

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 freshmen and seniors. Theory undergirding NSSE suggests that various environmental variables (i.e., benchmarks) influence college engagement, thus leading to greater levels of student success. Five notable benchmarks influencing engagement are level of academic challenge, active-collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching educational experiences, and supportive campus environment.

Below, the mean of each benchmark for Presbyterian College students is provided, along with the grand mean of each benchmark for all colleges and universities participating in the 2010-2011 NSSE study.

BENCHMARKS

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.

PC Freshmen:	57.0	All US College/University Freshmen:	54.6
PC Seniors:	59.7	All US College/University Seniors:	58.0

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.

PC Freshmen:	44.0	All US College/University Freshmen:	43.6
PC Seniors:	55.3	All US College/University Seniors:	51.9

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.

PC Freshmen:	41.0	All US College/University Freshmen:	34.9
PC Seniors:	58.5	All US College/University Seniors:	42.9

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.

PC Freshmen:	30.4	All US College/University Freshmen:	28.3
PC Seniors:	58.2	All US College/University Seniors:	41.6

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.

PC Freshmen:	68.5	All US College/University Freshmen:	63.5
PC Seniors:	66.3	All US College/University Seniors:	60.0