



National Survey of Student Engagement

The College Student Report

NSSE 2003 Means Comparison Report Saint Mary's College of California

Saint Mary's (CA)	Saint Mary's (CA) compared with:					
	Master's			NSSE 2003		

Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
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In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often

Academic and Intellectual Experiences

	Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
a.	Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	First-Year Student: 3.30	2.81	***	.59	2.84	***	.55
	Senior: 3.39	3.13	***	.31	3.12	***	.32	
b.	Made a class presentation	First-Year Student: 2.38	2.27			2.24	*	.17
	Senior: 2.96	2.90			2.84			
c.	Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	First-Year Student: 2.87	2.74			2.70	*	.17
	Senior: 2.71	2.56			2.51	*	.20	
d.	Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources	First-Year Student: 3.31	3.05	***	.34	3.06	***	.32
	Senior: 3.45	3.34			3.34			
e.	Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or	First-Year Student: 3.06	2.71	***	.41	2.73	***	.38
	Senior: 3.05	2.76	***	.33	2.75	***	.33	
f.	Come to class without completing readings or assignments	First-Year Student: 1.92	1.98			2.01		
	Senior: 1.92	2.03			2.07	*	-.20	
g.	Worked with other students on projects during class	First-Year Student: 2.26	2.39			2.34		
	Senior: 2.30	2.55	***	-.29	2.46	*	-.19	
h.	Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	First-Year Student: 2.56	2.32	***	.29	2.40	*	.19
	Senior: 2.95	2.71	**	.27	2.73	**	.25	
i.	Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class	First-Year Student: 2.59	2.45	*	.18	2.49		
	Senior: 2.92	2.82			2.85			
j.	Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	First-Year Student: 1.88	1.63	***	.30	1.68	**	.23
	Senior: 2.05	1.81	**	.26	1.87	*	.19	
k.	Participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course	First-Year Student: 1.45	1.47			1.46		
	Senior: 1.78	1.64			1.63	*	.18	
l.	Used an electronic medium (list-serv, chat group, Internet, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment	First-Year Student: 2.55	2.61			2.65		
	Senior: 2.64	2.82	*	-.18	2.81	*	-.17	
m.	Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor	First-Year Student: 3.08	2.87	**	.24	2.96		
	Senior: 3.24	3.09			3.18			
n.	Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	First-Year Student: 2.81	2.59	**	.27	2.62	**	.23
	Senior: 3.00	2.82	*	.22	2.83	*	.19	
o.	Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	First-Year Student: 2.30	2.14	*	.18	2.15	*	.17
	Senior: 2.58	2.44			2.48			

		Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
Academic and Intellectual Experiences (continued)									
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often									
p.	Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	First-Year Student	2.09	1.76	***	.41	1.81	***	.35
		Senior	2.28	2.06	**	.26	2.10	*	.21
q.	Received prompt feedback from faculty on your academic performance (written or oral)	First-Year Student	2.84	2.58	***	.31	2.63	**	.25
		Senior	3.09	2.82	***	.34	2.83	***	.33
r.	Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	First-Year Student	2.75	2.61	*	.17	2.61		
		Senior	2.87	2.72	*	.17	2.71	*	.19
s.	Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life)	First-Year Student	1.69	1.53	*	.21	1.56		
		Senior	2.01	1.79	**	.24	1.85	*	.18
t.	Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members,	First-Year Student	2.86	2.71	*	.17	2.77		
		Senior	2.92	2.84			2.88		
u.	Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own	First-Year Student	3.12	2.54	***	.57	2.61	***	.49
		Senior	3.02	2.54	***	.49	2.60	***	.42
v.	Had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs,	First-Year Student	3.13	2.67	***	.47	2.77	***	.37
		Senior	2.99	2.61	***	.39	2.69	***	.31

		Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following mental activities? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much									
a.	Memorizing facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in pretty much the	First-Year Student	2.66	2.97	***	-.36	2.93	***	-.31
		Senior	2.88	2.77			2.72	*	.17
b.	Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation	First-Year Student	3.53	3.09	***	.57	3.15	***	.50
		Senior	3.48	3.25	***	.31	3.28	**	.27
c.	Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and	First-Year Student	3.28	2.82	***	.55	2.88	***	.47
		Senior	3.15	3.04			3.07		
d.	Making judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others	First-Year Student	3.26	2.80	***	.53	2.83	***	.50
		Senior	3.04	2.95			2.96		
e.	Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	First-Year Student	3.11	2.96	*	.17	3.01		
		Senior	3.21	3.18			3.20		

		Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
Examinations									
1=very little to 7=very much									
	To what extent have your examinations during the current school year challenged you to do your best	First-Year Student	5.47	5.49			5.54		
		Senior	5.57	5.48			5.45		

		Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?									
1=none, 2=between 1 and 4, 3=between 5 and 10, 4=between 11 and 20, 5=more than 20									
a.	Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	First-Year Student	4.32	3.42	***	.92	3.49	***	.86
		Senior	3.87	3.26	***	.58	3.34	***	.51
b.	Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment	First-Year Student	1.97	2.00			2.01		
		Senior	2.10	2.19			2.21		
c.	Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more	First-Year Student	1.24	1.26			1.24		
		Senior	1.82	1.65	*	.21	1.66	*	.20

		Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
Reading and Writing (continued)									
During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done? 1=none, 2=between 1 and 4, 3=between 5 and 10, 4=between 11 and 20, 5=more than									
d.	Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages	First-Year Student	3.04	2.41	***	.70	2.44	***	.66
		Senior	2.89	2.63	**	.26	2.66	**	.24
e.	Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages	First-Year Student	3.35	3.31			3.30		
		Senior	3.23	3.09			3.11		

		Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
Problem Sets									
In a typical week, how many homework problem sets do you complete? 1=none, 2=1-2, 3=3-4, 4=5-6, 5=more than 6									
a.	Number of <i>problem sets</i> that take you more than an hour to complete	First-Year Student	2.81	2.50	***	.29	2.52	**	.27
		Senior	2.39	2.38			2.35		
b.	Number of <i>problem sets</i> that take you less than an hour to complete	First-Year Student	2.47	2.68	*	-.17	2.58		
		Senior	2.17	2.27			2.18		

		Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
Homework Problems									
In a typical week, how many homework problems take you more than 15 minutes each to complete? 1=none, 2=1-3, 3=4-6, 4=7-10, 5=more than 10									
	In a typical week, how many homework problems take you more than 15 minutes each to complete?	First-Year Student	2.95	2.67	**	.24	2.68	**	.22
		Senior	2.73	2.61			2.61		

		Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
Enriching Educational Experiences									
Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate from your institution? (These items were recoded 0=no or undecided, 1=yes. Thus, the mean is the proportion responding "yes" among all valid respondents.)									
a.	Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	First-Year Student	.74	.80			.81	*	-.18
		Senior	.69	.72			.72		
b.	Community service or volunteer work	First-Year Student	.80	.74			.75		
		Senior	.72	.63	*	.17	.66		
c.	Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes	First-Year Student	.42	.35			.34	*	.19
		Senior	.29	.27			.27		
d.	Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements	First-Year Student	.30	.26			.29		
		Senior	.25	.23			.27		
e.	Foreign language coursework	First-Year Student	.63	.44	***	.40	.48	***	.31
		Senior	.49	.35	***	.29	.41		
f.	Study abroad	First-Year Student	.71	.33	***	.81	.38	***	.68
		Senior	.37	.14	***	.67	.18	***	.48
g.	Independent study or self-designed major	First-Year Student	.14	.17			.18		
		Senior	.32	.26			.29		
h.	Culminating senior experience (comprehensive exam, capstone course, thesis, project, etc.)	First-Year Student	.39	.39			.43		
		Senior	.56	.55			.59		

		Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
Quality of Relationships									
Mark the box that best represents the quality of your relationships with people at your institution. 1=unfriendly, unsupportive, sense of alienation to 7=friendly, supportive, sense of belonging									
a.	Relationships with other students	First-Year Student	5.74	5.70			5.74		
		Senior	5.48	5.81	**	-.27	5.80	**	-.25
1=unavailable, unhelpful, unsympathetic to 7=available, helpful, sympathetic									
b.	Relationships with faculty members	First-Year Student	5.91	5.54	***	.31	5.56	***	.29
		Senior	5.90	5.73			5.72		
1=unhelpful, inconsiderate, rigid to 7=helpful, considerate, flexible									
c.	Relationships with administrative personnel & offices	First-Year Student	5.41	5.09	**	.22	5.09	**	.22
		Senior	4.67	4.84			4.81		

Time Usage

About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following? 1=0 hrs/wk, 2=1-5 hrs/wk, 3=6-10 hrs/wk, 4=11-15 hrs/wk, 5=16-20 hrs/wk, 6=21-25 hrs/wk, 7=26-30 hrs/wk, 8=more than 30 hrs/wk

a.	Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and	First-Year Student	4.76	3.91	***	.52	4.11	***	.38
		Senior	4.40	3.94	**	.27	4.12		
b.	Working for pay on campus	First-Year Student	1.45	1.55			1.60		
		Senior	1.78	1.73			1.89		
c.	Working for pay off campus	First-Year Student	1.93	2.59	***	-.28	2.20		
		Senior	3.39	4.09	**	-.25	3.56		
d.	Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social	First-Year Student	2.49	2.13	**	.24	2.28		
		Senior	2.41	2.01	**	.27	2.17		
e.	Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, exercising, etc.)	First-Year Student	3.78	3.86			3.86		
		Senior	3.72	3.49			3.57		
f.	Providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.)	First-Year Student	1.26	1.72	***	-.28	1.54	*	-.19
		Senior	1.56	2.56	***	-.41	2.24	***	-.30
g.	Commuting to class (driving, walking, etc.)	First-Year Student	1.81	2.20	***	-.37	2.13	***	-.33
		Senior	2.14	2.37	*	-.21	2.29		

