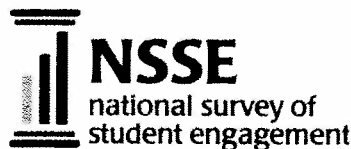


The Student Experience in Brief: Arkansas State University



Each year the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) asks students at hundreds of colleges and universities to reflect on the time they devote to various learning activities. The topics explored are linked to previous research on student success in college.

Results from NSSE can provide prospective students with insights into how they might learn and develop at a given college. To help in the college exploration process, NSSE developed A *Pocket Guide to Choosing a College* to provide students and their families key questions to ask during campus visits.



The following responses were provided by 1,599 randomly selected Arkansas State students on the 2011 NSSE survey.

Academic Challenge

To what degree is studying and spending time on academic work emphasized?

83% of FY students felt that this institution placed substantial emphasis on academics.¹

Do faculty hold students to high standards?

60% of FY students frequently worked harder than they thought they could to meet faculty expectations.²

How much time do students spend on homework each week?

31% of FY students spent more than 15 hours per week preparing for class. 19% spent 5 hours or less.

What types of thinking do assignments require?

First-year students reported substantial emphasis on the following activities:

- Memorizing facts, ideas, or methods: 75%
- Analyzing basic elements of an idea or theory: 75%
- Synthesizing and organizing ideas: 66%
- Making judgments about value of information: 71%
- Applying theories or concepts: 72%

How much writing is expected?

5% of FY students wrote more than 10 papers between 5 and 19 pages and 17% wrote at least one paper more than 20 pages in length.

How much reading is expected during the school year?

20% of FY students read more than 10 assigned books and packs of course readings. 38% read fewer than 5.

Do exams require students to do their best work?

53% of FY students reported that their exams strongly challenged them to do their best work.³

Active Learning

How often are topics from class discussed outside of the classroom?

61% of FY students frequently discussed readings or ideas from coursework outside of class.

Do students work together on projects – inside and outside of class?

53% of FY students frequently worked with other students on projects in class, 42% worked with peers on assignments outside of class.

How often do students make class presentations?

35% of FY students reported that they made frequent presentations in class.

How many students participate in community-based projects in regular courses?

11% of FY students frequently participated in service-learning or community-based projects during a given year. 65% never took part in such activities.

How many students apply their classroom learning to real life through internships or off-campus field experiences?

By their senior year, 42% of students participated in some form of practicum, internship, field experience, co-op, or clinical assignment.

Do students have opportunities to tutor or teach other students?

19% of seniors frequently assisted their fellow students by tutoring or teaching.

Student-Faculty Interaction

Are faculty members accessible and supportive?

47% of FY students said their faculty were available, helpful and sympathetic.

How many students work on research projects with faculty?

By their senior year, 13% of students had done research with a faculty member.

Do students receive prompt feedback on academic performance?

52% of FY students indicated that they frequently received prompt verbal or written feedback from faculty members.

Note: FY= First-year