



NSSE 2016

Multi-Year Report

University of South Carolina Aiken

Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research & Compliance

Director: Lloyd A. Dawe, Ph.D.

About Your Multi-Year Report

For institutions participating in multiple NSSE administrations since 2013, the year of the last survey update, this report presents year-to-year results for Engagement Indicators (EIs), High-Impact Practices (HIPs), and key academic challenge items to illustrate patterns of change or stability. It also provides details such as number of respondents, standard deviation, and standard error so that statistical tests can be calculated.

For more information and recommendations for analyzing NSSE data over time, contact the USC Aiken Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research & Compliance or visit the *Multi-Year Data Analysis Guide* on the NSSE website. nsse.indiana.edu/pdf/MYDAG.pdf

This report contains three main parts: (a) a page that provides a quick reference to important information about each year's administration, (b) multi-year figures, and (c) detailed statistics. Key terms and features are illustrated below.

Report sections

Administration Summaries (p. 3)	A summary of respondent counts, response rates, sampling errors, and administration details for each participation year.
Engagement Results by Theme (pp. 4-7)	Results for ten EIs and selected individual survey items are displayed, organized under four broad themes. The Academic Challenge theme is represented by four EIs as well as several individual items. The three remaining engagement themes (Learning with Peers, Experiences with Faculty, and Campus Environment) follow, each represented by two EIs.
High-Impact Practices (pp. 8-9)	Results for six HIPs are displayed. First-year results indicate students who <i>participated</i> in a Learning Community, Service-Learning, and Research with Faculty, and who <i>planned to do</i> an Internship or Field Experience, Study Abroad, and a Culminating Senior Experience. Senior results indicate students who participated in all six.
Detailed Statistics (pp. 10-13)	Displays detailed information for results including counts, standard errors, and confidence intervals (CIs) for each measure.

Interpreting year-to-year results

When examining year-to-year results, you may wonder whether observed differences signify meaningful change and whether a trend is indicated. Figures display CIs around each score showing the range of values that will contain the population score 95% of the time. Upper and lower CI bounds are also reported in the Detailed Statistics section.

The precision of an institution's population estimates can vary between administrations. An important early step in conducting a multi-year analysis is to review data quality. The values in the tables below were drawn from *Administration Summary* reports.

Response Details by Participation Year

Year	First-year students					Seniors				
	Response rate ^a	Sampling error ^b	Total respondents ^c	Full completions	Partial completions	Response rate ^a	Sampling error ^b	Total respondents ^c	Full completions	Partial completions
2013										
2014	26%	+/- 7.0%	147	126	21	31%	+/- 7.0%	137	121	16
2015										
2016	30%	+/- 6.4%	162	143	19	35%	+/- 4.9%	261	227	34
2017										
2018										
2019										
2020										

Administration Details by Participation Year

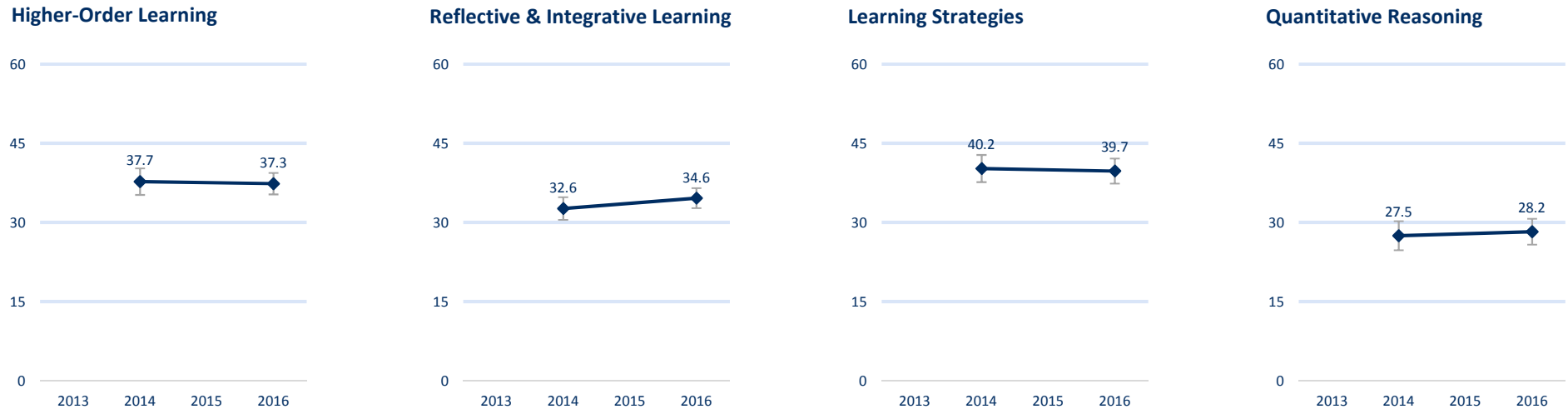
Year	Recruitment method	Sample type	Incentives offered	Topical module(s)	Consortium	BCSSE	FSSE
2013							
2014	Email	Census	Yes	None	None	No	No
2015							
2016	Email	Census	Yes	None	None	No	No
2017							
2018							
2019							
2020							

Note: All of our institution's participation years since 2013 (the first year of the updated NSSE) are reported. Years in which our institution did not participate are blank.

