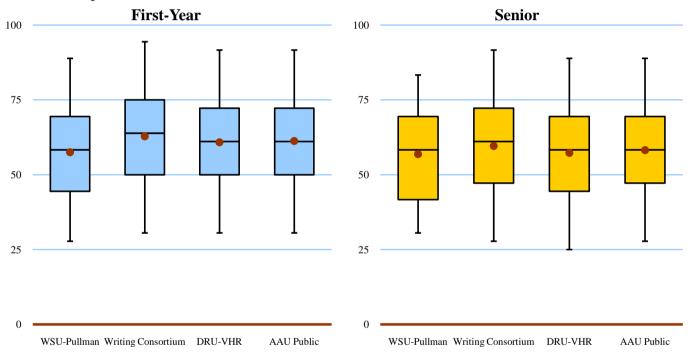
Mean Comparisons

Washington State University - Pullman Campus compared with:

		7	Writing	, ,						
	WSU-Pullman	Co	nsortiu	ım	DR	U-VHR		AAU		
				Effect			Effect			Effect
Class	Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Size b	Mean	Sig a	Size b	Mean	Sig a	Size b
First-Year	57.5	62.8	***	29	60.9	***	19	61.2	***	21
Senior	56.9	59.6	*	14	57.3		02	58.2		07

^a * p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

Distributions of Student Benchmark Scores



Note: Each box and whiskers chart plots the 5th (bottom of lower bar), 25th (bottom of box), 50th (middle line), 75th (top of box), and 95th (top of upper bar) percentile scores. The dot shows the benchmark mean. See page 2 for an illustration. See pages 10 and 11 for percentile values.

Supportive Campus Environment (SCE) Items

Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that are committed to their success and cultivate positive working and social relations among different groups on campus.

Campus environment provides the support you need to help you succeed academically

Campus environment helps you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)

Campus environment provides the support you need to thrive socially

Quality of relationships with other students

Quality of relationships with faculty members

Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices

^b Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.



NSSE 2010 Benchmark Comparisons With Highly Engaging Institutions

Interpreting the Top 10% and Top 50% Comparisons

This section of the NSSE Benchmark Comparisons report allows you to estimate the performance of your average student in relation to the average student attending two different institutional peer groups identified by NSSE for their high levels of student engagement: (a) institutions with benchmark scores placing them in the top 50% of all NSSE schools in 2010 and (b) institutions with benchmark scores in the top 10% for 2010. These comparisons allow an institution to determine if the engagement of their students differs in significant, meaningful ways from students in these high performing peer groups.

Example

				NSSEville State compared with											
		NSSEville State		NSSE Top :		NSSE 2010 Top 10%									
. LAC		Mean	Mean	Sig	Effect size	Mean	Sig	Effect size							
• .	LAC	57.1	55.8	*	.10	60.5	***	-0.28							
ear	ACL	50.3	45.8	***	.28	50.7		-0.02							
t-Y	SFI	37.3	37.2		.01	42.0	***	-0.24							
First	EEE	21.8	30.0	***	63	34.4	***	-0.98							
—	SCE	60.9	64.7	***	21	69.7	***	-0.49							

Based on the example above NSSEville State CAN conclude...

- ◆ The average score for NSSEville State first-year students is slightly above (i.e., small positive effect size) that of the average student attending NSSE 2010 schools that scored in the top 50% on Level of Academic Challenge (LAC).
- The average NSSEville State first-year student is as engaged (i.e., not significantly different) as the average student attending NSSE 2010 schools that scored in the top 10% on Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL).
- It is *likely* that NSSEville State is in the top 50% of all NSSE 2010 schools for first-year students on Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) and Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL).^a

Based on the example above NSSEville State CANNOT conclude^a...

- NSSEville State is in the top half of all schools on the Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI) benchmark for first-year students.
- NSSEville State is a "top ten percent" institution on Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) for first-year students.

