



NSSE 2018

Engagement Indicators

University of South Carolina Aiken

About Your Engagement Indicators Report

Engagement Indicators (EIs) provide a useful summary of the detailed information contained in your students' NSSE responses. By combining responses to related NSSE questions, each EI offers valuable information about a distinct aspect of student engagement. Ten indicators, based on three to eight survey questions each (a total of 47 survey questions), are organized into four broad themes as shown at right.

Theme	Engagement Indicator
<i>Academic Challenge</i>	Higher-Order Learning Reflective & Integrative Learning Learning Strategies Quantitative Reasoning
<i>Learning with Peers</i>	Collaborative Learning Discussions with Diverse Others
<i>Experiences with Faculty</i>	Student-Faculty Interaction Effective Teaching Practices
<i>Campus Environment</i>	Quality of Interactions Supportive Environment

Report Sections

- Overview (p. 3)** Displays how average EI scores for your students compare with those of students at your comparison group institutions.
- Theme Reports (pp. 4-13)** Detailed views of EI scores within the four themes for your students and those at comparison group institutions. Three views offer varied insights into your EI scores:

 - Mean Comparisons**
Straightforward comparisons of average scores between your students and those at comparison group institutions, with tests of significance and effect sizes (see below).
 - Score Distributions**
Box-and-whisker charts show the variation in scores *within* your institution and comparison groups.
 - Performance on Indicator Items**
Responses to each item in a given EI are summarized for your institution and comparison groups.
- Comparisons with High-Performing Institutions (p. 15)** Comparisons of your students' average scores on each EI with those of students at institutions whose average scores were in the top 50% and top 10% of 2017 and 2018 participating institutions.
- Detailed Statistics (pp. 16-19)** Detailed information about EI score means, distributions, and tests of statistical significance.

Interpreting Comparisons

Mean comparisons report both statistical significance and effect size. Effect size indicates the practical importance of an observed difference. For EI comparisons, NSSE research has concluded that an effect size of about .1 may be considered small, .3 medium, and .5 large (Rocconi & Gonyea, 2015). Comparisons with an effect size of at least .3 in magnitude (before rounding) are highlighted in the Overview (p. 3).

EIs vary more among students within an institution than between institutions, like many experiences and outcomes in higher education. As a result, focusing attention on average scores alone amounts to examining the tip of the iceberg. It's equally important to understand how student engagement varies within your institution. Score distributions indicate how EI scores vary among your students and those in your comparison groups. The Report Builder and your *Major Field Report* (both to be released in the fall) offer valuable perspectives on internal variation and help you investigate your students' engagement in depth.

How Engagement Indicators are Computed

Each EI is scored on a 60-point scale. To produce an indicator score, the response set for each item is converted to a 60-point scale (e.g., Never = 0; Sometimes = 20; Often = 40; Very often = 60), and the rescaled items are averaged. Thus a score of zero means a student responded at the bottom of the scale for every item in the EI, while a score of 60 indicates responses at the top of the scale on every item.

For more information on EIs and their psychometric properties, refer to the NSSE website: nsse.indiana.edu

Engagement Indicators: Overview

Engagement Indicators are summary measures based on sets of NSSE questions examining key dimensions of student engagement. The ten indicators are organized within four broad themes: Academic Challenge, Learning with Peers, Experiences with Faculty, and Campus Environment. The tables below compare average scores for your students with those in your comparison groups.

Use the following key:

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- △ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- No significant difference.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ($p < .05$) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

First-Year Students

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Engagement Indicator</i>	Your first-year students compared with Southeast Public	Your first-year students compared with Carnegie Class	Your first-year students compared with NSSE 2017 & 2018
<i>Academic Challenge</i>	Higher-Order Learning	--	--	--
	Reflective & Integrative Learning	--	--	--
	Learning Strategies	--	--	--
	Quantitative Reasoning	--	--	--
<i>Learning with Peers</i>	Collaborative Learning	--	--	--
	Discussions with Diverse Others	--	--	--
<i>Experiences with Faculty</i>	Student-Faculty Interaction	--	--	--
	Effective Teaching Practices	--	--	--
<i>Campus Environment</i>	Quality of Interactions	--	--	--
	Supportive Environment	--	--	--

Seniors

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Engagement Indicator</i>	Your seniors compared with Southeast Public	Your seniors compared with Carnegie Class	Your seniors compared with NSSE 2017 & 2018
<i>Academic Challenge</i>	Higher-Order Learning	--	--	--
	Reflective & Integrative Learning	--	--	--
	Learning Strategies	--	--	△
	Quantitative Reasoning	--	△	--
<i>Learning with Peers</i>	Collaborative Learning	--	--	--
	Discussions with Diverse Others	--	△	--
<i>Experiences with Faculty</i>	Student-Faculty Interaction	△	△	△
	Effective Teaching Practices	--	--	--
<i>Campus Environment</i>	Quality of Interactions	△	--	△
	Supportive Environment	△	△	△

Academic Challenge: First-year students

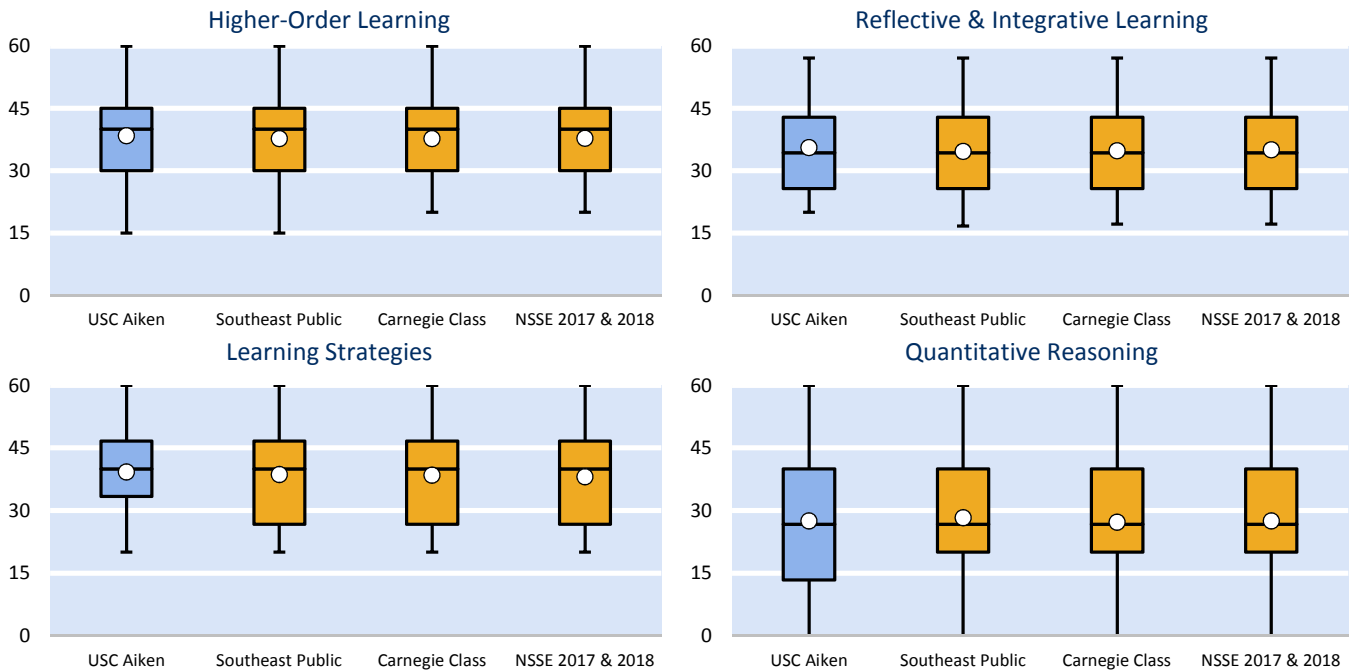
Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote student learning by challenging and supporting them to engage in various forms of deep learning. Four Engagement Indicators are part of this theme: *Higher-Order Learning*, *Reflective & Integrative Learning*, *Learning Strategies*, and *Quantitative Reasoning*. Below and on the next page are three views of your results alongside those of your comparison groups.

