



National Survey of Student Engagement

NSSE 2004 Means Comparison Report University of South Carolina at Aiken

USC-Aiken	USC-Aiken compared with:								
	ADP			Bac-Gen			NSSE 2004		

Variable	Bench- mark	Class	Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
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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

1. Academic and Intellectual Experiences

a.	Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	CLQUEST	ACL	FY	2.77		2.67			2.88			2.84		
				SR	3.03		3.08			3.23	**	-.25		3.16	
b.	Made a class presentation	CLPRESEN	ACL	FY	2.11		2.13			2.41	***	-.40	2.24	*	-.17
				SR	2.66		2.81			2.98	***	-.40		2.86	*
c.	Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	REWROPAP		FY	2.75		2.74			2.78			2.70		
				SR	2.31		2.53	*	-.22	2.56	*	-.25		2.51	*
d.	Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources	INTEGRAT		FY	3.29		2.99	***	.36	3.12	**	.22	3.05	***	.30
				SR	3.25		3.32			3.37				3.35	
e.	Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments	DIVCLASS		FY	2.81		2.69			2.71			2.73		
				SR	2.74		2.76			2.81			2.81		
f.	Come to class without completing readings or assignments	CLUNPREP		FY	1.99		2.08			1.98			2.01		
				SR	2.08		2.09			2.01			2.07		
g.	Worked with other students on projects during class	CLASSGRP	ACL	FY	2.41		2.35			2.38			2.33		
				SR	2.52		2.50			2.49			2.44		
h.	Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	OCCGRP	ACL	FY	2.25		2.29			2.46	**	-.25	2.39	*	-.16
				SR	2.58		2.69			2.71			2.73		
i.	Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions	INTIDEAS		FY	2.52		2.40			2.47			2.47		
				SR	2.74		2.82			2.83			2.86		
j.	Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	TUTOR	ACL	FY	1.61		1.61			1.68			1.67		
				SR	1.82		1.86			1.95			1.91		
k.	Participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course	COMMPROJ	ACL	FY	1.41		1.44			1.69	***	-.33	1.56	*	-.18
				SR	1.49		1.66	*	-.20	1.85	***	-.39		1.74	**

^a * p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

^b Effect size = mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.



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l.	Used an electronic medium (list-serv, chat group, Internet, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment	ITACADEM	EEE	FY	2.49		2.60				2.61			2.63		
m.	Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor	EMAIL		FY	2.83		2.91				2.93			2.98		
n.	Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	FACGRADE	SFI	FY	2.63		2.51				2.61			2.59		
o.	Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	FACPLANS	SFI	FY	2.29		2.11	*	.21		2.25			2.14	*	.16
p.	Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	FACIDEAS	SFI	FY	1.86		1.71	*	.18		1.85			1.81		
q.	Received prompt feedback from faculty on your academic performance (written or oral)	FACFEED	SFI	FY	2.75		2.53	**	.26		2.64			2.63		
r.	Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	WORKHARD	LAC	FY	2.77		2.56	**	.25		2.64			2.60	**	.20
s.	Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)	FACOTHER	SFI	FY	1.53		1.48				1.69	*	-.19	1.57		
t.	Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, coworkers, etc.)	OOCIDEAS	ACL	FY	2.64		2.65				2.72			2.73		
u.	Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own	DIVRSTUD	EEE	FY	2.65		2.59				2.45	*	.19	2.56		
v.	Had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values	DIFFSTU2	EEE	FY	2.61		2.74				2.61			2.74		

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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

2. Mental Activities

a.	Memorizing facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in pretty much the same form	MEMORIZE	FY	3.07	2.99			2.92	*	.18	2.91	*	.18
				SR	2.98	2.83			2.75	**	.26	2.74	**
b.	Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components	ANALYZE	LAC	FY	3.17	3.01	*	.19	3.08			3.13	
				SR	3.24	3.25			3.25			3.30	
c.	Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships	SYNTHESZ	LAC	FY	2.98	2.78	**	.24	2.84	*	.17	2.88	
				SR	3.07	3.02			3.04			3.09	
d.	Making judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and interpreted data and assessing the soundness of their conclusions	EVALUATE	LAC	FY	2.95	2.79	*	.18	2.85			2.84	
				SR	2.99	2.97			3.01			2.99	
e.	Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	APPLYING	LAC	FY	3.08	2.95			2.99			3.03	
				SR	3.26	3.21			3.24			3.23	

