

Appendix B -- NSSE 2008

Comparison of Results of the 2008 National Survey of Student Engagement at UW-Madison and Other Public Research Universities

Table B.1 Demographics of Respondents

Percent of Students:	First Years			Seniors		
	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
Student Age:						
Age 19 or younger	98	96	95	1	1	1
Age 20-23	2	4	4	88	84	82
Age 24 or older	0	1	1	11	15	17
Female	53	51	52	54	50	51
Minority student	14	28	24	11	23	21
International student or foreign national	8	5	5	3	5	6
Transfer student	1	4	4	19	27	31
Enrolled full-time (fall semester)	99	99	95	93	90	87
Member of a fraternity or sorority	11	15	14	9	16	14
Student-athlete on a team sponsored by university	6	5	5	4	3	3
Student Living Arrangements:						
Live in dormitory or campus housing (not fraternity, sorority)	91	82	81	4	12	12
Live within walking distance (not campus housing or frat)	7	7	7	81	44	42
Parental Education:						
Father did not attend any 2-year or 4-year college	14	19	21	19	21	22
Mother did not attend any 2-year or 4-year college	15	18	20	19	19	22
Neither mother nor father graduated from 4-year college	21	26	NA	27	27	NA
Both mother and father graduated from 4-year college	56	52	NA	52	48	NA

NOTES: Gender, minority status, and enrollment status reflect administrative student records. See additional notes at end of Appendix.

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Table B.2 Overall Student Satisfaction

Percent of Students agreeing:	First Years			Seniors		
	UW-Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW-Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
Entire educational experience at this institution is good or excellent	89	89	88	91	88	86
Probably or definitely would attend this institution if you could start over again	88	89	87	88	86	85
Quality of instruction in lower-division courses is good/excellent	69	72	NA	60	55	NA
Quality of instruction in upper-division courses is good/excellent	82	82	NA	90	87	NA
Academic quality of this university in general is good or excellent	94	94	NA	94	90	NA
Academic quality of your major program is good or excellent	91	92	NA	90	87	NA

Table B.3 Academic Advising

Percent of Students agreeing:	First Years			Seniors		
	UW-Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW-Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
Quality of academic advising you have received at this institution is good or excellent	69	75	76	61	63	63
Quality of academic advising from your college or department is good or excellent	61	68	NA	52	59	NA
My college/ department advisor is available when I need to see him/her (<i>agree or strongly agree</i>)	84	86	NA	83	82	NA
Information from advisors is accurate and up-to-date (<i>agree or strongly agree</i>)	88	89	NA	80	82	NA
Students have to run around from one place to another to get information/approvals they need (<i>agree or strongly agree</i>)	62	67	NA	61	73	NA

Table B.4 Availability of Courses

Percent of Students agreeing:	First Years			Seniors		
	UW-Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW-Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
Lower-division classes taken have been OK in size	50	51	NA	37	36	NA
Upper-division classes taken have been OK in size	73	71	NA	78	78	NA
Courses you need for your major have been available most of the time or nearly always	74	76	NA	78	81	NA
Courses you need for your general education requirements have been available most of the time or nearly always	73	74	NA	80	79	NA

NOTES: See notes at end of Appendix.

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Table B.5 Coursework Emphasizes Academic Challenge

Percent of Students agreeing:	First Years			Seniors		
	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
<i>Current courses emphasize "quite a bit" or "very much":</i>						
Making judgments about information, arguments, or methods, e.g., examining how others gathered/ interpreted data and assessing the soundness of their conclusions	60	65	67	69	69	70
Memorizing facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in the same form	76	68	70	63	61	63
Analyzing basic elements of a theory, examining a particular case in depth & considering its components	81	82	82	85	85	84
Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships	67	70	69	72	73	73
Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	75	76	75	76	78	78
University emphasizes spending significant amounts of time on academic work (<i>quite a bit or very much</i>)	87	85	83	89	81	79
On a scale of 1 to 7, (7=most challenged) rate the extent to which exams during the current school year challenged you to do your best work. (rated 5 or greater on scale)	88	86	84	78	79	78
Most of the time, I have been challenged to do the very best I can	65	61	NA	55	49	NA

NOTES: See notes at end of Appendix.

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Table B.6 Reading and Writing Assignments During Current Year

Percent of students	First Years			Seniors		
	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
Assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings						
read 1-4	14	15	17	20	26	26
read 5-10	38	44	45	39	38	40
read 11 or more	48	41	37	40	35	33
Books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment						
read 1-4	54	56	55	55	54	54
read 5 or more	16	17	19	24	25	25
Wrote papers or reports of 20 pages or more						
none	91	85	84	55	51	51
wrote 1-4	7	11	11	39	41	41
wrote 5 or more	2	3	4	6	8	8
Wrote papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages						
none	20	14	13	7	9	9
wrote 1-4	62	53	52	44	44	44
wrote 5-10	15	26	27	35	32	32
wrote 11 or more	3	7	8	14	15	15
Wrote papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages						
none	3	4	3	4	5	6
wrote 1-4	36	34	33	31	33	33
wrote 5-10	36	34	34	33	30	29
wrote 11-20	19	19	20	20	19	19
wrote 21 or more	5	9	10	13	13	13
Problem sets taking more than 1 hour to complete:						
none	11	12	12	26	25	23
1-2 per week	38	36	36	35	34	33
3 or more per week	51	52	52	39	42	44
Problem sets taking less than 1 hour to complete:						
none	18	18	14	43	36	33
1-2 per week	41	38	37	36	36	36
3 or more per week	41	43	50	21	28	32

NOTES: See notes at end of Appendix.

