



**National Survey
of Student Engagement**

**University of South Carolina
Aiken**

Multi-Year Benchmark Report
August 2008

For institutions that have participated in NSSE across multiple years, this *Multi-Year Benchmark Report* presents comparable benchmark scores by year so that patterns of change or stability may be discernible. It also provides statistics such as *number of respondents*, *standard deviation*, and *standard error* so that shorthand mean comparison tests can be calculated.

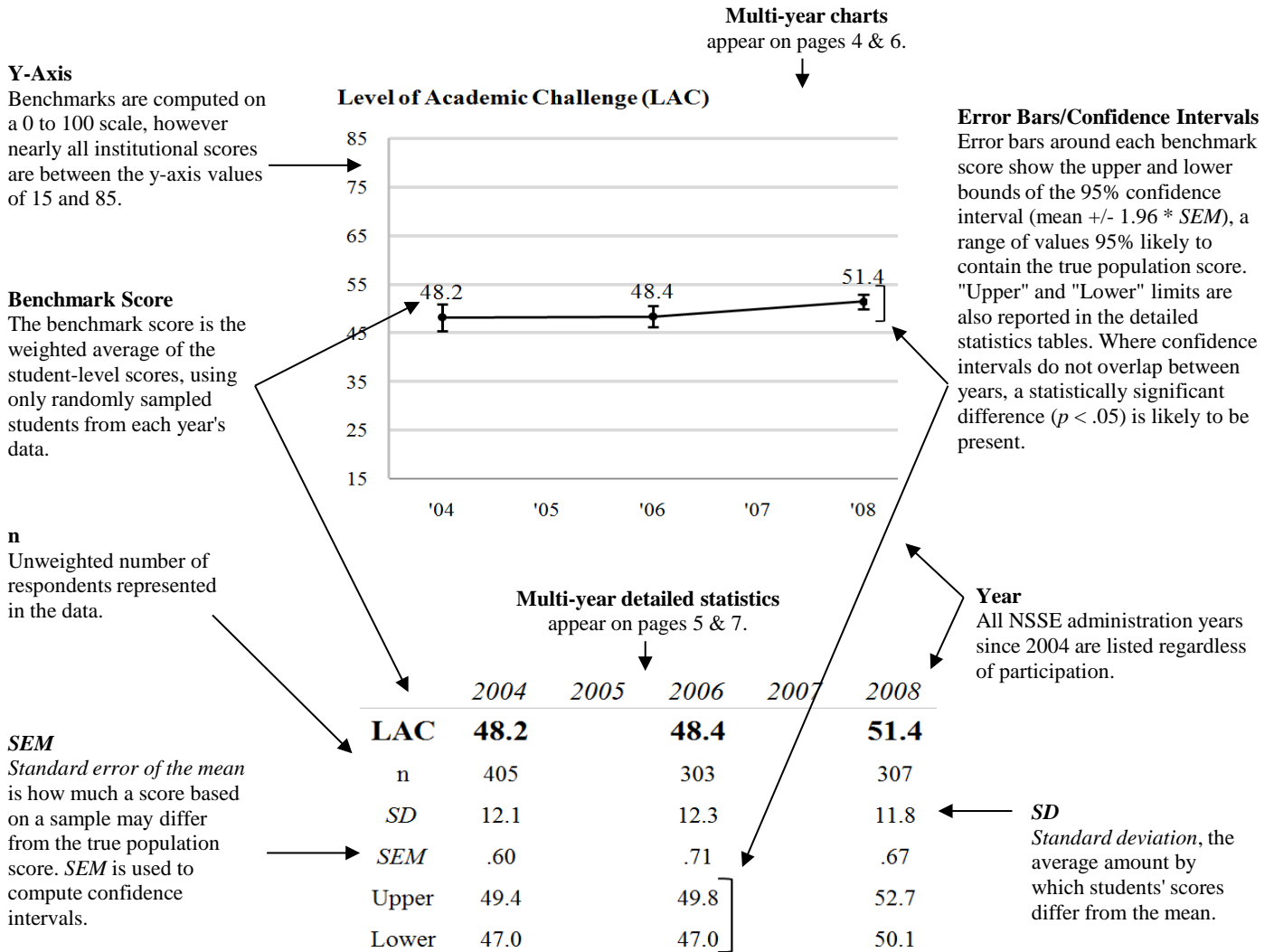
Questions that might be answered with this report include, “How stable was the level of student-faculty interaction over the years?” or “Given the implementation of initiative X in 2006-07, did the level of active and collaborative learning increase?”