3. Examinations

1=very little to 7=very much

To what extent have your examinations during the current school year challenged you to do your best work?	EXAMS	FY	5.64	5.46	*	.18	5.52			5.54	
			SR	5.51	5.49			5.50			5.48

During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?

1=none, 2=between 1 and 4, 3=between 5 and 10, 4=between 11 and 20, 5=more than 20

4. Reading and Writing

a.	Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	READASGN	LAC	FY	3.19	3.21			3.35	*	-.17	3.42	**	-.23
				SR	2.89	3.19	**	-.30	3.30	***	-.40	3.32	***	-.42
b.	Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment	READOWN	LAC	FY	1.89	1.98			2.03	*	-.16	2.03	*	-.17
				SR	2.09	2.18			2.24			2.21		
c.	Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more	WRITEMOR	LAC	FY	1.22	1.21			1.29			1.25		
				SR	1.45	1.56			1.69	***	-.28	1.66	***	-.27
d.	Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages	WRITEMID	LAC	FY	2.51	2.22	***	.33	2.40			2.40		
				SR	2.44	2.52			2.69	**	-.26	2.66	*	-.23
e.	Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages	WRITESML	LAC	FY	3.41	3.10	***	.30	3.34			3.25		
				SR	2.79	3.08	*	-.24	3.24	***	-.37	3.11	**	-.27

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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

5. Problem Sets

a.	Number of <i>problem sets</i> that take you more than an hour to complete	PROBSETA		FY	2.69	2.51	*	.17	2.66		2.59	
				SR	2.43	2.52			2.54		2.49	
b.	Number of <i>problem sets</i> that take you less than an hour to complete	PROBSETB		FY	2.79	2.73			2.80		2.68	
				SR	2.29	2.41			2.46		2.29	

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

6. Additional Collegiate Experiences

a.	Attended an art exhibit, gallery, play, dance, or other theatre performance	ATTDARTS		FY	2.06	2.11			2.15		2.12		
				SR	1.86	1.89			2.03		2.03		
b.	Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities	EXERCISE		FY	2.57	2.66			2.77		2.72		
				SR	2.21	2.49	**	-.26	2.55	**	-.31	2.57	***
c.	Participated in activities to enhance your spirituality (worship, meditation, prayer, etc.)	WORSHIP		FY	2.11	1.88	*	.22	2.35	*	-.21	2.08	
				SR	2.20	1.96	*	.21	2.32			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.)

7. Enriching Educational Experiences

a.	Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	INTERN	EEE	FY	.01	.05	***	-.21	.08	***	-.28	.06	***	-.23
				SR	.38	.48	*	-.21	.60	***	-.45	.56	***	-.37
b.	Community service or volunteer work	VOLUNTER	EEE	FY	.26	.29			.41	***	-.31	.37	**	-.24
				SR	.45	.52			.64	***	-.40	.60	**	-.30
c.	Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together	LEARNCOM		FY	.07	.13	**	-.20	.11	*	-.15	.12	*	-.16
				SR	.14	.23	*	-.21	.25	**	-.25	.23	*	-.20
d.	Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements	RESEARCH	SFI	FY	.05	.03			.04			.03		
				SR	.14	.15			.19			.20		
e.	Foreign language coursework	FORLANG	EEE	FY	.16	.14			.16			.23	*	-.17
				SR	.54	.33	***	.45	.39	**	.30	.43	*	.21
f.	Study abroad	STUDYABR	EEE	FY	.01	.02			.03			.02		
				SR	.06	.07			.13	**	-.22	.16	***	-.29
g.	Independent study or self-designed major	INDSTUDY	EEE	FY	.02	.02			.03			.02		
				SR	.08	.16	**	-.21	.24	***	-.37	.23	***	-.35

