



**National Survey
of Student Engagement**

University of South Carolina Aiken

Mean Comparisons

August 2008

Interpreting the Mean Comparisons Report

Sample

The *Mean Comparisons* report is based on information from all randomly selected students for both your institution and your comparison institutions. Targeted oversamples and other non-randomly selected students are not included in this report.

Variables

The items from the NSSE survey appear in the left column in the same order and wording as they appear on the instrument. The name of each variable appears in the second column for easy reference to your data file and the summary statistics at the end of this section. Response options are also provided to help you interpret the statistics.

Benchmark

Items that make up the five “Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice” are indicated by the following:

LAC=Level of Academic

Challenge

ACL=Active and

Collaborative Learning

SFI=Student-Faculty

Interaction

EEE=Enriching Educational

Experiences

SCE=Supportive Campus

Environment

Mean

The mean is the *weighted* arithmetic average of student responses on a particular item. Means are provided for your institution and all comparison groups. For more information about weighting go to:

www.nsse.iub.edu/2008_Institutional_Report/NSSE_2008_Weighting.cfm.

Class

Results are reported separately for first-year students (FY) and seniors (SR). Institution-reported class ranks are used.

Statistical Significance

Items with mean differences that are larger than would be expected by chance alone are noted with one, two, or three asterisks, referring to three significance levels ($p < .05$, $p < .01$, and $p < .001$). The smaller the significance level, the smaller the likelihood that the difference is due to chance. *Statistical significance does not guarantee the result is substantive or important.* Large sample sizes (like those produced by NSSE) tend to generate more statistically significant results even though the magnitude of mean differences may be inconsequential. It is recommended to consult effect sizes (see below) to judge the practical meaning of the results.

Effect Size

Effect size indicates the “practical significance” of the mean difference. It is calculated by dividing the mean difference by the pooled standard deviation.

In practice, an effect size of .2 is often considered small, .5 moderate, and .8 large. A positive sign indicates that your institution's mean was greater, thus showing an affirmative result for your institution. A negative sign indicates the institution lags behind the comparison group, suggesting that the student behavior or

**NSSE 2008 Mean Comparisons
NSSEville State University**

NSSEville State compared with:

| Variable | Bench- mark | Class | NSSEville State | | | Mid East Public | | | Carnegie Class | | | NSSE 2008 | | | |
|--|----------------|-------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------|
| | | | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | |
| <i>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</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Academic and Intellectual Experiences | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions | CLQUEST | ACL | FY | 2.84 | *** | .23 | 2.65 | *** | .23 | 2.62 | *** | .27 | 2.74 | ** | .12 |
| | | | SR | 3.27 | *** | .43 | 2.90 | *** | .43 | 2.91 | *** | .41 | 3.03 | *** | .27 |
| b. Made a class presentation | CLPRESEN | ACL | FY | 2.33 | *** | .33 | 2.09 | *** | .33 | 2.08 | *** | .33 | 2.21 | *** | .15 |
| | | | SR | 2.85 | *** | .27 | 2.62 | *** | .27 | 2.65 | *** | .24 | 2.77 | * | .10 |
| c. Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in | REWROPAP | | FY | 2.59 | | .07 | 2.53 | | .07 | 2.53 | | .06 | 2.64 | | -.05 |
| | | | SR | 2.57 | *** | .28 | 2.30 | *** | .28 | 2.37 | *** | .20 | 2.47 | * | .10 |
| d. Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources | INTEGRAT | | FY | 3.04 | ** | .11 | 2.96 | ** | .11 | 2.95 | ** | .11 | 3.03 | | .02 |
| | | | SR | 3.34 | ** | .15 | 3.22 | ** | .15 | 3.24 | ** | .13 | 3.29 | | .06 |
| e. Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments | DIVCLASS | | FY | 2.84 | *** | .14 | 2.71 | *** | .14 | 2.72 | ** | .13 | 2.75 | * | .09 |
| | | | SR | 2.88 | *** | .17 | 2.73 | *** | .17 | 2.73 | *** | .16 | 2.80 | * | .09 |
| f. Come to class without completing readings or assignments | CLUNPREP | | FY | 1.97 | ** | -.12 | 2.07 | ** | -.12 | 2.09 | *** | -.15 | 2.02 | | -.06 |
| | | | SR | 1.95 | *** | -.36 | 2.23 | *** | -.36 | 2.22 | *** | -.33 | 2.11 | *** | -.20 |

institutional practice represented by the item may warrant attention. An exception to this interpretation is the “coming to class unprepared” item (item 1f.) where a negative sign is preferred (i.e., meaning fewer students reporting coming to class unprepared).

