

February 4, 2016

*Siena Fast Facts*

This week our *Fast Facts* will continue to look at the results from the spring 2015 administration of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), a nationally normed survey of attitudes and behaviors that are correlated to student engagement and academic success.

NSSE results are provided for Siena College and three comparison groups: mid-east private institutions (N=122), institutions in Siena’s Carnegie classification (N=148), and all participating institutions (N=963).

*Student Advising: How did Siena do?*

The NSSE survey allows participating institutions to select two additional “modules” in addition to the standard set of survey questions. Each module consists of a set of fairly detailed questions related to a particular area of interest. Siena College selected the “Advising” module as one of its choices. The table below shows the results for Siena College and for other institutions which used the Advising module. All items are rated on a 4-point scale from 1=“Very little” to 4=“Very much”.

|   | Freshmen |               |            | Seniors |               |            |
|---|----------|---------------|------------|---------|---------------|------------|
|   | Siena    | Other schools | Comparison | Siena   | Other schools | Comparison |
| To what extent have your academic advisors:               |          |               |            |         |               |            |
| Been available when needed                                | 3.07     | 2.98          | ↑          | 3.20    | 2.94          | ↑↑         |
| Listened closely to your concerns and questions           | 3.02     | 3.00          | ↔          | 3.07    | 2.96          | ↑          |
| Informed you of important deadlines                       | 2.77     | 2.83          | ↓          | 2.67    | 2.72          | ↓          |
| Helped you understand academic rules and policies         | 2.75     | 2.78          | ↔          | 2.65    | 2.65          | ↔          |
| Informed you of academic support options                  | 2.65     | 2.72          | ↓          | 2.43    | 2.41          | ↔          |
| Provided useful information about courses                 | 2.97     | 2.85          | ↑          | 2.82    | 2.70          | ↑          |
| Helped you when you had academic difficulties             | 2.73     | 2.66          | ↑          | 2.81    | 2.59          | ↑↑         |
| Helped you get information on special opportunities       | 2.72     | 2.53          | ↑↑         | 2.68    | 2.46          | ↑↑         |
| Discussed your career interests and post-graduation plans | 2.73     | 2.52          | ↑↑         | 2.93    | 2.47          | ↑↑         |

Overall Siena did quite well, both for freshmen and especially for seniors. Kudos to our individual advisors and to the Office of Student Success!

*Time Management*

Another set of questions on the NSSE survey asks students how they spend their time. The table below shows the responses for freshmen on these items. Green shading indicates an item on which the comparison group scored significantly lower than Siena; red shading indicates an item on which the comparison group score significantly higher.

| Hours spent in typical 7-day week:        | Siena | Mideast<br>Private | Carnegie<br>Class | All<br>NSSE |
|---|-------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Preparing for class                       | 15.77 | 14.69              | 16.14             | 14.13       |
| Participating in co-curricular activities | 7.35  | 6.17               | 7.71              | 5.36        |
| Working for pay on campus                 | 2.46  | 2.64               | 3.33              | 2.37        |
| Working for pay off campus                | 1.33  | 3.88               | 2.32              | 5.10        |
| Estimated number of hours working for pay | 3.65  | 6.42               | 5.59              | 7.38        |
| Doing community service or volunteer work | 2.12  | 2.31               | 2.07              | 2.40        |
| Relaxing and socializing                  | 14.07 | 12.38              | 12.44             | 12.37       |
| Providing care for dependents             | 0.78  | 2.58               | 1.44              | 3.14        |
| Commuting to campus                       | 1.71  | 3.29               | 2.08              | 3.75        |

First-year students at Siena spend a fairly typical amount of time preparing for class, participating in co-curricular activities, and doing community service work. However, Siena first-year students spend less time working for pay, caring for dependents, and commuting to campus. Conversely, Siena first-year students spend more time relaxing and socializing.

And here are the results for seniors:

| Hours spent in typical 7-day week:        | Siena | Mideast<br>Private | Carnegie<br>Class | All<br>NSSE |
|---|-------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Preparing for class                       | 15.14 | 14.73              | 16.36             | 14.75       |
| Participating in co-curricular activities | 6.62  | 6.35               | 8.05              | 4.65        |
| Working for pay on campus                 | 3.89  | 4.25               | 5.44              | 3.71        |
| Working for pay off campus                | 6.51  | 9.40               | 5.36              | 12.00       |
| Estimated number of hours working for pay | 10.31 | 13.53              | 10.72             | 15.58       |
| Doing community service or volunteer work | 3.69  | 3.02               | 2.70              | 3.13        |
| Relaxing and socializing                  | 11.97 | 11.43              | 12.04             | 10.73       |
| Providing care for dependents             | 1.94  | 4.50               | 2.50              | 6.37        |
| Commuting to campus                       | 2.95  | 4.32               | 2.72              | 4.81        |

Siena seniors spend a fairly typical amount of time preparing for class, participating in co-curricular activities, doing community service work, and relaxing/socializing. However, Siena seniors spend less time working for pay, caring for dependents, and commuting to campus.

Comparing Siena freshman and seniors, we see that seniors clearly spend more time working for pay, while freshmen spend more time relaxing and socializing.

This wraps up our series of *Fast Facts* on the NSSE survey. Next week we'll switch topics, so stay tuned!

As always, if you have any ideas for future *Fast Facts*, please let us know.