Missouri State University

Benchmark Scores By College and Department
October 2008
Prepared by Center for Assessment and Instructional Support
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**NOTE:** For all charts and tables small sample sizes must be reviewed with extreme caution. Sample sizes less than 30 are easily influenced by fluctuations in score values.
NSSE Overview

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is designed to obtain, on an annual basis, information from scores of colleges and universities nationwide about student participation in programs and activities that institutions provide for their learning and personal development. The results will provide an estimate of how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from attending college. Survey items on The National Survey of Student Engagement represent empirically confirmed "good practices" in undergraduate education. That is, they reflect behaviors by students and institutions that are associated with desired outcomes of college. (http://nsse.iub.edu).

Missouri State participated in the NSSE for the first time in the 2006-2007 academic year. In the spring of 2008 NSSE invited a random sample of 2,172 first-year and 2,324 senior students to complete the NSSE survey. Approximately one third elected to participate providing a final sample size of 712 first-year and 797 seniors.

To facilitate discussion of student engagement and to guide institutional improvement efforts, NSSE created five clusters or "benchmarks" of effective educational practice:
• Level of Academic Challenge
• Active and Collaborative Learning
• Student-Faculty Interaction
• Enriching Educational Experiences
• Supportive Campus Environment

This report compares the performance of Missouri State with a regional and a national peer group. The regional peer group is comprised of 29 public institutions from the Midwest region. The national peer group is comprised of 140 institutions that have a Carnegie classification of Public Comprehensive. Additionally, this report provides benchmark scores for Missouri State colleges and departments.
NSSE 2008 Benchmark Comparisons
Missouri State University

Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

Benchmark Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missouri State</th>
<th>Plains Public</th>
<th>Carnegie Class</th>
<th>NSSE 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td><strong>Sig</strong></td>
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<td>***</td>
<td>-.15</td>
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First-Year

Senior

Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) Items

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote high levels of student achievement by emphasizing the importance of academic effort and setting high expectations for student performance.

- Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, etc. related to academic program)
- Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings
- Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more; number of written papers or reports of between 5 and 19 pages; and number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages
- Coursework emphasizes: Analysis of the basic elements of an idea, experience or theory
- Coursework emphasizes: Synthesis and organizing of ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships
- Coursework emphasizes: Making of judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods
- Coursework emphasizes: Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations
- Working harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations
- Campus environment emphasizes: Spending significant amount of time studying and on academic work.

* Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

b * p<.05  ** p<.01  ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.
### Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) Items

Students learn more when they are intensely involved in their education and asked to think about what they are learning in different settings. Collaborating with others in solving problems or mastering difficult material prepares students for the messy, unscripted problems they will encounter daily during and after college.

- Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions
- Made a class presentation
- Worked with other students on projects during class
- Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments
- Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)
- Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course
- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)

---

### Benchmark Comparisons

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missouri State</th>
<th>Plains Public</th>
<th>Carnegie Class</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
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</table>

**Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) Items**

- Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions
- Made a class presentation
- Worked with other students on projects during class
- Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments
- Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)
- Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course
- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)

---

* Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

b * p<.05  ** p<.01  ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.
NSSE 2008 Benchmark Comparisons
Missouri State University

Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)

Benchmark Comparisons

Missouri State compared with:

<table>
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<th>Class</th>
<th>Missouri State</th>
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<th>Carnegie Class</th>
<th>NSSE 2008</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>40.1</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>-.03</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**First-Year**

**Senior**

Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI) Items

Students learn firsthand how experts think about and solve practical problems by interacting with faculty members inside and outside the classroom. As a result, their teachers become role models, mentors, and guides for continuous, life-long learning.

- Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor
- Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor
- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class
- Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student-life activities, etc.)
- Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance
- Worked on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements

* Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

b * p<.05  ** p<.01  ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.
### Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE) Items

Complementary learning opportunities enhance academic programs. Diversity experiences teach students valuable things about themselves and others. Technology facilitates collaboration between peers and instructors. Internships, community service, and senior capstone courses provide opportunities to integrate and apply knowledge.

- Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority, etc.)
- Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment
- Community service or volunteer work
- Foreign language coursework / Study abroad
- Independent study or self-designed major
- Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)
- Serious conversations with students of different religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values
- Serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own
- Using electronic medium (e.g., listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment
- Campus environment encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds
- Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Missouri State</th>
<th>Plains Public</th>
<th>Carnegie Class</th>
<th>NSSE 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First-Year</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>26.1 *</td>
<td>26.4 **</td>
<td>27.5 ***</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>39.0 -.06</td>
<td>37.7 .01</td>
<td>40.5 ***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

b $\ p<.05$  ** $p<.01$  ***$p<.001$ (2-tailed).

c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.
Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)  

Benchmark Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Missouri State</th>
<th>Plains Public</th>
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<th>NSSE 2008</th>
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</thead>
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<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Mean</td>
</tr>
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<td>First-Year</td>
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<td>59.7</td>
<td>60.4</td>
<td>61.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* - .10</td>
<td>** - .13</td>
<td>*** - .17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>55.2</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>58.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- .05</td>
<td>*** - .11</td>
<td>*** - .14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**First-Year**

**Senior**

![Bar chart showing comparisons between Missouri State, Plains Public, Carnegie Class, and NSSE 2008 for First-Year and Senior classes.]