This report has three main parts: (a) a table of *data quality indicators* (p. 3), which provides a quick reference to important statistics for each year’s participation, (b) *multi-year charts*, and (c) *detailed statistics*. Key terms and features of (b) and (c) are described below using data from the fictional “NSSEville State University.”

For more information and recommendations for analyzing past and present NSSE data for trends or stability, consult the *Multi-Year Data Analysis Guide*:

www.nsse.iub.edu/pdf/2008_Institutional_Report/Multiyear_Data_Guide.pdf.

Key Terms and Features in this Report



Some NSSE administrations yield more precise population estimates than others. The values in this table were drawn from the *Respondent Characteristics* reports for each NSSE administration. An important early step in conducting a multi-year analysis is to review the quality of your data for both first-year and senior respondents in each year.

Year ^a	Mode ^b	Response Rate ^c		Sampling Error ^d		Number of Respondents ^e	
		FY	SR	FY	SR	FY	SR
2004	Web+	32%	32%	6.8%	7.9%	150	106
2005							
2006	Web+	63%	54%	3.2%	4.1%	343	260
2007							
2008	Web+	48%	58%	4.1%	3.3%	299	377

^a All NSSE administration years since 2001 are listed regardless of participation.

^b Modes include *Paper* (students receive a paper survey and the option of completing a Web version), *Web* (students receive all correspondence by e-mail and complete the Web version), and *Web+* (students initially invited to participate via e-mail; a subgroup of nonrespondents receive paper surveys).

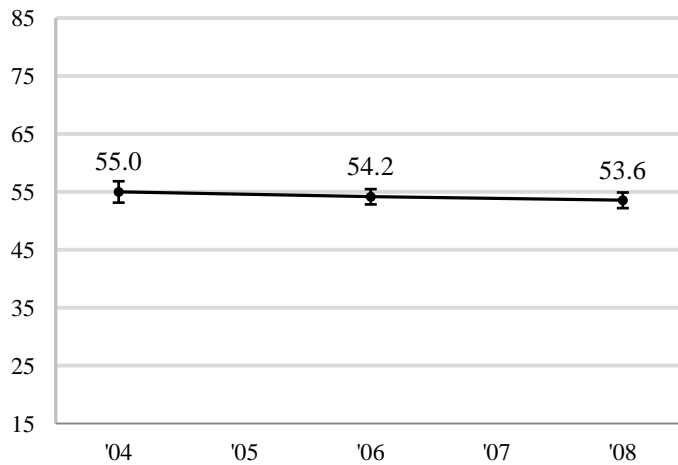
^c Response rates (number of respondents divided by sample size) were adjusted for ineligibility, nondeliverable mailing addresses, and students who were unavailable during the survey administration.

^d Sampling error gauges the precision of estimates based on a sample survey. It is an estimate of how much survey item percentages for your respondents could differ from those of the entire population of students at your institution. Data with larger sampling errors (such as +/-10%) need not be dismissed off hand, but any results using them should probably be interpreted more conservatively.

