

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)



What is the NSSE and why does it matter?

Amplifying the voices of our students.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Office of
Institutional Effectiveness

What is the NSSE?

The National Survey of Student Engagement, (NSSE), is a trusted and widely used instrument for assessing the quality of undergraduate education. It provides institutions like WMU with diagnostic, actionable information that fosters and catalyzes evidence-based improvement efforts.

The survey is sent to all first-year students and seniors and asks them to share information about their college experiences, the extent to which they participate in educationally effective activities, and their perceptions of facets of the institutional environment that support their learning and development.

The NSSE doesn't assess student learning directly, but the survey results can point to areas where we are excelling and aspects of the undergraduate experience that could be improved.



Select WMU NSSE Highlights - 2022

- 66% of WMU seniors reported participating in 2 or more High Impact Practices compared to 54% of seniors attending institutions in our Carnegie Class (Doctoral/high research).
- 54% of WMU FY students chose 'Often' or 'Very Often' when asked if they combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments.
- 55% of WMU FY students responded with 'Quite a bit' or 'Very much' in regards to instructors teaching in a way that aligns with how they prefer to learn compared to 46% of FY students at our Carnegie Peer Institutions.
- 52% of FY students and 46% of seniors gave the quality of their interactions with academic advisors a "high" rating.
- 80% of FY and 71% of seniors rated their entire educational experience at WMU as "excellent" or "good."
- By spring of their senior year, 56% of WMU students had participated in some form of internship, co-op, field experience, student teaching, or clinical placement compared to 41% of seniors at our Carnegie Peer institutions.
- By their senior year, 21% of students had worked with a faculty member on a research project.



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