

The National Survey of Student Engagement at Presbyterian College

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is arguably the leading assessment tracking the attitudes and behaviors of college student concerning the freshman- and senior-year experience. Developed by leading researcher in the field of higher education, NSSE conceptualizes that increases in college engagement, thus student success, are influenced by the presence of five environmental benchmarks: level of academic challenge, active-collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching educational experiences, and supportive campus environment. Engagement theory asserts that educational environments manifesting these benchmarks at higher levels are also those in which student success is enhanced.

Presbyterian College's 2009 NSSE Benchmarks are reported here and at [USA Today](#).

Level of Academic Challenge: 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.

Freshmen:	56.8
Seniors:	59.7

Active-Collaborative Learning: 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.

Freshmen:	45.8
Seniors:	53.0

Student-Faculty Interaction: 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.

Freshmen:	37.9
Seniors:	55.1

Enriching Educational Experiences: 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.

Freshmen:	30.2
Seniors:	56.4

Supportive Campus Environment: 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.

Freshmen:	72.0
Seniors:	69.2

Presbyterian College's benchmark scores are consistent with other schools that share her Carnegie Classification (Private, Liberal Arts College), but she frequently leads these institutions on the supportive campus environment benchmark.