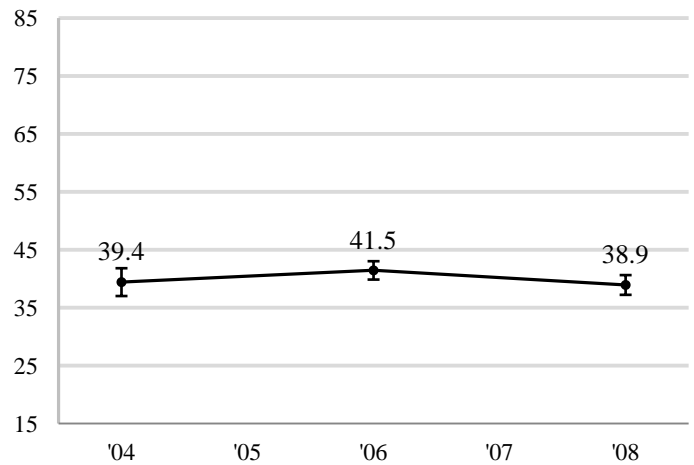
^e This is the original count used to calculate response rates and sampling errors for each administration's *Respondent Characteristics* report. This number includes all randomly sampled students. In 2004 and 2005 it may also include targeted oversamples. For this reason, the counts for 2004 and 2005 may not match those given in the detailed statistics on pages 5 and 7.

First-Year Students

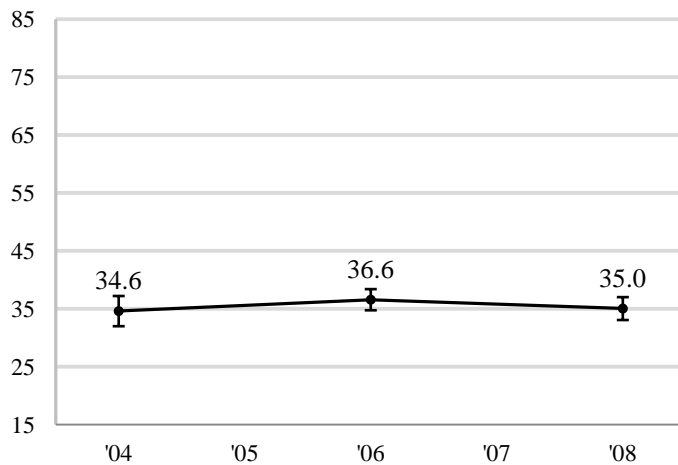
Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)



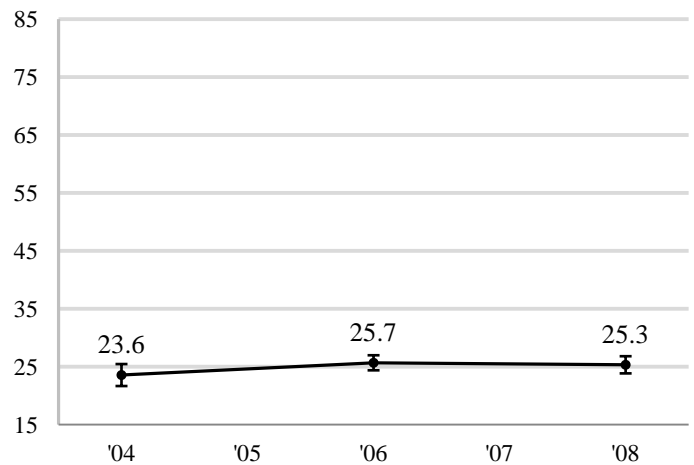
Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)



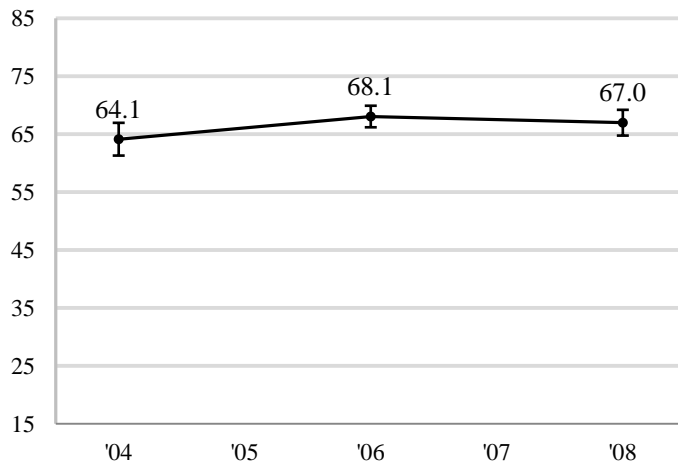
Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)



Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)



Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)



Notes:

- Benchmark scores are charted for all years of participation. See page 5 for detailed statistics.
- For more information and recommendations for analyzing multi-year NSSE data, consult the *Multi-Year Data Analysis Guide*: www.nsse.iub.edu/pdf/2008_Institutional_Report/Multiyear_Data_Guide.pdf.