**NSSE 2008 Mean Comparisons
University of South Carolina Aiken**

USC Aiken compared with:

| Variable | Bench- mark | Class | USC Aiken | | Southeast Public | | | Carnegie Class | | | NSSE 2008 | | |
|--|----------------|-------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | Mean ^a | | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c |
| <i>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</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Academic and Intellectual Experiences | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions | CLQUEST | ACL | FY | 2.82 | 2.76 | | .07 | 2.82 | | .00 | 2.78 | | .04 |
| | | | SR | 3.20 | 3.04 | *** | .19 | 3.22 | | -.02 | 3.07 | ** | .16 |
| b. Made a class presentation | CLPRESEN | ACL | FY | 2.03 | 2.25 | *** | -.26 | 2.37 | *** | -.40 | 2.27 | *** | -.30 |
| | | | SR | 2.86 | 2.77 | * | .10 | 2.94 | | -.09 | 2.80 | | .07 |
| c. Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in | REWROPAP | | FY | 2.88 | 2.72 | ** | .16 | 2.75 | * | .13 | 2.65 | *** | .23 |
| | | | SR | 2.62 | 2.49 | * | .13 | 2.59 | | .04 | 2.47 | ** | .16 |
| d. Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources | INTEGRAT | | FY | 3.22 | 3.09 | ** | .17 | 3.12 | * | .14 | 3.06 | *** | .21 |
| | | | SR | 3.40 | 3.28 | ** | .16 | 3.34 | | .09 | 3.30 | ** | .14 |
| e. Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments | DIVCLASS | | FY | 2.82 | 2.81 | | .01 | 2.76 | | .07 | 2.78 | | .04 |
| | | | SR | 3.05 | 2.80 | *** | .27 | 2.88 | *** | .19 | 2.81 | *** | .26 |
| f. Come to class without completing readings or assignments | CLUNPREP | | FY | 1.88 | 2.04 | *** | -.22 | 1.90 | | -.03 | 2.01 | ** | -.17 |
| | | | SR | 1.98 | 2.12 | *** | -.17 | 2.02 | | -.05 | 2.10 | *** | -.15 |
| g. Worked with other students on projects during class | CLASSGRP | ACL | FY | 2.36 | 2.42 | | -.07 | 2.38 | | -.02 | 2.41 | | -.06 |
| | | | SR | 2.60 | 2.54 | | .07 | 2.57 | | .04 | 2.52 | | .09 |
| h. Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments | OCCGRP | ACL | FY | 2.17 | 2.43 | *** | -.29 | 2.38 | *** | -.23 | 2.40 | *** | -.26 |
| | | | SR | 2.80 | 2.82 | | -.01 | 2.75 | | .06 | 2.75 | | .06 |
| i. Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions | INTIDEAS | | FY | 2.63 | 2.62 | | .01 | 2.62 | | .01 | 2.63 | | -.01 |
| | | | SR | 3.03 | 2.95 | | .10 | 2.93 | * | .12 | 2.94 | * | .11 |
| j. Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary) | TUTOR | ACL | FY | 1.59 | 1.73 | ** | -.16 | 1.74 | ** | -.16 | 1.70 | * | -.13 |
| | | | SR | 1.82 | 1.88 | | -.07 | 1.94 | * | -.13 | 1.88 | | -.06 |
| k. Participated in a community-based project (e.g. service learning) as part of a regular course | COMMPROJ | ACL | FY | 1.52 | 1.64 | ** | -.15 | 1.67 | *** | -.18 | 1.60 | | -.10 |
| | | | SR | 1.92 | 1.79 | * | .13 | 1.86 | | .06 | 1.74 | *** | .20 |

^a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

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

^c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.