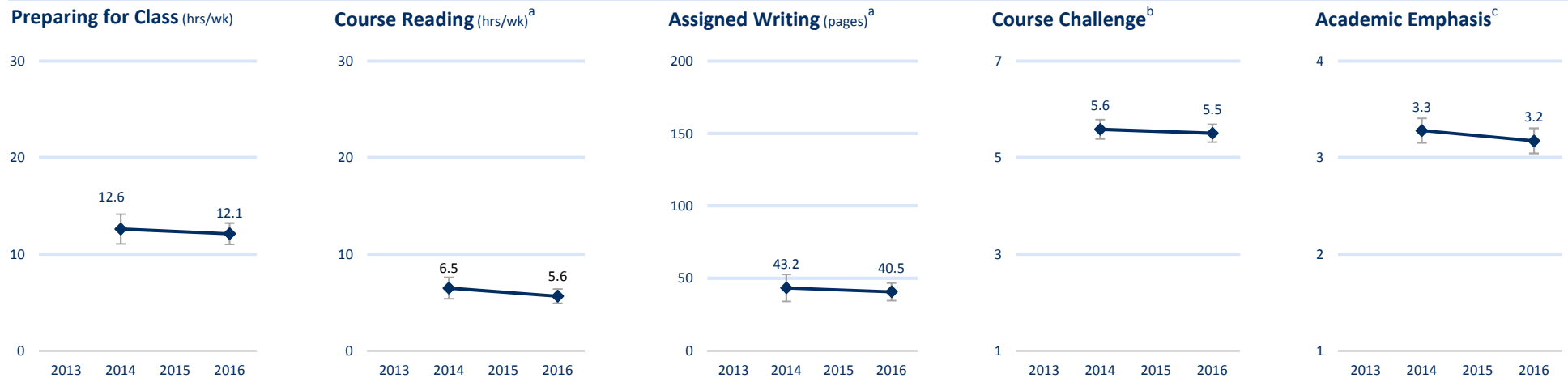
- a. Response rates (number of respondents divided by sample size) are adjusted for ineligibility, nondeliverable addresses, and students who were unavailable during the survey administration.
- b. Sampling error gauges the precision of results based on a sample survey. It is an estimate (at the 95% confidence level) of how much survey item percentages for our respondents could differ from those of the entire population of students at USC Aiken. While data with larger sampling errors (such as +/-10%) need not be dismissed out of hand, such results should be interpreted more conservatively.
- c. This is the count used to calculate response rates and sampling errors for each year's *Administration Summary* report. This number includes all census-administered and randomly sampled students.

Engagement Indicators (EIs) provide valuable information about distinct aspects of student engagement, organized within four themes. EI scores represent the averaged student responses to a set of related survey questions. The Academic Challenge theme contains four EIs as well as several important individual items. For more information, including the items that make up each EI, refer to the *Engagement Indicators* report.

Academic Challenge: First-year students



Academic Challenge (additional items): First-year students



a. Values for Course Reading and Assigned Writing are estimates calculated from two or more survey questions.

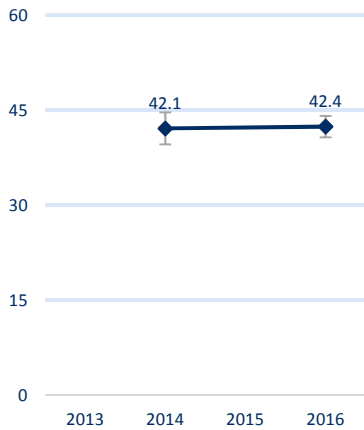
b. Extent to which courses challenged students to do their best work (from 1 = "Not at all" to 7 = "Very much").

c. How much students said the institution emphasizes spending significant time studying and on academic work (1 = "Very little," 2 = "Some," 3 = "Quite a bit," and 4 = "Very much").

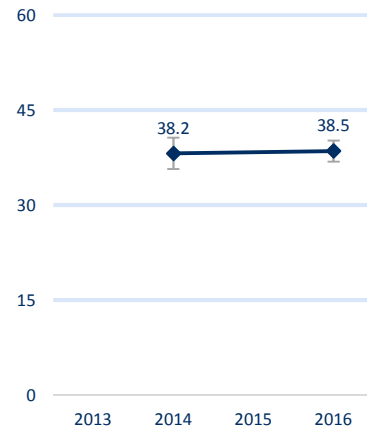
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Academic Challenge: Seniors

