



Southwestern College

Mean Comparisons

August 2010

Professional Studies

Interpreting the Mean Comparisons Report

Sample

The *Mean Comparisons* report is based on information from all randomly selected students for both your institution and your comparison institutions. Targeted and locally administered oversamples and other non-randomly selected students are not included in this report.

Variables

The items from the NSSE survey appear in the left column in the same order and wording as they appear on the instrument. The name of each variable appears in the second column for easy reference to your data file and the summary statistics at the end of this section. Response options are also provided to help you interpret the statistics.

Benchmark

Items that make up the five “Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice” are indicated by the following:

LAC=Level of Academic

Challenge

ACL=Active and
Collaborative Learning

SFI=Student-Faculty
Interaction

EEE=Enriching Educational
Experiences

SCE=Supportive Campus
Environment

Mean

The mean is the *weighted* arithmetic average of student responses on a particular item. Means are provided for your institution and all comparison groups. Additional details

regarding weighting can be found on the NSSE Web site.

nsse.iub.edu/links/institutional_reporting

Class

Results are reported separately for first-year students (FY) and seniors (SR). Institution-reported class ranks are used.

Statistical Significance

Items with mean differences that are larger than would be expected by chance alone are noted with one, two, or three asterisks, referring to three significance levels ($p < .05$, $p < .01$, and $p < .001$). The smaller the significance level, the smaller the likelihood that the difference is due to chance. *Statistical significance does not guarantee the result is substantive or important.* Large sample sizes (like those produced by NSSE) tend to generate more statistically significant results even though the magnitude of mean differences may be inconsequential. Consult effect sizes (see below) to judge the practical meaning of the results.

Effect Size

Effect size indicates the “practical significance” of the mean difference. It is calculated by dividing the mean difference by the pooled standard deviation. In practice, an effect size of .2 is often considered small, .5 moderate, and .8 large. A positive sign indicates that your institution's mean was greater, thus showing an affirmative result for your institution. A negative sign indicates the institution lags behind the comparison group, suggesting that the student behavior or



NSSE 2010 Mean Comparisons
NSSEville State University

NSSEville State compared with:

Variable	Bench- mark	Class	NSSEville State			Mid East Public			Carnegie Class			NSSE 2010				
			Mean *	Sig *	Effect Size *	Mean *	Sig *	Effect Size *	Mean *	Sig *	Effect Size *	Mean *	Sig *	Effect Size *		
1. Academic and Intellectual Experiences																
a. Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions																
	CLQUEST	ACL	FY	3.05	***	.23	2.85	***	.20	2.88	***	.25	2.84	***	.25	
			SR	3.37	***	.31	3.11	***	.31	3.17	***	.31	3.11	***	.31	
b. Made a class presentation																
	CLPRESEN	ACL	FY	2.53	***	.35	2.25	***	.35	2.34	***	.24	2.27	***	.32	
			SR	3.15	***	.45	2.77	***	.45	2.84	***	.34	2.78	***	.42	
c. Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in																
	REWROPAP		FY	2.56		-.12	2.68		-.12	2.76	**	-.20	2.69	*	-.13	
			SR	2.48		.08	2.40		.08	2.54		-.07	2.49		-.01	
d. Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources																
	INTEGRAT		FY	3.25		.19	3.10	**	.19	3.13	*	.16	3.10	**	.19	
			SR	3.57	***	.36	3.30	***	.36	3.36	***	.29	3.33	***	.32	
e. Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments																
	DIVCLASS		FY	2.88		.00	2.88		.00	2.84		.05	2.80		.09	
			SR	2.99		.11	2.89		.11	2.89		.11	2.83	*	.17	
f. Come to class without completing readings or assignments																
	CLUNPREP		FY	1.87		-.13	1.97		-.13	1.99	*	-.15	2.03	**	-.20	
			SR	1.95		-.22	2.12	**	-.22	2.06		-.15	2.13	**	-.23	

institutional practice represented by the item may warrant attention. An exception to this interpretation is the “coming to class unprepared” item (item 1f.) where a negative sign is preferred (i.e., meaning fewer students reporting coming to class unprepared).