Mean Comparisons

Engagement Indicator	USC Aiken Mean	Your first-year students compared with					
		Southeast Public		Carnegie Class		NSSE 2017 & 2018	
		Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size
Higher-Order Learning	38.5	37.8	.05	37.7	.06	37.8	.05
Reflective & Integrative Learning	35.6	34.7	.07	34.8	.07	35.1	.04
Learning Strategies	39.2	38.6	.05	38.5	.06	38.0	.09
Quantitative Reasoning	27.5	28.2	-.05	27.2	.02	27.5	.00

Notes: Results weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups); Effect size: Mean difference divided by pooled standard deviation; Symbols on the Overview page are based on effect size and *p* before rounding; **p* < .05, ***p* < .01, ****p* < .001 (2-tailed).

Score Distributions






















































Notes: Each box-and-whiskers chart plots the 5th (bottom of lower bar), 25th (bottom of box), 50th (middle line), 75th (top of box), and 95th (top of upper bar) percentile scores. The dot represents the mean score. Refer to Detailed Statistics for your institution's sample sizes.

Academic Challenge: First-year students (continued)

Performance on Indicator Items

The table below displays how your students responded to each EI item, and the difference, in percentage points, between your students and those of your comparison group. Blue bars indicate how much higher your institution's percentage is from that of the comparison group. Dark red bars indicate how much lower your institution's percentage is from that of the comparison group.

	USC Aiken	Percentage point difference ^a between your FY students and		
		Southeast Public	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2017 & 2018
Higher-Order Learning				
<i>Percentage responding "Very much" or "Quite a bit" about how much coursework emphasized...</i>				
	%			
4b. Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new situations	73	+2 	+4 	+2 
4c. Analyzing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	70	+1 	+2 	+1 
4d. Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	72	+3 	+1 	+3 
4e. Forming a new idea or understanding from various pieces of information	73	+6 	+4 	+5 
Reflective & Integrative Learning				
<i>Percentage of students who responded that they "Very often" or "Often"...</i>				
2a. Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments	51	+2 	+2 	+0 
2b. Connected your learning to societal problems or issues	47	-2 	-2 	-4 
2c. Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender, etc.) in course discussions or assignments	45	-5 	-5 	-6 
2d. Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	62	-1 	-2 	-2 
2e. Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective	67	-2 	-2 	-3 
2f. Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept	67	+2 	+0 	+0 
2g. Connected ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge	79	+4 	+2 	+2 
Learning Strategies				
<i>Percentage of students who responded that they "Very often" or "Often"...</i>				
9a. Identified key information from reading assignments	80	+5 	+3 	+4 
9b. Reviewed your notes after class	70	+3 	+4 	+5 
9c. Summarized what you learned in class or from course materials	66	+2 	+3 	+4 
Quantitative Reasoning				
<i>Percentage of students who responded that they "Very often" or "Often"...</i>				
6a. Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information (numbers, graphs, statistics, etc.)	54	-1 	+3 	+2 
6b. Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	36	-4 	-2 	-2 
6c. Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	37	-3 	+0 	-1 

Notes: Refer to your *Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons* report for full distributions and significance tests. Item numbering corresponds to the survey facsimile included in your *Institutional Report* and available on the NSSE website.

a. Percentage point difference = Institution percentage – Comparison group percentage. Because results are rounded to whole numbers, differences of less than 1 point may or may not display a bar. Small, but nonzero differences may be represented as +0 or -0.

Academic Challenge: Seniors

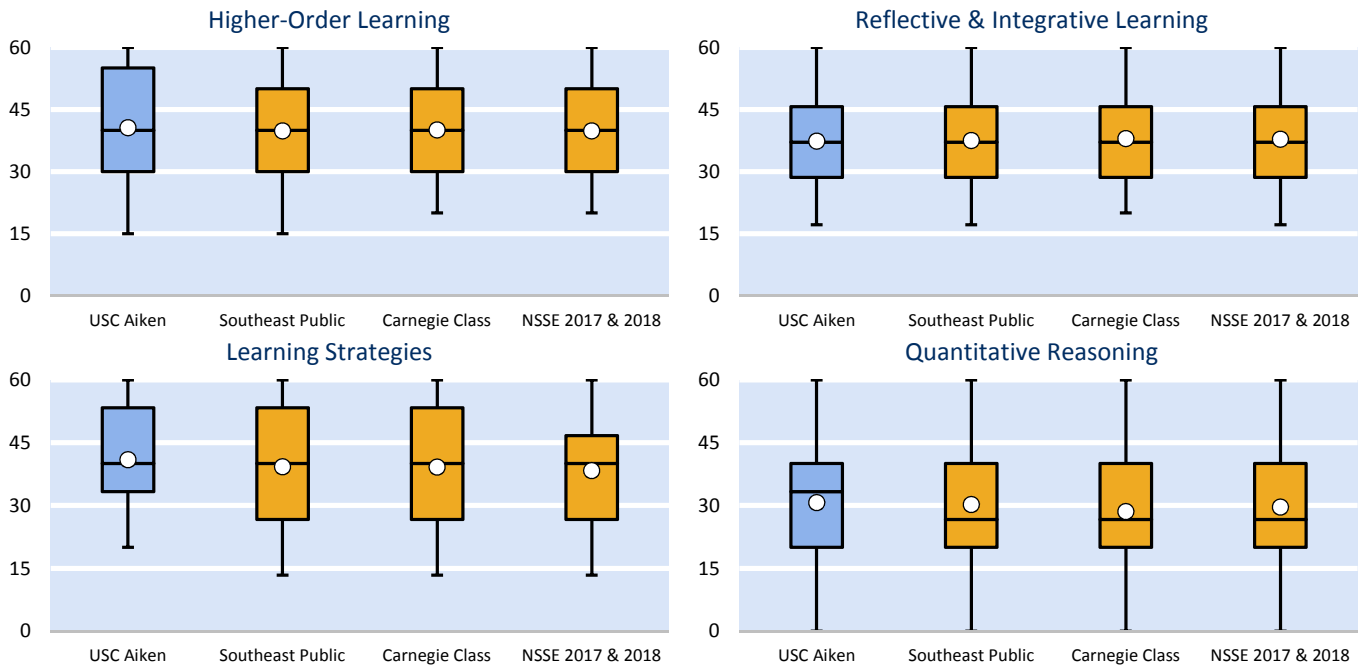
Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote student learning by challenging and supporting them to engage in various forms of deep learning. Four Engagement Indicators are part of this theme: *Higher-Order Learning*, *Reflective & Integrative Learning*, *Learning Strategies*, and *Quantitative Reasoning*. Below and on the next page are three views of your results alongside those of your comparison groups.

