



National Survey of Student Engagement

University of South Carolina Aiken

The final page of the NSSE Web version asked students to respond to the following question in an open text box:

"If you have any additional comments or feedback that you'd like to share on the quality of your educational experience, please type them below."

Student responses to this question appear on the following pages. Please note that these comments appear exactly as the students entered them. They were not edited for grammar, offensive language, or otherwise questionable content. For this reason, student identifiers are not provided.

Student Comments

August 2006



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IPEDS	classrank	Additional Comments
218645	1	The only major things I want to comment on refer to projects and reports. In high school, my favorite thing in any course was preparing projects and reports that required a little creativity. I was involved in the SOAR program which becomes Gifted and Talented courses in high school; it seemed like everything we did was a project and I enjoyed that because I am an extremely creative person. However, I haven't prepared a single creative assignment since I've been in college. Also, in high school, english teachers told us that writing in the first person narrative is a big no-no, and it will never be accepted in college. This was also contradicted once I got on campus. So far, I've written about 5 formal essays, all of which were conducted from my point of view. Before college, however, had never written from the first person because it was strictly forbidden in high school. I had no idea where to even begin on my first paper! So I think college professors and high school teachers need to agree on the correct form that students will be accounted for in the future. That would eliminate a lot of excess confusion.
218645	1	This Survey is very long...people are not going to want to complete it..
218645	1	I belive this institution needs a language major as a educational degree. Also they need to take international trips to other countries. Besides parague mexico and spain there are other latin american countries.That some of the student possible would like to see or be able to study abroad in FOR EXAMPLE The Dominican Republic or Puerto Rico Panama etc. Also the school needs to slow down the teaching of the foriegn language department. the reason for this is i belive people should learn a foriegn language. Just like you learned english when you were a kid you just didn't wake up one morning speaking perfect enlighsh it took years to perfect and in some cases people never perfect it. So more than likely it will take years for you to rememmbor another language that is not your ouwn. Not just 3 or 4 months in closing i'm just personally saying focus more one the basics of the languages. That is where it all begins and take more time in doing so please. Thankyou gemil lopez
218645	1	I like USCA, it is a very good school.
218645	1	i believe that USCA is a wonderful place everyone here is always out to help and always there whenever the students need to contact them whether its a feedback from email or talking on the phone they are willing to devote all their time and energy to helping us acheive our goals in life and start us off on the right foot to be successful in life.
218645	1	USC-Aiken has proven to be a generally excellent institution.
218645	1	the only thing i have to say, and i know that the statistics matter, but i feel that the race question is outdated. if organizations and the government feel the need to make judgements based on race, the citizens of a nation will follow the government and will never be fully colorblind. race is bullshit.
218645	1	I was worried at first about attending a college that was so close to home. All of my worries vanished after the first few weeks. I love USCA.



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218645	1	I have enjoyed USCA tremendously but I have had a few roommate and peer problems. Some students are stuck up!
218645	1	USC-Aiken is a wonderful school with wonderful professors who want to see their students succeed. I think I made a good decision by attending USC-Aiken because it has helped me find out more about myself and I have made new friends who have changed my life.
218645	1	Overall, my educational experience has been excellent.
218645	1	My educational experience up to this point has been great. The University really helped me overcome my fears of college and settle in.
218645	1	I initially did not want to go to USC Aiken because I felt that I deserved to go to a larger, more well-known university, and USC Aiken was not good enough for me. However, I have found USC Aiken to be quite challenging, and I enjoy my professors because they all care about my progress in class. I feel as if I am getting the same quality education if not better as if I were to attend Duke University.
218645	1	USCA, small school, but big spirit.
218645	1	As a non-traditional student who works full time and attends school part time, some of the questions are not applicable to me. An option of not applicable or similar choice, would have prevented what could seem like negative responses on some questions.
218645	1	Aiken is a great place, but sometimes it's just hard to get along. All of the professors I've taken were very excellent except one, and that one professor was the reason I failed the course undoubtedly.
218645	1	I don't think that the head of housing is very supportive when helping students confront problems with roommates/suitemates. I was not pleased with the way my situation was handled. I think schools should set up some kind of day where students can meet people who they think they want to be their roommate and suitemates before the semester starts. That would somewhat help a student's college experience worthwhile. <input type="checkbox"/> I feel like there should be parties or concerts on campus put on by clubs or faculty members. The parties off campus are very dangerous and rowdy.
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218645	1	I have had an awesome learning experience thus far, and I am excited about the years ahead.

