



# National Survey of Student Engagement

The College Student Report

## NSSE 2003 Means Comparison Report Mercer University

				Mercer	Mercer compared with:						
				Master's			NSSE 2003				
Variable	Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>			
<i>In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often</i>											
1. Academic and Intellectual Experiences	a.	Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	CLQUEST	FY	3.17	2.81	***	.43	2.84	***	.39
				SR	3.20	3.13			3.12		
	b.	Made a class presentation	CLPRESEN	FY	2.25	2.27			2.24		
				SR	2.70	2.90	*	-.24	2.84		
	c.	Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	REWROPAP	FY	2.87	2.74			2.70		
				SR	2.49	2.56			2.51		
	d.	Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources	INTEGRAT	FY	3.12	3.05			3.06		
				SR	3.40	3.34			3.34		
	e.	Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments	DIVCLASS	FY	3.12	2.71	***	.48	2.73	***	.45
				SR	2.86	2.76			2.75		
	f.	Come to class without completing readings or assignments	CLUNPREP	FY	2.00	1.98			2.01		
				SR	2.10	2.03			2.07		
	g.	Worked with other students on projects during class	CLASSGRP	FY	2.38	2.39			2.34		
				SR	2.44	2.55			2.46		
	h.	Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	OCCGRP	FY	2.64	2.32	***	.38	2.40	**	.28
				SR	2.92	2.71	*	.24	2.73	*	.22
	i.	Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions	INTIDEAS	FY	2.62	2.45	*	.21	2.49		
SR				3.03	2.82	**	.26	2.85	*	.23	
j.	Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	TUTOR	FY	2.16	1.63	***	.65	1.68	***	.57	
			SR	2.13	1.81	***	.35	1.87	**	.27	
k.	Participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course	COMMPROJ	FY	2.29	1.47	***	1.12	1.46	***	1.12	
			SR	1.72	1.64			1.63			

<sup>a</sup> \* p<.05 \*\* p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed).

<sup>b</sup> Effect size = mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.



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<i>In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often</i>									
1.	Used an electronic medium (list-serv, chat group, Internet, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment	ITACADEM	FY SR	2.66 2.90	2.61 2.82		2.65 2.81		
m.	Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor	EMAIL	FY SR	3.14 3.06	2.87 3.09	** .30	2.96 3.18	* .20	
n.	Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	FACGRADE	FY SR	2.86 2.83	2.58 2.82	*** .33	2.62 2.83	** .29	
o.	Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	FACPLANS	FY SR	2.24 2.53	2.14 2.44		2.15 2.48		
p.	Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	FACIDEAS	FY SR	1.95 2.29	1.76 2.06	* ** .24 .28	1.81 2.10	* .22	
q.	Received prompt feedback from faculty on your academic performance (written or oral)	FACFEED	FY SR	2.86 2.96	2.58 2.82	*** .34	2.63 2.83	** .28	
r.	Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	WORKHARD	FY SR	2.72 2.69	2.61 2.72		2.61 2.71		
s.	Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)	FACOTHER	FY SR	1.99 1.93	1.52 1.79	*** .59	1.56 1.85	*** .54	
t.	Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, coworkers, etc.)	OOIDEAS	FY SR	2.81 2.95	2.71 2.84		2.77 2.88		
u.	Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own	DIVRSTUD	FY SR	2.95 2.93	2.54 2.54	*** *** .41 .39	2.61 2.60	*** ** .33 .33	
v.	Had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values	DIFFSTU2	FY SR	3.08 2.82	2.67 2.61	*** * .42 .22	2.77 2.69	*** .33	

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During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following mental activities?  
1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much

### 2. Mental Activities

a.	<b>Memorizing</b> facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in pretty much the same form	MEMORIZE	FY SR	2.65 2.72	2.97 2.77	***	-.38	2.93 2.72	***	-.32
b.	<b>Analyzing</b> the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components	ANALYZE	FY SR	3.46 3.42	3.09 3.25	*** *	.48 .23	3.15 3.28	***	.41
c.	<b>Synthesizing</b> and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships	SYNTHESZ	FY SR	3.10 3.21	2.82 3.04	*** *	.34 .21	2.88 3.07	**	.26
d.	<b>Making judgments</b> about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and interpreted data and assessing the soundness of their conclusions	EVALUATE	FY SR	3.06 3.10	2.80 2.95	**	.29	2.83 2.95	**	.26
e.	<b>Applying</b> theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	APPLYING	FY SR	3.16 3.39	2.96 3.18	* *	.23 .25	3.01 3.20	*	.24

### 3. Examinations

1=very little to 7=very much

	To what extent have your examinations during the current school year challenged you to do your best work?	EXAMS	FY SR	5.69 5.61	5.49 5.48			5.54 5.45		
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During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?