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Table B.7 Understanding Diverse Perspectives

Percent of students	First Years			Seniors		
	UW-Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW-Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
<i>In current year, percent of students who often or very often:</i>						
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective	55	58	58	62	62	62
Had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values	58	60	59	60	61	59
Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or assignments	47	57	58	56	55	55
Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own	48	56	55	48	58	57
<i>University emphasizes quite a bit or very much:</i>						
Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds	58	60	59	41	47	45
<i>University experience contributed quite a bit or very much:</i>						
My understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	58	57	57	52	55	54

Table B.8 Supportive Campus Environment

Percent of students	First Years			Seniors		
	UW-Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW-Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
<i>Quality of relationships with people at your institution:</i>						
Students are friendly, supportive, belonging	81	81	78	81	81	80
Faculty are available, helpful, sympathetic	62	65	63	69	72	71
Administrators are helpful, considerate, flexible	47	51	51	47	50	48
University's responsiveness to student academic problems (<i>percent good or excellent</i>)	65	66	NA	53	53	NA
<i>University emphasizes quite a bit or very much:</i>						
Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	28	32	35	18	22	22
Providing the support you need to thrive socially	52	49	50	37	38	37
Providing support you need to help you succeed academically	74	76	76	65	67	66

Note: Quality of relationships reported here is a score of 5 or more on a scale of 1 to 7, where 7 is highest quality. See additional notes at end of Appendix.

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Table B.9 Interaction with Faculty

Percent of students	First Years			Seniors		
	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
<i>In current year, percent of students who often or very often:</i>						
Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor	74	73	72	87	84	85
Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	36	41	41	49	51	52
Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	20	26	28	34	36	36
Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	15	17	19	21	23	24
Received prompt feedback from faculty on your academic performance (written or oral)	45	50	50	58	57	57
Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	48	49	50	44	50	52
Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)	11	12	14	17	19	19
Most of the time, professors in my courses make clear what they expect me to learn (<i>agree or strongly agree</i>)	89	91	NA	91	92	NA
Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements						
Planned to do	45	39	37	11	11	12
Done	4	5	5	32	27	25
Rate relationships with faculty as available, helpful, sympathetic	62	65	63	69	72	71

Note: Quality of faculty relationships reported here is a score of 5 or more on a scale of 1 to 7, where 7 is highest quality. See additional notes at end of Appendix.

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Table B.10 Active and Collaborative Learning

Percent of students	First Years			Seniors		
	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
<i>In current year, percent of students who often or very often:</i>						
Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	53	49	48	61	59	59
Made a class presentation	16	19	22	43	47	48
Prepared two or more drafts of a paper/ assignment before turning in	46	43	48	33	34	36
Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources	59	68	71	83	81	81
Come to class without completing readings or assignments	23	23	23	31	31	30
Worked with other students on projects during class	37	38	38	36	39	39
Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	40	43	43	62	60	58
Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions	52	52	53	70	69	70
Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	16	17	18	21	22	21
Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course	10	12	13	13	14	14
Used an electronic medium (listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment	46	56	55	53	62	61
Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers)	54	55	53	63	61	61
<i>University emphasizes quite a bit or very much:</i>						
Using computers in academic work	85	88	87	91	91	90

NOTES: See notes at end of Appendix.

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Table B.11 Enriching Educational Experiences

Percent of students participating:	First Years			Seniors		
	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment						
Planned to do	80	80	80	18	17	19
Done	5	7	7	61	61	59
Community service or volunteer work						
Planned to do	49	42	44	11	10	11
Done	37	41	38	69	67	65
Participate in learning community or other formal program where groups of students take 2 or more classes together						
Planned to do	16	20	22	4	5	6
Done	14	18	18	24	27	25
Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements						
Planned to do	45	39	37	11	11	12
Done	4	5	5	32	27	25
Foreign language coursework						
Planned to do	15	29	32	4	6	6
Done	55	30	29	68	51	53
Study abroad						
Planned to do	54	52	54	9	7	8
Done	3	2	2	26	22	22
Independent study or self-designed major						
Planned to do	13	13	15	6	6	6
Done	3	2	3	26	17	17
Culminating senior experience (comprehensive exam, capstone course, thesis, project, etc.)						
Planned to do	43	43	42	19	20	23
Done	1	1	2	31	29	28

Notes: Possible responses were "have not decided", "do not plan to do", "plan to do" and "done". See additional notes at end of Appendix.

