

St. Mary's College
NSSE 2022 Executive Summary

St. Mary's College deployed the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) in spring 2022. We had a total of 262 respondents for an overall response rate of 24%. The table below summarizes results on the ten Engagement Indicators defined by NSSE. Results for St. Mary's are compared to results for peer institutions (Far West Private institutions, as defined by NSSE).

NSSE 2022 - Engagement Indicators						
	First-Year Students			Seniors		
	St. Mary's	Far West Private	Significance	St. Mary's	Far West Private	Significance
Academic Challenge						
Higher-Order Learning	36.7	39.0		41.5	41.5	
Reflective & Integrative Learning	37.0	36.8		39.3	39.8	
Learning Strategies	37.0	38.1		38.6	39.2	
Quantitative Reasoning	27.5	28.9		33.0	33.0	
Learning with Peers						
Collaborative Learning	31.4	29.3		35.5	30.8	p<.001
Discussions with Diverse Others	41.6	37.8	p<.05	41.5	38.8	p<.05
Experiences with Faculty						
Student-Faculty Interaction	24.0	19.4	p<.01	27.6	23.4	p<.01
Effective Teaching Practices	37.2	38.9		40.3	40.6	
Campus Environment						
Quality of Interactions	41.7	42.5		41.0	43.4	p<.05
Supportive Environment	34.6	32.5		33.7	31.4	

Overall results for St. Mary's were positive, although the data suggest some areas for possible improvement. On the Engagement Indicator "Discussions with Diverse Others" both first-year students and seniors at St. Mary's had significantly higher scores than the average for peer institutions. This Engagement Indicator reflects a key value for St. Mary's College and is part of our Mission Statement and Strategic Plan.

Similarly, on the Engagement Indicator "Student-Faculty Interaction" both first-year students and seniors at St. Mary's had significantly higher scores than the average for peer institutions. These results demonstrate the commitment of our faculty to providing a high-quality and transformational education experience for our students.

Finally, seniors at St. Mary's had a significantly higher score on the Engagement Indicator "Collaborative Learning", which also demonstrates our commitment to helping our students live and learn in a collaborative and mutually supportive environment.

The only Engagement Indicator on which St. Mary's scored significantly lower than peer institutions was "Quality of Interactions" for seniors. This result may reflect some challenges that St. Mary's has been working to address in the area of administrative operations. We remain committed to improving in all areas of student services across campus.

Although the differences were not statistically significant, St. Mary's students tended to give lower rating scores on most of the Engagement Indicators under the category of "Academic Challenge". While the St. Mary's experience is intended to focus on students' total development – personal and spiritual as well as academic – it is essential that we remain committed to providing challenging academic experiences for our students that will help them grow intellectually and be well-prepared for the workplace.

High-Impact Practices

The table below shows results on a set of NSSE questions asking students about their participation in high-impact practices (HIPs). Once again, results for St. Mary’s are compared to the Western Private peer group.

NSSE 2022 - Participation Rates in HIPs				
	First-Year Students		Seniors	
	St. Mary's	Far West Private	St. Mary's	Far West Private
Service Learning	58%	52%	93%	71%
Learning Community	7%	10%	29%	23%
Research with Faculty	3%	4%	26%	25%
Internship / Field Experience	n/a	n/a	50%	47%
Study Abroad	n/a	n/a	10%	8%
Senior Project	n/a	n/a	63%	55%
Participated in at least one HIP	62%	57%	97%	88%
Participated in two or more HIPs	6%	8%	81%	65%

For first-year students, there is very little difference between St. Mary’s participation rates and those from the peer institutions. However, for seniors, students at St. Mary’s do have higher participation rates in high-impact practices, especially for Service Learning. Also, a significantly higher percentage of St. Mary’s seniors participate in two or more HIPs compared to the peer group.

These results underscore our commitment to providing a comprehensive educational experience for our students that includes activities outside of the classroom.

Global Satisfaction Questions

The table below shows students’ responses to two global questions concerning students’ overall experience at their institution. Both questions are rated on a 4-point scale.

NSSE 2022 - Global satisfaction questions				
	First-Year Students		Seniors	
	St. Mary's	Far West Private	St. Mary's	Far West Private
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1

There is very little difference between St. Mary’s and the Far West Private peer group on these questions, although St. Mary’s did score slightly lower on the first item.