

January 21, 2016

Siena Fast Facts

Welcome back for the spring term! Hopefully it will be a great semester for everyone. This week we will resume our *Fast Facts* with a look at the results from the spring 2015 administration of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

Background

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is a nationally normed survey of attitudes and behaviors that are correlated to student engagement and academic success. The NSSE is administered online to freshmen and senior students in the spring semester.

Out of 1487 Siena students who were invited to participate in the NSSE survey in the spring of 2015, a total of 372 students responded for a 25.0% response rate (32.4% for freshmen and 18.1% for seniors).

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).

How did Siena do?

NSSE results are partly summarized in a set of scales called “Engagement Indicators,” with each scale representing a composite score for a set of related questions. Here’s how Siena freshmen did, compared to our peer groups:

First-year students					
	Siena	Mid-East Private	Carnegie Class	All NSSE	Comparison
Academic Challenge					
Higher-Order Learning	45.3	40.7	41.5	39.3	↑↑
Reflective & Integrative Learning	40.3	36.6	38.0	36.0	↑
Learning Strategies	39.7	40.2	40.6	39.7	↓
Quantitative Reasoning	34.4	27.7	28.7	27.9	↑↑
Learning with Peers					
Collaborative Learning	36.8	33.0	34.7	32.4	↑
Discussions with Diverse Others	43.9	41.8	43.3	41.1	↑
Experiences with Faculty					
Student-Faculty Interaction	26.1	22.4	23.9	20.7	↑↑
Effective Teaching Practices	43.2	41.2	42.5	40.1	↑
Campus Environment					
Quality of Interactions	45.1	42.3	44.1	41.5	↑
Supportive Environment	41.4	38.0	39.7	37.3	↑

Overall, Siena freshmen did quite well on these engagement indicators, especially “Higher Order Learning,” “Quantitative Reasoning,” and “Student-Faculty Interaction.” These results are evidence of the excellent job that our faculty are doing.

And here's how Siena seniors did on these engagement indicators:

Seniors					
	Siena	Mid-East Private	Carnegie Class	All NSSE	Comparison
Academic Challenge					
Higher-Order Learning	43.8	41.9	43.2	41.4	↑
Reflective & Integrative Learning	41.7	39.6	41.6	39.0	↑
Learning Strategies	37.4	39.7	40.1	40.3	↓
Quantitative Reasoning	35.2	29.8	31.4	30.4	↑↑
Learning with Peers					
Collaborative Learning	38.3	33.9	35.1	32.9	↑↑
Discussions with Diverse Others	42.5	42.0	42.6	42.0	↔
Experiences with Faculty					
Student-Faculty Interaction	32.2	27.5	30.6	24.0	↑
Effective Teaching Practices	43.2	41.4	43.6	40.8	↔
Campus Environment					
Quality of Interactions	43.5	42.0	44.3	42.4	↔
Supportive Environment	37.5	34.3	36.6	33.3	↑

Our seniors also did quite well, especially on the indicators for “Quantitative Reasoning” and “Collaborative Learning.”

Next week we'll continue to look at some more NSSE results.

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