

**Student Engagement in Cal State Northridge's Colleges:
Selected Findings From the Spring 2007 Administration of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)**

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**Table 1. NSSE Senior Respondents' Views of the Adequacy of the Education They Are Receiving by the Colleges Housing Their Majors
(Spring 2007 Percentages)**

	Arts, Media, & Commun.	Business & Econ.	Engin. & Comp. Sci.	Health & Human Dev.	Human- ities	Science & Math.	Social & Behav. Sci.	All Senior Resp.
My entire educational experience at this institution has been								
Excellent	28.1	20.6	25.8	34.5	38.5	30.0	33.0	29.9
Good	52.1	55.3	61.3	52.6	50.4	54.3	52.4	53.5
Fair	16.7	22.4	9.7	11.2	11.1	14.3	11.7	14.7
Poor	3.1	1.8	3.2	1.7	0.0	1.4	2.9	1.9
Total (No. of respondents)	100.0 (96)	100.0 (170)	100.0 (62)	100.0 (116)	100.0 (117)	100.0 (70)	100.0 (103)	100.0 (748)
If you could start over again, would you go to the institutions you are now attending?								
Definitely Yes	34.4	27.1	30.6	34.5	44.4	28.6	36.9	34.1
Probably Yes	39.6	50.0	54.8	43.1	42.7	51.4	49.5	46.7
Probably No	19.8	15.9	11.3	17.2	8.5	17.1	6.8	13.8
Definitely No	6.3	7.1	3.2	5.2	4.3	2.9	6.8	5.5
Total (No. of respondents)	100.0 (96)	100.0 (170)	100.0 (62)	100.0 (116)	100.0 (117)	100.0 (70)	100.0 (103)	100.0 (748)
Overall, the quality of academic advising I have received at this institution has been								
Excellent	28.1	11.2	27.4	21.6	31.6	22.9	22.3	22.7
Good	31.3	36.5	53.2	51.7	45.3	38.6	37.9	41.2
Fair	25.0	26.5	12.9	20.7	21.4	24.3	24.3	22.7
Poor	15.6	25.9	6.5	6.0	1.7	14.3	15.5	13.4
Total (No. of respondents)	100.0 (96)	100.0 (170)	100.0 (62)	100.0 (116)	100.0 (117)	100.0 (70)	100.0 (103)	100.0 (748)

**Table 2. NSSE Items Relating to the Writing Intensive Character of the Curriculum by College Housing Majors of Senior Respondents
(Spring 2007 Percentages)**

	Arts, Media, & Commun.	Business & Econ.	Engin. & Comp. Sci.	Health & Human Dev.	Human- ities	Science & Math.	Social & Behav. Sci.	All Senior Resp.
Number of Papers Written During 2006-2007 That Are								
<i>Fewer Than Five Pages Long</i>								
Fewer than five papers written	39.2	45.9	58.2	38.9	36.2	58.9	49.2	45.4
Five or more papers written	60.8	54.1	41.8	61.1	63.8	41.1	50.8	54.6
Total (No. of respondents)	100.0 (102)	100.0 (181)	100.0 (67)	100.0 (126)	100.0 (127)	100.0 (73)	100.0 (120)	100.0 (813)
<i>Between Five and Nineteen Pages Long</i>								
Fewer than five papers written	52.9	54.7	64.2	46.8	43.3	67.1	42.5	51.8
Five or more papers written	47.1	45.3	35.8	53.2	56.7	32.9	57.5	48.2
Total (No. of respondents)	100.0 (102)	100.0 (181)	100.0 (67)	100.0 (126)	100.0 (127)	100.0 (73)	100.0 (120)	100.0 (812)
<i>Twenty Pages or Longer</i>								
None	51.0	29.8	35.3	52.4	53.5	58.9	28.3	43.0
One or more papers written	49.0	70.2	64.7	47.6	46.5	41.1	71.7	57.1
Total (No. of respondents)	100.0 (102)	100.0 (181)	100.0 (68)	100.0 (126)	100.0 (127)	100.0 (73)	100.0 (120)	100.0 (812)
<i>During the current school year, I have often or very often</i>								
prepared several drafts of a paper/assignment before submitting (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	56.3 (112)	54.6 (194)	38.4 (73)	53.4 (131)	67.2 (131)	50.0 (80)	50.4 (125)	54.0 (863)
integrated ideas from several sources for a paper/project (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	81.3 (112)	87.6 (194)	84.9 (73)	90.8 (131)	96.9 (131)	80.0 (80)	87.9 (124)	87.2 (862)