Institutional Environment

To what extent does your institution emphasize the following? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much

a.	Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	First-Year Student	3.32	3.12	**	.26	3.18	*	.18
		Senior	3.19	3.11			3.15		
b.	Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically	First-Year Student	3.30	3.05	***	.33	3.09	**	.27
		Senior	3.15	2.93	**	.27	2.95	**	.25
c.	Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds	First-Year Student	2.80	2.56	**	.25	2.59	*	.21
		Senior	2.45	2.38			2.39		
d.	Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	First-Year Student	2.40	2.09	***	.34	2.11	***	.32
		Senior	1.91	1.88			1.90		
e.	Providing the support you need to thrive socially	First-Year Student	2.44	2.31			2.34		
		Senior	2.17	2.07			2.09		
f.	Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.)	First-Year Student	2.92	2.73	*	.20	2.82		
		Senior	2.69	2.48	**	.23	2.57		
g.	Using computers in academic work	First-Year Student	3.37	3.29			3.34		
		Senior	3.28	3.41			3.44	*	-.22

		Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
Educational and Personal Growth									
To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much									
a.	Acquiring a broad general education	First-Year Student	3.36	3.14	***	.29	3.17	**	.24
		Senior	3.56	3.28	***	.37	3.30	***	.34
b.	Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	First-Year Student	2.50	2.66	*	-.17	2.68	*	-.19
		Senior	3.10	3.04			3.00		
c.	Writing clearly and effectively	First-Year Student	3.16	2.98	*	.22	2.98	*	.21
		Senior	3.25	3.08	*	.21	3.09	*	.19
d.	Speaking clearly and effectively	First-Year Student	2.87	2.77			2.72	*	.17
		Senior	3.14	3.00			2.99	*	.18
e.	Thinking critically and analytically	First-Year Student	3.57	3.14	***	.54	3.20	***	.47
		Senior	3.51	3.30	**	.27	3.35	*	.21
f.	Analyzing quantitative problems	First-Year Student	2.88	2.65	**	.26	2.68	**	.22
		Senior	2.95	2.88			2.89		
g.	Using computing and information technology	First-Year Student	2.77	2.91			2.92		
		Senior	2.85	3.15	***	-.35	3.15	***	-.35
h.	Working effectively with others	First-Year Student	2.93	2.86			2.86		
		Senior	3.26	3.13			3.12	*	.17
i.	Voting in local, state, or national elections	First-Year Student	1.73	1.85			1.84		
		Senior	1.81	1.85			1.85		
j.	Learning effectively on your own	First-Year Student	2.97	2.88			2.93		
		Senior	3.13	3.02			3.07		
k.	Understanding yourself	First-Year Student	2.86	2.71			2.75		
		Senior	3.07	2.79	**	.28	2.85	**	.23
l.	Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	First-Year Student	2.66	2.54			2.55		
		Senior	2.62	2.55			2.55		
m.	Solving complex real-world problems	First-Year Student	2.62	2.49			2.52		
		Senior	2.68	2.65			2.68		
n.	Developing a personal code of values and ethics	First-Year Student	2.86	2.59	**	.28	2.62	**	.25
		Senior	3.02	2.69	***	.32	2.71	***	.30
o.	Contributing to the welfare of your community	First-Year Student	2.46	2.31			2.34		
		Senior	2.66	2.38	**	.27	2.40	**	.25

	Class	Mean	Master's Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	NSSE 2003 Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
Academic Advising		1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent						
Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution?	First-Year Student	3.10	2.97			3.01		
	Senior	3.04	2.90			2.93		
Satisfaction		1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent						
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	First-Year Student	3.23	3.18			3.23		
	Senior	3.37	3.21	*	.22	3.24	*	.17
		1=definitely no, 2=probably no, 3=probably yes, 4=definitely yes						
If you could start over again, would you go to the <i>same institution</i> you are now attending?	First-Year Student	3.09	3.18			3.22		
	Senior	3.20	3.15			3.17		

^a The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus/minus the product of 1.96 times the standard error of the sample mean.

^b Standard deviation is a measure of the average amount the individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.

^c This statistic represents the probability that the difference between the mean of your institution and that of the comparison group occurred by chance.

^d Effect size is calculated by subtracting the comparison group mean from the school mean, and dividing the result by the standard deviation of the comparison group.