



# National Survey of Student Engagement

## Executive Snapshot 2012

University of South Carolina Aiken

This document presents some key findings from USC Aiken's performance on the 2012 National Survey of Student Engagement. Questions or comments regarding the results should be directed to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

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### Deep Approaches to Learning

One notable finding involves Deep Approaches to Learning (DAL) which help students make richer, more lasting connections to material through an emphasis on activities such as higher-order learning, integration, and reflection. Replicating an analysis from 2004, we found that students who participated in DAL at higher levels made more purposeful use of their time and were more engaged in other ways.

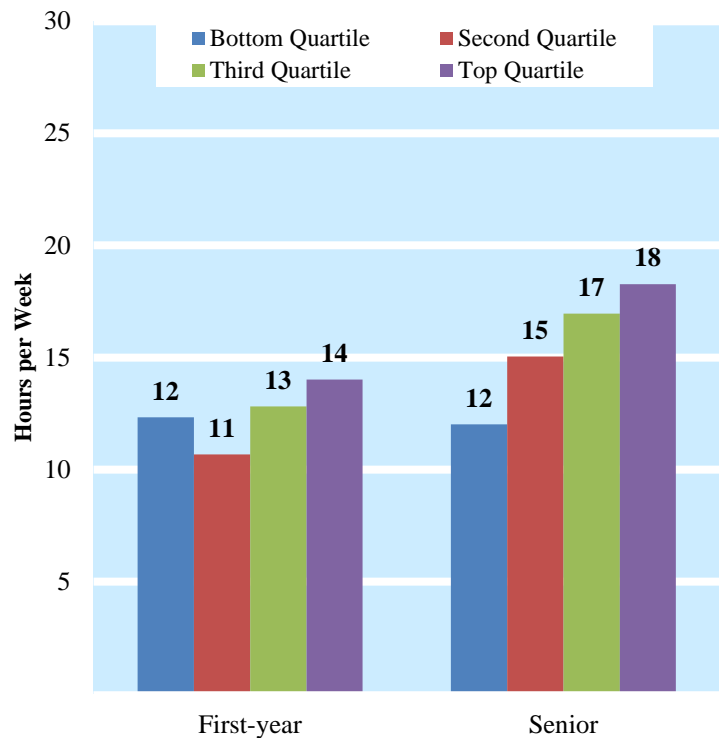
Table 1 at right compares USC Aiken students' engagement in DAL with those enrolled at each of the NSSE 2012 comparison peer groups, with an indication of whether USC Aiken students scored significantly higher (+) or lower (-) than the comparison group. (If no plus or minus sign is shown, the difference is not statistically significant.) Figure 1 illustrates how DAL relates to time spent preparing for class among first-year students and seniors.

The Deep Approaches to Learning scale, including subscales of higher-order learning and reflective and integrative learning, is included in the updated NSSE survey to begin in 2013.

Table 1. DAL Comparison Results<sup>a</sup>

	USC Aiken	Comparison Groups		
		Southeast Public	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2012
<b>First-Year</b>				
mean	<b>61</b>	60	61	61
ES		.04	-.01	.00
<b>Senior</b>				
mean	<b>69</b>	65 **	66 *	66 **
ES		.20	.14	.18

Figure 1. Class Preparation Time<sup>b</sup> by DAL Score<sup>c</sup>



a. For details on the DAL scale including component items and how it is computed, visit [nsse.iub.edu/html/creating\\_scales.cfm](http://nsse.iub.edu/html/creating_scales.cfm); \*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001; ES=Cohen's *d* effect size, where .2 is often considered small, .5 moderate, and .8 large.  
 b. Adjusted for part-time students (see [nsse.iub.edu/html/PT\\_adjustment.cfm](http://nsse.iub.edu/html/PT_adjustment.cfm)).  
 c. Your students were divided into quartiles, four groups of equal size based on their DAL scores.



## NSSE 2012 Question Comparisons

By examining individual NSSE questions, one can better understand what contributes to USC Aiken's overall benchmark scores. This section features the five questions on which USC Aiken's first-year and senior students scored the highest and the five questions on which they scored the lowest, relative to students listed in the *NSSE 2012 Comparison Groups* report.