**NSSE 2008 Mean Comparisons
University of South Carolina Aiken**

USC Aiken compared with:

| | Variable | Bench- mark | Class | USC Aiken | | | | Southeast Public | | | Carnegie Class | | | NSSE 2008 | | |
|----|---|----------------|-------|-------------------|------|--|--|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | Mean ^a | | | | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c |
| l. | Used an electronic medium (listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment | ITACADEM | EEE | FY | 2.41 | | | 2.67 | *** | -.25 | 2.60 | ** | -.19 | 2.59 | ** | -.18 |
| | | | | SR | 2.63 | | | 2.89 | *** | -.27 | 2.84 | *** | -.21 | 2.82 | *** | -.19 |
| m. | Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor | EMAIL | | FY | 3.24 | | | 3.13 | * | .13 | 3.15 | | .11 | 3.11 | ** | .16 |
| | | | | SR | 3.42 | | | 3.41 | | .01 | 3.40 | | .03 | 3.38 | | .06 |
| n. | Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor | FACGRADE | SFI | FY | 2.73 | | | 2.68 | | .05 | 2.75 | | -.02 | 2.62 | * | .13 |
| | | | | SR | 3.07 | | | 2.89 | *** | .21 | 2.94 | ** | .15 | 2.81 | *** | .30 |
| o. | Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor | FACPLANS | SFI | FY | 2.22 | | | 2.22 | | .00 | 2.38 | ** | -.17 | 2.19 | | .03 |
| | | | | SR | 2.68 | | | 2.46 | *** | .23 | 2.59 | | .08 | 2.42 | *** | .27 |
| p. | Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class | FACIDEAS | SFI | FY | 1.92 | | | 1.90 | | .02 | 2.01 | | -.10 | 1.91 | | .01 |
| | | | | SR | 2.28 | | | 2.15 | ** | .14 | 2.24 | | .05 | 2.12 | *** | .18 |
| q. | Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance | FACFEED | SFI | FY | 2.62 | | | 2.64 | | -.02 | 2.75 | * | -.15 | 2.65 | | -.04 |
| | | | | SR | 3.01 | | | 2.82 | *** | .23 | 2.90 | * | .13 | 2.80 | *** | .26 |
| r. | Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations | WORKHARD | LAC | FY | 2.81 | | | 2.69 | * | .14 | 2.71 | * | .13 | 2.65 | *** | .19 |
| | | | | SR | 2.95 | | | 2.79 | *** | .19 | 2.81 | ** | .17 | 2.73 | *** | .26 |
| s. | Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.) | FACOTHER | SFI | FY | 1.63 | | | 1.63 | | -.01 | 1.76 | * | -.15 | 1.65 | | -.03 |
| | | | | SR | 2.02 | | | 1.86 | ** | .16 | 1.97 | | .04 | 1.84 | *** | .18 |
| t. | Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.) | OOCIDEAS | ACL | FY | 2.64 | | | 2.71 | | -.08 | 2.68 | | -.05 | 2.69 | | -.07 |
| | | | | SR | 3.02 | | | 2.89 | ** | .16 | 2.84 | *** | .21 | 2.84 | *** | .21 |
| u. | Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own | DIVRSTUD | EEE | FY | 2.71 | | | 2.65 | | .06 | 2.47 | *** | .23 | 2.60 | | .11 |
| | | | | SR | 2.86 | | | 2.74 | * | .12 | 2.59 | *** | .28 | 2.67 | *** | .19 |
| 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 | 2.62 | | | 2.72 | | -.11 | 2.56 | | .05 | 2.70 | | -.08 |
| | | | | SR | 2.78 | | | 2.77 | | .01 | 2.66 | * | .13 | 2.71 | | .07 |

^a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

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

^c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.

**NSSE 2008 Mean Comparisons
University of South Carolina Aiken**

USC Aiken compared with:

