

# Making meaning of your NSSE reports

The NSSE reports provide rich data for the UCalgary community to both celebrate and strengthen the ways in which we support student engagement. Both quantitative and qualitative data reports are available at the institution and participating faculty level. There are multiple ways to approach the interpretation and analysis of these data. This short guide is offered as a starting point for collaboratively making meaning of the wealth of information in the NSSE reports.

## Explore Your NSSE Quantitative Data



1. Are there any surprises with your NSSE data? How might we dig deeper to find out more about those areas? Do we have data from other sources that inform these results?
2. What trends are noticeable in our faculty/unit NSSE scores?
3. Where do we see the biggest changes in NSSE results over time?
4. How might these data help us make meaning with the student comments in our qualitative data?
5. What are the limitations of these data? What additional information do we need to make meaning of these data?
6. How will NSSE data help inform activities in our unit?

## Explore Your NSSE Qualitative Data



1. What do student comments indicate we are doing well? What does this tell us about our faculty/unit?
2. What trends are noticeable in our students' NSSE comments?
3. Which comments resonate most with our expectations of how students would answer these questions? Are these points of pride or areas of concern?
4. Which comments are most surprising or concerning? Why? How might we find out more about student experiences in this area?
5. Even if there are few student comments, how might they reflect important information about student experiences in our unit?
6. How might these comments help us better understand the quantitative report?

### About NSSE:

<https://nsse.indiana.edu/nsse/about-nsse/index.html>

### UCalgary NSSE institutional reports:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/surveys>



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### **Quantitative Data**

NSSE reports on ten (10) engagement indicators calculated from 47 core NSSE items. Indicators are grouped within four (4) theme areas: academic challenge, learning with peers, experiences with faculty and campus environment.

### **Qualitative Data**

There is one open-ended question within the NSSE 2023 survey:

*What could UCalgary do to help you prepare for your future career or education?*

### **NSSE Worksheets to further facilitate discussions:**

- Guiding Questions – broad reflection questions to establish strategies for focusing analysis and for sharing results.
- Predict Your Results – outlines a process for customizing a workshop style review of 10-12 survey items.
- \*High-Impact Practices – a framework for conversation based on a Predict/Preferred/Actual table for first-year and seniors on the listed HIP indicators.
- \*Engagement Indicators – designed to facilitate consideration and discussion of the ten Engagement Indicators (EIs) in 4 themes.
- Engagement Indicator Item-Level Results – focus on flagged item-level responses (Never/Very Little) with comparators, statistical significance, and effective size.
- \*NSSE and Campus Strategic Goals – supports a process to facilitate making connections between strategic goals and indicators that may address them.

### **For more information**

Chen, P.D., Gonyea, R.M., Sarraf, S.A., BrckaLorenz, A., Korkmaz, A., Lambert, A.D., Shoup, R., Williams, J.M. (2009). Analyzing and Interpreting NSSE Data. *New Directions for Institutional Research*, 141. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ir.285>.

Studies regarding validity and reliability of NSSE survey results. <https://nsse.indiana.edu/nsse/psychometric-portfolio/index.html>

