



# National Survey of Student Engagement

The College Student Report

## NSSE 2004 Means Comparison Report Saint Mary's College of California

Saint Mary's (CA)	<i>Saint Mary's (CA) compared with: Master's NSSE 2004</i>
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		Class	Mean	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>
<b>Academic and Intellectual Experiences</b>									
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									
a.	Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	First-Year Student	3.23	2.83	***	.48	2.84	***	.46
		Senior	3.27	3.18			3.16		
b.	Made a class presentation	First-Year Student	2.34	2.24			2.24		
		Senior	2.97	2.90			2.86		
c.	Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	First-Year Student	2.98	2.73	**	.26	2.70	***	.29
		Senior	2.61	2.55			2.51		
d.	Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources	First-Year Student	3.20	3.04	*	.20	3.05	*	.19
		Senior	3.57	3.35	***	.30	3.35	***	.30
e.	Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments	First-Year Student	3.14	2.73	***	.47	2.73	***	.47
		Senior	3.20	2.81	***	.43	2.81	***	.43
f.	Come to class without completing readings or assignments	First-Year Student	1.93	1.99			2.01		
		Senior	1.89	2.04	*	-.20	2.07	**	-.24
g.	Worked with other students on projects during class	First-Year Student	2.26	2.37			2.33		
		Senior	2.28	2.51	**	-.26	2.44	*	-.18
h.	Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	First-Year Student	2.48	2.32	*	.20	2.39		
		Senior	3.01	2.71	***	.34	2.73	***	.32
i.	Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions	First-Year Student	2.54	2.44			2.47		
		Senior	2.89	2.84			2.86		
j.	Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	First-Year Student	1.68	1.62			1.66		
		Senior	2.17	1.87	***	.32	1.91	**	.27

		Class	Mean	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>
<b>Academic and Intellectual Experiences (cont'd.)</b>									
<b>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</b>									
k.	Participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course	First-Year Student	1.51	1.54			1.56		
		Senior	1.96	1.75	*	.22	1.74	**	.24
l.	Used an electronic medium (list-serv, chat group, Internet, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment	First-Year Student	2.56	2.59			2.63		
		Senior	2.46	2.78	***	-.30	2.78	***	-.30
m.	Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor	First-Year Student	3.13	2.91	**	.25	2.98	*	.18
		Senior	3.41	3.18	***	.27	3.24	**	.20
n.	Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	First-Year Student	2.81	2.57	**	.28	2.59	**	.26
		Senior	2.93	2.83			2.84		
o.	Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	First-Year Student	2.24	2.13			2.14		
		Senior	2.81	2.47	***	.36	2.50	***	.33
p.	Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	First-Year Student	2.08	1.77	***	.39	1.81	***	.34
		Senior	2.25	2.08	*	.19	2.11		
q.	Received prompt feedback from faculty on your academic performance (written or oral)	First-Year Student	2.95	2.59	***	.44	2.63	***	.39
		Senior	3.05	2.85	**	.26	2.84	***	.26
r.	Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	First-Year Student	2.71	2.59			2.60		
		Senior	2.86	2.74			2.72		
s.	Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)	First-Year Student	1.71	1.54	*	.22	1.57	*	.18
		Senior	1.96	1.85			1.90		
t.	Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, coworkers, etc.)	First-Year Student	2.87	2.68	*	.21	2.73		
		Senior	2.97	2.87			2.90		
u.	Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own	First-Year Student	3.02	2.50	***	.51	2.56	***	.45
		Senior	3.16	2.58	***	.59	2.62	***	.54
v.	Had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values	First-Year Student	3.12	2.68	***	.45	2.74	***	.39
		Senior	3.08	2.68	***	.41	2.72	***	.38

	Class	Mean	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>
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**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.	<b>Memorizing</b> facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in pretty much the same form	First-Year Student	2.68	2.93	**	-.30	2.91	*	-.26
	Senior	2.69	2.79			2.74			
b.	<b>Analyzing</b> the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components	First-Year Student	3.50	3.09	***	.53	3.13	***	.47
		Senior	3.59	3.28	***	.42	3.30	***	.39
c.	<b>Synthesizing</b> and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships	First-Year Student	3.21	2.84	***	.44	2.88	***	.39
		Senior	3.31	3.07	***	.30	3.09	**	.27
d.	<b>Making judgments</b> about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and interpreted data and assessing the soundness of their conclusions	First-Year Student	3.27	2.82	***	.52	2.84	***	.50
		Senior	3.28	2.99	***	.33	2.99	***	.32
e.	<b>Applying</b> theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	First-Year Student	3.21	3.00	**	.25	3.03	*	.21
		Senior	3.53	3.23	***	.37	3.23	***	.36

<b>Examinations</b>		<b>1=very little to 7=very much</b>							
	To what extent have your examinations during the current school year challenged you to do your best work?	First-Year Student	5.54	5.50			5.54		
		Senior	5.73	5.50	**	.20	5.48	**	.22