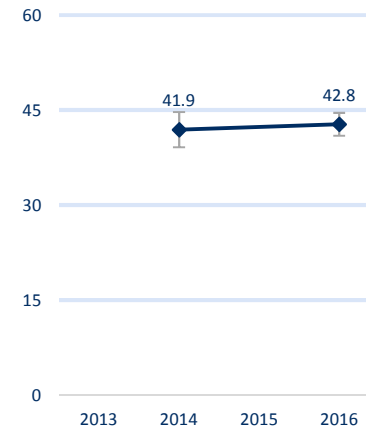
Higher-Order Learning



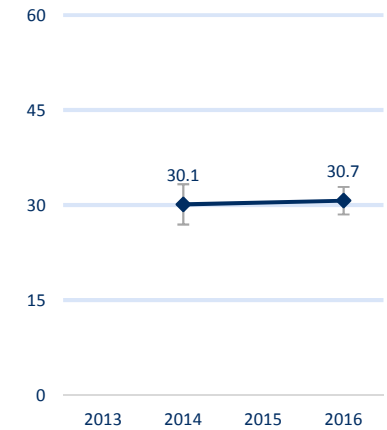
Reflective & Integrative Learning



Learning Strategies

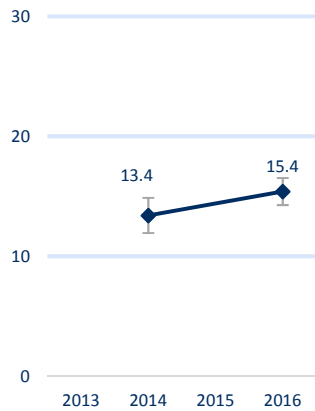


Quantitative Reasoning

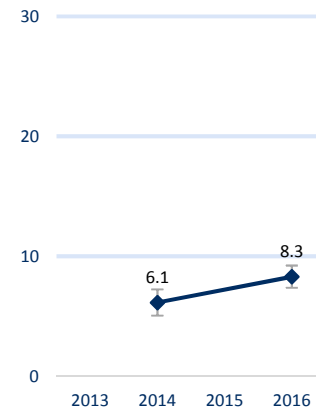


Academic Challenge (additional items): Seniors

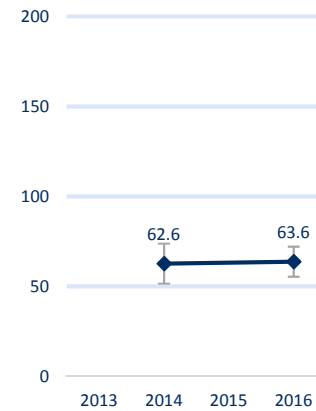
Preparing for Class (hrs/wk)



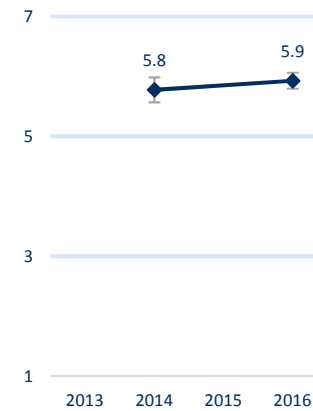
Course Reading (hrs/wk)^a



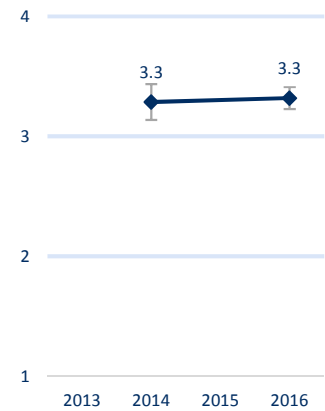
Assigned Writing (pages)^a



Course Challenge^b



Academic Emphasis^c



a. Values for Course Reading and Assigned Writing are estimates calculated from two or more survey questions.

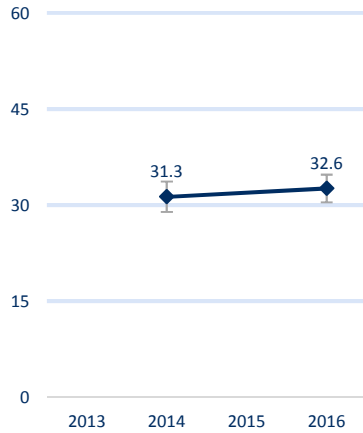
b. Extent to which courses challenged students to do their best work (from 1 = "Not at all" to 7 = "Very much").

c. How much students said the institution emphasizes spending significant time studying and on academic work (1 = "Very little," 2 = "Some," 3 = "Quite a bit," and 4 = "Very much").

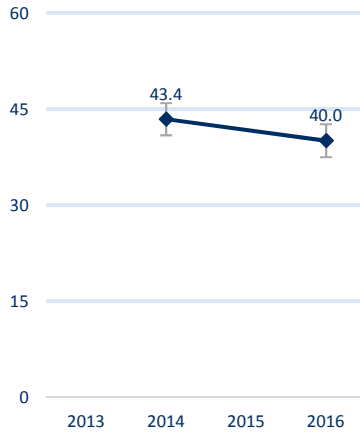
Engagement Indicators (EIs) provide valuable information about distinct aspects of student engagement, organized within four themes. EI scores represent the averaged student responses to a set of related survey questions. The Learning with Peers, Experiences with Faculty, and Campus Environment themes are each represented by two EIs. For more information, including the items that make up each EI, refer to the *Engagement Indicators* report.