NSSE 2010 Mean Comparisons Southwestern College

				Southwestern (KS) compared with:									
				Southwestern (KS)	Plains Private			Carnegie Class			NSSE 2010		
Variable	Bench- mark	Class		Mean ^a	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c
<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	ACL	SR	3.66	3.40	**	.30	3.29	***	.44	3.12	***	.63
b. Made a class presentation	CLPRESEN	ACL	SR	2.64	2.63		.01	2.93	**	-.32	2.79		-.17
c. Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	REWROPAP		SR	2.88	2.63		.26	2.56	*	.33	2.51	**	.38
d. Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources	INTEGRAT		SR	3.70	3.49		.28	3.41		.39	3.35	**	.47
e. Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments	DIVCLASS		SR	3.19	3.01		.19	2.95		.25	2.85	*	.36
f. Come to class without completing readings or assignments	CLUNPREP		SR	1.49	1.98	***	-.61	1.99	***	-.62	2.09	***	-.74
g. Worked with other students on projects during class	CLASSGRP	ACL	SR	2.19	2.36		-.18	2.61	***	-.46	2.56	***	-.40
h. Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	OCCGRP	ACL	SR	1.81	2.42	***	-.66	2.73	***	-1.00	2.78	***	-1.04
i. Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions	INTIDEAS		SR	3.13	2.97		.20	2.96		.20	2.95		.21
j. Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	TUTOR	ACL	SR	1.33	1.72	**	-.40	1.90	***	-.59	1.86	***	-.55
k. Participated in a community-based project (e.g. service learning) as part of a regular course	COMMPROJ	ACL	SR	1.32	1.70	*	-.42	1.92	***	-.66	1.74	*	-.46

^a Weighted by gender and enrollment status (and size for comparisons).

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

^c Mean difference divided by pooled SD

NSSE 2010 Mean Comparisons Southwestern College

student engagement				Southwestern (KS)	Southwestern (KS) compared with:								
	Variable	Bench- mark	Class		Plains Private			Carnegie Class			NSSE 2010		
				Mean ^a	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c
l.	Used an electronic medium (listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment	ITACADEM	EEE SR	3.27	2.81	***	.46	2.84	***	.43	2.88	**	.39
m.	Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor	EMAIL	SR	3.66	3.47	***	.26	3.50	***	.23	3.45	***	.29
n.	Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	FACGRADE	SFI SR	2.94	2.84	*	.11	2.94		.00	2.84	*	.11
o.	Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	FACPLANS	SFI SR	2.15	2.42		-.28	2.58	**	-.45	2.43		-.29
p.	Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	FACIDEAS	SFI SR	1.73	2.01		-.30	2.22	***	-.53	2.09	**	-.38
q.	Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance	FACFEED	SFI SR	3.35	3.01	***	.41	2.96	***	.48	2.83	***	.63
r.	Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	WORKHARD	LAC SR	2.95	2.84		.13	2.88		.09	2.79		.19
s.	Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)	FACOTHER	SFI SR	1.17	1.75	*	-.60	2.00	***	-.86	1.85	***	-.70
t.	Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)	OOCIDEAS	ACL SR	3.09	2.92		.20	2.93		.18	2.90		.22
u.	Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own	DIVRSTUD	EEE SR	2.51	2.52		-.01	2.68		-.17	2.68		-.17
v.	Had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values	DIFFSTU2	EEE SR	2.44	2.62		-.19	2.75	**	-.32	2.73	**	-.29

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NSSE 2010 Mean Comparisons Southwestern College

				Southwestern (KS) compared with:									
				Southwestern (KS)	Plains Private			Carnegie Class			NSSE 2010		
				Mean ^a	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c
Variable	Bench- mark	Class											
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.	Memorizing facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in pretty much the same form	MEMORIZE	SR	2.39	2.65	-.28		2.77	**	-.41	2.80	***	-.45
b.	Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components	ANALYZE	LAC SR	3.46	3.33	.17		3.32		.18	3.29		.22
c.	Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships	SYNTHESZ	LAC SR	3.30	3.16	.17		3.16		.17	3.10		.24
d.	Making judgments about the value of info., arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and interpreted data and assessing the soundness of their conclusions	EVALUATE	LAC SR	3.30	3.10	.24		3.11		.22	3.05	*	.29
e.	Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	APPLYING	LAC SR	3.54	3.33	.26		3.30	*	.30	3.26	***	.35
During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done? 1=None, 2=1-4, 3=5-10, 4=11-20, 5=More than 20													
3. Reading and Writing													
a.	Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	READASGN	LAC SR	3.43	3.34	.08		3.29		.13	3.21	*	.22
b.	Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment	READOWN	SR	2.43	2.25	.18		2.22		.22	2.20	*	.23
c.	Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more	WRITEMOR	LAC SR	1.83	1.69	.17		1.69		.17	1.65		.22
d.	Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages	WRITEMID	LAC SR	3.05	2.83	.23		2.64	**	.43	2.55	***	.52
e.	Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages	WRITESML	LAC SR	3.40	3.29	.09		3.07	***	.28	3.00	***	.34