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218645	1	My educational experience so far is fulfilling. I am taking part in as many organizations I am interesting in like Daughters of Zion, Voices of Praise, and the Multicultural Appreciation program. Everything is fun, interesting, entertaining, and inspirational here. I am enjoying myself.
218645	1	school is great
218645	1	What ever happened with the smoking ban at the school around the buildings?
218645	1	I enjoy that the classes are small.
218645	1	My first year has been somewhat bumpy. With the aid of both the teachers and fellow students, I have been able to succeed through these things. Also, I also appreciate the fact that our institution is able to talk freely about any issue and it supports them as well.
218645	1	This survey was very long. After a while it felt like the questions were pointless.
218645	1	USC Aiken is very fulfilling and the teacher to student ratio is not intimidating!
218645	1	i love this school. i feel that the people in higher positions are there to help you and that they really do want to see you achieve your goals. i am glad that i chose to come here. even though i do not get to see my family very often i have created a family here that has helped me discover myself.
218645	1	I know that first semester messes a lot of freshmen up and I just happened to fall in that category,one because I took two classes that I didnt even need and I didnt have good advisement and two because I was trying to be involved in everything.But I have began to take this second semester serious.I do my work ahead of time and try not to spend my time socializing because that can mess you up as well.
218645	4	USCA has been a great experience for me, as a commuting student. If I wanted to get more involoved on campus, there were numerous opportunities available. Overall, the school size is just right "A Goldie Locks" campus. It allows students to become more involoved socially while at the same time, being able to reach professors (due to small class sizes) and learn.
218645	4	Overall, I have felt that USCA has did an excellent job in preparing me for my future career. The faculty and staff have been very understading and helpful. My fellow students have also been very respectful and I couldn't be more pleased with my learning experience at USCA.
218645	4	International issues are not discussed on campus as much as I would like. More Non-Western classes should be required. People should graduate college with a broader understanding of the world. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> I have enjoyed pretty much all the professors on campus, and some of them have impacted my life just as much as my parents.
218645	4	I've enjoyed my time at USCA. Looking back on my college career, I wish that I had been more involved on campus than what I am. Either way, I've learned a lot and met a lot of interesting people.

IPEDS	classrank	Additional Comments
218645	4	Attending USCA has been a wonderful and enlightening experience. I have had to challenge myself numerous times to overcome fears and frustrations of being an older student, but this challenge has been well worth the time and energy. Overall, I would have to say that this has been one of the hardest things that I have had to do in quite a while.
218645	4	I find the prevalent aloof and dismissive attitudes of many Phd.s disheartening and demoralizing. I was raised believing that well educated people rise above Napoleon syndromes, and educational elitism. I have learned however that many Professors value credentials above all else, and that the working man recieves little respect from them. They hold academic accomplishment and knowlege in the highest regard and deem individuals with practical knowlege and the ability to apply it to be inferior. I am also saddened by the number of professors who verbally abuse and bully students, and even more so by the lack of concern the administration demonstrates for this problem. How are we to better the social climate in America if we allow role models such as professors to behave, unchecked, as tyrants in their classrooms.
218645	4	i feel that the music education program will be a valuble asset to this school and should be supported by many different programs.
218645	4	My college is great but the faculty in a hole thinks low of traditional students in my opinion. Professors do not seem to understand that some students have full time jobs, families, health issues, and so on. A little more understanding would be nice.
218645	4	I attended Georgia Southern University my first two years of college. I enjoyed it there because as a Hispanic they reached out to me and made sure that I was involved in their intercultural programs. I never heard about any programs that were offered to the Hispanic at USC Aiken. I missed that the last two years of my collegiate experience.
218645	4	I feel from an educational standpoint i was given more than i could have reasonably asked for from USC-Aiken
218645	4	I have received help from the dissability services from my school, and I feel it has made a huge positive impact in my academic success.
218645	4	I have greatly enjoyed my experience.The only failing I can mention is that educators at the college do not take into account that some students have to work to support ourselves. The Dean of education even told me to quit my job because I will not have time for it. Many of us do not have that luxury however. My parents do not support me and I am a single lady who has bill to pay. This is one of the main areas in which I would like to see an improvement. USC Aiken has been a great college and I have enjoyed my time there.
218645	4	USC-Aiken's Biology department is in my opinion one of the best programs that this school has. The faculty and staff are always ready to help and available if you ever need them. I am definately glad to have the faculty and staff that we have in my Biology Department.