Mean Comparisons

Engagement Indicator	USC Aiken Mean	Your seniors compared with					
		Southeast Public		Carnegie Class		NSSE 2017 & 2018	
		Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size
Higher-Order Learning	40.6	39.9	.06	40.1	.04	39.8	.06
Reflective & Integrative Learning	37.3	37.5	-.02	38.0	-.05	37.8	-.04
Learning Strategies	40.9	39.2	.11	39.2	.12	38.3 **	.18
Quantitative Reasoning	30.7	30.2	.03	28.5 *	.13	29.6	.06

Notes: Results weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups); Effect size: Mean difference divided by pooled standard deviation; Symbols on the Overview page are based on effect size and *p* before rounding; **p* < .05, ***p* < .01, ****p* < .001 (2-tailed).

Score Distributions



Notes: Each box-and-whiskers chart plots the 5th (bottom of lower bar), 25th (bottom of box), 50th (middle line), 75th (top of box), and 95th (top of upper bar) percentile scores. The dot represents the mean score. Refer to Detailed Statistics for your institution's sample sizes.

Academic Challenge: Seniors (continued)

Performance on Indicator Items

The table below displays how your students responded to each EI item, and the difference, in percentage points, between your students and those of your comparison group. Blue bars indicate how much higher your institution's percentage is from that of the comparison group. Dark red bars indicate how much lower your institution's percentage is from that of the comparison group.

	USC Aiken	Percentage point difference ^a between your seniors and		
		Southeast Public	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2017 & 2018
Higher-Order Learning				
<i>Percentage responding "Very much" or "Quite a bit" about how much coursework emphasized...</i>				
	%			
4b. Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new situations	78	+0	+0	+0
4c. Analyzing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	77	+2	+2	+2
4d. Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	73	+5	+0	+3
4e. Forming a new idea or understanding from various pieces of information	71	+1	-1	+0
Reflective & Integrative Learning				
<i>Percentage of students who responded that they "Very often" or "Often"...</i>				
2a. Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments	70	+2	+2	+2
2b. Connected your learning to societal problems or issues	60	+1	-1	-1
2c. Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender, etc.) in course discussions or assignments	55	+5	+0	+2
2d. Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	66	+1	-1	+0
2e. Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective	73	+1	+0	+0
2f. Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept	64	-6	-6	-6
2g. Connected ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge	79	-3	-4	-4
Learning Strategies				
<i>Percentage of students who responded that they "Very often" or "Often"...</i>				
9a. Identified key information from reading assignments	79	+1	-1	+1
9b. Reviewed your notes after class	73	+8	+9	+11
9c. Summarized what you learned in class or from course materials	75	+9	+9	+12
Quantitative Reasoning				
<i>Percentage of students who responded that they "Very often" or "Often"...</i>				
6a. Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information (numbers, graphs, statistics, etc.)	59	+2	+7	+4
6b. Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	49	+4	+7	+5
6c. Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	45	-0	+4	+1

Notes: Refer to your *Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons* report for full distributions and significance tests. Item numbering corresponds to the survey facsimile included in your *Institutional Report* and available on the NSSE website.

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Learning with Peers: First-year students

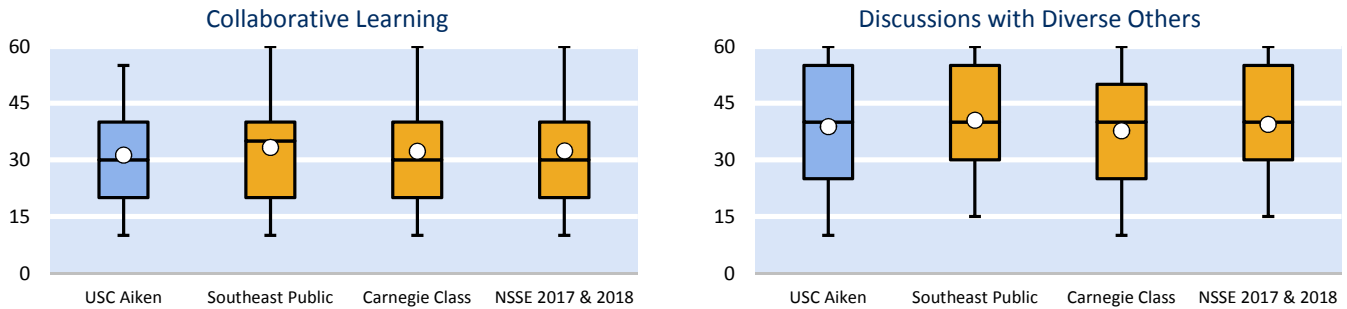
Collaborating with others in mastering difficult material and developing interpersonal and social competence prepare students to deal with complex, unscripted problems they will encounter during and after college. Two Engagement Indicators make up this theme: *Collaborative Learning* and *Discussions with Diverse Others*. Below are three views of your results alongside those of your comparison groups.

Mean Comparisons

Engagement Indicator	USC Aiken Mean	Your first-year students compared with					
		Southeast Public		Carnegie Class		NSSE 2017 & 2018	
		Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size
Collaborative Learning	31.2	33.3	-.15	32.2	-.07	32.3	-.08
Discussions with Diverse Others	38.8	40.5	-.11	37.6	.07	39.4	-.04

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Collaborative Learning	USC Aiken	Percentage point difference ^a between your FY students and		
		Southeast Public	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2017 & 2018
<i>Percentage of students who responded that they "Very often" or "Often"...</i>				
1e. Asked another student to help you understand course material	47	-7	-4	-6
1f. Explained course material to one or more students	53	-6	-4	-4
1g. Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students	45	-7	-4	-5
1h. Worked with other students on course projects or assignments	58	+3	+2	+3
<i>Discussions with Diverse Others</i>				
<i>Percentage of students who responded that they "Very often" or "Often" had discussions with...</i>				
8a. People from a race or ethnicity other than your own	70	-2	+2	+0
8b. People from an economic background other than your own	71	-2	+0	-1
8c. People with religious beliefs other than your own	62	-6	+6	-4
8d. People with political views other than your own	59	-9	-5	-6

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Learning with Peers: Seniors

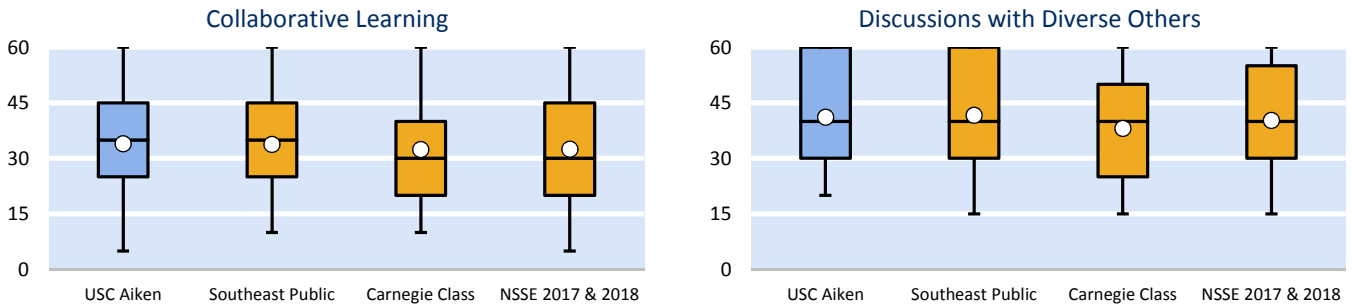
Collaborating with others in mastering difficult material and developing interpersonal and social competence prepare students to deal with complex, unscripted problems they will encounter during and after college. Two Engagement Indicators make up this theme: *Collaborative Learning* and *Discussions with Diverse Others*. Below are three views of your results alongside those of your comparison groups.