^a Weighted by gender and enrollment status (and size for comparisons).

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^c Mean difference divided by pooled SD

NSSE 2010 Mean Comparisons Southwestern College

				Southwestern (KS) compared with:									
				Southwestern (KS)	Plains Private			Carnegie Class			NSSE 2010		
				Mean ^a	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c
Variable													
Bench- mark													
Class													

^a Weighted by gender and enrollment status (and size for comparisons).

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

^c Mean difference divided by pooled SD

NSSE 2010 Mean Comparisons Southwestern College

Southwestern (KS) compared with:

student engagement				Southwestern (KS)	Southwestern (KS) compared with:								
					Plains Private			Carnegie Class			NSSE 2010		
	Variable	Bench- mark	Class	Mean ^a	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c
b.	Community service or volunteer work	VOLNTR04	EEE	.49	.56		-.14	.65	*	-.32	.60		-.23
	Participate in a learning community or some other												
c.	formal program where groups of students take two	LRNCOM04	EEE										
	or more classes together		SR										
d.	Work on a research project with a faculty member	RESRCH04	SFI										
	outside of course or program requirements		SR										
e.	Foreign language coursework	FORLNG04	EEE	.09	.34	***	-.52	.43	***	-.70	.41	***	-.65
			SR										
f.	Study abroad	STDABR04	EEE										
			SR										
g.	Independent study or self-designed major	INDSTD04	EEE										
			SR										
h.	Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)	SNRX04	EEE	.16	.33	***	-.35	.40	***	-.51	.33	***	-.35
			SR										
8. Quality of Relationships				Select the circle 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									
a.	Relationships with other students	ENVSTU	SCE	5.89	5.82		.05	5.70		.14	5.65	*	.18
			SR										
				1=Unavailable, Unhelpful, Unsympathetic to 7=Available, Helpful, Sympathetic									
b.	Relationships with faculty members	ENVFAC	SCE	5.94	5.80		.10	5.71		.17	5.49	***	.34
			SR										
				1=Unhelpful, Inconsiderate, Rigid to 7=Helpful, Considerate, Flexible									
c.	Relationships with administrative personnel and offices	ENVADM	SCE	5.93	5.04	***	.54	4.79	***	.69	4.69	***	.74
			SR										

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^c Mean difference divided by pooled SD

NSSE 2010 Mean Comparisons Southwestern College

Southwestern (KS) compared with:

				Southwestern (KS)	Southwestern (KS) compared with:											
				Plains Private				Carnegie Class			NSSE 2010					
				Mean ^a	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c			
Variable				Bench- mark	Class											
				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 academic activities)	ACADPR01	LAC	SR	3.96	4.41	***	-.26	4.27	**	-.17	4.29	**	-.19		
b.	Working for pay on campus	WORKON01		SR	1.00	1.73		-.46	1.83	**	-.52	1.84	**	-.53		
c.	Working for pay off campus	WORKOF01		SR	7.02	4.31	***	.96	3.66	***	1.19	3.62	***	1.21		
d.	Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	COCURR01	EEE	SR	1.18	2.05		-.55	2.23	**	-.67	2.13	*	-.60		
e.	Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)	SOCIAL05		SR	3.00	3.36	*	-.23	3.47	**	-.30	3.53	***	-.34		
f.	Providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.)	CAREDE01		SR	5.01	3.11	***	.80	2.51	***	1.05	2.50	***	1.05		
g.	Commuting to class (driving, walking, etc.)	COMMUTE		SR	1.57	1.88	*	-.28	2.35	***	-.70	2.37	***	-.72		
10. Institutional Environment				To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=Very little, 2=Some, 3=Quite a bit, 4=Very much												
a.	Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	ENVSCHOL	LAC	SR	3.24	3.19		.07	3.15		.11	3.16		.10		
b.	Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically	ENVSUPRT	SCE	SR	3.37	3.18		.23	3.08	**	.35	2.98	***	.46		
c.	Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds	ENVDIVRS	EEE	SR	2.70	2.67		.03	2.67		.03	2.57		.13		

^a Weighted by gender and enrollment status (and size for comparisons).