Learning with Peers: First-year students

Collaborative Learning

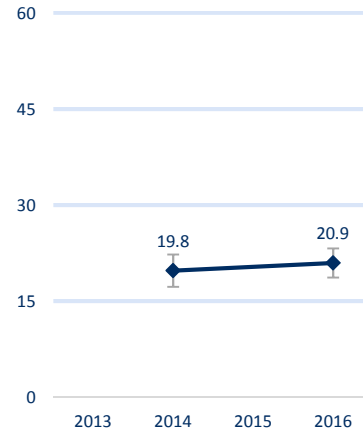


Discussions with Diverse Others

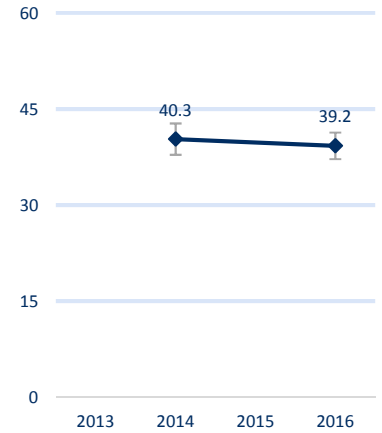


Experiences with Faculty: First-year students

Student-Faculty Interaction

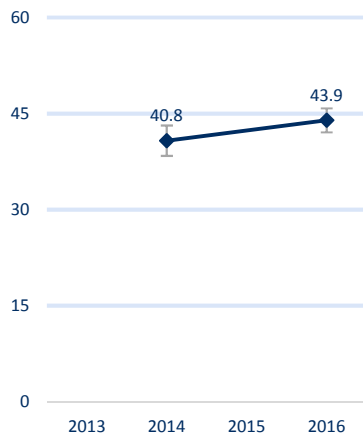


Effective Teaching Practices

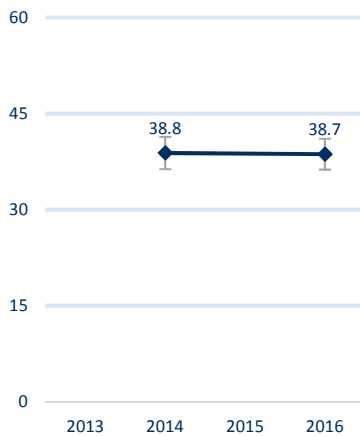


Campus Environment: First-year students

Quality of Interactions



Supportive Environment



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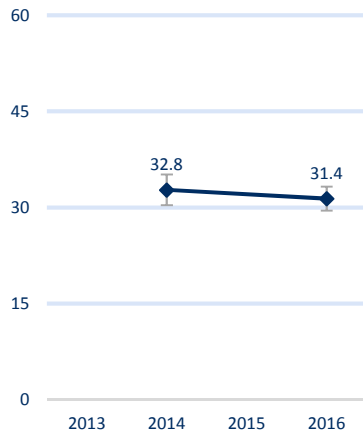
Engagement Results by Theme

University of South Carolina Aiken

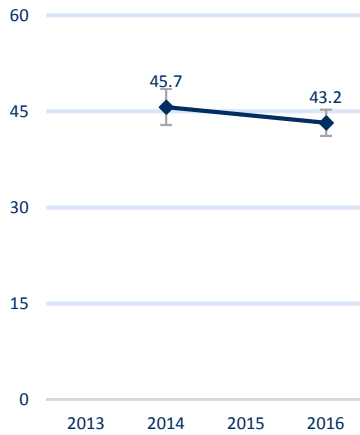
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Learning with Peers: Seniors