Mean Comparisons

Engagement Indicator	USC Aiken Mean	Your seniors compared with					
		Southeast Public		Carnegie Class		NSSE 2017 & 2018	
		Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size
Collaborative Learning	33.9	33.8	.01	32.4	.11	32.5	.10
Discussions with Diverse Others	41.1	41.7	-.04	38.1 **	.19	40.3	.05

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Collaborative Learning	USC Aiken %	Percentage point difference ^a between your seniors and		
		Southeast Public	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2017 & 2018
<i>Percentage of students who responded that they "Very often" or "Often"...</i>				
1e. Asked another student to help you understand course material	51	+5	+9	+7
1f. Explained course material to one or more students	64	+2	+4	+5
1g. Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students	57	+6	+9	+9
1h. Worked with other students on course projects or assignments	62	-4	-1	-2
<i>Discussions with Diverse Others</i>				
<i>Percentage of students who responded that they "Very often" or "Often" had discussions with...</i>				
8a. People from a race or ethnicity other than your own	76	+1	+9	+4
8b. People from an economic background other than your own	76	+1	+6	+4
8c. People with religious beliefs other than your own	67	-3	+11	-1
8d. People with political views other than your own	73	+3	+7	+7

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Experiences with Faculty: First-year students

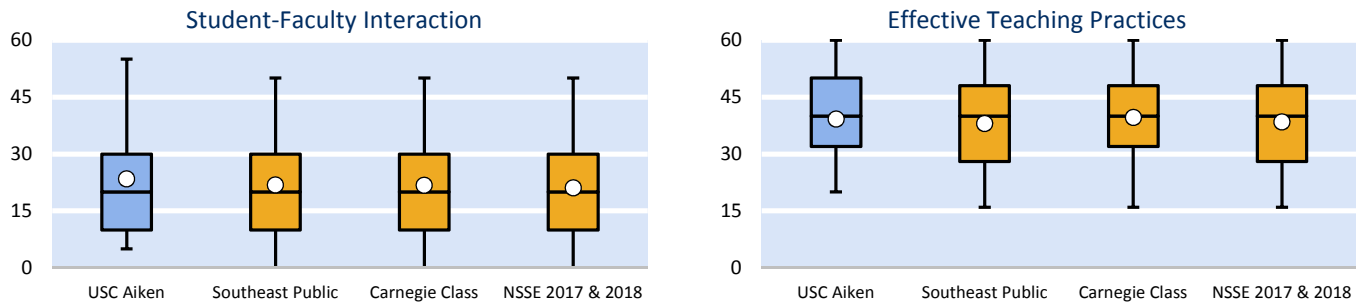
Students learn firsthand how experts think about and solve problems by interacting with faculty members inside and outside of instructional settings. As a result, faculty become role models, mentors, and guides for lifelong learning. In addition, effective teaching requires that faculty deliver course material and provide feedback in student-centered ways. Two Engagement Indicators investigate this theme: *Student-Faculty Interaction* and *Effective Teaching Practices*. Below are three views of your results alongside those of your comparison groups.

Mean Comparisons

Engagement Indicator	USC Aiken Mean	Your first-year students compared with			
		Southeast Public Mean Effect size	Carnegie Class Mean Effect size	NSSE 2017 & 2018 Mean Effect size	
Student-Faculty Interaction	23.4	21.8 .11	21.7 .12	21.1 .16	
Effective Teaching Practices	39.2	38.0 .09	39.7 -.03	38.5 .06	

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Student-Faculty Interaction	USC Aiken %	Percentage point difference ^a between your FY students and		
		Southeast Public	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2017 & 2018
<i>Percentage of students who responded that they "Very often" or "Often"...</i>				
3a. Talked about career plans with a faculty member	49	+10	+10	+12
3b. Worked w/faculty on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)	23	+1	+1	+2
3c. Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with a faculty member outside of class	26	-0	-1	+0
3d. Discussed your academic performance with a faculty member	32	-0	-0	+2
<i>Effective Teaching Practices</i>				
<i>Percentage responding "Very much" or "Quite a bit" about how much instructors have...</i>				
5a. Clearly explained course goals and requirements	78	+2	-0	+1
5b. Taught course sessions in an organized way	75	+2	-1	+0
5c. Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	73	+0	-1	-1
5d. Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	68	+6	+0	+5
5e. Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments	58	+0	-6	-2

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Experiences with Faculty: Seniors

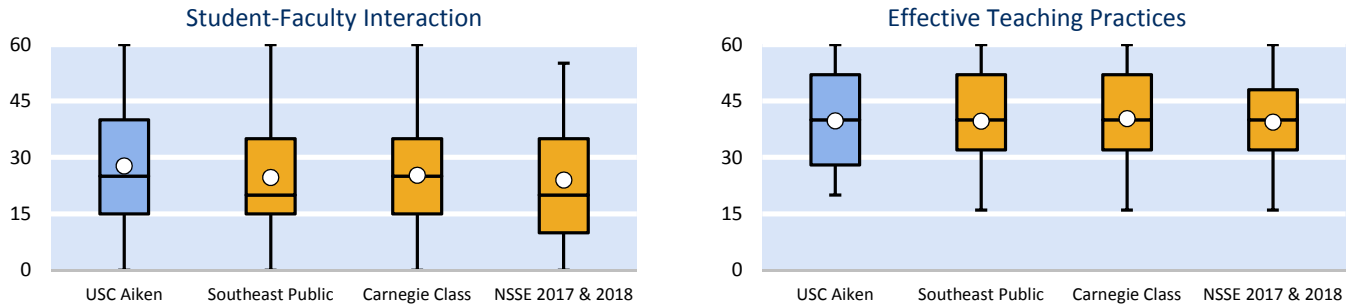
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	Mean	Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size
Student-Faculty Interaction	27.7	24.7 **	.19	25.2 *	.15	23.9 ***	.23
Effective Teaching Practices	39.7	39.6	.00	40.3	-.04	39.4	.02

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Student-Faculty Interaction	USC Aiken %	Percentage point difference ^a between your seniors and		
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<i>Percentage of students who responded that they "Very often" or "Often"...</i>				
3a. Talked about career plans with a faculty member	56	+11	+9	+13
3b. Worked w/faculty on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)	35	+6	+6	+7
3c. Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with a faculty member outside of class	39	+5	+3	+6
3d. Discussed your academic performance with a faculty member	43	+8	+6	+9
<i>Effective Teaching Practices</i>				
<i>Percentage responding "Very much" or "Quite a bit" about how much instructors have...</i>				
5a. Clearly explained course goals and requirements	74	-6	-5	-5
5b. Taught course sessions in an organized way	74	-4	-5	-4
5c. Used examples or illustrations to explain difficult points	77	+0	+0	+1
5d. Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	69	+8	+4	+9
5e. Provided prompt and detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments	60	-4	-7	-4

Notes: Refer to your *Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons* report for full distributions and significance tests. Item numbering corresponds to the survey facsimile included in your *Institutional Report* and available on the NSSE website.

a. Percentage point difference = Institution percentage – Comparison group percentage. Because results are rounded to whole numbers, differences of less than 1 point may or may not display a bar. Small, but nonzero differences may be represented as +0 or -0.