Additional information regarding the Top 50% and Top 10% section of the benchmark report can be found on the NSSE Web site. **nsse.iub.edu/links/institutional_reporting**

^a Precision-weighted means (produced by Hierarchical Linear Modeling) were used to determine the top 50% and top 10% institutions for each benchmark, separately for first-year and senior students. Using this method, benchmark scores of institutions with relatively large standard errors are adjusted substantially toward the grand mean of all students, while those with smaller standard errors receive smaller corrections. Thus, schools with less stable data, though they may have high scores, may not be identified 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 individual school results and our policy against the ranking of institutions.



NSSE 2010 Benchmark Comparisons With Highly Engaging Institutions Washington State University - Pullman **Campus**

					WSU-Pullman	compared	with						
	_]	NSSE 2]	NSSE 2						
	V	VSU-Pullman		Top 50			Top 10				emic Challenge		
		Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect size b	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect size b		(\mathbf{L}_{i})	AC)		
	LAC	53.5	57.2	***	29	60.5	***	55	100				
ear	ACL	38.3	48.1	***	58	52.2	***	79			_		
First-Year	SFI	31.0	39.9	***	46	44.1	***	62	75 —	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , 	- I - I		
Firs	EEE	27.2	31.1	***	29	33.6	***	46					
_	SCE	57.5	67.2	***	54	70.8	***	74	[
•	LAC	58.0	61.0	***	22	63.8	***	43	50	7 7	T		
Ä	ACL	50.2	56.6	***	37	60.3	***	56		l 1 -	I 1		
Senior	SFI	44.2	49.2	***	23	55.3	***	50	25 —				
Š	EEE	43.0	47.7	***	26	55.8	***	74					
	SCE	56.9	64.7	***	41	68.6	***	63					
•									0 —	First-Year	Senior		
		Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)		(ACL)		(ACL)			100		-Faculty Interaction (SFI)		
			100		-		Г	т Т	100	т	Ţ		

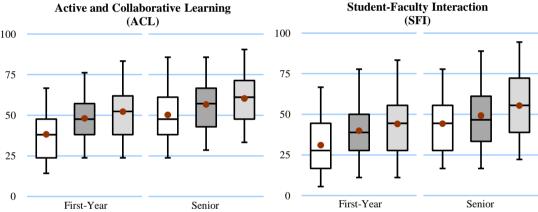
Legend

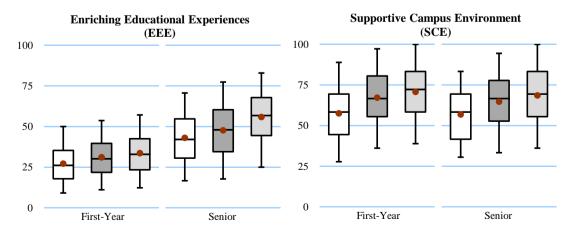
WSU-Pullman

Top 50%

Top 10%

This display compares your students with those attending schools that scored in the top 50% and top 10% of all NSSE 2010 institutions on a particular benchmark.





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^a * p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

^b Mean diff. divided by the pooled standard dev.



NSSE 2010 Benchmark Comparisons Detailed Statistics and Effect Sizes Washington State University - Pullman Campus

