

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT RESULTS, 2007

West Hall, 120 • Phone: 245-6517 • www.valdosta.edu/sra

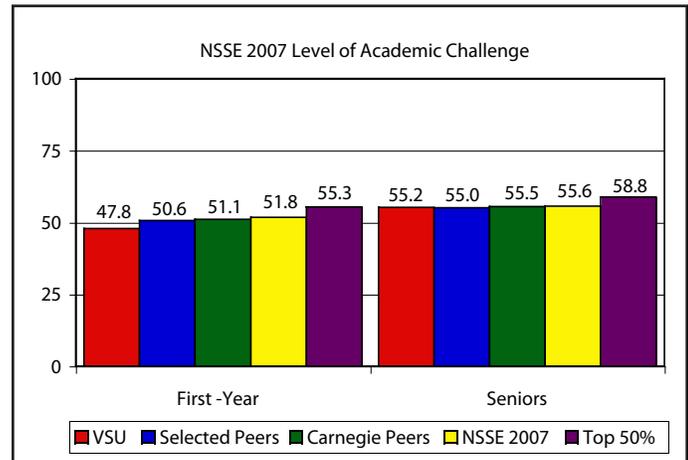
The National Survey of Student Engagement annually obtains information from hundreds of thousands of college students across the nation about their participation in educational programs and activities that increase their learning and personal development. The results indicate how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from their college experience. Since survey items reflect confirmed “good practices” in undergraduate education, students who engage in these activities are more likely to be successful and to earn a college degree. The highlights presented below for Valdosta State University represent 214 first-year students and 347 seniors who completed the NSSE survey in Spring 2007, resulting in an overall response rate of 19%. The results are displayed in five benchmark areas and compare VSU’s responses with those from other four-year selected peer institutions, Carnegie peers, all students participating in the NSSE, and the top 50% of institutions nationwide.

Highlights of NSSE 2007: What Our Students Say

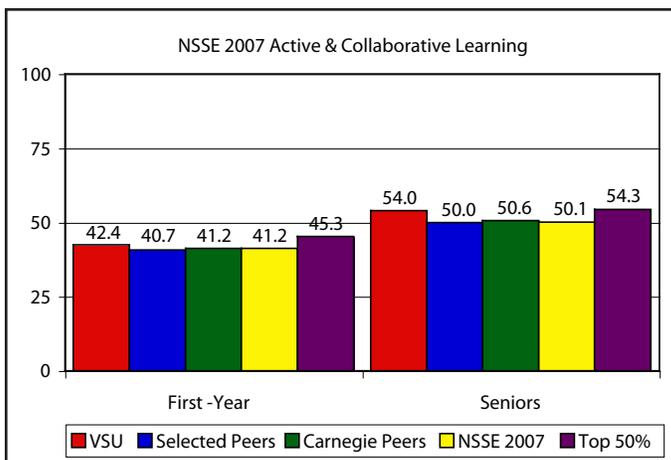
- 86% of first-year and 86% of senior students described their educational experience at VSU as “good” or “excellent.”
- 86% of first-year and 84% of senior students would “probably” or “definitely” attend VSU if they could start over again.
- 75% of first-year and 78% of senior students evaluated the quality of academic advising at VSU as “good” or “excellent.”

Benchmark: Level of Academic Challenge

- 70% of first-year students and 82% of seniors at VSU reported that their coursework emphasizes analyzing ideas “quite a bit” or “very much.” This compares with 77% of first-year students and 84% of seniors at Carnegie peer institutions.
- 66% of first-year students and 75% of seniors at VSU replied that their coursework emphasizes making judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods “quite a bit” or “very much.” Comparable Carnegie peer institutions’ percentages are 67% and 72%.
- 61% of first-year students and 74% of seniors at VSU said their coursework emphasizes synthesizing and organizing ideas and information “quite a bit” or “very much.” For Carnegie peer institutions, the corresponding percentages are 66% and 74%, respectively.



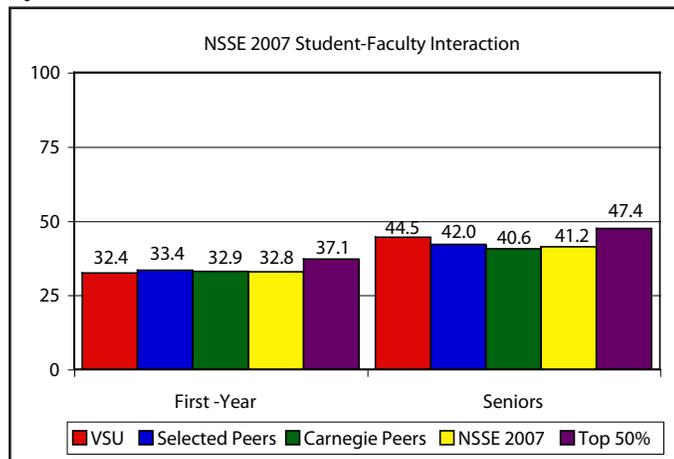
Benchmark: Active and Collaborative Learning