Campus Environment: First-year students

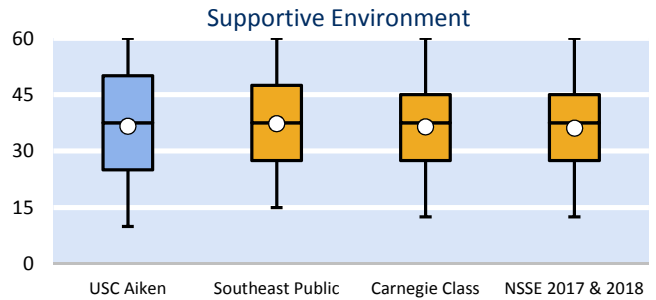
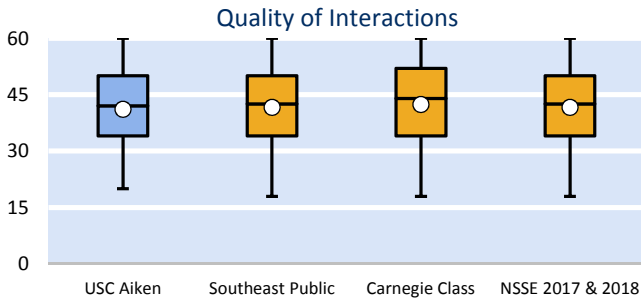
Students benefit and are more satisfied in supportive settings that cultivate positive relationships among students, faculty, and staff. Two Engagement Indicators investigate this theme: *Quality of Interactions* and *Supportive Environment*. Below are three views of your results alongside those of your comparison groups.

Mean Comparisons

Engagement Indicator	USC Aiken Mean	Your first-year students compared with					
		Southeast Public		Carnegie Class		NSSE 2017 & 2018	
		Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size
Quality of Interactions	41.1	41.6	-.04	42.4	-.10	41.7	-.04
Supportive Environment	36.6	37.3	-.05	36.5	.01	36.1	.04

Notes: Results weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups); Effect size: Mean difference divided by pooled standard deviation; Symbols on the Overview page are based on effect size and *p* before rounding; **p* < .05, ***p* < .01, ****p* < .001 (2-tailed).

Score Distributions



Notes: Each box-and-whiskers chart plots the 5th (bottom of lower bar), 25th (bottom of box), 50th (middle line), 75th (top of box), and 95th (top of upper bar) percentile scores. The dot represents the mean score. Refer to Detailed Statistics for your institution's sample sizes.

Performance on Indicator Items

The table below displays how your students responded to each EI item, and the difference, in percentage points, between your students and those of your comparison group. Blue bars indicate how much higher your institution's percentage is from that of the comparison group. Dark red bars indicate how much lower your institution's percentage is from that of the comparison group.

Quality of Interactions	USC Aiken	Percentage point difference ^a between your FY students and		
		Southeast Public	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2017 & 2018
<i>Percentage rating their interactions a 6 or 7 (on a scale from 1="Poor" to 7="Excellent") with...</i>				
13a. Students	42	-8	-10	-8
13b. Academic advisors	41	-10	-11	-8
13c. Faculty	48	+1	-5	-1
13d. Student services staff (career services, student activities, housing, etc.)	46	+1	+0	+2
13e. Other administrative staff and offices (registrar, financial aid, etc.)	44	+3	-3	+1
<i>Supportive Environment</i>				
<i>Percentage responding "Very much" or "Quite a bit" about how much the institution emphasized...</i>				
14b. Providing support to help students succeed academically	74	-2	-3	-2
14c. Using learning support services (tutoring services, writing center, etc.)	69	-9	-8	-8
14d. Encouraging contact among students from diff. backgrounds (soc., racial/eth., relig., etc.)	58	-5	-5	-4
14e. Providing opportunities to be involved socially	70	-4	-1	-1
14f. Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counseling, etc.)	64	-9	-3	-5
14g. Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	44	-1	-3	+1
14h. Attending campus activities and events (performing arts, athletic events, etc.)	78	+9	+14	+15
14i. Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues	61	+8	+11	+10

Notes: Refer to your *Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons* report for full distributions and significance tests. Item numbering corresponds to the survey facsimile included in your *Institutional Report* and available on the NSSE website.

a. Percentage point difference = Institution percentage – Comparison group percentage. Because results are rounded to whole numbers, differences of less than 1 point may or may not display a bar. Small, but nonzero differences may be represented as +0 or -0.

Campus Environment: Seniors

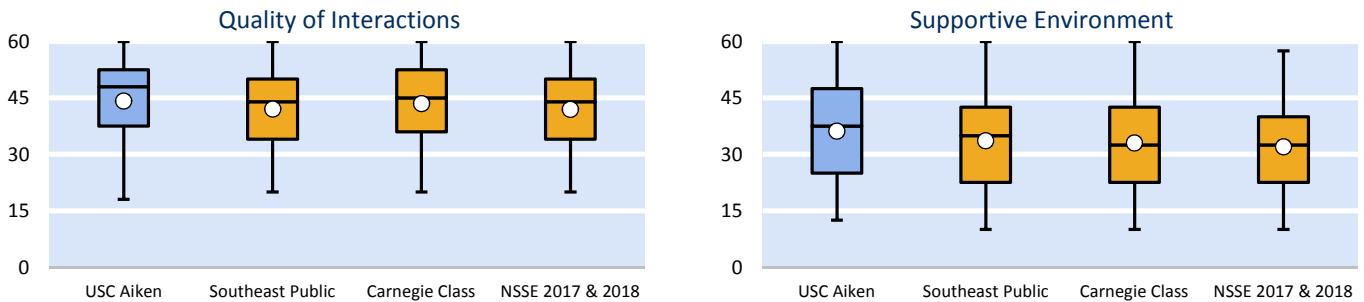
Students benefit and are more satisfied in supportive settings that cultivate positive relationships among students, faculty, and staff. Two Engagement Indicators investigate this theme: *Quality of Interactions* and *Supportive Environment*. Below are three views of your results alongside those of your comparison groups.

Mean Comparisons

Engagement Indicator	USC Aiken Mean	Your seniors compared with					
		Southeast Public		Carnegie Class		NSSE 2017 & 2018	
		Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size	Mean	Effect size
Quality of Interactions	44.2	42.0 **	.17	43.5	.05	42.0 **	.18
Supportive Environment	36.2	33.7 **	.18	33.0 ***	.22	32.0 ***	.30

Notes: Results weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups); Effect size: Mean difference divided by pooled standard deviation; Symbols on the Overview page are based on effect size and *p* before rounding; **p* < .05, ***p* < .01, ****p* < .001 (2-tailed).

Score Distributions



Notes: Each box-and-whiskers chart plots the 5th (bottom of lower bar), 25th (bottom of box), 50th (middle line), 75th (top of box), and 95th (top of upper bar) percentile scores. The dot represents the mean score. Refer to Detailed Statistics for your institution's sample sizes.