First-Year Students

										Reference Group				
		Me	an Stati	stics		Distrib	ution S	tatistic	S			n Statistic	8	
						Pe	ercentile	s c		Deg. of	Mean		Effect	
		Mean	SD ^a	SEM ^b	5th	25th	50th	75th	95th	Freedom d	Diff.	Sig. e	size f	
LEVEL OF ACADEMIC CH	ALLENGE (L.	AC)												
WSU-Pullman	(N = 390)	53.5	12.9	.7	32	44	53	62	76					
Writing Consortium		53.8	13.2	.1	32	45	54	63	75	8,423	3	.667	02	
DRU-VHR		54.0	13.1	.1	32	45	54	63	75	9,613	5	.446	04	
AAU Public		54.6	12.9	.2	33	46	55	64	75	6,188	-1.1	.100	09	
Top 50%		57.2	13.1	.1	35	48	57	66	78	26,876	-3.8	.000	29	
Top 10%		60.5	12.9	.2	38	52	61	70	80	5,610	-7.1	.000	55	
ACTIVE AND COLLABORA	ATIVE LEARN	VING (A	CL)											
WSU-Pullman	(N = 419)	38.3	17.0	.8	14	24	38	48	67					
Writing Consortium		42.8	16.3	.2	19	33	43	52	71	9,101	-4.5	.000	28	
DRU-VHR		41.9	16.3	.2	19	29	39	52	71	10,533	-3.6	.000	22	
AAU Public		41.6	16.1	.2	19	29	38	52	71	6,795	-3.3	.000	20	
Top 50%		48.1	17.0	.1	24	38	48	57	76	24,118	-9.8	.000	58	
Top 10%		52.2	17.8	.3	24	38	52	62	83	4,657	-14.0	.000	79	
STUDENT-FACULTY INTE	RACTION (SF	I)												
WSU-Pullman	(N = 396)	31.0	18.1	.9	6	17	28	44	67					
Writing Consortium		34.4	18.2	.2	11	22	33	44	67	8,506	-3.4	.000	19	
DRU-VHR		32.8	17.9	.2	11	22	28	44	67	9,729	-1.8	.052	10	
AAU Public		33.0	17.8	.2	11	22	28	44	67	6,263	-2.0	.034	11	
Top 50%		39.9	19.6	.1	11	28	39	50	78	19,913	-8.9	.000	46	
Top 10%		44.1	21.5	.4	11	28	44	56	83	523	-13.1	.000	62	
ENRICHING EDUCATIONA	AL EXPERIEN	CES (EE	EE)											
WSU-Pullman	(N = 389)	27.2	12.6	.6	9	18	26	35	50					
Writing Consortium		27.6	13.1	.1	8	18	26	35	50	8,232	4	.566	03	
DRU-VHR		29.5	13.4	.1	10	19	29	37	52	9,396	-2.4	.001	18	
AAU Public		30.3	13.5	.2	11	21	29	38	54	6,043	-3.1	.000	23	
Top 50%		31.1	13.6	.1	11	22	30	40	54	28,302	-3.9	.000	29	
Top 10%		33.6	14.0	.2	12	23	33	42	57	444	-6.5	.000	46	
SUPPORTIVE CAMPUS EN	VIRONMENT	(SCE)												
WSU-Pullman	(N = 373)	57.5	18.0	.9	28	44	58	69	89					
Writing Consortium		62.8	18.4	.2	31	50	64	75	94	8,060	-5.3	.000	29	
DRU-VHR		60.9	17.8	.2	31	50	61	72	92	9,176	-3.4	.000	19	
AAU Public		61.2	17.7	.2	31	50	61	72	92	5,895	-3.7	.000	21	
Top 50%		67.2	18.0	.1	36	56	67	81	97	19,082	-9.7	.000	54	
Top 10%		70.8	17.9	.3	39	58	72	83	100	3,510	-13.2	.000	74	

^a Standard deviation is a measure of the amount the individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.

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b Standard Error of the Mean: Use SEM to compute a confidence interval (CI) around the sample mean. For example, the 95% CI is the range of values that is 95% likely to contain the true population mean, equal to the sample mean +/- 1.96 * SEM.

^c A percentile is the point in the distribution of student-level benchmark scores at or below which a given percentage of benchmark scores fall.

^d Degrees of freedom used to compute the t-tests. Values vary for the total Ns due to weighting and the equal variance assumption.

e Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between the mean of your institution and that of the comparison group occurred by chance.

f Effect size is calculated by subtracting the comparison group mean from the school mean, and dividing the result by the pooled standard deviation.