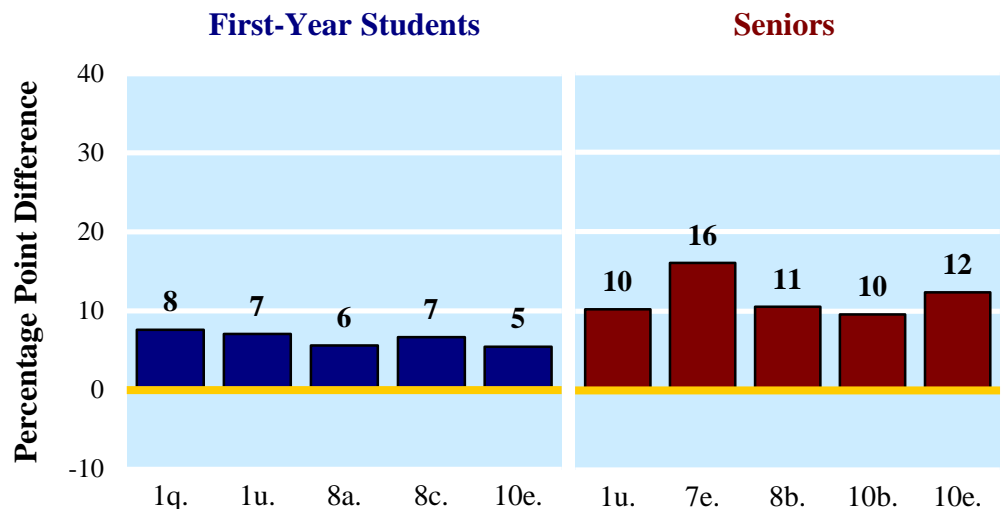
These questions were chosen to represent the largest differences (in percentage points); however, they may not be the most important to USC Aiken's mission, or current program or strategic goals.

### Highest Performing Benchmark Items Relative to Southeast Public

### Comparison Groups

Question	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	Percentage of students who...	USC Aiken	Southeast Public	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2012
<b>First-Year Students</b>						
1q.	SFI	Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty <sup>2</sup>	<b>67%</b>	60%	64%	61%
1u.	EEE	Had serious conversations w/ students of another race or ethnicity <sup>2</sup>	<b>60%</b>	53%	52%	53%
8a.	SCE	Positively rated their relationships with other students <sup>3</sup>	<b>85%</b>	79%	79%	79%
8c.	SCE	Positively rated their relationships with admin. personnel and offices <sup>3</sup>	<b>66%</b>	59%	66%	61%
10e.	SCE	Said the institution provides substantial support for students' social needs <sup>4</sup>	<b>58%</b>	52%	53%	52%
<b>Seniors</b>						
1u.	EEE	Had serious conversations w/ students of another race or ethnicity <sup>2</sup>	<b>67%</b>	56%	51%	55%
7e.	EEE	Completed foreign language coursework	<b>54%</b>	37%	31%	38%
8b.	SCE	Positively rated their relationships with faculty members <sup>3</sup>	<b>90%</b>	80%	85%	80%
10b.	SCE	Said the institution provides substantial support for academic success <sup>4</sup>	<b>83%</b>	74%	77%	74%
10e.	SCE	Said the institution provides substantial support for students' social needs <sup>4</sup>	<b>54%</b>	42%	40%	40%

The adjacent figure, based on the table above, displays the questions on which USC Aiken's students compared most favorably with those in your selected comparison group named Southeast Public.



