

### Comparisons with Top 50% and Top 10% Institutions

The results below compare the engagement of your first-year and senior students with those attending two groups of institutions identified by NSSE for their high average levels of student engagement:

- (a) institutions with average scores placing them in the top 50% of all current-year NSSE institutions, and
- (b) institutions with average scores placing them in the top 10% of all current-year NSSE institutions.

While the average scores for *most* institutions are below the mean for the top 50% or top 10%, your institution may show areas of distinction where your average student was *as engaged* as (or even *more engaged* than) the typical student at high-performing institutions. A check mark (✓) signifies those comparisons where your average score was at least comparable to that of the high-performing group. However, the absence of a significant difference between your score and that of the high-performing group does not mean that your institution was a member of that group.

It should be noted that most of the variability in student engagement is *within*, not between, institutions. Even "high-performing" institutions have students with engagement levels below the average for all institutions.

#### First-Year Students

| Theme                    | Engagement Indicator                | Univ of Houston<br>Mean | Your first-year students compared with |             |   |                   |             |   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------|---|-------------------|-------------|---|
|                          |                                     |                         | NSSE 2013 Top 50%                      |             |   | NSSE 2013 Top 10% |             |   |
|                          |                                     |                         | Mean                                   | Effect size | ✓ | Mean              | Effect size | ✓ |
| Academic Challenge       | Higher-Order Learning               | 39.3                    | 40.9 *                                 | -.12        |   | 42.7 ***          | -.25        |   |
|                          | Reflective and Integrative Learning | 33.8                    | 37.6 ***                               | -.30        |   | 39.4 ***          | -.45        |   |
|                          | Learning Strategies                 | 37.6                    | 41.8 ***                               | -.30        |   | 44.3 ***          | -.47        |   |
|                          | Quantitative Reasoning              | 26.9                    | 28.8 *                                 | -.12        |   | 30.5 ***          | -.22        |   |
| Learning with Peers      | Collaborative Learning              | 32.6                    | 34.5 *                                 | -.14        |   | 37.1 ***          | -.33        |   |
|                          | Discussions with Diverse Others     | 44.7                    | 43.2                                   | .10         | ✓ | 45.8              | -.07        | ✓ |
| Experiences with Faculty | Student-Faculty Interaction         | 16.5                    | 23.4 ***                               | -.46        |   | 26.7 ***          | -.63        |   |
|                          | Effective Teaching Practices        | 39.0                    | 42.8 ***                               | -.28        |   | 44.7 ***          | -.41        |   |
| Campus Environment       | Quality of Interactions             | 36.4                    | 44.3 ***                               | -.68        |   | 46.3 ***          | -.81        |   |
|                          | Supportive Environment              | 36.4                    | 39.5 ***                               | -.24        |   | 41.4 ***          | -.38        |   |

#### Seniors

| Theme                    | Engagement Indicator                | Univ of Houston<br>Mean | Your seniors compared with |             |   |                   |             |   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------|-------------|---|
|                          |                                     |                         | NSSE 2013 Top 50%          |             |   | NSSE 2013 Top 10% |             |   |
|                          |                                     |                         | Mean                       | Effect size | ✓ | Mean              | Effect size | ✓ |
| Academic Challenge       | Higher-Order Learning               | 39.8                    | 43.5 ***                   | -.27        |   | 45.3 ***          | -.40        |   |
|                          | Reflective and Integrative Learning | 36.3                    | 41.1 ***                   | -.38        |   | 43.1 ***          | -.53        |   |
|                          | Learning Strategies                 | 39.3                    | 43.2 ***                   | -.27        |   | 45.4 ***          | -.43        |   |
|                          | Quantitative Reasoning              | 31.6                    | 31.1                       | .03         | ✓ | 32.6              | -.06        | ✓ |
| Learning with Peers      | Collaborative Learning              | 33.3                    | 35.0 **                    | -.13        |   | 37.5 ***          | -.31        |   |
|                          | Discussions with Diverse Others     | 46.6                    | 44.1 ***                   | .16         | ✓ | 45.8              | .05         | ✓ |
| Experiences with Faculty | Student-Faculty Interaction         | 21.4                    | 29.7 ***                   | -.51        |   | 34.6 ***          | -.81        |   |
|                          | Effective Teaching Practices        | 39.6                    | 43.3 ***                   | -.26        |   | 45.3 ***          | -.42        |   |
| Campus Environment       | Quality of Interactions             | 39.3                    | 45.8 ***                   | -.56        |   | 47.6 ***          | -.71        |   |
|                          | Supportive Environment              | 32.7                    | 36.2 ***                   | -.25        |   | 39.1 ***          | -.48        |   |

Notes: Precision-weighted means (produced by Hierarchical Linear Modeling) were used to determine the top 50% and top 10% institutions for each Engagement Indicator, separately for first-year and senior students. Using this method, Engagement Indicator scores of institutions with relatively large standard errors were adjusted toward the mean of all students, while those with smaller standard errors received smaller corrections. As a result, schools with less stable data—even those with high average scores—may not be 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 institutional results and our policy against ranking institutions.

Results weighted by gender and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups); \*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Effect size: Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.