Collaborative Learning

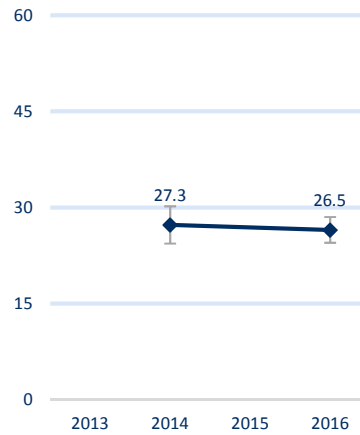


Discussions with Diverse Others

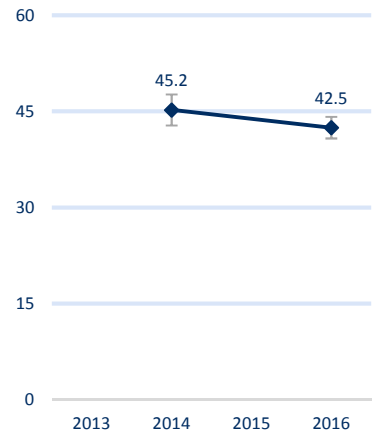


Experiences with Faculty: Seniors

Student-Faculty Interaction

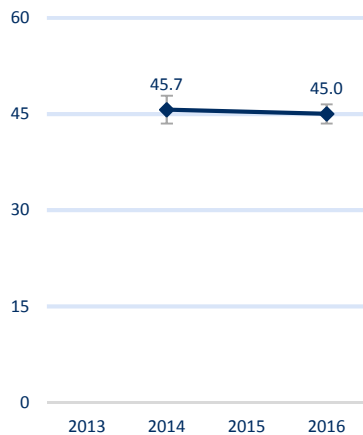


Effective Teaching Practices

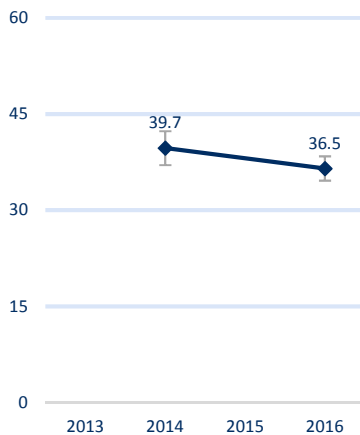


Campus Environment: Seniors

Quality of Interactions



Supportive Environment

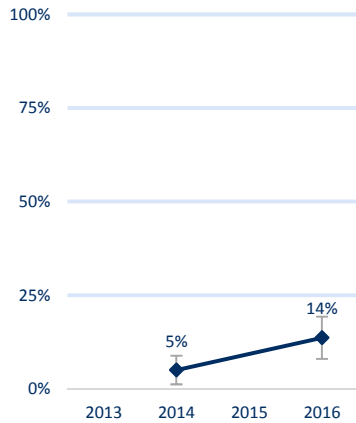


Due to their positive associations with student learning and retention, special undergraduate opportunities are designated "high-impact." The figures below display first-year students' participation, or intent to participate, in High-Impact Practices (HIPs) by year. For more information, refer to the *High-Impact Practices* report.

High-Impact Practices: First-year students

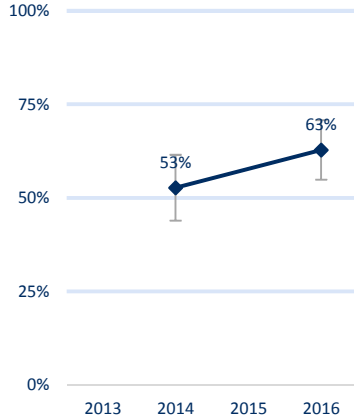
Learning Community

(Done or in progress)



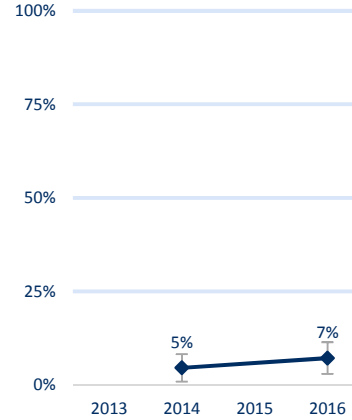
Service-Learning

(Some, most, or all courses)



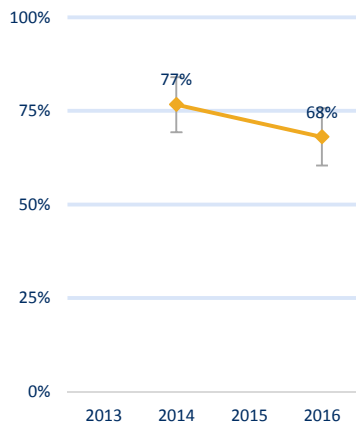
Research with Faculty

(Done or in progress)



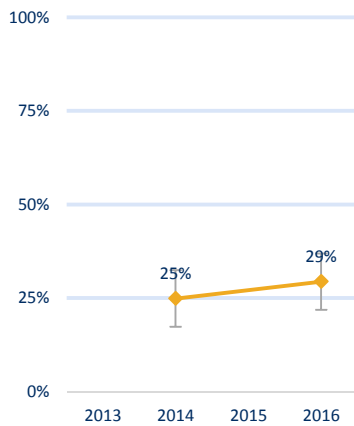
Internship/Field Experience

(Plan to do)



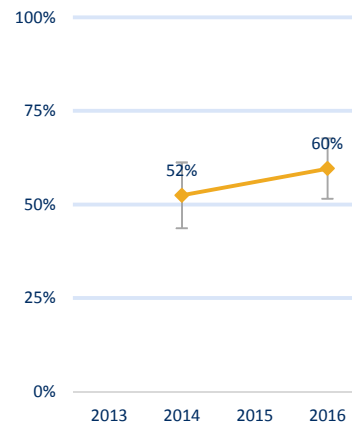
Study Abroad

(Plan to do)



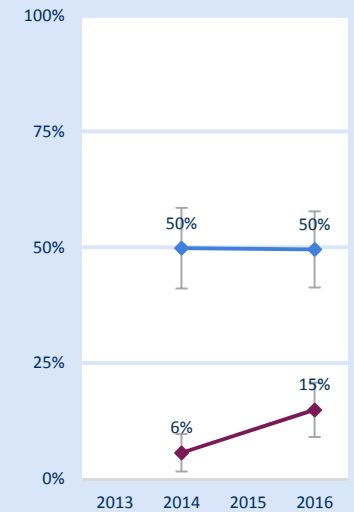
Culminating Senior Experience

(Plan to do)



Overall first-year HIP participation

The figure below displays the percentages of first-year students who participated in one, and two or more, HIPs. The figure is limited to participation in a learning community, service-learning, and research with faculty.