Performance on Indicator Items

The table below displays how your students responded to each EI item, and the difference, in percentage points, between your students and those of your comparison group. Blue bars indicate how much higher your institution's percentage is from that of the comparison group. Dark red bars indicate how much lower your institution's percentage is from that of the comparison group.

Quality of Interactions	USC Aiken	Percentage point difference ^a between your seniors and		
		Southeast Public	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2017 & 2018
<i>Percentage rating their interactions a 6 or 7 (on a scale from 1="Poor" to 7="Excellent") with...</i>				
	%			
13a. Students	56	-1	-2	+0
13b. Academic advisors	63	+13	+5	+12
13c. Faculty	56	+1	-5	+1
13d. Student services staff (career services, student activities, housing, etc.)	52	+9	+8	+11
13e. Other administrative staff and offices (registrar, financial aid, etc.)	49	+9	+2	+8
<i>Supportive Environment</i>				
<i>Percentage responding "Very much" or "Quite a bit" about how much the institution emphasized...</i>				
14b. Providing support to help students succeed academically	74	+2	-1	+4
14c. Using learning support services (tutoring services, writing center, etc.)	73	+7	+4	+8
14d. Encouraging contact among students from diff. backgrounds (soc., racial/eth., relig., etc.)	66	+9	+10	+11
14e. Providing opportunities to be involved socially	73	+4	+8	+9
14f. Providing support for your overall well-being (recreation, health care, counseling, etc.)	67	+1	+8	+7
14g. Helping you manage your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	41	+9	+6	+10
14h. Attending campus activities and events (performing arts, athletic events, etc.)	64	+5	+10	+13
14i. Attending events that address important social, economic, or political issues	58	+13	+17	+16

Notes: Refer to your *Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons* report for full distributions and significance tests. Item numbering corresponds to the survey facsimile included in your *Institutional Report* and available on the NSSE website.

a. Percentage point difference = Institution percentage – Comparison group percentage. Because results are rounded to whole numbers, differences of less than 1 point may or may not display a bar. Small, but nonzero differences may be represented as +0 or -0.

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Comparisons with Top 50% and Top 10% Institutions

While NSSE's policy is not to rank institutions (see nsse.indiana.edu/html/position_policies.cfm), the results below are designed to compare the engagement of your students with those attending two groups of institutions identified by NSSE^a for their high average levels of student engagement:

- (a) institutions with average scores placing them in the top 50% of all 2017 and 2018 NSSE institutions, and
- (b) institutions with average scores placing them in the top 10% of all 2017 and 2018 NSSE institutions.

While the average scores for most institutions are below the mean for the top 50% or top 10%, your institution may show areas of distinction where your average student was as engaged as (or even more engaged than) the typical student at high-performing institutions. A check mark (✓) signifies those comparisons where your average score was at least comparable^b to that of the high-performing group. However, the presence of a check mark does not necessarily mean that your institution was a member of that group.

It should be noted that most of the variability in student engagement is within, not between, institutions. Even "high-performing" institutions have students with engagement levels below the average for all institutions.

First-Year Students

Theme	Engagement Indicator	USC Aiken Mean	Your first-year students compared with					
			NSSE Top 50%			NSSE Top 10%		
			Mean	Effect size	✓	Mean	Effect size	✓
	Higher-Order Learning	38.5	38.9	-.04	✓	40.5	-.15	
Academic	Reflective and Integrative Learning	35.6	36.5	-.08	✓	38.1 *	-.21	
Challenge	Learning Strategies	39.2	39.5	-.02	✓	41.6	-.17	
	Quantitative Reasoning	27.5	28.7	-.08	✓	30.4 *	-.19	
Learning	Collaborative Learning	31.2	35.1 ***	-.29		37.2 ***	-.44	
with Peers	Discussions with Diverse Others	38.8	41.4	-.17		43.4 **	-.31	
Experiences	Student-Faculty Interaction	23.4	24.3	-.06	✓	27.2 **	-.24	
with Faculty	Effective Teaching Practices	39.2	40.3	-.08	✓	42.0 *	-.20	
Campus	Quality of Interactions	41.1	43.9 *	-.24		45.9 ***	-.39	
Environment	Supportive Environment	36.6	37.9	-.10	✓	39.7 *	-.23	

Seniors

Theme	Engagement Indicator	USC Aiken Mean	Your seniors compared with					
			NSSE Top 50%			NSSE Top 10%		
			Mean	Effect size	✓	Mean	Effect size	✓
	Higher-Order Learning	40.6	41.3	-.05	✓	42.5 *	-.13	
Academic	Reflective and Integrative Learning	37.3	39.6 **	-.18		41.1 ***	-.31	
Challenge	Learning Strategies	40.9	40.2	.05	✓	42.3	-.10	
	Quantitative Reasoning	30.7	30.7	.00	✓	32.7 *	-.13	
Learning	Collaborative Learning	33.9	35.7 *	-.13		38.1 ***	-.31	
with Peers	Discussions with Diverse Others	41.1	41.9	-.05	✓	43.8 **	-.17	
Experiences	Student-Faculty Interaction	27.7	29.2	-.10	✓	33.3 ***	-.35	
with Faculty	Effective Teaching Practices	39.7	41.1	-.11		43.1 ***	-.25	
Campus	Quality of Interactions	44.2	44.4	-.02	✓	46.5 **	-.19	
Environment	Supportive Environment	36.2	34.3 *	.14	✓	36.4	-.01	✓

Notes: Results weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups); Effect size: Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation; *p < .05, **p < .01, ***p < .001 (2-tailed).

a. Precision-weighted means (produced by Hierarchical Linear Modeling) were used to determine the top 50% and top 10% institutions for each Engagement Indicator from all NSSE 2017 and 2018 institutions, separately by class. Using this method, Engagement Indicator scores of institutions with relatively large standard errors were adjusted toward the mean of all students, while those with smaller standard errors received smaller corrections. As a result, schools with less stable data—even those with high average scores—may not be among the top scorers. NSSE does not publish the names of the top 50% and top 10% institutions because of our commitment not to release institutional results and our policy against ranking institutions.

b. Check marks are assigned to comparisons that are either significant and positive, or non-significant with an effect size > -.10.