1=none, 2=between 1 and 4, 3=between 5 and 10, 4=between 11 and 20, 5=more than 20

### 4. Reading and Writing

a.	Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	READASGN	FY SR	3.85 3.52	3.42 3.26	*** *	.44 .25	3.49 3.34	***	.37
b.	Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment	READOWN	FY SR	1.82 2.23	2.00 2.19	*	-.20	2.01 2.21	*	-.22
c.	Number of written papers or reports of <b>20 pages or more</b>	WRITEMOR	FY SR	1.19 1.84	1.26 1.65	*	.23	1.24 1.66	*	.22

<sup>a</sup> \* p<.05 \*\* p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed).

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			Master's Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>

*During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?  
1=none, 2=between 1 and 4, 3=between 5 and 10, 4=between 11 and 20, 5=more than 20*

### 4. Reading and Writing (continued)

d.	Number of written papers or reports <b>between 5 and 19 pages</b>	WRITEMID	FY	2.74	2.40	***	.36	2.44	***	.32
			SR	2.96	2.63	**	.33	2.66	**	.31
e.	Number of written papers or reports of <b>fewer than 5 pages</b>	WRITESML	FY	3.34	3.31			3.30		
			SR	3.19	3.09			3.11		

*In a typical week, how many homework problem sets do you complete?  
1=none, 2=1-2, 3=3-4, 4=5-6, 5=more than 6*

### 5. Problem Sets

a.	Number of <i>problem sets</i> that take you more than an hour to complete	PROBSETA	FY	2.64	2.50			2.52		
			SR	2.57	2.38			2.35		
b.	Number of <i>problem sets</i> that take you less than an hour to complete	PROBSETB	FY	2.60	2.68			2.58		
			SR	2.14	2.27			2.18		

### 6. Homework Problems

*1=none, 2=1-3, 3=4-6, 4=7-10, 5=more than 10*

In a typical week, how many homework problems take you more than 15 minutes each to complete?	HWPROBS	FY	2.73	2.67			2.68		
		SR	2.79	2.61			2.61		

*Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate from your institution? (These items were recoded 0=no or undecided, 1=yes. Thus, the mean is the proportion responding "yes" among all valid respondents.)*

### 7. Enriching Educational Experiences

a.	Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	INTERN	FY	.85	.80			.81		
			SR	.68	.72			.72		
b.	Community service or volunteer work	VOLUNTER	FY	.90	.74	***	.36	.75	***	.33
			SR	.73	.63	*	.21	.66		
c.	Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together	LEARNCOM	FY	.32	.35			.34		
			SR	.23	.27			.27		
d.	Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements	RESEARCH	FY	.34	.26			.29		
			SR	.30	.23			.27		
e.	Foreign language coursework	FORLANG	FY	.64	.43	***	.42	.48	***	.33
			SR	.46	.35	*	.24	.41		
f.	Study abroad	STUDYABR	FY	.36	.33			.38		
			SR	.22	.14	*	.23	.18		

<sup>a</sup> \* p<.05 \*\* p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed).

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Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate from your institution? (These items were recoded 0=no or undecided, 1=yes. Thus, the mean is the proportion responding "yes" among all valid respondents.)