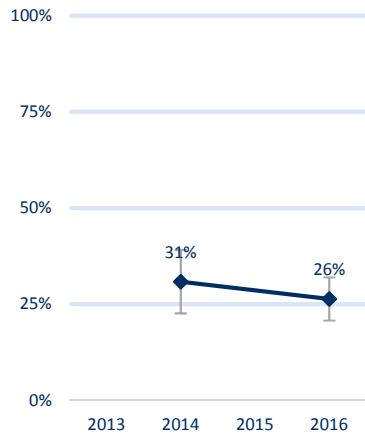


◆ Participated in two or more HIPs
◆ Participated in one HIP

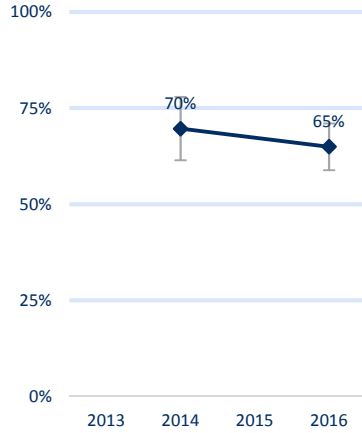
Due to their positive associations with student learning and retention, special undergraduate opportunities are designated "high-impact." Participation in High-Impact Practices (HIPs) by year is displayed in the figures below. For more information, refer to the *High-Impact Practices* report.

High-Impact Practices: Seniors

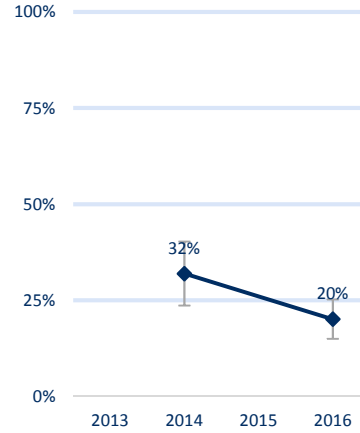
Learning Community (Done or in progress)



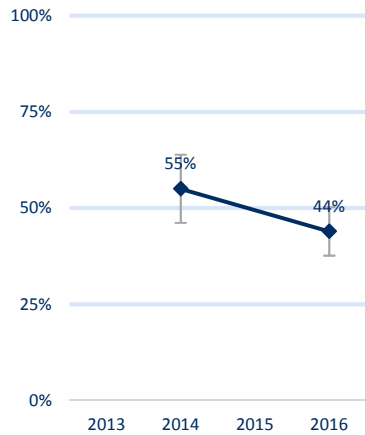
Service-Learning (Some, most, or all courses)



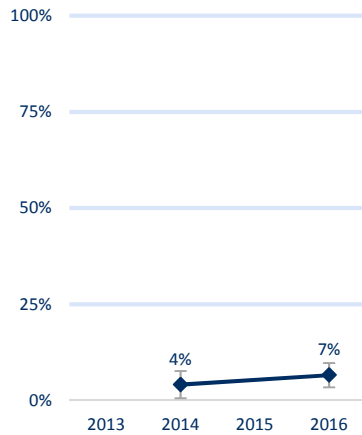
Research with Faculty (Done or in progress)



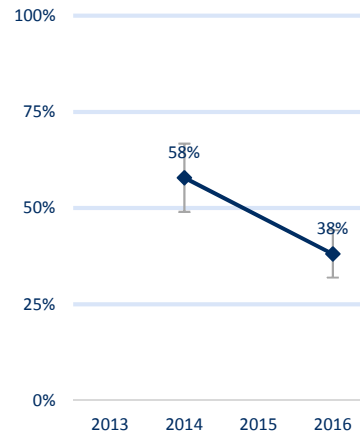
Internship/Field Experience (Done or in progress)



Study Abroad (Done or in progress)

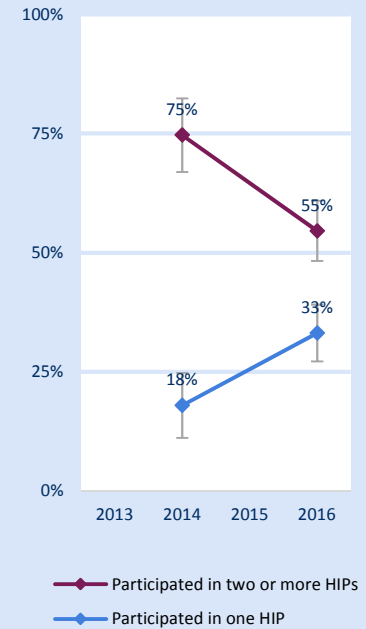


Culminating Senior Experience (Done or in progress)



Overall senior HIP participation

The figure below displays the percentages of seniors who participated in one, and two or more, HIPs. The figure includes all six HIPs.



