

January 28, 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).

High-Impact Practices: How did Siena do?

A number of questions on the NSSE survey relate to student experiences with high-impact practices (HIP), typically defined as opportunities students have to engage in learning activities outside of the normal classroom context. Here's how Siena freshmen did, compared to our peer groups, in terms of participation in these high-impact practices:

First-year students					
	Siena	Mid-East Private	Carnegie Class	All NSSE	Comparison
Type of HIP					
Learning Community	8.4%	18.0%	11.3%	15.7%	↓
Service-Learning	57.6%	51.7%	48.9%	51.9%	↑
Research with Faculty	9.0%	6.3%	5.9%	5.7%	↑
Participated in at least one HIP	59.5%	59.7%	54.1%	58.2%	↔
Participated in two or more HIP's	13.0%	13.3%	9.9%	12.3%	↔

These data indicate that Siena freshmen were more likely to engage in service-learning types of activities, but somewhat less likely to participate in a learning community. Very few freshmen engage in research with faculty, but the percentage was a bit higher for Siena than for our peers. Overall, compared to our peers a similar percentage of Siena freshmen participated in at least one high-impact practice.

Here's how Siena seniors did on these high-impact practices:

Seniors					
	Siena	Mid-East Private	Carnegie Class	All NSSE	Comparison
Type of HIP					
Learning Community	27.8%	30.2%	29.4%	24.9%	↔
Service-Learning	66.3%	61.4%	62.6%	61.0%	↑
Research with Faculty	39.0%	32.2%	46.0%	24.7%	↔
Internship or Field Experience	62.6%	66.1%	66.8%	51.1%	↔
Study Abroad	19.7%	25.2%	37.4%	14.5%	↔
Culminating Senior Experience	60.7%	59.4%	74.8%	46.3%	↔
Participated in at least one HIP	90.5%	92.3%	95.6%	86.0%	↔
Participated in two or more HIP's	76.9%	75.4%	84.4%	62.4%	↔

These data indicate that Siena seniors, like Siena freshmen, were more likely to engage in service-learning types of activities. Otherwise, Siena seniors look pretty similar to our peers in terms of their level and type of participation in high-impact practices.

About 90% of Siena seniors have participated in at least one high-impact practice at Siena, and about 77% have participated in two or more. The most common types of HIP's are service learning activities, internships, and culminating senior experiences.

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.