### 7. Enriching Educational Experiences (continued)

g.	Independent study or self-designed major	INDSTUDY	FY	.23								
				SR								
h.	Culminating senior experience (comprehensive exam, capstone course, thesis, project, etc.)	SENIORX	FY	.73		***	.68				***	.59
				SR								

Mark the box that best represents the quality of your relationships with people at your institution. 1=unfriendly, unsupportive, sense of alienation to 7=friendly, supportive, sense of belonging

### 8. Quality of Relationships

a.	Relationships with other students	ENVSTU	FY	5.92								
				SR								
b.	Relationships with faculty members	ENVFAC	FY	5.66								
				SR								
c.	Relationships with administrative personnel and offices	ENVADM	FY	5.19								
				SR								

1=unavailable, unhelpful, unsympathetic to 7=available, helpful, sympathetic

About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following? 1=0 hrs/wk, 2=1-5 hrs/wk, 3=6-10 hrs/wk, 4=11-15 hrs/wk, 5=16-20 hrs/wk, 6=21-25 hrs/wk, 7=26-30 hrs/wk, 8=more than 30 hrs/wk

### 9. Time Usage

a.	Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other activities related to your academic program)	ACADPR01	FY	4.86								
				SR								
b.	Working for pay <b>on campus</b>	WORKON01	FY	1.66								
				SR								
c.	Working for pay <b>off campus</b>	WORKOF01	FY	1.24		***	-.58				***	-.46
				SR								
d.	Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	COCURR01	FY	2.90		***	.53				***	.41
				SR								
e.	Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, exercising, etc.)	SOCIAL01	FY	3.44		*	-.24				*	-.24
				SR								

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About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following? 1=0 hrs/wk, 2=1-5 hrs/wk, 3=6-10 hrs/wk, 4=11-15 hrs/wk, 5=16-20 hrs/wk, 6=21-25 hrs/wk, 7=26-30 hrs/wk, 8=more than 30 hrs/wk

### 9. Time Usage (continued)

f.	Providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.)	CARED01	FY	1.09	1.73	***	-.39	1.54	**	-.31
				SR	1.76	2.56	**	-.33	2.24	*
g.	Commuting to class (driving, walking, etc.)	COMMUTE	FY	1.76	2.20	***	-.42	2.14	***	-.38
				SR	2.08	2.37	**	-.27	2.29	*

To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following?  
1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much

### 10. Institutional Environment

a.	Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	ENVSCHOL	FY	3.46	3.12	***	.45	3.18	***	.37
				SR	3.34	3.11	**	.31	3.15	*
b.	Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically	ENVSUPRT	FY	3.21	3.05	*	.21	3.09		
				SR	3.12	2.93	*	.23	2.95	*
c.	Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds	ENVDIVRS	FY	2.76	2.56	*	.21	2.59		
				SR	2.37	2.38			2.39	
d.	Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	ENVNACAD	FY	2.24	2.09			2.11		
				SR	2.02	1.88			1.89	
e.	Providing the support you need to thrive socially	ENVSOCAL	FY	2.45	2.31			2.34		
				SR	2.04	2.07			2.09	
f.	Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.)	ENVEVENT	FY	3.01	2.73	**	.30	2.82	*	.21
				SR	2.52	2.48			2.57	
g.	Using computers in academic work	ENVCOMPT	FY	3.21	3.29			3.34		
				SR	3.41	3.41			3.44	

To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much

### 11. Educational and Personal Growth

a.	Acquiring a broad general education	GNGENLED	FY	3.10	3.14			3.18		
				SR	3.34	3.28			3.30	
b.	Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	GNWORK	FY	2.61	2.66			2.68		
				SR	2.94	3.04			3.00	
c.	Writing clearly and effectively	GNWRITE	FY	3.06	2.98			2.98		
				SR	3.14	3.08			3.09	
d.	Speaking clearly and effectively	GNSPEAK	FY	2.74	2.77			2.72		
				SR	3.12	3.00			2.99	

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To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much