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Detailed Statistics: Engagement Indicators and Additional Items

University of South Carolina Aiken

		First-year students							Seniors								
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>Academic Challenge</i>																	
Higher-Order Learning	<i>Mean</i>		37.7		37.3						42.1		42.4				
	<i>n</i>		131		154						126		247				
	<i>SD</i>		14.7		12.9						14.4		13.6				
	<i>SE</i>		1.28		1.04						1.29		.87				
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		40.2		39.4						44.6		44.1				
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		35.2		35.3						39.6		40.7				
Reflective & Integrative Learning	<i>Mean</i>		32.6		34.6					38.2		38.5					
	<i>n</i>		135		157					133		253					
	<i>SD</i>		12.7		12.2					14.4		13.6					
	<i>SE</i>		1.10		.97					1.25		.86					
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		34.8		36.5					40.6		40.2					
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		30.5		32.7					35.7		36.9					
Learning Strategies	<i>Mean</i>		40.2		39.7					41.9		42.8					
	<i>n</i>		126		139					120		238					
	<i>SD</i>		14.8		14.2					15.5		14.2					
	<i>SE</i>		1.31		1.21					1.42		.92					
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		42.8		42.1					44.7		44.6					
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		37.6		37.4					39.1		41.0					
Quantitative Reasoning	<i>Mean</i>		27.5		28.2					30.1		30.7					
	<i>n</i>		134		152					129		247					
	<i>SD</i>		16.2		15.5					18.4		17.3					
	<i>SE</i>		1.40		1.26					1.62		1.10					
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		30.2		30.7					33.3		32.9					
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		24.7		25.8					26.9		28.5					
<i>Academic Challenge (additional items)</i>																	
Preparing for Class (hours/week)	<i>Mean</i>		12.6		12.1					13.4		15.4					
	<i>n</i>		114		139					113		228					
	<i>SD</i>		8.5		6.7					7.9		8.7					
	<i>SE</i>		.79		.57					.75		.58					
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		14.1		13.2					14.9		16.5					
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		11.0		11.0					11.9		14.3					
Course Reading Estimated hours per week calculated from two survey questions.	<i>Mean</i>		6.5		5.6					6.1		8.3					
	<i>n</i>		113		138					111		225					
	<i>SD</i>		6.1		4.4					5.9		7.1					
	<i>SE</i>		.57		.38					.56		.47					
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		7.6		6.4					7.2		9.2					
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		5.4		4.9					5.0		7.4					

Notes: n = Number of respondents; SD = Standard deviation; SE = Standard error of the mean; upper and lower bounds represent the 95% confidence interval (mean +/- 1.96 * SE).

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Detailed Statistics: Engagement Indicators and Additional Items

University of South Carolina Aiken

		First-year students						Seniors									
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>Academic Challenge (additional items, continued)</i>																	
Assigned Writing	<i>Mean</i>		43.2		40.5								62.6		63.6		
Estimated number of pages calculated from three survey questions.	<i>n</i>		120		140								111		232		
	<i>SD</i>		52.0		36.5								60.0		64.9		
	<i>SE</i>		4.74		3.09								5.68		4.26		
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		52.5		46.6								73.7		72.0		
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		33.9		34.5								51.5		55.3		
Course Challenge	<i>Mean</i>		5.6		5.5								5.8		5.9		
Extent to which courses challenged students to do their best work (1 = "Not at all" to 7 = "Very much").	<i>n</i>		129		142								122		240		
	<i>SD</i>		1.2		1.1								1.2		1.1		
	<i>SE</i>		.10		.09								.11		.07		
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		5.8		5.7								6.0		6.1		
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		5.4		5.3								5.6		5.8		
Academic Emphasis	<i>Mean</i>		3.3		3.2								3.3		3.3		
Perceived institutional emphasis on spending significant time studying and on academic work (1 = "Very little," 2 = "Some," 3 = "Quite a bit," and 4 = "Very much").	<i>n</i>		115		138								111		229		
	<i>SD</i>		0.7		0.8								0.8		0.7		
	<i>SE</i>		.06		.07								.08		.05		
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		3.4		3.3								3.4		3.4		
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		3.2		3.0								3.1		3.2		
<i>Learning with Peers</i>																	
Collaborative Learning	<i>Mean</i>		31.3		32.6								32.8		31.4		
	<i>n</i>		137		154								133		255		
	<i>SD</i>		14.1		13.6								14.0		15.2		
	<i>SE</i>		1.21		1.10								1.22		.95		
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		33.6		34.7								35.1		33.2		
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		28.9		30.4								30.4		29.5		
Discussions with Diverse Others	<i>Mean</i>		43.4		40.0								45.7		43.2		
	<i>n</i>		128		144								122		239		
	<i>SD</i>		14.5		15.7								15.8		16.1		
	<i>SE</i>		1.28		1.31								1.43		1.04		
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		45.9		42.6								48.5		45.3		
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		40.9		37.5								42.9		41.2		

Notes: n = Number of respondents; SD = Standard deviation; SE = Standard error of the mean; upper and lower bounds represent the 95% confidence interval (mean +/- 1.96 * SE).