<b>Reading and Writing</b>		<b>1=none, 2=between 1 and 4, 3=between 5 and 10, 4=between 11 and 20, 5=more than 20</b>						
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a.	Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	First-Year Student	4.21	3.36	***	.87	3.42	***	.81
		Senior	3.90	3.26	***	.62	3.32	***	.55
b.	Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment	First-Year Student	1.99	2.02			2.03		
		Senior	2.16	2.20			2.21		
c.	Number of written papers or reports of <b>20 pages or more</b>	First-Year Student	1.07	1.25	***	-.27	1.25	***	-.27
		Senior	1.74	1.64			1.66		
d.	Number of written papers or reports <b>between 5 and 19 pages</b>	First-Year Student	2.81	2.35	***	.53	2.40	***	.47
		Senior	3.08	2.63	***	.47	2.66	***	.44
e.	Number of written papers or reports of <b>fewer than 5 pages</b>	First-Year Student	3.34	3.22			3.25		
		Senior	3.37	3.10	**	.23	3.11	*	.22

<b>Problem Sets</b>		<b>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</b>						
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a.	Number of <i>problem sets</i> that take you more than an hour to complete	First-Year Student	2.86	2.56	**	.29	2.59	**	.25
		Senior	2.52	2.52			2.49		
b.	Number of <i>problem sets</i> that take you less than an hour to complete	First-Year Student	2.67	2.73			2.68		
		Senior	2.30	2.35			2.29		

		Class	Mean	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>
<b>Additional Collegiate Experiences</b>									
<b>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</b>									
a.	Attended an art exhibit, gallery, play, dance, or other theatre performance	First-Year Student	2.32	2.07	**	.27	2.12	*	.22
		Senior	2.30	1.96	***	.39	2.03	***	.30
b.	Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities	First-Year Student	2.80	2.63			2.72		
		Senior	2.80	2.46	***	.30	2.57	*	.21
c.	Participated in activities to enhance your spirituality (worship, meditation, prayer, etc.)	First-Year Student	2.09	2.01			2.08		
		Senior	2.23	2.02	*	.19	2.07		

**Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate from your institution? (Recoded: 0=have not decided, do not plan to do, plan to do; 1=done. Thus, the mean is the proportion responding "done" among all valid respondents.)**

### Enriching Educational Experiences

a.	Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	First-Year Student	.06	.06			.06		
		Senior	.48	.53			.56		
b.	Community service or volunteer work	First-Year Student	.36	.36			.37		
		Senior	.67	.57	*	.21	.60		
c.	Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together	First-Year Student	.12	.12			.12		
		Senior	.27	.23			.23		
d.	Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements	First-Year Student	.02	.03			.03		
		Senior	.20	.17			.20		
e.	Foreign language coursework	First-Year Student	.37	.20	***	.43	.23	**	.33
		Senior	.57	.38	***	.39	.43	**	.28
f.	Study abroad	First-Year Student	.01	.02			.02		
		Senior	.39	.12	***	.83	.16	***	.62
g.	Independent study or self-designed major	First-Year Student	.01	.03	*	-.11	.02	*	-.11
		Senior	.25	.20			.23		
h.	Culminating senior experience (comprehensive exam, capstone course, thesis, project, etc.)	First-Year Student	.00	.01	***	-.11	.01	***	-.10
		Senior	.39	.31			.35		

**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**

### Quality of Relationships

a.	Relationships with other students	First-Year Student	5.32	5.64	**	-.25	5.68	**	-.28
		Senior	5.41	5.77	**	-.29	5.75	**	-.27
<b>1=unavailable, unhelpful, unsympathetic to 7=available, helpful, sympathetic</b>									
b.	Relationships with faculty members	First-Year Student	5.85	5.56	**	.25	5.58	**	.23
		Senior	5.96	5.74	*	.18	5.73	*	.19
<b>1=unhelpful, inconsiderate, rigid to 7=helpful, considerate, flexible</b>									
c.	Relationships with administrative personnel and offices	First-Year Student	5.11	5.13			5.13		
		Senior	4.91	4.85			4.82		

**Class**      **Mean**      **Mean**      **Sig<sup>a</sup>**      **Effect**      **Mean**      **Sig<sup>a</sup>**      **Effect**  
**Size<sup>b</sup>**      **Size<sup>b</sup>**  
**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**

**Time Usage**

a.	Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other activities related to your academic program)	First-Year Student	4.32	3.82	***	.31	4.00	*	.19
		Senior	4.65	3.94	***	.41	4.08	***	.32
b.	Working for pay <b>on campus</b>	First-Year Student	1.43	1.59			1.63	*	-.17
		Senior	2.33	1.78	***	.36	1.92	**	.26
c.	Working for pay <b>off campus</b>	First-Year Student	1.51	2.56	***	-.45	2.27	***	-.36
		Senior	3.19	3.97	***	-.28	3.53		
d.	Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	First-Year Student	2.28	2.11			2.22		
		Senior	2.34	2.02	*	.21	2.14		
e.	Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, exercising, etc.)	First-Year Student	3.53	3.81			3.82		
		Senior	3.74	3.49			3.54		
f.	Providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.)	First-Year Student	1.33	1.77	***	-.25	1.60	**	-.18
		Senior	1.48	2.52	***	-.42	2.26	***	-.34
g.	Commuting to class (driving, walking, etc.)	First-Year Student	1.74	2.18	***	-.43	2.15	***	-.40
		Senior	2.12	2.38	**	-.24	2.30		