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Table B.12 Student Time Use

Percent of students	First Years			Seniors		
	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
Spend time preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)						
1-10 hours per week	24	31	35	31	40	40
11-20 hours per week	45	43	43	40	37	36
21 or more hours per week	31	26	21	29	23	23
Employed either on or off campus	40	33	NA	76	69	NA
Working for pay on campus						
1-20 hours per week	31	18	18	40	30	28
21 or more hours per week	0	1	1	5	5	4
Working for pay off campus						
1-20 hours per week	13	14	16	31	29	29
21 or more hours per week	0	3	4	10	15	15
Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)						
1-10 hours per week	59	57	54	56	50	48
11 or more hours per week	17	19	18	16	19	18
Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, exercising, etc.)						
1-10 hours per week	41	48	46	47	50	50
11 or more hours per week	58	51	53	52	49	50
Providing care for dependents living with you	6	11	14	11	19	21
Commuting to class (5 or fewer hrs per week)	77	79	77	75	75	73
<i>Percent of students who often or very often:</i>						
Attended art exhibit, gallery, play, dance, or other performance	28	28	29	26	26	25
Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities	68	63	63	63	60	60
Participated in activities to enhance your spirituality (worship, meditation, prayer, etc.)	22	30	28	20	29	26
<i>University emphasizes quite a bit or very much:</i>						
Spending significant amounts of time on academic work	87	84	83	89	79	79
Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.)	77	71	70	69	64	62

NOTES: See notes at end of Appendix.

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Table B.13 Educational and Personal Growth

Percent of students	First Years			Seniors		
	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
<i>University experience contributed quite a bit or very much:</i>						
Acquiring a broad general education	85	84	84	88	84	83
Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	61	61	63	72	69	70
Writing clearly and effectively	64	67	69	77	72	73
Speaking clearly and effectively	55	55	58	64	65	65
Thinking critically and analytically	83	84	82	91	87	87
Analyzing quantitative problems	77	74	73	78	74	73
Using computing and information technology	70	74	74	78	79	80
Working effectively with others	65	69	69	77	76	75
Learning effectively on your own	82	74	73	83	76	76
Understanding yourself	66	63	62	68	64	63
Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	58	57	57	52	55	54
Solving complex real-world problems	61	58	58	67	63	62
Developing a deepened sense of spirituality	28	30	31	18	23	21
Developing a personal code of values and ethics	55	56	55	56	56	54
Contributing to the welfare of your community	52	49	47	48	47	43
Voting in local, state, or national elections	71	38	39	60	33	33
<i>In current year, percent of students who often or very often:</i>						
Examined strength and weaknesses of your own views on an issue	45	51	50	53	55	53
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue	60	62	63	67	64	65

NOTES: See notes at end of Appendix.

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Table B.14 Future Plans

Percent of students	First Years			Seniors		
	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers	UW- Madison	AAUDE	Carnegie Peers
I expect to graduate from this university:						
in 4 years or less	57	74	NA	56	63	NA
in more than 4 years	39	23	NA	44	36	NA
I expect to graduate from another institution	3	3	NA	0	0	NA
I may well not complete a bachelors degree	1	1	NA	0	0	NA
Within one year of graduation, I expect to:						
Attend graduate or professional school	39	40	NA	30	30	NA
Be employed	23	25	NA	51	51	NA
Attend school and be employed at same time	17	17	NA	7	10	NA
Take time off, have/raise a family, travel, etc.	2	2	NA	3	2	NA
Not sure	19	17	NA	9	7	NA

NOTES: "Carnegie Peers" refers to 24 public universities within the Very High Research Activity 2005 Carnegie Classification. Survey responses are weighted to reflect the actual distribution of students enrolled in 2007-08, based on enrollment status, gender and institution size. A total of 19,613 first year and 19,584 senior students enrolled at these universities are included in the responses above (31 percent response rate).

The AAUDE consortium included 11 public research universities who participated in NSSE in spring 2008 and 10 public research universities who participated in NSSE in 2007 but did not participate in 2008. Included are: SUNY at Buffalo, Florida, Kansas, Iowa, Indiana, Iowa State, Maryland, Michigan State, Nebraska, Ohio State, Pittsburgh, Purdue, Rutgers, Virginia, SUNY-Stony Brook, North Carolina - Chapel Hill, and Texas - Austin. A total of 15,224 first year and 16,226 senior students at these AAUDE institutions responded to the survey (30 percent response rate). Survey responses are weighted to reflect the actual distribution of students enrolled in the survey year, based on enrollment status, gender and institution size.

At UW-Madison, 909 first year and 1,368 senior students participated in the survey (response rate of 33 percent). Students in certain categories -- minority students, those who had studied abroad, and seniors enrolled in Agricultural and Life Sciences, Human Ecology, or Nursing -- were sampled at a higher rate. Results for UW-Madison students are weighted to reflect oversampling and to adjust for differential response rates by gender.

Exact wording of survey questions and response categories are provided in Appendix A.