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218645	4	Great institution!
218645	4	As a returning student, the information that I have received from this institution has empowered me in such a way that I am determined to make a difference in the lives of children and adults. I love the atmosphere on this campus and the attitude of the faculty and staff. They are truly here to help the students, expand our minds and broaden our horizons. I intend to encourage other students to attend USCA because of the wonderful experience that I've had here in the past and today.
218645	4	I have enjoyed my experience here at USCA. I wish that I would have gotten more involved with On-Campus activities.
218645	4	I would like to see the students take more action. There are things that get under my skin and I would like to see others join with me in getting something done about it. We are the product and sometimes I feel like the administration does not see us that way. They want to do things like take away reading days because it makes too much work for the professor, but what about the student that works full time and really uses that time. I feel that people are just being lazy! I am proud to be coming out of this university but I worry about its future. If students are thought of last and things like money, and job placement get in the way of delivering a quality education then there is a problem.
218645	4	Until my senior year, I was of the opinion the institution was intellectually dead. There really isn't encouragement by the faculty, staff or other students to touch upon subjects and issues that are controversial and may go against generally accepted community norms and values. I was under the impression that the university setting is the best place to express unconventional ideas. Such is not the case. During the senior year, things started picking up (difficulty of classes, depth of discussion, etc.) and my mind is changing about the above. However, the senior year is too late. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> The faculty and staff are extremely helpful when it comes to class and life issues. They are patient and flexible, sometimes a little too flexible. There are some who bend to the desires and wishes of students to satisfy them academically.
218645	4	This is a great school. It has really prepared me for my transition to the real world. Thanks you!
218645	4	I can not say all, but most of the professors I have had at USCA have been quite inspiring. They have shown such enthusiasm for their subject that it made me even more enthusiastic.
218645	4	I would recommend USCA to anyone who wishes for the best small school education experience! I have a Learning Disability and the school is great and works with me to help me learn better!



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218645	4	School of Nursing- Because faculty is becoming scarce, the school is hiring less than adequate clinical instructors who do not know what they are doing. They frequently come to clinical unprepared and not knowing the assignment, then assign grades based on some biased sense of individual merit. It is a joke and has happened with two new clinical instructors already. Also, the director of the school has become involved in teaching some classes because of shortages, and she is a little rusty on teaching material and then testing based on what was taught. Even her own faculty has said she has made courses complicated that traditionally were there to help the student's GPA, as most nursing school classes are very difficult and cause used to be honor students to fall "short of par" if you will. I just think they need to get their act together. Thanks.
218645	4	This is a wonderful institution. I would suggest anybody to attend this college. It it a great community and the professors are very helpful insige and outside of the classroom.
218645	4	During my career here, I felt that the department in charge of degree requirements for my major(Math / Computer Science) is not unified in it's approach to educating it's students, and that this has a detrimental effect on students who wish to pursue a further academic career. Furthermore, I felt the various professors teaching sequential classes taught with such disparate techniques, and different stresses on the material being taught, that it was difficult to attend a class which built upon the material of the previous class, if it was not taught by the same professor who taught the class preceding it (which is a rare occurence).
218645	4	THANKS DR. YATES! YOU ARE THE BEST PROFESSOR, AND YOUR TEACHING INSPIRED ME!
218645	4	The professors here are very much focused on individual student needs.
218645	4	My experience here in this institution has created a new me. I am willing to learn and have fun while learning. I would recommend this school to everyone.
218645	4	Your choices for why people get involved in Political activities are pretty sad. "It's fun and exciting" is as close to a real answer as is listed. How about "because it's important?" Seems like to me that would be a no brainer.
218645	4	I have enjoyed my stay at USC Aiken and I feel that they have prepared me for after college.
218645	4	With a prior BS degree, I have been extremely disappointed with one faculty member. You would expect your educators to be able to speak appropriately and not in slang. A teacher with a Ph.D. should also be able to hold an hour lecture without saying "umm" so many times; and certainly not 207 times within only one hour.