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				Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	
h. Culminating senior experience (comprehensive exam, capstone course, thesis, project, etc.)	SENIORX	EEE	FY SR	.01 .15	.01 .23	* *	-.18 .23	.01 .38	** ***	-.25 -.48	.01 .35	** ***	-.28 -.42

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

8. Quality of Relationships

a. Relationships with other students	ENVSTU	SCE	FY SR	5.65 6.01	5.62 5.72	* *	.23 .23	5.78 5.85			5.68 5.75	* *	.20 .20
1=unavailable, unhelpful, unsympathetic to 7=available, helpful, sympathetic													
b. Relationships with faculty members	ENVFAC	SCE	FY SR	5.59 5.80	5.40 5.64			5.70 5.86			5.58 5.73		
1=unhelpful, inconsiderate, rigid to 7=helpful, considerate, flexible													
c. Relationships with administrative personnel and offices	ENVADM	SCE	FY SR	5.49 5.64	5.02 4.80	*** ***	.32 .53	5.33 5.04	*** ***	.37 .37	5.13 4.82	** ***	.25 .50

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

9. 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)	ACADPR01	LAC	FY SR	3.54 3.51	3.62 3.89			3.94 4.01	** **	-.25 -.29	4.00 4.08	*** ***	-.28 -.32
b. Working for pay on campus	WORKON01		FY SR	1.29 1.55	1.48 1.79	* *	-.17 .26	1.81 2.02	*** **	-.40 -.30	1.63 1.92	*** **	-.28 -.24
c. Working for pay off campus	WORKOF01		FY SR	2.88 4.90	2.31 3.76	** ***	.26 .41	2.33 3.54	** ***	.26 .49	2.27 3.53	** ***	.28 .50
d. Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	COCURR01	EEE	FY SR	1.95 2.01	2.00 1.92			2.24 2.21	* *	-.20 -.20	2.22 2.14	* *	-.18 -.18
e. Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, exercising, etc.)	SOCIAL01		FY SR	3.68 3.49	3.95 3.53			3.68 3.43			3.82 3.54		
f. Providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.)	CAREDE01		FY SR	1.97 2.93	1.54 2.44	** *	.29 .21	1.68 2.48	* *	.18 .18	1.60 2.26	* **	.24 .30
g. Commuting to class (driving, walking, etc.)	COMMUTE		FY SR	2.39 2.55	2.23 2.40			2.18 2.31	* *	.17 .20	2.15 2.30	** *	.24 .24

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Variable Bench-
mark Class Mean Mean Sig^a Effect
Size^b Mean Sig^a Effect
Size^b Mean Sig^a Effect
Size^b

To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following?
1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much

10. Institutional Environment

a.	Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	ENVSCHOL	LAC	FY	3.31	3.07	***	.31	3.15	*	.21	3.15	*	.21
				SR	3.27	3.05	**	.29	3.13	*	.19	3.14		
b.	Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically	ENVSUPRT	SCE	FY	3.14	3.00	*	.17	3.15			3.10		
				SR	3.06	2.90	*	.19	3.05			2.97		
c.	Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds	ENVDIVRS	EEE	FY	2.65	2.58			2.65			2.60		
				SR	2.61	2.39	*	.23	2.47			2.41	*	.21
d.	Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	ENVNACAD	SCE	FY	2.16	2.08			2.26			2.15		
				SR	2.08	1.82	**	.30	2.08			1.92		
e.	Providing the support you need to thrive socially	ENVSOCAL	SCE	FY	2.39	2.32			2.44			2.36		
				SR	2.37	2.02	***	.39	2.24			2.12	**	.28
f.	Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.)	ENVEVENT		FY	2.95	2.75	*	.22	2.95			2.83		
				SR	2.69	2.46	*	.25	2.69			2.59		
g.	Using computers in academic work	ENVCOMPT		FY	3.37	3.32			3.36			3.32		
				SR	3.52	3.47			3.44			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