| Variable | Bench- mark | Class | USC Aiken | | | Southeast Public | | | Carnegie Class | | | NSSE 2008 | | |
|---|--|----------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | | Mean ^a | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b |
| <i>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</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | 2.94 | 2.97 | | -.04 | 2.86 | | .09 | 2.90 | | .05 | |
| | | | SR | 2.89 | 2.82 | | .08 | 2.75 | ** | .16 | 2.75 | ** | .15 | |
| 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 | 3.12 | 3.09 | | .03 | 3.06 | | .07 | 3.10 | | .02 | |
| | | | SR | 3.37 | 3.24 | *** | .18 | 3.21 | *** | .21 | 3.24 | *** | .17 | |
| c. | Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships | SYNTHESZ | LAC | 2.91 | 2.87 | | .04 | 2.87 | | .05 | 2.89 | | .02 | |
| | | | SR | 3.15 | 3.04 | * | .13 | 3.04 | * | .12 | 3.05 | * | .11 | |
| 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 | EVALUATE | LAC | 2.97 | 2.91 | | .07 | 2.92 | | .06 | 2.90 | | .08 | |
| | | | SR | 3.18 | 3.02 | *** | .19 | 3.03 | *** | .18 | 3.01 | *** | .21 | |
| e. | Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations | APPLYING | LAC | 3.10 | 3.03 | | .08 | 3.03 | | .09 | 3.03 | | .09 | |
| | | | SR | 3.37 | 3.21 | *** | .19 | 3.21 | *** | .19 | 3.19 | *** | .22 | |
| <i>During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done? 1=None, 2=1-4, 3=5-10, 4=11-20, 5=More than 20</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Reading and Writing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. | Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings | READASGN | LAC | 3.17 | 3.12 | | .05 | 3.19 | | -.02 | 3.24 | | -.08 | |
| | | | SR | 3.06 | 3.09 | | -.03 | 3.22 | ** | -.15 | 3.20 | * | -.13 | |
| b. | Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment | READOWN | FY | 1.97 | 2.07 | | -.10 | 2.08 | * | -.11 | 2.06 | | -.10 | |
| | | | SR | 2.12 | 2.21 | | -.09 | 2.20 | | -.08 | 2.19 | | -.07 | |
| c. | Number of written papers or reports of <u>20 pages or more</u> | WRITEMOR | LAC | 1.24 | 1.26 | | -.02 | 1.33 | * | -.12 | 1.28 | | -.05 | |
| | | | SR | 1.42 | 1.60 | *** | -.23 | 1.68 | *** | -.32 | 1.64 | *** | -.27 | |
| d. | Number of written papers or reports <u>between 5 and 19 pages</u> | WRITEMID | LAC | 2.19 | 2.17 | | .02 | 2.26 | | -.08 | 2.29 | * | -.11 | |
| | | | SR | 2.44 | 2.44 | | .00 | 2.60 | *** | -.17 | 2.58 | ** | -.14 | |
| e. | Number of written papers or reports of <u>fewer than 5 pages</u> | WRITESML | LAC | 2.99 | 2.88 | | .11 | 3.07 | | -.07 | 3.04 | | -.05 | |
| | | | SR | 2.72 | 2.84 | * | -.10 | 3.03 | *** | -.27 | 3.00 | *** | -.24 | |

^a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

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

^c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.

**NSSE 2008 Mean Comparisons
University of South Carolina Aiken**

USC Aiken compared with:

| Variable | Bench- mark | Class | USC Aiken | | Southeast Public | | Carnegie Class | | | NSSE 2008 | | | | |
|---|---|----------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| | | | Mean ^a | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | |
| 4. Problem Sets | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>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</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. | Number of problem sets that take you more than an hour to complete | PROBSETA | FY | 2.64 | 2.65 | | -0.01 | 2.71 | | -0.06 | 2.69 | | -0.04 | |
| | | | SR | 2.48 | 2.59 | | -0.09 | 2.69 | *** | -0.18 | 2.61 | * | -0.11 | |
| b. | Number of problem sets that take you less than an hour to complete | PROBSETB | FY | 2.85 | 2.77 | | .07 | 2.81 | | .04 | 2.75 | | .09 | |
| | | | SR | 2.54 | 2.38 | * | .13 | 2.52 | | .01 | 2.35 | ** | .15 | |
| 5. Examinations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Select the circle that best represents the extent to which your examinations during the current school year challenged you to do your best work.</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | EXAMS | | FY | 5.55 | 5.45 | | .08 | 5.40 | * | .13 | 5.41 | | .12 | |
| | | | SR | 5.66 | 5.50 | * | .13 | 5.46 | ** | .16 | 5.39 | *** | .21 | |
| 6. Additional Collegiate Experiences | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=Never, 2=Sometimes, 3=Often, 4=Very often</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. | Attended an art exhibit, play, dance, music, theatre or other performance | ATDART07 | FY | 2.13 | 2.22 | | -0.09 | 2.19 | | -0.07 | 2.22 | | -0.09 | |
| | | | SR | 1.98 | 2.02 | | -0.04 | 2.06 | | -0.08 | 2.07 | | -0.10 | |
| b. | Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities | EXRCSE05 | FY | 2.73 | 2.79 | | -0.06 | 2.83 | | -0.09 | 2.79 | | -0.06 | |
| | | | SR | 2.62 | 2.66 | | -0.04 | 2.64 | | -0.02 | 2.68 | | -0.05 | |
| c. | Participated in activities to enhance your spirituality (worship, meditation, prayer, etc.) | WORSHPO5 | FY | 2.18 | 2.18 | | .00 | 2.24 | | -0.05 | 2.06 | | .11 | |
| | | | SR | 2.50 | 2.28 | *** | .19 | 2.30 | ** | .17 | 2.11 | *** | .34 | |
| d. | Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue | OWNVIEW | FY | 2.65 | 2.64 | | .01 | 2.62 | | .03 | 2.60 | | .05 | |
| | | | SR | 2.75 | 2.73 | | .03 | 2.69 | | .07 | 2.68 | | .08 | |
| e. | Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective | OTHRVIEW | FY | 2.84 | 2.80 | | .05 | 2.75 | | .11 | 2.76 | | .09 | |
| | | | SR | 2.91 | 2.86 | | .06 | 2.83 | | .09 | 2.83 | | .09 | |
| f. | Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept | CHNGVIEW | FY | 2.88 | 2.85 | | .04 | 2.82 | | .08 | 2.85 | | .05 | |
| | | | SR | 3.00 | 2.90 | * | .12 | 2.88 | ** | .15 | 2.89 | ** | .14 | |
| 7. Enriching Educational Experiences | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>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.)</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. | Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment | INTERN04 | EEE | FY | .06 | .08 | | -0.07 | .10 | * | -0.12 | .08 | | -0.06 |
| | | | SR | .46 | .51 | | -0.10 | .58 | *** | -0.25 | .53 | ** | -0.15 | |

^a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

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

^c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.

**NSSE 2008 Mean Comparisons
University of South Carolina Aiken**

USC Aiken compared with:

| | Variable | Bench- mark | Class | USC Aiken | | Southeast Public | | Carnegie Class | | | NSSE 2008 | | |
|--|----------|----------------|-------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | | | Mean ^a | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b |
| b. Community service or volunteer work | VOLNTR04 | EEE | FY | .32 | .40 | ** | -.16 | .42 | *** | -.20 | .38 | * | -.12 |
| | | | SR | .61 | .61 | | .00 | .62 | | -.04 | .60 | | .02 |
| c. Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together | LRNCOM04 | EEE | FY | .09 | .16 | *** | -.19 | .15 | *** | -.17 | .16 | *** | -.19 |
| | | | SR | .29 | .27 | | .05 | .29 | | -.01 | .26 | | .07 |
| d. Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements | RESRCH04 | SFI | FY | .04 | .06 | | -.08 | .07 | | -.09 | .05 | | -.05 |
| | | | SR | .18 | .19 | | -.03 | .20 | | -.05 | .20 | | -.04 |
| e. Foreign language coursework | FORLNG04 | EEE | FY | .12 | .19 | *** | -.20 | .16 | * | -.13 | .22 | *** | -.25 |
| | | | SR | .50 | .41 | *** | .18 | .34 | *** | .35 | .41 | *** | .19 |
| f. Study abroad | STDABR04 | EEE | FY | .05 | .03 | | .11 | .04 | | .06 | .03 | | .13 |
| | | | SR | .06 | .13 | *** | -.20 | .12 | *** | -.18 | .15 | *** | -.25 |
| g. Independent study or self-designed major | INDSTD04 | EEE | FY | .06 | .05 | | .07 | .08 | | -.05 | .04 | | .11 |
| | | | SR | .16 | .16 | | -.01 | .22 | *** | -.16 | .18 | | -.07 |
| h. Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.) | SNRX04 | EEE | FY | .01 | .02 | *** | -.11 | .03 | *** | -.13 | .02 | ** | -.10 |
| | | | SR | .19 | .29 | *** | -.21 | .40 | *** | -.42 | .33 | *** | -.29 |