NSSE 2010 Benchmark Comparisons Detailed Statistics and Effect Sizes Washington State University - Pullman Campus

Seniors

									Reference Group				
		Me	an Stati	stics	1	Distrib			s	Co	mpariso	n Statistics	S
						Pe	ercentile	s c		Deg. of	Mean		Effect
		Mean	SD ^a	SEM ^b	5th	25th	50th	75th	95th	Freedom d	Diff.	Sig. e	size f
LEVEL OF ACADEMIC CH	ALLENGE (L	AC)											
WSU-Pullman	(N = 287)	58.0	13.2	.8	35	49	60	68	78				
Writing Consortium		57.2	14.1	.2	33	48	57	67	80	8,667	.8	.354	.06
DRU-VHR		56.8	14.0	.1	34	47	57	67	80	10,475	1.2	.150	.09
AAU Public		57.1	13.7	.2	35	48	57	67	79	6,136	.9	.269	.07
Top 50%		61.0	13.7	.1	38	52	61	71	83	19,965	-3.0	.000	22
Top 10%		63.8	13.6	.2	41	55	65	73	85	4,777	-5.8	.000	43
ACTIVE AND COLLABORA	TIVE LEARN	NING (AC	CL)										
WSU-Pullman	(N = 297)	50.2	18.0	1.0	24	38	48	61	86				
Writing Consortium		51.5	17.3	.2	24	38	52	62	81	9,052	-1.2	.223	07
DRU-VHR		48.9	16.9	.2	24	38	48	61	81	11,190	1.3	.198	.08
AAU Public		48.9	16.6	.2	24	38	48	58	76	6,583	1.3	.192	.08
Top 50%		56.6	17.2	.1	29	43	57	67	86	17,360	-6.4	.000	37
Top 10%		60.3	17.9	.3	33	48	61	71	90	4,074	-10.1	.000	56
STUDENT-FACULTY INTE	RACTION (SF	T)											
WSU-Pullman	(N = 289)	44.2	20.3	1.2	17	28	44	56	78				
Writing Consortium		42.2	20.9	.2	11	28	39	56	83	8,731	2.0	.104	.10
DRU-VHR		40.4	20.5	.2	11	27	39	56	78	10,587	3.8	.002	.19
AAU Public		41.0	20.5	.3	11	28	39	56	78	6,205	3.2	.008	.16
Top 50%		49.2	21.5	.2	17	33	47	61	89	15,084	-5.0	.000	23
Top 10%		55.3	22.2	.5	22	39	56	72	94	379	-11.1	.000	50
ENRICHING EDUCATIONA	L EXPERIEN	CES (EE	EE)										
WSU-Pullman	(N = 286)	43.0	16.6	1.0	17	31	42	55	71				
Writing Consortium		40.8	17.8	.2	14	28	40	53	72	8,532	2.2	.042	.12
DRU-VHR		43.4	17.7	.2	15	31	43	56	73	10,257	3	.749	02
AAU Public		45.2	17.5	.2	17	33	45	57	75	6,011	-2.2	.038	13
Top 50%		47.7	18.0	.1	18	35	48	60	77	21,977	-4.7	.000	26
Top 10%		55.8	17.3	.3	25	44	57	68	83	3,336	-12.8	.000	74
SUPPORTIVE CAMPUS EN	VIRONMENT	(SCE)											
WSU-Pullman	(N = 284)	56.9	17.8	1.1	31	42	58	69	83				
Writing Consortium		59.6	19.1	.2	28	47	61	72	92	8,384	-2.7	.017	14
DRU-VHR		57.3	18.5	.2	25	44	58	69	89	10,052	4	.690	02
AAU Public		58.2	18.3	.2	28	47	58	69	89	5,901	-1.3	.226	07
Top 50%		64.7	18.9	.1	33	53	67	78	94	17,396	-7.8	.000	41
Top 10%		68.6	18.6	.4	36	56	69	83	100	2,523	-11.7	.000	63

^a Standard deviation is a measure of the amount the individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.

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b Standard Error of the Mean: Use SEM to compute a confidence interval (CI) around the sample mean. For example, the 95% CI is the range of values that is 95% likely to contain the true population mean, equal to the sample mean +/- 1.96 * SEM.

^c A percentile is the point in the distribution of student-level benchmark scores at or below which a given percentage of benchmark scores fall.

^d Degrees of freedom used to compute the t-tests. Values vary for the total Ns due to weighting and the equal variance assumption.

e Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between the mean of your institution and that of the comparison group occurred by chance.

f Effect size is calculated by subtracting the comparison group mean from the school mean, and dividing the result by the pooled standard deviation.