

NSSE Benchmark Report

- “The benchmarks represent clusters of items on the survey and are expressed in 100-point scales.”
- ‘Comparisons with schools in the consortium, Carnegie classification, and NSSE national norms.’
- NSSE Benchmark Clusters:
 - Level of Academic Challenge
 - Active and Collaborative Learning
 - Student-Faculty Interactions
 - Enriching Educational Experiences
 - Supportive Campus Environment

NSSE Means Summary Report

- “In the Means Summary Report an asterisk (*) marks those items where you students’ responses differ at a statistically significant level from students at schools in your respective comparison group(s)....”
- “The more asterisks reported for a particular item indicate a smaller probability that the difference noted is due to chance....”

– NSSE 2002 Overview, p. 13

NSSE Means Summary Report

- “The effect size represents the magnitude of the discrepancy in the student or institutional behavior represented by the item.”
- “When the effect size is large, or a pattern of moderate effect sizes exists, it’s likely that the quality of the student experience is appreciably different....”
- “Here are some general guidelines for determining the relative importance of a Cohen’s d effect size:
 - .20 is a small effect
 - .50 is a medium effect
 - .80 is a large effect”

– NSSE 2002 Overview, p. 13

NSSE Mean Comparisons

Important questions to ask about any of the 81 items in the Means Comparisons report:

- How do responses to this question provide an indicator of engagement?
 - Can one intuitively retrace the research underlying this question?
- Putting this item information into context, can we readily explain Chico students' responses in terms of a residential campus, etc.?
- What likely explanatory hypotheses come to mind?
 - How to test those hypotheses?

NSSE 2002 CSU, Chico

- Sample results:
 - Student-Faculty Interaction
 - Enriching Educational Experience
 - First-year experience
 - Overall experience
- Comparison with the CSU Consortium generally offers a useful frame of reference.

Student-faculty interaction

- *Lower* benchmark score for CSU, Chico *First-year students* compared to CSU as a whole
- *Higher* benchmark score for CSU, Chico *Seniors* compared to CSU as a whole

Student-faculty interaction

Item 1.p:

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

(1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often)

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	1.68	1.71		
Senior-year:	2.09	1.91	***	.22

Sig: “* p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).”

“Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.”

Student-faculty interaction

Item 1.o:

Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor

(1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often)

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	1.84	1.98	**	-.15
Senior-year:	2.36	2.13	***	.24

Sig: “* p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).”

“Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.”

Enriching Educational Experiences

- *Similar* benchmark score for CSU, Chico *First-year students* compared to CSU as a whole
- *Lower* benchmark score for CSU, Chico *Seniors* compared to CSU as a whole

Enriching Educational Experiences

- Co-curricular experiences
- Internships, service or volunteer work
- Diversity experiences
- Culminating senior experience

Enriching Educational Experiences

Item 1.u:

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

(1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often)

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	2.47	2.64	***	-.17
Senior-year:	2.58	2.72	***	-.14

Sig: “* p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).”

“Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.”

Enriching Educational Experiences

Item 1.e:

Academic experiences included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments

(1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often)

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	2.73	2.81		
Senior-year:	2.70	2.84	***	-.16

Sig: “* p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).”

“Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.”

Enriching Educational Experiences

Item 6.b:

Community service or volunteer work

(0=No, 1=Yes (undecided=missing) Means are the proportion of students responding “Yes.”)

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	.88	.86		
Senior-year:	.67	.61	**	.11

Sig: “* p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).”

“Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.”

Enriching Educational Experiences

Item 6.b:

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

(0=No, 1=Yes (undecided=missing) Means are the proportion of students responding "Yes.")

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	.64	.74	**	-.24
Senior-year:	.53	.60	**	-.14

Sig: *** p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed)."

"Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation."

First-year Experience

- Not a NSSE Benchmark summary grouping of items
- Using the CSU comparison, there are 35 different items for which
 - there is positive significant difference for Chico seniors but negative or no significant difference for Chico first-year students,
 - or no significant difference for Chico seniors but negative significant difference for Chico first-year students.
- 3 items where the reverse is true.

First-Year Experience

- Items for which Chico senior responses were significantly higher than first-year students, using the CSU consortium responses as a frame of reference:
 - Voting, community service, supportive institutional environment, working with others, relationships with students, relationships with faculty, acquiring work skills, asking questions in class, making a class presentation, writing skills, speaking skills, quantitative analysis, computer skills, learning community experiences, preparedness for class, synthesizing ideas, discussed grades with an instructor, talked career plans with faculty or advisor, prompt feedback, discussed readings with faculty outside of class, number of books read, internships, working for pay on campus, co-curricular participation, received academic advising, hours spent in the library, hours using a computer for class assignments

First-Year Experience

Item 1.i:

Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions

(1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often)

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	2.42	2.42		
Senior-year:	2.90	2.77	***	.16

Sig: “* p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).”

“Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.”

First-Year Experience

Item 2.c:

Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships

(1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much)

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	2.67	2.84	***	-.20
Senior-year:	3.05	3.05		

Sig: “* p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).”

“Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.”

First-Year Experience

Item 6.c:

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

(0=No, 1=Yes (undecided=missing) Means are the proportion of students responding “Yes.”)

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	.52	.63	***	-.23
Senior-year:	.31	.27	*	.09

Sig: “* p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).”

“Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.”

First-Year Experience

- 29% of First-year students enrolled in CourseLink Fall 2003
- 52% of Chico First-year students reported participating in a learning community in the spring 2002 NSSE responses
- Preliminary retention data study on first-year programs, 1999-2003:
 - Percent non-continuing for:

• CourseLink	19.77%
• UNIV 001C	18.97%
• GST	7.87%
• CourseLink & UNIV 001C	8.91%
• All others	21.34%
- Some commentators (e.g., John Gardner) read retention patterns as symptomatic of relative engagement levels.

Overall Experience

- Consistent very positive responses on CSU, Chico student estimation of the overall experience
 - How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?
 - If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?
 - I am pleased with my overall experience on this campus.

Overall Experience, etc.

Item 1.r:

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

(1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often)

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	2.46	2.58	**	-.15
Senior-year:	2.62	2.70	**	-.10

Sig: “* p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).”

“Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.”

Overall Experience, etc.

Item 9.f:

Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.)

(1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much)

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	2.66	2.30	***	.36
Senior-year:	2.51	2.16	***	.38

Sig: “* p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).”

“Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.”

Overall Experience, etc.

Item 12:

If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?

(1=definitely no, 2=probably no, 3=probably yes, 4=definitely yes)

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	3.21	3.06	***	.19
Senior-year:	3.26	3.06	***	.25

Sig: “* p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).”

“Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.”

Overall Experience

Consortium question 6:

I am pleased with my overall experience on this campus.

	CSU, Chico	CSU		
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Sig</u>	<u>Effect Size</u>
First-year:	4.07	3.83	***	.27
Senior-year:	4.21	3.91	***	.33

Sig: “* p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).”

“Effectsize=mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.”

Further CSU, Chico NSSE Study Efforts

- Faculty/staff study groups
 - Group of 5
 - What do you make of the data?
 - What explanatory hypotheses come to mind?
 - How to test those hypotheses?
 - Recommendations to make?
 - Repeat with another group of 5, etc., until findings become repetitive