Select the circle 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 <u>other students</u> | ENVSTU | SCE | FY | 5.61 | 5.50 | | .08 | 5.47 | | .09 | 5.47 | | .09 |
| | | | SR | 5.97 | 5.67 | *** | .23 | 5.71 | *** | .20 | 5.59 | *** | .28 |
| <i>1=Unavailable, Unhelpful, Unsympathetic to 7=Available, Helpful, Sympathetic</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| b. Relationships with <u>faculty members</u> | ENVFAC | SCE | FY | 5.50 | 5.10 | *** | .29 | 5.43 | | .05 | 5.19 | *** | .23 |
| | | | SR | 5.75 | 5.38 | *** | .26 | 5.67 | | .06 | 5.41 | *** | .25 |
| <i>1=Unhelpful, Inconsiderate, Rigid to 7=Helpful, Considerate, Flexible</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| c. Relationships with <u>administrative personnel and offices</u> | ENVADM | SCE | FY | 5.12 | 4.58 | *** | .34 | 4.90 | * | .14 | 4.65 | *** | .30 |
| | | | SR | 5.18 | 4.53 | *** | .38 | 4.75 | *** | .25 | 4.53 | *** | .38 |

^a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

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

^c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.

**NSSE 2008 Mean Comparisons
University of South Carolina Aiken**

USC Aiken compared with:

| Variable | Bench- mark | Class | USC Aiken | | Southeast Public | | | Carnegie Class | | | NSSE 2008 | | | |
|--|--|----------|-------------------|----|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------|
| | | | Mean ^a | | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | |
| <i>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</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. Time Usage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. | Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities) | ACADPR01 | LAC | FY | 3.69 | 3.84 | | -10 | 3.98 | ** | -.18 | 4.04 | *** | -.22 |
| | | | | SR | 3.87 | 4.02 | | -.09 | 4.04 | * | -.10 | 4.14 | *** | -.16 |
| b. | Working for pay <u>on campus</u> | WORKON01 | | FY | 1.28 | 1.42 | ** | -.12 | 1.64 | *** | -.27 | 1.55 | *** | -.22 |
| | | | | SR | 1.58 | 1.67 | | -.06 | 1.76 | * | -.12 | 1.79 | ** | -.14 |
| c. | Working for pay <u>off campus</u> | WORKOF01 | | FY | 3.03 | 2.54 | *** | .21 | 3.02 | | .00 | 2.46 | *** | .25 |
| | | | | SR | 3.99 | 3.78 | | .07 | 4.14 | | -.05 | 3.79 | | .07 |
| d. | Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.) | COCURR01 | EEE | FY | 2.07 | 2.27 | * | -.13 | 2.31 | * | -.15 | 2.26 | * | -.13 |
| | | | | SR | 2.09 | 2.11 | | -.01 | 2.18 | | -.05 | 2.11 | | -.01 |
| e. | Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.) | SOCIAL05 | | FY | 3.67 | 3.80 | | -.07 | 3.57 | | .07 | 3.77 | | -.05 |
| | | | | SR | 3.18 | 3.53 | *** | -.22 | 3.34 | * | -.10 | 3.49 | *** | -.20 |
| f. | Providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.) | CAREDE01 | | FY | 1.68 | 1.80 | | -.07 | 2.28 | *** | -.27 | 1.79 | | -.06 |
| | | | | SR | 2.78 | 2.47 | * | .13 | 2.79 | | .00 | 2.38 | ** | .17 |
| g. | Commuting to class (driving, walking, etc.) | COMMUTE | | FY | 2.46 | 2.43 | | .03 | 2.14 | *** | .27 | 2.26 | ** | .19 |
| | | | | SR | 2.60 | 2.45 | * | .13 | 2.35 | *** | .22 | 2.36 | *** | .22 |
| <i>To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=Very little, 2=Some, 3=Quite a bit, 4=Very much</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. Institutional Environment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. | Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work | ENVSCHOL | LAC | FY | 3.34 | 3.14 | *** | .26 | 3.14 | *** | .26 | 3.14 | *** | .26 |
| | | | | SR | 3.37 | 3.14 | *** | .30 | 3.14 | *** | .30 | 3.14 | *** | .30 |
| b. | Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically | ENVSUPRT | SCE | FY | 3.27 | 3.06 | *** | .26 | 3.13 | ** | .18 | 3.07 | *** | .25 |
| | | | | SR | 3.23 | 2.93 | *** | .35 | 3.04 | *** | .22 | 2.93 | *** | .35 |
| c. | Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds | ENVDIVRS | EEE | FY | 2.87 | 2.69 | ** | .18 | 2.65 | *** | .22 | 2.70 | ** | .18 |
| | | | | SR | 2.83 | 2.53 | *** | .30 | 2.55 | *** | .28 | 2.50 | *** | .33 |

^a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

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

^c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.