### 11. Educational and Personal Growth (continued)

e.	Thinking critically and analytically	GNANALY	FY	3.32	3.14	*	.23	3.20		
				SR	3.52	3.30	**	.29	3.35	*
f.	Analyzing quantitative problems	GNQUANT	FY	2.89	2.65	**	.27	2.68	*	.23
				SR	3.08	2.88	*	.23	2.89	*
g.	Using computing and information technology	GNCMPTS	FY	2.77	2.91			2.92		
				SR	3.25	3.15			3.15	
h.	Working effectively with others	GNOTHERS	FY	3.04	2.86	*	.21	2.86	*	.20
				SR	3.17	3.13			3.12	
i.	Voting in local, state, or national elections	GNCITIZN	FY	1.70	1.86			1.84		
				SR	1.70	1.85			1.85	
j.	Learning effectively on your own	GNINQ	FY	2.96	2.88			2.93		
				SR	3.00	3.02			3.07	
k.	Understanding yourself	GNSELF	FY	2.84	2.71			2.75		
				SR	2.71	2.79			2.85	
l.	Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	GNDIVERS	FY	2.65	2.54			2.54		
				SR	2.57	2.55			2.55	
m.	Solving complex real-world problems	GNPROBSV	FY	2.61	2.49			2.52		
				SR	2.89	2.65	*	.26	2.68	*
n.	Developing a personal code of values and ethics	GNETHICS	FY	2.67	2.59			2.62		
				SR	2.67	2.69			2.71	
o.	Contributing to the welfare of your community	GNCOMMUN	FY	2.69	2.30	***	.39	2.34	***	.36
				SR	2.29	2.38			2.40	

### Academic Advising

1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent

12.	Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution?	ADVISE	FY	3.22	2.97	**	.31	3.01	**	.26
				SR	3.15	2.90	**	.27	2.93	*

### Satisfaction

1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent

13.	How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	ENTIREXP	FY	3.31	3.18	*	.20	3.23		
				SR	3.36	3.21	*	.22	3.24	

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

14.	If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	SAMECOLL	FY	3.30	3.18			3.22		
				SR	3.22	3.15			3.17	

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	Mercer		Master's		NSSE 2003	
	FY	SR	FY	SR	FY	SR
<b>Response Rate <sup>a</sup></b>						
Overall	52%		41%		43%	
By Class	53%	51%	39%	43%	42%	44%
NSSE Sample Size <sup>b</sup>	205	196	48,210	64,960	112,095	109,938
<b>Sampling Error <sup>c</sup></b>						
Overall	6.2%		0.5%		0.3%	
By Class	8.6%	9.0%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%
Number of Respondents <sup>b</sup>	108	99	18,905	20,514	45,991	47,196
Total Population	615	575	190,884	199,440	478,615	504,822
<b>Student Characteristics <sup>d</sup></b>						
<b>Mode of Completion</b>						
Paper	53%	64%	52%	65%	42%	55%
Web	47%	36%	48%	35%	58%	45%
<b>Gender</b>						
Female	61%	60%	70%	70%	66%	66%
Male	39%	40%	30%	30%	34%	34%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
African American/Black	12%	21%	8%	8%	8%	8%
American Indian/Native American	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Asian American/Pacific Islander	4%	4%	6%	4%	6%	6%
Caucasian/White	78%	69%	77%	79%	78%	79%
Hispanic	3%	3%	10%	10%	8%	8%
Other	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Multiple	2%	1%	6%	6%	6%	6%
International	4%	7%	4%	4%	5%	5%
<b>Class Level</b>						
	52%	48%	48%	52%	49%	51%
<b>Enrollment Status</b>						
Full-time	100%	94%	94%	80%	96%	83%
Part-time	0%	6%	6%	20%	4%	17%
<b>Place of Residence</b>						
On-campus	94%	27%	62%	16%	71%	23%
Off-campus	6%	73%	38%	84%	29%	77%

<sup>a</sup> Response rate (number of respondents divided by sample size) is adjusted for non-deliverable mailing addresses.

<sup>b</sup> Oversampled students are included in institution numbers but not in consortium, Carnegie classification, or total NSSE 2003 sample numbers. Consortium, Carnegie classification, and total NSSE 2003 sample numbers include your institution numbers, unlike the means and frequency reports that exclude your institution numbers.

<sup>c</sup> Sampling error is an estimate of the margin by which the "true" score for your institution on a given item could differ from the reported score. To interpret the sampling error, assume that 60% of your respondents reply "very often" to a particular item. If the sampling error is  $\pm 5\%$ , then the true population value is most likely between 55% and 65%.

<sup>d</sup> Each number represents the percent of total respondents within the category.