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		First-year students							Seniors								
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>Experiences with Faculty</i>																	
Student-Faculty Interaction	<i>Mean</i>		19.8		20.9						27.3		26.5				
	<i>n</i>		135		154						130		248				
	<i>SD</i>		15.0		14.3						16.9		16.1				
	<i>SE</i>		1.29		1.15						1.48		1.02				
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		22.3		23.2						30.2		28.5				
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		17.2		18.7						24.4		24.5				
<hr/>																	
Effective Teaching Practices	<i>Mean</i>		40.3		39.2						45.2		42.5				
	<i>n</i>		136		155						131		250				
	<i>SD</i>		14.6		13.1						14.1		13.6				
	<i>SE</i>		1.25		1.05						1.24		.86				
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		42.7		41.3						47.7		44.1				
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		37.8		37.2						42.8		40.8				
<hr/>																	
<i>Campus Environment</i>																	
Quality of Interactions	<i>Mean</i>		40.8		43.9						45.7		45.0				
	<i>n</i>		122		136						119		229				
	<i>SD</i>		13.4		11.2						12.0		11.5				
	<i>SE</i>		1.21		.96						1.10		.76				
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		43.1		45.8						47.9		46.5				
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		38.4		42.1						43.5		43.5				
<hr/>																	
Supportive Environment	<i>Mean</i>		38.8		38.7						39.7		36.5				
	<i>n</i>		115		137						112		227				
	<i>SD</i>		13.9		14.4						14.3		14.6				
	<i>SE</i>		1.29		1.23						1.35		.97				
	<i>CI upper bound</i>		41.4		41.1						42.3		38.4				
	<i>CI lower bound</i>		36.3		36.2						37.0		34.6				

Notes: n = Number of respondents; SD = Standard deviation; SE = Standard error of the mean; upper and lower bounds represent the 95% confidence interval (mean +/- 1.96 * SE).

NSSE 2016 Multi-Year Report

Detailed Statistics: High-Impact Practices

University of South Carolina Aiken

		First-year students							Seniors								
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Learning Community^a	%		5		14							31				26	
	<i>n</i>		127		143							122				237	
	<i>SE</i>		1.9		2.9							4.2				2.9	
	<i>CI upper bound (%)</i>		9		19							39				32	
	<i>CI lower bound (%)</i>		1		8							23				21	
Service-Learning^a	%		53		63							70				65	
	<i>n</i>		125		142							122				239	
	<i>SE</i>		4.5		4.1							4.2				3.1	
	<i>CI upper bound (%)</i>		62		71							78				71	
	<i>CI lower bound (%)</i>		44		55							61				59	
Research with Faculty^a	%		5		7							32				20	
	<i>n</i>		125		142							122				236	
	<i>SE</i>		1.9		2.2							4.2				2.6	
	<i>CI upper bound (%)</i>		8		11							40				25	
	<i>CI lower bound (%)</i>		1		3							24				15	
Internship or Field Experience^b	%		77		68							55				44	
	<i>n</i>		127		143							122				241	
	<i>SE</i>		3.8		3.9							4.5				3.2	
	<i>CI upper bound (%)</i>		84		76							64				50	
	<i>CI lower bound (%)</i>		69		60							46				38	
Study Abroad^b	%		25		29							4				7	
	<i>n</i>		126		142							122				237	
	<i>SE</i>		3.9		3.8							1.8				1.6	
	<i>CI upper bound (%)</i>		32		37							8				10	
	<i>CI lower bound (%)</i>		17		22							1				3	
Culminating Senior Experience^b	%		52		60							58				38	
	<i>n</i>		125		142							120				239	
	<i>SE</i>		4.5		4.1							4.5				3.1	
	<i>CI upper bound (%)</i>		61		68							67				44	
	<i>CI lower bound (%)</i>		44		52							49				32	
Overall HIP Participation^c																	
Participated in one HIP	%		50		50							18				33	
	<i>n</i>		128		143							122				241	
	<i>SE</i>		4.4		4.2							3.5				3.0	
	<i>CI upper bound (%)</i>		59		58							25				39	
	<i>CI lower bound (%)</i>		41		41							11				27	
Participated in two or more HIPs	%		6		15							75				55	
	<i>n</i>		128		143							122				241	
	<i>SE</i>		2.1		3.0							3.9				3.2	
	<i>CI upper bound (%)</i>		10		21							82				61	
	<i>CI lower bound (%)</i>		2		9							67				48	

Notes: n = Number of respondents; SE = Standard error of the proportion ($\sqrt{p * (1 - p) / (n - 1)}$) where p is the proportion; upper and lower bounds represent the 95% confidence interval ($p \pm 1.96 * SE$).

a. Results are the percentage who had done the activity.

b. First-year results are the percentage who planned to do the activity, and senior results are the percentage who had done the activity.

c. First-year results are limited to participation in a Learning Community, Service-Learning, and Research with Faculty; senior results include all six HIPs.