Detailed Statistics: First-Year Students

	Mean statistics			Percentile ^d scores					Comparison results			
	Mean	SD ^b	SEM ^c	5th	25th	50th	75th	95th	Deg. of freedom ^e	Mean diff.	Sig. ^f	Effect size ^g
Academic Challenge												
Higher-Order Learning												
USC Aiken (N = 120)	38.5	13.7	1.25	15	30	40	45	60				
Southeast Public	37.8	13.5	.06	15	30	40	45	60	54,928	.7	.576	.051
Carnegie Class	37.7	13.3	.12	20	30	40	45	60	13,492	.8	.537	.057
NSSE 2017 & 2018	37.8	13.2	.03	20	30	40	45	60	257,788	.6	.596	.048
Top 50%	38.9	13.1	.03	20	30	40	50	60	152,848	-.5	.688	-.037
Top 10%	40.5	13.3	.07	20	30	40	50	60	36,441	-2.0	.094	-.153
Reflective & Integrative Learning												
USC Aiken (N = 123)	35.6	11.9	1.07	20	26	34	43	57				
Southeast Public	34.7	12.3	.05	17	26	34	43	57	58,455	.9	.423	.072
Carnegie Class	34.8	12.0	.10	17	26	34	43	57	14,150	.8	.470	.065
NSSE 2017 & 2018	35.1	11.9	.02	17	26	34	43	57	272,097	.5	.637	.042
Top 50%	36.5	11.8	.03	17	29	37	43	57	143,453	-.9	.403	-.075
Top 10%	38.1	12.0	.07	20	29	37	46	60	30,849	-2.5	.021	-.208
Learning Strategies												
USC Aiken (N = 110)	39.2	12.8	1.22	20	33	40	47	60				
Southeast Public	38.6	13.8	.06	20	27	40	47	60	49,299	.6	.630	.046
Carnegie Class	38.5	13.6	.12	20	27	40	47	60	12,204	.8	.563	.055
NSSE 2017 & 2018	38.0	13.7	.03	20	27	40	47	60	235,119	1.2	.366	.086
Top 50%	39.5	13.7	.04	20	27	40	53	60	123,837	-.3	.826	-.021
Top 10%	41.6	14.1	.08	20	33	40	53	60	29,987	-2.4	.076	-.170
Quantitative Reasoning												
USC Aiken (N = 111)	27.5	16.6	1.58	0	13	27	40	60				
Southeast Public	28.2	15.5	.07	0	20	27	40	60	53,501	-.8	.602	-.050
Carnegie Class	27.2	15.2	.13	0	20	27	40	60	13,290	.3	.841	.019
NSSE 2017 & 2018	27.5	15.3	.03	0	20	27	40	60	251,745	.0	.995	-.001
Top 50%	28.7	15.2	.04	0	20	27	40	60	161,652	-1.2	.408	-.079
Top 10%	30.4	15.3	.08	7	20	27	40	60	39,624	-2.9	.045	-.191
Learning with Peers												
Collaborative Learning												
USC Aiken (N = 135)	31.2	13.6	1.17	10	20	30	40	55				
Southeast Public	33.3	14.2	.06	10	20	35	40	60	62,193	-2.1	.092	-.145
Carnegie Class	32.2	14.0	.12	10	20	30	40	60	14,684	-1.0	.398	-.073
NSSE 2017 & 2018	32.3	14.4	.03	10	20	30	40	60	285,873	-1.1	.379	-.076
Top 50%	35.1	13.6	.03	15	25	35	45	60	168,822	-3.9	.001	-.288
Top 10%	37.2	13.6	.07	15	25	40	45	60	37,806	-6.0	.000	-.445
Discussions with Diverse Others												
USC Aiken (N = 109)	38.8	16.8	1.61	10	25	40	55	60				
Southeast Public	40.5	15.7	.07	15	30	40	55	60	49,800	-1.7	.263	-.108
Carnegie Class	37.6	15.7	.14	10	25	40	50	60	12,294	1.1	.448	.073
NSSE 2017 & 2018	39.4	15.5	.03	15	30	40	55	60	237,131	-.6	.693	-.038
Top 50%	41.4	15.0	.04	15	30	40	55	60	108	-2.6	.110	-.174
Top 10%	43.4	14.8	.08	20	35	45	60	60	108	-4.6	.005	-.313

Detailed Statistics: First-Year Students

	Mean statistics			Percentile ^d scores					Comparison results			
	Mean	SD ^b	SEM ^c	5th	25th	50th	75th	95th	Deg. of freedom ^e	Mean diff.	Sig. ^f	Effect size ^g
Experiences with Faculty												
Student-Faculty Interaction												
USC Aiken (N = 122)	23.4	14.6	1.32	5	10	20	30	55				
Southeast Public	21.8	15.0	.06	0	10	20	30	50	56,343	1.6	.229	.109
Carnegie Class	21.7	15.1	.13	0	10	20	30	50	13,746	1.7	.204	.115
NSSE 2017 & 2018	21.1	14.6	.03	0	10	20	30	50	263,435	2.3	.076	.161
Top 50%	24.3	14.8	.05	5	15	20	35	55	95,739	-.8	.542	-.055
Top 10%	27.2	15.8	.12	5	15	25	40	60	16,140	-3.8	.008	-.241
Effective Teaching Practices												
USC Aiken (N = 117)	39.2	13.1	1.21	20	32	40	50	60				
Southeast Public	38.0	13.4	.06	16	28	40	48	60	55,014	1.2	.336	.089
Carnegie Class	39.7	13.3	.11	16	32	40	48	60	13,580	-.4	.736	-.031
NSSE 2017 & 2018	38.5	13.1	.03	16	28	40	48	60	258,371	.8	.530	.058
Top 50%	40.3	13.1	.04	20	32	40	52	60	113,014	-1.1	.384	-.081
Top 10%	42.0	13.7	.08	20	32	40	52	60	29,422	-2.7	.031	-.200
Campus Environment												
Quality of Interactions												
USC Aiken (N = 107)	41.1	11.6	1.12	20	34	42	50	60				
Southeast Public	41.6	12.5	.06	18	34	43	50	60	46,695	-.5	.691	-.038
Carnegie Class	42.4	12.9	.12	18	34	44	52	60	11,460	-1.3	.315	-.098
NSSE 2017 & 2018	41.7	12.5	.03	18	34	43	50	60	221,596	-.6	.646	-.044
Top 50%	43.9	11.6	.04	22	38	46	52	60	91,908	-2.8	.014	-.239
Top 10%	45.9	12.1	.09	22	40	48	56	60	19,998	-4.8	.000	-.393
Supportive Environment												
USC Aiken (N = 106)	36.6	15.6	1.52	10	25	38	50	60				
Southeast Public	37.3	13.5	.06	15	28	38	48	60	105	-.7	.663	-.049
Carnegie Class	36.5	13.9	.13	13	28	38	45	60	11,511	.2	.908	.011
NSSE 2017 & 2018	36.1	13.6	.03	13	28	38	45	60	105	.6	.710	.042
Top 50%	37.9	13.2	.04	15	30	40	48	60	105	-1.3	.393	-.099
Top 10%	39.7	13.1	.08	18	30	40	50	60	105	-3.0	.049	-.231

a. Results weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institutional size for comparison groups).

b. Standard deviation is a measure of the amount the individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.

c. Standard error of the mean, used to compute a confidence interval (CI) around the sample mean. For example, the 95% CI (equal to the sample mean +/- 1.96 x SEM) is the range that is 95% likely to contain the true population mean.

d. A percentile is the point in the distribution of student-level EI scores at or below which a given percentage of EI scores fall.

e. Degrees of freedom used to compute the *t*-tests. Values vary from the total Ns due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.

f. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between the mean of your institution and that of the comparison group occurred by chance.

g. Effect size is the mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.