**NSSE 2008 Mean Comparisons
University of South Carolina Aiken**

USC Aiken compared with:

| | Variable | Bench- mark | Class | USC Aiken | | | | Southeast Public | | | Carnegie Class | | | NSSE 2008 | | | |
|----|---|----------------|-------|-------------------|------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| | | | | Mean ^a | | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | |
| d. | Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.) | ENVNACAD | SCE | FY | 2.48 | | | .24 | 2.25 | *** | .24 | 2.33 | * | .16 | 2.27 | *** | .22 |
| | | | | SR | 2.32 | | | .33 | 2.00 | *** | .33 | 2.13 | *** | .19 | 1.99 | *** | .35 |
| e. | Providing the support you need to thrive socially | ENVSOCAL | SCE | FY | 2.74 | | | .24 | 2.51 | *** | .24 | 2.48 | *** | .28 | 2.49 | *** | .27 |
| | | | | SR | 2.64 | | | .37 | 2.29 | *** | .37 | 2.29 | *** | .37 | 2.23 | *** | .44 |
| f. | Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.) | ENVEVENT | | FY | 3.00 | | | .10 | 2.90 | | .10 | 2.75 | *** | .25 | 2.84 | ** | .17 |
| | | | | SR | 2.93 | | | .26 | 2.68 | *** | .26 | 2.64 | *** | .30 | 2.61 | *** | .33 |
| g. | Using computers in academic work | ENVCOMPT | | FY | 3.41 | | | .06 | 3.37 | | .06 | 3.35 | | .08 | 3.31 | * | .13 |
| | | | | SR | 3.55 | | | .07 | 3.49 | | .07 | 3.45 | * | .13 | 3.46 | * | .12 |

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 | GNGENLED | | FY | 3.35 | | | .18 | 3.21 | ** | .18 | 3.18 | *** | .21 | 3.20 | ** | .20 |
| | | | | SR | 3.52 | | | .27 | 3.30 | *** | .27 | 3.31 | *** | .27 | 3.29 | *** | .29 |
| b. | Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills | GNWORK | | FY | 2.92 | | | .15 | 2.78 | * | .15 | 2.90 | | .03 | 2.80 | * | .13 |
| | | | | SR | 3.37 | | | .27 | 3.12 | *** | .27 | 3.14 | *** | .26 | 3.07 | *** | .32 |
| c. | Writing clearly and effectively | GNWRITE | | FY | 3.16 | | | .14 | 3.03 | * | .14 | 3.09 | | .08 | 3.02 | ** | .16 |
| | | | | SR | 3.39 | | | .32 | 3.12 | *** | .32 | 3.17 | *** | .27 | 3.11 | *** | .33 |
| d. | Speaking clearly and effectively | GNSPEAK | | FY | 2.94 | | | .08 | 2.86 | | .08 | 2.94 | | -.01 | 2.85 | | .10 |
| | | | | SR | 3.36 | | | .35 | 3.04 | *** | .35 | 3.10 | *** | .30 | 3.00 | *** | .40 |
| e. | Thinking critically and analytically | GNANALY | | FY | 3.27 | | | .07 | 3.21 | | .07 | 3.22 | | .06 | 3.21 | | .07 |
| | | | | SR | 3.54 | | | .24 | 3.36 | *** | .24 | 3.36 | *** | .24 | 3.36 | *** | .25 |
| f. | Analyzing quantitative problems | GNQUANT | | FY | 3.11 | | | .13 | 3.00 | * | .13 | 2.97 | * | .16 | 2.96 | ** | .17 |
| | | | | SR | 3.32 | | | .23 | 3.12 | *** | .23 | 3.10 | *** | .26 | 3.08 | *** | .27 |
| g. | Using computing and information technology | GNCMPTS | | FY | 3.13 | | | .02 | 3.11 | | .02 | 3.11 | | .03 | 3.04 | | .10 |
| | | | | SR | 3.42 | | | .15 | 3.29 | ** | .15 | 3.23 | *** | .23 | 3.22 | *** | .23 |
| h. | Working effectively with others | GNOTHERS | | FY | 3.07 | | | .06 | 3.02 | | .06 | 3.00 | | .08 | 2.99 | | .10 |
| | | | | SR | 3.42 | | | .25 | 3.20 | *** | .25 | 3.22 | *** | .24 | 3.17 | *** | .29 |

^a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

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

^c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.