**Table 3. NSSE Items Relating to an Emphasis on Active and Collaborative Learning by College Housing Majors of Senior Respondents
(Spring 2007 Percentages)**

	Arts, Media, & Commun.	Business & Econ.	Engin. & Comp. Sci.	Health & Human Dev.	Human- ities	Science & Math.	Social & Behav. Sci.	All Senior Resp.
During the current school year, respondents have done the following often or very often:								
Made a class presentation (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	69.6 (112)	74.2 (194)	52.1 (73)	79.4 (131)	79.4 (131)	43.8 (80)	60.5 (124)	67.9 (862)
Discussed ideas from readings/classes with others^ outside class (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	58.5 (106)	61.5 (182)	50.0 (68)	70.1 (127)	65.4 (127)	64.9 (74)	71.3 (122)	64.1 (822)
Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussion (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	70.5 (112)	57.7 (194)	54.8 (73)	69.5 (131)	66.4 (131)	57.5 (80)	65.6 (125)	63.8 (863)
Worked with classmates outside class to prepare class assignments (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	44.6 (112)	75.8 (194)	61.6 (73)	64.9 (131)	62.6 (131)	51.3 (80)	49.6 (125)	60.5 (863)
Worked with other students on projects during class (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	54.5 (112)	50.0 (194)	49.3 (73)	73.3 (131)	56.5 (131)	53.8 (80)	47.2 (125)	54.7 (863)
Tutored or taught other students (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	27.1 (107)	16.8 (184)	26.1 (69)	14.1 (128)	30.5 (128)	32.9 (76)	23.0 (122)	23.0 (831)
Participated in a community-based project as part of regular course (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	11.2 (107)	9.2 (184)	8.7 (69)	32.0 (128)	25.8 (128)	7.9 (76)	27.9 (122)	18.1 (831)
Plan to participate in a learning community* prior to graduation (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	29.7 (101)	25.7 (175)	15.9 (63)	42.6 (122)	46.0 (124)	33.3 (72)	36.0 (114)	33.6 (785)

^ Others includes students, family members, co-workers.

* Formal program in which groups of students take 2 or more classes together.

Table 4. NSSE Items Relating to the Emphasis on Abstract Thinking Skills in Coursework by College Housing Major of Senior Respondents (Spring 2007 Percentages)

	Arts, Media, & Commun.	Business & Econ.	Engin. & Comp. Sci.	Health & Human Dev.	Human- ities	Science & Math.	Social & Behav. Sci.	All Senior Resp.
<i>During the current school year, coursework has substantially emphasized^ the following mental activities:</i>								
Analyzing basic elements of an idea, experience or theory (e.g., examining case/situation in depth & considering components) (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	78.6 (103)	89.4 (180)	86.8 (68)	82.4 (125)	85.8 (127)	86.5 (74)	82.0 (122)	84.8 (815)
Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	72.8 (103)	78.5 (181)	80.9 (68)	81.6 (125)	75.6 (127)	79.7 (74)	73.8 (122)	77.3 (816)
Making judgments about value of information/arguments/ methods (e.g., assess soundness of data gathered & interpreted by others) (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	65.0 (103)	71.3 (181)	66.2 (68)	76.8 (125)	70.1 (127)	81.1 (74)	76.2 (122)	72.5 (816)
Synthesizing and organizing ideas/information/experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	71.8 (103)	75.6 (180)	70.6 (68)	80.8 (125)	77.2 (127)	79.7 (74)	75.4 (122)	76.1 (815)
Memorizing facts, ideas or methods from courses/readings and repeating them (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	63.1 (103)	58.0 (181)	47.1 (68)	70.4 (125)	50.4 (127)	71.6 (74)	60.7 (122)	59.9 (816)
<i>During the current school year, I have often or very often</i>								
put together ideas/concepts from different courses in completing assignments or during class discussion (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	65.1 (106)	73.4 (184)	65.2 (69)	70.3 (128)	64.1 (128)	69.7 (76)	73.8 (122)	69.4 (830)
examined the strengths & weaknesses of my own views on a topic or issue (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	52.5 (101)	36.7 (180)	33.3 (63)	66.1 (124)	52.0 (127)	53.4 (73)	64.4 (118)	51.5 (802)
learned something that changed my view of a topic or concept (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	66.3 (101)	63.0 (181)	39.1 (64)	79.0 (124)	60.3 (126)	69.9 (73)	72.9 (118)	65.9 (803)