Supportive Campus Environment (SCE) Items

Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that are committed to their success and cultivate positive working and social relations among different groups on campus.

- Campus environment provides the support you need to help you succeed academically
- Campus environment helps you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
- Campus environment provides the support you need to thrive socially
- Quality of relationships with other students
- Quality of relationships with faculty members
- Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices

---

* Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

\[ b \text{ p<.05 } ** \text{ p<.01 } *** \text{ p<.001 (2-tailed).} \]

\[ c \text{ Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.} \]
Missouri State University Colleges

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

**Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) Items**

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote high levels of student achievement by emphasizing the importance of academic effort and setting high expectations for student performance.

- Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, rehearsing, etc. related to academic program)
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- Coursework emphasizing the making of judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods
- Coursework emphasizing application of theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations
- Working harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations
- Campus environment emphasizing time studying and on academic work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Missouri State</th>
<th>Arts &amp; Letters</th>
<th>Business Admin.</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Health &amp; Human Services</th>
<th>Humanities &amp; Public Affairs</th>
<th>Natural &amp; Applied Sciences</th>
<th>Undecided &amp; Others*</th>
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<td>Mean n</td>
<td>Mean n</td>
<td>Mean n</td>
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<td>50.0 74</td>
<td>52.1 44</td>
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<td>52.4 144</td>
<td>51.5 228</td>
<td>55.5 67</td>
<td>54.7 129</td>
<td>54.5 92</td>
<td>50.5 122</td>
<td>53.2 9</td>
</tr>
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</table>

![Bar chart showing comparisons between First Year Students and Senior Students for each College]

- First Year Students
- Senior Students
## Missouri State University Colleges

### 2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Missouri State</th>
<th>Arts &amp; Letters</th>
<th>Business Admin.</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Health &amp; Human Services</th>
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<th>Natural &amp; Applied Sciences</th>
<th>Undecided &amp; Others*</th>
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<td>242</td>
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<td>71</td>
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### Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) Items

Students learn more when they are intensely involved in their education and asked to think about what they are learning in different settings. Collaborating with others in solving problems or mastering difficult material prepares students for the messy, unscripted problems they will encounter daily during and after college.

- Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions
- Made a class presentation
- Worked with other students on projects during class
- Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments
- Tutored or taught other students
- Participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course
- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)
## Missouri State University Colleges

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Missouri State</th>
<th>Arts &amp; Letters</th>
<th>Business Admin.</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Health &amp; Human Services</th>
<th>Humanities &amp; Public Affairs</th>
<th>Natural &amp; Applied Sciences</th>
<th>Undecided &amp; Others*</th>
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<td>Mean</td>
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<td>Mean</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>Mean</td>
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<td>Mean</td>
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<td>76</td>
<td>34.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>68</td>
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</table>

### Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI) Items

- Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor
- Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor
- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class
- Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student-life activities, etc.)
- Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance
- Worked with a faculty member on a research project outside of course or program requirements

Students learn firsthand how experts think about and solve practical problems by interacting with faculty members inside and outside the classroom. As a result, their teachers become role models, mentors, and guides for continuous, life-long learning.
### Missouri State University Colleges

#### 2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Missouri State</th>
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<th>Education</th>
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<td>142</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>66</td>
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</table>

#### Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE) Items

Complementary learning opportunities enhance academic programs. Diversity experiences teach students valuable things about themselves and others. Technology facilitates collaboration between peers and instructors. Internships, community service, and senior capstone courses provide opportunities to integrate and apply knowledge.

- Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, publications, student government, sports, etc.)
- Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment
- Community service or volunteer work
- Foreign language coursework & study abroad
- Independent study or self-designed major
- Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)
- Serious conversations with students of different religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values
- Serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity
- Using electronic technology to discuss or complete an assignment
- Campus environment encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds
- Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together
## 2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)

<table>
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<th>Class</th>
<th>Missouri State</th>
<th>Arts &amp; Letters</th>
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<td>First-Year</td>
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<td>141</td>
<td>55.8</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>66</td>
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</table>

### Supportive Campus Environment (SCE) Items

- Campus environment provides the support you need to help you succeed academically
- Campus environment helps you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
- Campus environment provides the support you need to thrive socially
- Quality of relationships with other students
- Quality of relationships with faculty members
- Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices

*Others- includes global studies majors and f
## Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) Items

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote high levels of student achievement by emphasizing the importance of academic effort and setting high expectations for student performance.

- Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, rehearsing, etc. related to academic program)
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- Coursework emphasizing the making of judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods
- Coursework emphasizing application of theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations
- Working harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations
- Campus environment emphasizing time studying and on academic work
### Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) Items

Students learn more when they are intensely involved in their education and asked to think about what they are learning in different settings. Collaborating with others in solving problems or mastering difficult material prepares students for the messy, unscripted problems they will encounter daily during and after college.

