

NSSE

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is a widely used instrument which measures the degree of involvement or engagement of college undergraduates in a wide range of activities and experiences during their freshmen and senior college years. NSSE measures involvement in what are recognized as "good practices" in undergraduate education as there is evidence that the degree of engagement in such college activities and programs is one predictor of outcomes such as learning, personal development, and retention.

NSSE was administered online at Farmingdale State College in the spring 2014 semester. Approximately 2,000 freshmen and seniors in a baccalaureate program, as well as, undeclared majors were invited to participate. We received a response rate of 28%.

Key Findings

- Compared to the other SUNY technology colleges, Farmingdale's students have participated in fewer high-impact practices (learning communities, service learning, internships or clinicals, research with faculty, study abroad, senior capstone project).
- FSC's first-year and senior undergrads spend less time preparing for class compared to the other SUNY Techs although a higher percentage of our students reported that their institution emphasizes spending time studying and on academic work very much or quite a bit .
- The highest performing item compared to other SUNY Techs highlights the diversity of our campus
 - among first-year students: "tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining...his or her perspective"
 - among seniors: "included diverse perspectives (...) in course discussions or assignments"
- The lowest performing item compared to other SUNY Techs among first-year students was "worked with other students on course projects or assignments" and among seniors was "participated in an internship, co-op field experience, clinical placement".
- Our seniors reported how much their experience at FSC contributed to their knowledge, skills and personal development in ten areas. A majority of students reported 'very much' or 'quite a bit' in each of the ten areas, with the highest being 'thinking critically and analytically', followed by 'writing clearly and effectively'.
- 84% of our seniors and 72% of our first-year students reported their overall experience at Farmingdale as 'excellent' or 'good'. The percentage was higher among first-year students and lower among seniors at the other SUNY Techs.
- 79% of our seniors and 72% of our first-year students would "definitely" or "probably" attend this institution again. The percentage was higher among first-year students and lower among seniors at the other SUNY Techs.