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218645	4	We need to have better advisors and more classes offered. For example, in my major (Math Education), I have to take classes that build on each other. Unfortunately, most of the classes are offered only once a year. So, that means if one of them was a prerequisite to another, I would have to wait another year to take that class. Also, we are short of professors that would cover these extra courses, but the school doesn't offer a high enough salary that would compete with other schools. Hence, we don't have enough qualified faculty members. This also results in bad teachers/advisors, because a lot of them are adjuncts who work part time and have no business teaching.
218645	4	I am pleased with every aspect of attending USCA except for the fact that they do not cater to the non-traditional student. In today's world, the number of non-traditional students are growing rapidly. This is the only complaint I personally have, and have heard this same complaint from several other people around campus. I have 13 classes left and it will most likely take me 3 years to complete my degree because there are very few classes offered 4:30 and after.
218645	4	I have really enjoyed my college experience but if I could go back and do it again I would have went to a 2 year college first and then transferred to a 4 year college.
218645	4	I HAVE ENJOYED MY EXPERIENCES AT USCA, HAVING COMPLETED MY ADN IN 2005. I AM NOW TAKING CLASSES FOR BSN COMPLETION PROGRAM AND PLANS ARE TO GRADUATE IN SPRING 2007. I WORK 40 HOURS A WEEK. I FEEL ALL PROFESSORS HAVE AN OPEN DOOR POLICY AND ARE AVAILABLE JUST ABOUT ABOUT ANYTIME, UNLESS THERE IS A MEETING THEY MUST ATTEND. I RECOMMEND THIS SCHOOL HIGHLY TO ANY STUDENT WHO MAY BE HAVING DIFFICULTY DECIDING WHERE TO GO FOR A NURSING DEGREE. IT IS BECAUSE OF PROFESSOR COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS, THAT I HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THE NURSING PROGRAM. DR. COOK WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF MY SUCCESS, AND I LOOK TO HER AS MY MENTOR. SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN PLEASANT, PROFESSIONAL AND UNDERSTANDING OF MY NEEDS AND GOALS AS I PURSUED MY FIRST DEGREE. THIS, OF COURSE, HAS BEEN MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE I AM A NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT, 53 YEARS OLD NOW. I HAVE ALWAYS FELT WELCOME IN THE PROGRAM, AND HAVE MADE MADE NEW FRIENDS ALONG THE WAY. MY PLANS ARE TO PURSUE A MASTERS DEGREE IN A COUPLE OF YEARS, POSSIBLY IN A DIFFERENT AREA, BUT ONE THAT RELATES TO MY NURSING DEGREE. IF THIS IS OFFERED AT USCA I WILL, WITHOUT A DOUBT, CONTINUE MY EDUCATION AT USCA. I CONSIDER USCA MY SCHOOL AND AM PROUD OF BEING AN ALUMNI.



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218645	4	As a non-traditional student, I have had a great educational experience at USCA. However, when I think of my college experience, I think of Converse College. It is the school from which I transferred to USCA. It is an all girls school that is dear to my heart. I transferred because I got married and moved back to Aiken to be close to my family. It is hard for me to answer a lot of the questions about USCA on a social level because I have not been involved on a social level. For the most part, most of my professors have been caring and compassionate.
218645	4	Night school students often have a hard time signing up for classes. Specifically when the last class starts at 6:00PM and many jobs don't let out until that same time.