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

^c Mean difference divided by pooled SD

NSSE 2010 Mean Comparisons Southwestern College

Southwestern (KS) compared with:

	Variable	Bench- mark	Class	Southwestern (KS)	Plains Private			Carnegie Class			NSSE 2010		
				Mean ^a	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c
d.	Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	ENVNACAD	SCE	2.12	2.17		-.05	2.16		-.04	2.04		.09
e.	Providing the support you need to thrive socially	ENVSOCAL	SCE	2.30	2.31		-.01	2.35		-.05	2.28		.02
f.	Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.)	ENVEVENT	SR	1.49	2.47	***	-1.01	2.70	***	-1.25	2.66	***	-1.20
g.	Using computers in academic work	ENVCOMPT	SR	3.69	3.53		.22	3.39	***	.40	3.47	**	.30
				<i>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</i>									
11. Educational and Personal Growth													
a.	Acquiring a broad general education	GNGENLED	SR	3.55	3.36		.24	3.33		.27	3.27	*	.35
b.	Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	GNWORK	SR	3.50	3.22	*	.31	3.09	***	.45	3.08	***	.45
c.	Writing clearly and effectively	GNWRITE	SR	3.52	3.28		.28	3.22		.35	3.13	*	.46
d.	Speaking clearly and effectively	GNSPEAK	SR	3.02	3.03		-.01	3.13		-.12	3.02		.00
e.	Thinking critically and analytically	GNANALY	SR	3.64	3.48		.21	3.41	*	.30	3.38	**	.35
f.	Analyzing quantitative problems	GNQUANT	SR	3.33	3.16		.19	3.09		.28	3.11		.25
g.	Using computing and information technology	GNCMPTS	SR	3.53	3.28		.30	3.15	***	.44	3.22	**	.37
h.	Working effectively with others	GNOTHERS	SR	3.30	3.23		.08	3.23		.08	3.19		.13

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

^c Mean difference divided by pooled SD

NSSE 2010 Mean Comparisons Southwestern College

Southwestern (KS) compared with:

	Variable	Bench- mark	Class	Southwestern (KS)	Plains Private			Carnegie Class			NSSE 2010		
				Mean ^a	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect Size ^c
i.	Voting in local, state, or national elections	GNCITIZN	SR	1.67	1.98	*	-.29	2.20	***	-.49	2.12	***	-.42
j.	Learning effectively on your own	GNINQ	SR	3.30	3.17		.15	3.11		.22	3.07	*	.26
k.	Understanding yourself	GNSSELF	SR	2.98	2.99		-.01	2.97		.01	2.86		.12
l.	Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	GNDIVERS	SR	2.75	2.75		.00	2.73		.02	2.69		.06
m.	Solving complex real-world problems	GNPROBSV	SR	3.12	2.89		.24	2.86	*	.28	2.83	*	.31
n.	Developing a personal code of values and ethics	GNETHICS	SR	2.96	2.93		.03	2.89		.07	2.77	**	.19
o.	Contributing to the welfare of your community	GNCOMMUN	SR	2.51	2.60		-.09	2.68	*	-.16	2.52		-.01
p.	Developing a deepened sense of spirituality	GNSPIRIT	SR	2.18	2.23		-.05	2.27		-.08	2.00	**	.17
12. Academic Advising				<i>1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Excellent</i>									
	Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution?	ADVISE	SR	3.32	3.17		.16	3.03	**	.31	2.94	***	.41
13. Satisfaction				<i>1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Excellent</i>									
	How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	ENTIREXP	SR	3.49	3.38		.15	3.25		.32	3.24	*	.34
14.				<i>1=Definitely no, 2=Probably no, 3=Probably yes, 4=Definitely yes</i>									
	If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	SAMECOLL	SR	3.52	3.30		.25	3.15	*	.44	3.22		.35

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^a Weighted by gender and enrollment status (and size for comparisons).

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

^c Mean difference divided by pooled SD