**NSSE 2008 Mean Comparisons
University of South Carolina Aiken**

USC Aiken compared with:

| | Variable | Bench- mark | Class | USC Aiken | | | | Southeast Public | | | Carnegie Class | | | NSSE 2008 | | |
|------------------------------|---|----------------|-------|-------------------|------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | Mean ^a | | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c |
| i. | Voting in local, state, or national elections | GNCITIZN | FY | 2.27 | 2.37 | | -.09 | 2.09 | ** | .17 | 2.24 | | .03 | | | |
| | | | SR | 2.49 | 2.17 | *** | .30 | 2.09 | *** | .38 | 2.11 | *** | .36 | | | |
| j. | Learning effectively on your own | GNINQ | FY | 3.03 | 3.00 | | .04 | 2.97 | | .07 | 2.96 | | .09 | | | |
| | | | SR | 3.23 | 3.08 | ** | .16 | 3.05 | *** | .20 | 3.05 | *** | .21 | | | |
| k. | Understanding yourself | GNSELF | FY | 2.91 | 2.82 | | .09 | 2.83 | | .08 | 2.81 | | .11 | | | |
| | | | SR | 3.00 | 2.83 | ** | .16 | 2.87 | * | .13 | 2.83 | *** | .17 | | | |
| l. | Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds | GNDIVERS | FY | 2.77 | 2.70 | | .07 | 2.60 | ** | .17 | 2.67 | | .10 | | | |
| | | | SR | 2.99 | 2.67 | *** | .32 | 2.65 | *** | .34 | 2.64 | *** | .35 | | | |
| m. | Solving complex real-world problems | GNPROBSV | FY | 2.81 | 2.71 | | .11 | 2.70 | | .11 | 2.69 | * | .14 | | | |
| | | | SR | 3.03 | 2.82 | *** | .23 | 2.79 | *** | .26 | 2.78 | *** | .27 | | | |
| n. | Developing a personal code of values and ethics | GNETHICS | FY | 2.74 | 2.70 | | .04 | 2.75 | | -.01 | 2.70 | | .04 | | | |
| | | | SR | 2.99 | 2.71 | *** | .27 | 2.83 | ** | .17 | 2.71 | *** | .28 | | | |
| o. | Contributing to the welfare of your community | GNCOMMUN | FY | 2.51 | 2.50 | | .01 | 2.46 | | .04 | 2.47 | | .04 | | | |
| | | | SR | 2.74 | 2.51 | *** | .22 | 2.56 | *** | .18 | 2.48 | *** | .26 | | | |
| p. | Developing a deepened sense of spirituality | GNSPIRIT | FY | 2.21 | 2.18 | | .03 | 2.29 | | -.07 | 2.15 | | .05 | | | |
| | | | SR | 2.27 | 1.98 | *** | .26 | 2.18 | | .08 | 1.96 | *** | .29 | | | |
| 12. Academic Advising | <i>1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Excellent</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution? | ADVISE | FY | 3.29 | 3.00 | *** | .34 | 3.10 | *** | .22 | 3.00 | *** | .34 | | | |
| | | | SR | 3.25 | 2.84 | *** | .44 | 3.03 | *** | .25 | 2.85 | *** | .42 | | | |
| 13. Satisfaction | <i>1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Excellent</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution? | ENTIREXP | FY | 3.36 | 3.21 | *** | .22 | 3.19 | *** | .24 | 3.19 | *** | .23 | | | |
| | | | SR | 3.37 | 3.22 | *** | .20 | 3.22 | *** | .20 | 3.21 | *** | .21 | | | |
| 14. | <i>1=Definitely no, 2=Probably no, 3=Probably yes, 4=Definitely yes</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending? | SAMECOLL | FY | 3.29 | 3.28 | | .02 | 3.18 | * | .13 | 3.23 | | .08 | | | |
| | | | SR | 3.29 | 3.25 | | .04 | 3.17 | * | .13 | 3.20 | | .10 | | | |

IPEDS: 218645

^a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

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

^c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.