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- Made a class presentation
- Worked with other students on projects during class
- Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments
- Tutored or taught other students
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- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)

### 2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)

<table>
<thead>
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### Missouri State University - College of Arts & Letters

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)

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**Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI) Items**

Students learn firsthand how experts think about and solve practical problems by interacting with faculty members inside and outside the classroom. As a result, their teachers become role models, mentors, and guides for continuous, life-long learning.

- Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor
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- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class
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- Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance
- Worked with a faculty member on a research project outside of course or program requirements
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Complementary learning opportunities enhance academic programs. Diversity experiences teach students valuable things about themselves and others. Technology facilitates collaboration between peers and instructors. Internships, community service, and senior capstone courses provide opportunities to integrate and apply knowledge.

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Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that are committed to their success and cultivate positive working and social relations among different groups on campus.

- Campus environment provides the support you need to help you succeed academically
- Campus environment helps you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
- Campus environment provides the support you need to thrive socially
- Quality of relationships with other students
- Quality of relationships with faculty members
- Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices

#### Missouri State University - College of Arts & Letters

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)

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- **First-Year Students**
- **Senior Students**
Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) Items

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote high levels of student achievement by emphasizing the importance of academic effort and setting high expectations for student performance.

- Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, rehearsing, etc. related to academic program)
- Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings
- Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more: number of written papers or reports of between 5 and 19 pages; and number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages
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- Coursework emphasizing application of theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations
- Working harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations
- Campus environment emphasizing time studying and on academic work
Missouri State University - College of Business Administration

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)

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Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) Items

Students learn more when they are intensely involved in their education and asked to think about what they are learning in different settings. Collaborating with others in solving problems or mastering difficult material prepares students for the messy, unscripted problems they will encounter daily during and after college.

- Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions
- Made a class presentation
- Worked with other students on projects during class
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- Tutored or taught other students
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- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)
# Missouri State University - College of Business Administration

## 2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)

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### Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI) Items

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Missouri State University - College of Business Administration

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)

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Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE) Items

Complementary learning opportunities enhance academic programs. Diversity experiences teach students valuable things about themselves and others. Technology facilitates collaboration between peers and instructors. Internships, community service, and senior capstone courses provide opportunities to integrate and apply knowledge.

- Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, publications, student government, sports, etc.)
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# Missouri State University - College of Business Administration

## 2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)

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### Supportive Campus Environment (SCE) Items

Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that are committed to their success and cultivate positive working and social relations among different groups on campus.

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- Campus environment helps you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
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- Quality of relationships with faculty members
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Missouri State University - College of Education

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

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**Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) Items**

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Missouri State University - College of Education

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)

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Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) Items

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## Missouri State University - College of Education

### 2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)

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Missouri State University - College of Education

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)

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Missouri State University - College of Education

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)

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Missouri State University - College of Health & Human Services

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)

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Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) Items

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### Missouri State University - College of Health & Human Services

#### 2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)

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#### Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI) Items

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Missouri State University - College of Health & Human Services

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)

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Missouri State University - College of Health & Human Services

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)

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Supportive Campus Environment (SCE) Items

Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that are committed to their success and cultivate positive working and social relations among different groups on campus.

- Campus environment provides the support you need to help you succeed academically
- Campus environment helps you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
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#### 2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

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### Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) Items

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote high levels of student achievement by emphasizing the importance of academic effort and setting high expectations for student performance.

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#### 2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)

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### Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) Items

Students learn more when they are intensely involved in their education and asked to think about what they are learning in different settings. Collaborating with others in mastering difficult material prepares students for the messy, unscripted problems they will encounter daily during and after college.

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Missouri State University - College of Humanities & Public Affairs

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)

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Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI) Items
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2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)

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Missouri State University - College of Natural & Applied Sciences

2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores - Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

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Missouri State University - College of Natural & Applied Sciences

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### Supportive Campus Environment (SCE) Items

Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that are committed to their success and cultivate positive working and social relations among different groups on campus.

- Campus environment provides the support you need to help you succeed academically
- Campus environment helps you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
- Campus environment provides the support you need to thrive socially
- Quality of relationships with other students
- Quality of relationships with faculty members
- Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices
## 2008 NSSE Benchmark Scores For Missouri State University by College and by Department

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**Table continues on next page.**

**KEY**
- LAC = Level of Academic Challenge
- ACL = Active and Collaborative Learning
- SFI = Student-Faculty Interaction
- EEE = Enriching Educational Experience
- SCE = Supportive Campus Environment
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To conserve space only the smallest n is reported in this table. Refer to individual reports for exact sample size for each mean.
Interpret small sample sizes (n) with extreme caution. Sample sizes less than 30 are easily influenced by fluxuations in score values or by extreme scores.

*Others- includes global studies majors and foreign exchange students

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ACL = Active and Collaborative Learning
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