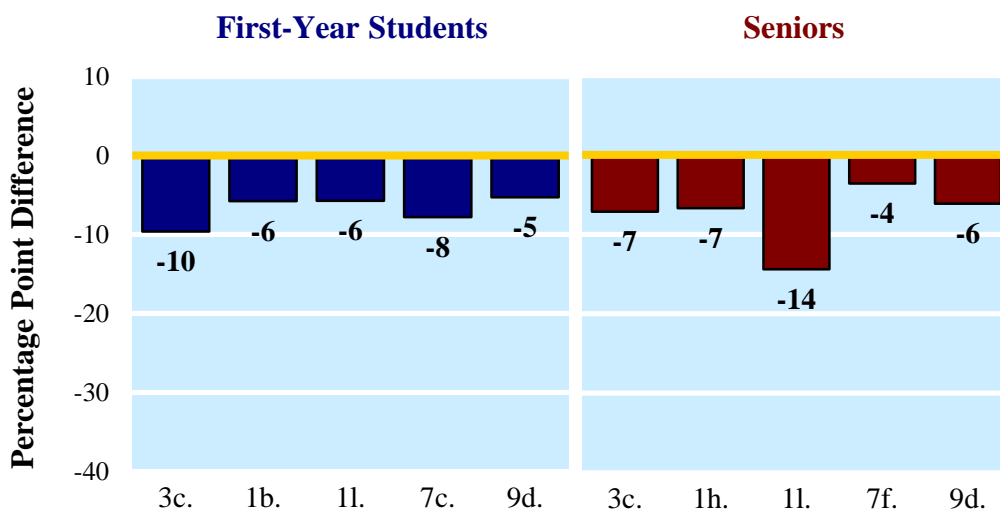


## Lowest Performing Benchmark Items Relative to Southeast Public

## Comparison Groups

Ques- tion	Bench- mark <sup>1</sup>	Percentage of students who...	USC Aiken	Southeast Public	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2012
<b>First-Year Students</b>						
3c.	LAC	Wrote at least one paper or report of 20 pages or more	<b>7%</b>	17%	20%	19%
1b.	ACL	Made a class presentation <sup>2</sup>	<b>29%</b>	34%	43%	36%
1l.	EEE	Used an electronic medium to discuss or complete an assignment <sup>2</sup>	<b>52%</b>	57%	56%	57%
7c.	EEE	Participated in a learning community	<b>9%</b>	17%	16%	18%
9d.	EEE	Spent more than 5 hours/week participating in co-curricular activities	<b>25%</b>	31%	31%	32%
<b>Seniors</b>						
3c.	LAC	Wrote at least one paper or report of 20 pages or more	<b>38%</b>	45%	51%	49%
1h.	ACL	Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments <sup>2</sup>	<b>54%</b>	60%	59%	60%
1l.	EEE	Used an electronic medium to discuss or complete an assignment <sup>2</sup>	<b>51%</b>	66%	64%	65%
7f.	EEE	Had a study abroad experience	<b>8%</b>	11%	9%	14%
9d.	EEE	Spent more than 5 hours/week participating in co-curricular activities	<b>19%</b>	25%	25%	26%

The adjacent figure, based on the table above, displays the questions on which USC Aiken students compared least favorably with those in the Southeast Public comparison group.



### Notes

<sup>1</sup> LAC=Level of Academic Challenge; ACL=Active and Collaborative Learning; SFI=Student-Faculty Interaction; EEE=Enriching Educational Experiences; SCE=Supportive Campus Environment

<sup>2</sup> Combination of students responding "Very often" or "Often"

<sup>3</sup> Rated at least 5 on a 7-point scale

<sup>4</sup> Combination of students responding "Very much" or "Quite a bit"

## Respondent Characteristics

The adjacent table displays the number of respondents, response rate, and sampling error by class. Sampling error is an estimate of the margin by which the true percentage of students may differ from the reported percentage on a given item (because not all of our students completed surveys).

	N	Resp. Rate	Sampling Error
First-Year Students	243	43%	+/-4.8%
Seniors	254	42%	+/-4.7%



## Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice

To represent the multi-dimensional nature of student engagement, NSSE developed five indicators of effective educational practice. These "benchmarks" are created from clusters of NSSE questions that best represent these practices.

The table below summarizes key benchmark results for our institution and institutions in your selected comparison groups. A '+' symbol indicates that our institution's score is higher than the comparison group and a '-' symbol indicates a lower score (p <.05). A blank space indicates no significant difference.

		Comparison Groups			
		USC Aiken	Southeast Public	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2012
<i>Class</i>					
<b>Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)</b>					
<i>How challenging is your institution's intellectual and creative work?</i>	First-Year	<b>54</b>			
	Senior	<b>59</b>	+		
<b>Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)</b>					
<i>Are your students actively involved in their learning, individually and working with others?</i>	First-Year	<b>43</b>		-	
	Senior	<b>54</b>			
<b>Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)</b>					
<i>Do your students work with faculty members inside and outside the classroom?</i>	First-Year	<b>37</b>			
	Senior	<b>47</b>			+
<b>Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)</b>					
<i>Do your students take advantage of complementary learning opportunities?</i>	First-Year	<b>27</b>			
	Senior	<b>43</b>	+		+
<b>Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)</b>					
<i>Do your students feel the institution is committed to their success?</i>	First-Year	<b>65</b>			
	Senior	<b>68</b>	+	+	+

IPEDS:218645

## For More Information

A comprehensive summary of all results is contained in the institutional report. Reports used in this Executive Snapshot included the: NSSE 2012 Mean Comparisons, Frequency Distributions, Benchmark Comparisons, and Respondent Characteristics.



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