**To what extent does your institution emphasize each of 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	3.27	3.11	*	.21	3.15		
		Senior	3.22	3.09			3.14		
b.	Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically	First-Year Student	3.33	3.06	***	.34	3.10	**	.30
		Senior	3.32	2.96	***	.44	2.97	***	.42
c.	Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds	First-Year Student	2.80	2.56	**	.24	2.60	*	.20
		Senior	2.75	2.40	***	.35	2.41	***	.34
d.	Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	First-Year Student	2.28	2.13			2.15		
		Senior	2.13	1.92	**	.24	1.92	**	.23
e.	Providing the support you need to thrive socially	First-Year Student	2.34	2.33			2.36		
		Senior	2.15	2.10			2.12		
f.	Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.)	First-Year Student	3.05	2.77	***	.30	2.83	**	.24
		Senior	2.88	2.50	***	.40	2.59	***	.31
g.	Using computers in academic work	First-Year Student	3.17	3.27			3.32	*	-.20
		Senior	3.48	3.41			3.45		

		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							
		Class	Mean	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>
a.	Acquiring a broad general education	First-Year Student	3.33	3.14	**	.25	3.16	*	.23
	Senior	3.58	3.30	***	.37	3.32	***	.34	
b.	Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	First-Year Student	2.56	2.65			2.67		
	Senior	3.00	3.06			3.02			
c.	Writing clearly and effectively	First-Year Student	3.37	2.97	***	.47	2.97	***	.46
	Senior	3.40	3.11	***	.35	3.12	***	.34	
d.	Speaking clearly and effectively	First-Year Student	3.06	2.75	***	.34	2.73	***	.35
	Senior	3.25	3.02	**	.27	3.01	**	.27	
e.	Thinking critically and analytically	First-Year Student	3.57	3.12	***	.55	3.17	***	.50
	Senior	3.72	3.33	***	.51	3.37	***	.47	
f.	Analyzing quantitative problems	First-Year Student	2.69	2.60			2.64		
	Senior	2.96	2.86			2.87			
g.	Using computing and information technology	First-Year Student	2.49	2.83	***	-.37	2.85	***	-.39
	Senior	2.77	3.13	***	-.41	3.12	***	-.41	
h.	Working effectively with others	First-Year Student	2.88	2.85			2.85		
	Senior	3.34	3.14	**	.23	3.14	**	.24	
i.	Voting in local, state, or national elections	First-Year Student	1.78	1.87			1.88		
	Senior	1.98	1.84			1.84			
j.	Learning effectively on your own	First-Year Student	2.88	2.87			2.91		
	Senior	3.24	3.06	*	.20	3.09			
k.	Understanding yourself	First-Year Student	2.79	2.70			2.74		
	Senior	3.27	2.84	***	.43	2.88	***	.40	
l.	Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	First-Year Student	2.78	2.51	**	.29	2.53	**	.26
	Senior	3.02	2.57	***	.45	2.58	***	.44	
m.	Solving complex real-world problems	First-Year Student	2.48	2.47			2.50		
	Senior	2.90	2.68	**	.24	2.69	*	.22	
n.	Developing a personal code of values and ethics	First-Year Student	2.61	2.57			2.60		
	Senior	3.17	2.71	***	.45	2.72	***	.44	
o.	Contributing to the welfare of your community	First-Year Student	2.40	2.28			2.32		
	Senior	2.88	2.41	***	.46	2.42	***	.45	
p.	Developing a deepened sense of spirituality	First-Year Student	2.39	2.09	**	.29	2.10	**	.27
	Senior	2.54	2.00	***	.50	1.99	***	.50	

	Class	Mean	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>
<b>Academic Advising</b>								
<b>1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent</b>								
Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution?	First-Year Student	3.08	3.00	**	.25	3.02	*	.21
	Senior	3.15	2.92			2.95		
<b>Satisfaction</b>								
<b>1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent</b>								
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	First-Year Student	3.27	3.18	***	.31	3.22	**	.27
	Senior	3.45	3.23			3.25		
<b>1=definitely no, 2=probably no, 3=probably yes, 4=definitely yes</b>								
If you could start over again, would you go to the <i>same institution</i> you are now attending?	First-Year Student	3.10	3.19	*	.21	3.23	*	.20
	Senior	3.35	3.17			3.18		

<sup>a</sup> 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.

<sup>b</sup> Standard deviation is a measure of the average amount the individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.

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

<sup>d</sup> 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.