Detailed Statistics: Seniors

	Mean statistics			Percentile ^d scores					Comparison results			
	Mean	SD ^b	SEM ^c	5th	25th	50th	75th	95th	Deg. of freedom ^e	Mean diff.	Sig. ^f	Effect size ^g
Academic Challenge												
Higher-Order Learning												
USC Aiken (N = 270)	40.6	14.8	.90	15	30	40	55	60				
Southeast Public	39.9	13.9	.05	15	30	40	50	60	79,382	.8	.354	.057
Carnegie Class	40.1	13.4	.11	20	30	40	50	60	277	.6	.516	.044
NSSE 2017 & 2018	39.8	13.7	.02	20	30	40	50	60	363,018	.8	.324	.060
Top 50%	41.3	13.5	.03	20	35	40	55	60	170,043	-.7	.412	-.050
Top 10%	42.5	13.7	.06	20	35	40	55	60	51,346	-1.8	.031	-.132
Reflective & Integrative Learning												
USC Aiken (N = 280)	37.3	12.6	.75	17	29	37	46	60				
Southeast Public	37.5	12.7	.04	17	29	37	46	60	83,062	-.2	.789	-.016
Carnegie Class	38.0	12.2	.10	20	29	37	46	60	14,922	-.6	.404	-.050
NSSE 2017 & 2018	37.8	12.4	.02	17	29	37	46	60	378,213	-.5	.500	-.040
Top 50%	39.6	12.2	.03	20	31	40	49	60	166,178	-2.2	.002	-.182
Top 10%	41.1	12.2	.07	20	33	40	51	60	35,564	-3.8	.000	-.310
Learning Strategies												
USC Aiken (N = 260)	40.9	13.8	.86	20	33	40	53	60				
Southeast Public	39.2	14.6	.05	13	27	40	53	60	72,632	1.7	.067	.114
Carnegie Class	39.2	14.2	.12	13	27	40	53	60	13,413	1.7	.053	.121
NSSE 2017 & 2018	38.3	14.5	.02	13	27	40	47	60	336,323	2.6	.004	.180
Top 50%	40.2	14.4	.03	20	27	40	53	60	179,881	.7	.414	.051
Top 10%	42.3	14.2	.06	20	33	40	53	60	48,782	-1.4	.105	-.101
Quantitative Reasoning												
USC Aiken (N = 265)	30.7	15.4	.94	0	20	33	40	60				
Southeast Public	30.2	16.3	.06	0	20	27	40	60	77,897	.4	.657	.027
Carnegie Class	28.5	15.9	.13	0	20	27	40	60	14,312	2.1	.029	.135
NSSE 2017 & 2018	29.6	16.1	.03	0	20	27	40	60	356,296	1.0	.292	.065
Top 50%	30.7	16.0	.03	0	20	33	40	60	232,572	.0	.980	-.002
Top 10%	32.7	15.7	.07	7	20	33	40	60	51,010	-2.0	.038	-.128
Learning with Peers												
Collaborative Learning												
USC Aiken (N = 287)	33.9	14.9	.88	5	25	35	45	60				
Southeast Public	33.8	14.8	.05	10	25	35	45	60	86,017	.2	.863	.010
Carnegie Class	32.4	14.6	.12	10	20	30	40	60	15,165	1.6	.075	.106
NSSE 2017 & 2018	32.5	15.0	.02	5	20	30	45	60	389,117	1.4	.102	.096
Top 50%	35.7	13.9	.03	15	25	35	45	60	218,107	-1.8	.032	-.127
Top 10%	38.1	13.5	.07	15	30	40	50	60	290	-4.2	.000	-.308
Discussions with Diverse Others												
USC Aiken (N = 259)	41.1	15.3	.95	20	30	40	60	60				
Southeast Public	41.7	15.9	.06	15	30	40	60	60	73,058	-.6	.569	-.036
Carnegie Class	38.1	15.8	.14	15	25	40	50	60	13,476	3.0	.002	.190
NSSE 2017 & 2018	40.3	15.8	.03	15	30	40	55	60	338,137	.8	.404	.052
Top 50%	41.9	15.6	.03	15	30	40	60	60	235,848	-.8	.401	-.052
Top 10%	43.8	15.5	.06	20	35	45	60	60	57,015	-2.7	.005	-.173

Detailed Statistics: Seniors

	Mean statistics			Percentile ^d scores					Comparison results			
	Mean	SD ^b	SEM ^c	5th	25th	50th	75th	95th	Deg. of freedom ^e	Mean diff.	Sig. ^f	Effect size ^g
Experiences with Faculty												
Student-Faculty Interaction												
USC Aiken (N = 270)	27.7	16.3	.99	0	15	25	40	60				
Southeast Public	24.7	16.1	.06	0	15	20	35	60	80,720	3.0	.002	.185
Carnegie Class	25.2	16.3	.14	0	15	25	35	60	14,620	2.5	.014	.151
NSSE 2017 & 2018	23.9	15.9	.03	0	10	20	35	55	368,835	3.7	.000	.235
Top 50%	29.2	15.8	.05	5	20	30	40	60	93,942	-1.6	.106	-.098
Top 10%	33.3	16.1	.15	10	20	35	45	60	12,201	-5.6	.000	-.348
Effective Teaching Practices												
USC Aiken (N = 270)	39.7	13.8	.84	20	28	40	52	60				
Southeast Public	39.6	13.8	.05	16	32	40	52	60	79,690	.0	.975	.002
Carnegie Class	40.3	13.8	.12	16	32	40	52	60	14,567	-.6	.487	-.043
NSSE 2017 & 2018	39.4	13.7	.02	16	32	40	48	60	364,172	.3	.711	.023
Top 50%	41.1	13.6	.04	16	32	40	52	60	147,342	-1.5	.074	-.109
Top 10%	43.1	13.7	.08	20	36	44	56	60	30,428	-3.4	.000	-.250
Campus Environment												
Quality of Interactions												
USC Aiken (N = 246)	44.2	12.3	.78	18	38	48	53	60				
Southeast Public	42.0	12.4	.05	20	34	44	50	60	68,166	2.1	.007	.172
Carnegie Class	43.5	12.2	.11	20	36	45	53	60	12,613	.6	.416	.052
NSSE 2017 & 2018	42.0	12.3	.02	20	34	44	50	60	314,746	2.2	.006	.177
Top 50%	44.4	11.9	.03	22	38	46	54	60	121,786	-.3	.742	-.021
Top 10%	46.5	12.3	.07	22	40	50	58	60	32,629	-2.4	.003	-.193
Supportive Environment												
USC Aiken (N = 255)	36.2	14.5	.91	13	25	38	48	60				
Southeast Public	33.7	14.2	.05	10	23	35	43	60	69,708	2.5	.004	.179
Carnegie Class	33.0	14.2	.13	10	23	33	43	60	12,913	3.2	.000	.222
NSSE 2017 & 2018	32.0	14.1	.02	10	23	33	40	58	324,113	4.2	.000	.298
Top 50%	34.3	13.7	.04	13	25	35	43	60	147,652	1.9	.026	.140
Top 10%	36.4	13.7	.08	13	28	38	45	60	30,154	-.2	.853	-.012

a. Results weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institutional size for comparison groups).

b. Standard deviation is a measure of the amount the individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.

c. Standard error of the mean, used to compute a confidence interval (CI) around the sample mean. For example, the 95% CI (equal to the sample mean +/- 1.96 x SEM) is the range that is 95% likely to contain the true population mean.

d. A percentile is the point in the distribution of student-level EI scores at or below which a given percentage of EI scores fall.

e. Degrees of freedom used to compute the *t*-tests. Values vary from the total Ns due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.

f. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between the mean of your institution and that of the comparison group occurred by chance.

g. Effect size is the mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.