^ Substantial emphasis includes respondents saying that specific activities have been emphasized "very much" and "quite a bit".

Table 5. NSSE Items Relating to the Emphasis on and Opportunities for Interacting with Diverse Student Groups by College Housing Majors of Senior Respondents (Spring 2007 Percentages)

	Arts, Media, & Commun.	Business & Econ.	Engin. & Comp. Sci.	Health & Human Dev.	Human- ities	Science & Math.	Social & Behav. Sci.	All Senior Resp.
Contact among students of differing economic, social, & racial/ ethnic backgrounds is encouraged quite a bit or very much (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	45.5 (99)	47.7 (174)	42.9 (63)	52.9 (121)	52.1 (119)	40.8 (71)	60.2 (108)	49.9 (769)
During the current academic year, respondents have often or very often								
Had serious conversations with students of differing racial or ethnic background (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	73.6 (106)	62.6 (182)	57.4 (68)	64.6 (127)	62.2 (127)	60.8 (74)	67.2 (122)	64.4 (822)
Had serious conversations with students whose values or opinions are very different from their own (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	61.3 (106)	55.2 (181)	60.3 (68)	58.3 (127)	52.0 (127)	56.8 (74)	56.6 (122)	57.0 (821)
Included diverse perspectives^ in class discussions or writing assignments (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	73.2 (112)	63.4 (194)	41.1 (73)	71.0 (131)	86.3 (131)	45.0 (80)	78.4 (125)	68.3 (863)
Tried to better understand someone else's point of view by imagining how an issue looks from his/her point of view (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	61.4 (101)	60.8 (181)	42.2 (64)	76.6 (124)	67.7 (127)	65.8 (73)	78.0 (118)	66.2 (804)

^ Diverse perspectives are those differing by race, religion, gender, political belief, etc.

**Table 6. NSSE Items Relating to Plans for Acquiring Job-Relevant Experiences by College Housing Majors of Senior Respondents
(Spring 2007 Percentages)**

	Arts, Media, & Commun.	Business & Econ.	Engin. & Comp. Sci.	Health & Human Dev.	Human- ities	Science & Math.	Social & Behav. Sci.	All Senior Resp.
Enriching Educational Experiences Students Expect to Complete Before Graduating:								
On-the job experience (e.g., internship, practicum, field/co-op experience) (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	81.2 (101)	64.0 (175)	71.4 (63)	95.1 (122)	72.4 (123)	75.0 (72)	74.6 (114)	75.8 (785)
Community service or volunteer work (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	64.4 (101)	56.6 (175)	44.4 (63)	84.4 (122)	73.0 (122)	59.7 (72)	79.8 (114)	67.6 (784)
Culminating senior experience (e.g., capstone course, thesis, project) (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	57.4 (101)	82.9 (175)	66.7 (63)	49.2 (122)	86.2 (123)	41.7 (72)	48.2 (114)	63.9 (785)
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>								
Respondents have worked/plan to work with a faculty member on a research project outside of course/program requirements (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	20.8 (101)	19.4 (175)	22.2 (63)	30.3 (122)	16.3 (123)	68.1 (72)	39.5 (114)	28.4 (784)