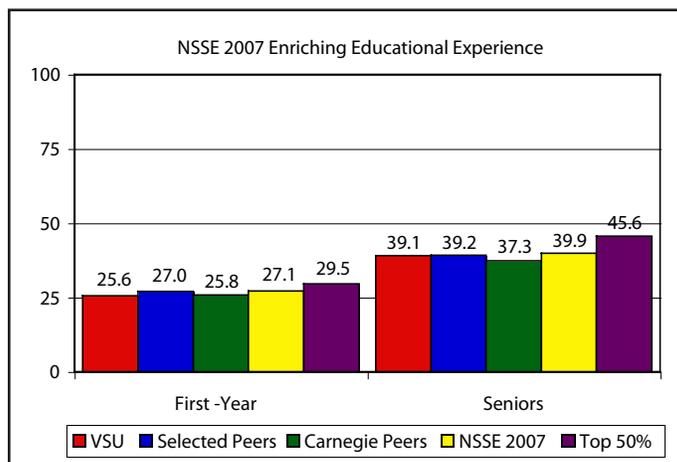
- 54% of the first-year students and 64% of the seniors responding said they “often” or very often” discussed ideas from their readings or classes with others outside of class. This compares with 54% of first-year and 63% of senior students at Carnegie peer institutions.
- 14% of first-year students and 23% of seniors at VSU reported participating in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course “often” or “very often.” Comparable percentages for Carnegie peer institutions are 12% and 19%, respectively.
- 17% of first-year students and 25% of seniors at VSU replied that they have tutored or taught other students on either a paid or voluntary basis “often” or “very often.” This corresponds to 14% of first-year students and 21% of seniors at Carnegie peer institutions.

Benchmark: Student-Faculty Interaction

- 51% of first-year students and 65% of seniors at VSU said they received prompt feedback from faculty on their academic performance “often” or “very often.” Corresponding figures for Carnegie peer institutions are 55% and 65%, respectively.
- 30% of first-year students and 48% of seniors at VSU reported discussing career plans with a faculty member or advisor “often” or “very often.” This compares with 30% of first-year students and 44% of seniors at Carnegie peer institutions.
- 14% of first-year students and 24% of seniors at VSU responded that they worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework “often” or “very often.” This compares with 15% of first-year students and 22% of seniors in Carnegie peer institutions.



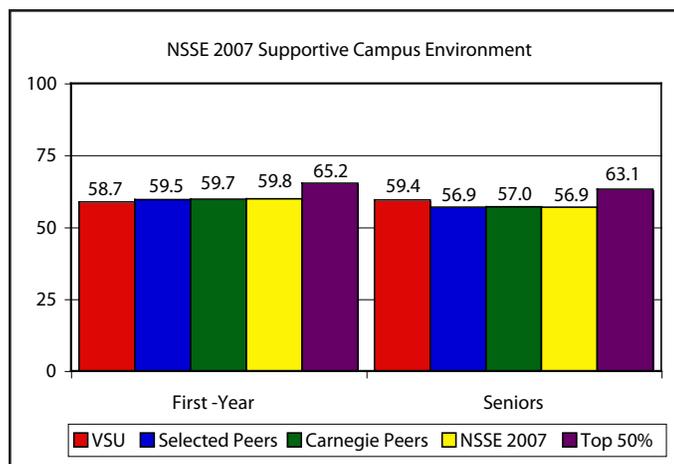
Benchmark: Enriching Educational Experiences



- 62% of VSU seniors reported participating in community service or volunteer work, and another 14% plan to do so. Comparable percentages for Carnegie peer institutions are 54% and 16%.
- 54% of first-year students and 64% of seniors at VSU reported that they had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity “often” or “very often.” This compares with 48% of first-year students and 51% of seniors at Carnegie peer institutions.
- 53% of VSU seniors responded that they have completed a practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience or clinical assignment, and another 23% said they plan to do so. This compares with 48% and 27%, respectively, at Carnegie peer institutions.

Benchmark: Supportive Campus Environment

- 70% of first-year and 71% of senior-level students described VSU’s institutional environment as providing the support they need to succeed academically either “quite a bit” or “very much.” Rates for Carnegie peer institutions were 76% of first-year students and 71% of seniors.
- 62% of first-year students and 73% of seniors at VSU rated their quality of relationships with other students as a “6” or “7” on a scale of “1” (unfriendly) to “7” (friendly, supportive). Comparable percentages for Carnegie peer institutions are 58% and 62%, respectively.
- 43% of first-year students and 57% of seniors at VSU rated their quality of relationships with faculty as a “6” or “7” on a scale of “1” (unavailable, unhelpful) to “7” (available, helpful). This compares with 46% of first-year students and 57% of seniors at Carnegie peer institutions.



General Education Outcomes

- 84% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to think critically and analytically “quite a bit” or “very much.”
- 84% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to use computing and information technology “quite a bit” or “very much.”
- 83% of VSU seniors report increasing their ability to work effectively with others “quite a bit” or “very much.”
- 81% of VSU seniors report acquiring a broad, general education “quite a bit” or “very much.”
- 79% of VSU seniors report acquiring job or work-related skills “quite a bit” or “very much.”
- 75% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to speak clearly and effectively “quite a bit” or “very much.”
- 74% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to write clearly and effectively “quite a bit” or “very much.”
- 73% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to analyze quantitative problems “quite a bit” or “very much.”