11. Educational and Personal Growth

a.	Acquiring a broad general education	NGNGENLED		FY	3.22	3.09	*	.17	3.17			3.16		
				SR	3.39	3.21	*	.22	3.36			3.32		
b.	Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	GNWORK		FY	2.75	2.57	*	.19	2.77			2.67		
				SR	3.14	3.02			3.10			3.02		
c.	Writing clearly and effectively	GNWRITE		FY	3.18	2.92	***	.31	3.02	*	.19	2.97	**	.25
				SR	3.29	3.03	**	.30	3.14			3.12	*	.21
d.	Speaking clearly and effectively	GNSPEAK		FY	2.95	2.71	**	.26	2.84			2.73	**	.24
				SR	3.14	2.93	*	.24	3.07			3.01		
e.	Thinking critically and analytically	GNANALY		FY	3.31	3.07	***	.29	3.18	*	.17	3.17	*	.17
				SR	3.47	3.27	**	.26	3.35			3.37		
f.	Analyzing quantitative problems	GNQUANT		FY	2.90	2.58	***	.37	2.62	***	.31	2.63	***	.29
				SR	3.08	2.82	**	.30	2.84	**	.27	2.87	*	.24

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	Bench-mark	Class													
g.		FY	SR	Using computing and information technology	GNCMPTS	3.12	2.89	***	.26	2.90	**	.25	2.85	***	.29
				3.32	3.15		3.12	*	.23	3.12	*	.23			
h.		FY	SR	Working effectively with others	GNOTHERS	3.00	2.82	**	.21	2.92			2.85	*	.17
				3.34	3.08	**	.30	3.18	*	.20	3.14	*	.24		
i.		FY	SR	Voting in local, state, or national elections	GNCITIZN	2.12	1.90	**	.23	1.83	***	.30	1.88	**	.25
				2.07	1.77	**	.32	1.87	*	.20	1.84	*	.24		
j.		FY	SR	Learning effectively on your own	GNINQ	3.01	2.83	**	.20	2.92			2.91		
				3.15	3.01			3.10			3.09				
k.		FY	SR	Understanding yourself	GNSSELF	2.76	2.64			2.81			2.74		
				2.81	2.73			2.95			2.88				
l.		FY	SR	Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	GNDIVERS	2.63	2.52			2.56			2.53		
				2.83	2.54	**	.30	2.61	*	.22	2.58	**	.26		
m.		FY	SR	Solving complex real-world problems	GNPROBSV	2.64	2.44	**	.22	2.52			2.50		
				2.97	2.63	***	.37	2.71	**	.28	2.69	**	.30		
n.		FY	SR	Developing a personal code of values and ethics	GNETHICS	2.55	2.44			2.74	*	-.20	2.61		
				2.80	2.54	**	.26	2.87			2.72				
o.		FY	SR	Contributing to the welfare of your community	GNCOMMUN	2.27	2.14			2.42	*	-.16	2.32		
				2.46	2.25	*	.22	2.55			2.42				
p.		FY	SR	Developing a deepened sense of spirituality	GNSPIRIT	2.03	1.87			2.43	***	-.36	2.10		
				1.99	1.71	**	.29	2.36	***	-.32	1.99				

12. Academic Advising

1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent

Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution?	ADVISE		FY	SR	3.22	2.92	***	.37	3.11			3.02	**	.25
					3.28	2.85	***	.47	3.07	*	.24	2.95	***	.36

13. Satisfaction

1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent

How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	ENTIREXP		FY	SR	3.25	3.11	*	.20	3.23			3.22		
					3.28	3.17			3.27			3.25		

14.

1=definitely no, 2=probably no, 3=probably yes, 4=definitely yes

If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	SAMECOLL		FY	SR	3.24	3.18			3.22			3.23		
					3.28	3.15			3.17			3.18		

^a * p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

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