Table 7. Percentage of Senior NSSE Respondents Saying Their College Education Has Contributed Substantially[^] to Their Knowledge, Skills, and Personal Development in Selected Areas by Colleges Housing Their Majors (Spring 2007)

	Arts, Media, & Commun.	Business & Econ.	Engin. & Comp. Sci.	Health & Human Dev.	Human- ities	Science & Math.	Social & Behav. Sci.	All Senior Resp.
Intellectual Skills								
Thinking critically and analytically (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	76.5 (98)	87.8 (172)	84.1 (63)	86.3 (117)	88.0 (117)	85.5 (69)	89.6 (106)	86.0 (756)
Writing clearly and effectively (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	71.4 (98)	78.5 (172)	57.1 (63)	79.5 (117)	78.6 (117)	66.7 (69)	78.3 (106)	74.7 (756)
Using computing and information technology (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	73.5 (98)	86.0 (172)	87.3 (63)	80.3 (117)	69.2 (117)	75.4 (69)	77.4 (106)	78.7 (756)
Analyzing quantitative problems (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	55.1 (98)	84.9 (172)	87.3 (63)	73.5 (117)	69.2 (117)	87.0 (69)	72.6 (106)	75.1 (756)
Speaking clearly and effectively (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	64.3 (98)	78.5 (172)	63.5 (63)	77.8 (117)	72.4 (116)	73.9 (69)	71.7 (106)	72.8 (755)
Solving complex real-world problems (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	51.0 (96)	67.5 (169)	66.7 (63)	62.9 (116)	59.0 (117)	56.5 (69)	61.2 (103)	61.4 (747)
Working effectively with others (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	71.4 (98)	89.0 (172)	79.4 (63)	82.9 (117)	79.3 (116)	75.4 (69)	76.4 (106)	80.3 (755)
Learning effectively on your own (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	76.0 (96)	74.0 (169)	69.8 (63)	77.6 (116)	70.1 (117)	65.2 (69)	68.9 (103)	72.4 (747)

Table 7 cont'd.

	Arts, Media, & Commun.	Business & Econ.	Engin. & Comp. Sci.	Health & Human Dev.	Human- ities	Science & Math.	Social & Behav. Sci.	All Senior Resp.
Personal Virtues								
Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	58.3 (96)	64.5 (169)	58.7 (63)	66.4 (116)	70.9 (117)	53.6 (69)	75.7 (103)	65.2 (747)
Understanding yourself (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	62.5 (96)	61.5 (169)	47.6 (63)	67.2 (116)	67.5 (117)	55.1 (69)	66.0 (103)	62.4 (747)
Developing a personal code of values and ethics (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	44.8 (96)	61.5 (169)	58.7 (63)	58.6 (116)	56.4 (117)	49.3 (69)	54.4 (103)	55.7 (747)
Contributing to the welfare of your community (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	27.1 (96)	35.5 (169)	38.1 (63)	56.0 (116)	43.6 (117)	42.0 (69)	47.6 (103)	41.6 (747)
Other								
Acquiring a broad general education (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	76.5 (98)	83.7 (172)	71.4 (63)	82.1 (117)	88.0 (117)	76.8 (69)	83.0 (106)	81.2 (756)
Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	64.3 (98)	75.6 (172)	69.8 (63)	76.1 (117)	74.4 (117)	63.8 (69)	67.0 (106)	71.3 (756)
Voting in elections (No. of responses on which the percentages are based)	34.4 (96)	26.8 (168)	20.6 (63)	25.0 (116)	34.2 (117)	30.4 (69)	39.8 (103)	30.3 (746)

^ A substantial contribution includes respondents saying that their college education has contributed very much or quite a bit to the development of a skill or attribute.