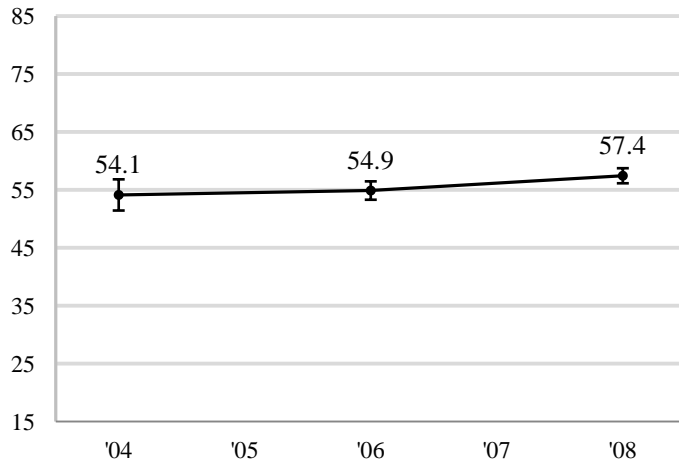
		First-Year Students				
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Level of Academic Challenge	LAC	55.0		54.2		53.6
	n	142		330		281
	SD	11.2		12.2		11.6
	SEM	.94		.67		.69
	Upper	56.8		55.5		54.9
	Lower	53.2		52.8		52.2
Active and Collaborative Learning	ACL	39.4		41.5		38.9
	n	142		343		296
	SD	14.6		15.0		15.0
	SEM	1.22		.81		.87
	Upper	41.8		43.0		40.6
	Lower	37.0		39.9		37.2
Student Faculty Interaction	SFI	34.6		36.6		35.0
	n	142		331		288
	SD	15.9		17.0		17.1
	SEM	1.33		.93		1.01
	Upper	37.2		38.4		37.0
	Lower	32.0		34.7		33.1
Enriching Educational Experiences	EEE	23.6		25.7		25.3
	n	142		327		271
	SD	11.6		12.0		12.5
	SEM	.97		.66		.76
	Upper	25.5		27.0		26.8
	Lower	21.7		24.4		23.9
Supportive Campus Environment	SCE	64.1		68.1		67.0
	n	142		323		266
	SD	17.2		17.1		18.5
	SEM	1.44		.95		1.13
	Upper	67.0		69.9		69.2
	Lower	61.3		66.2		64.8

^a n=number of respondents; SD=standard deviation; SEM=standard error of the mean; Upper/Lower=95% confidence interval limits

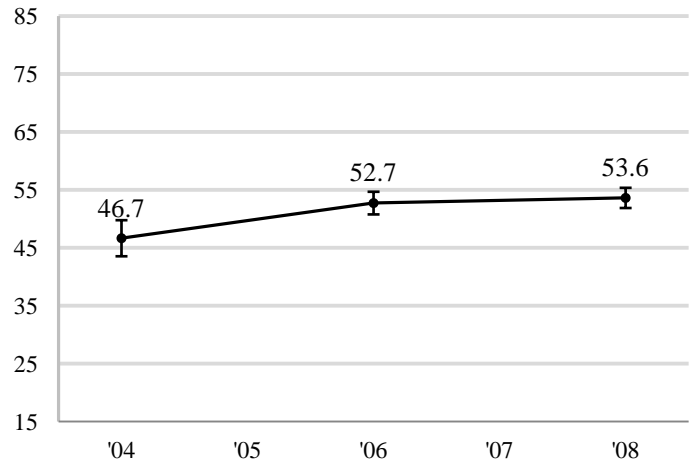
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Seniors

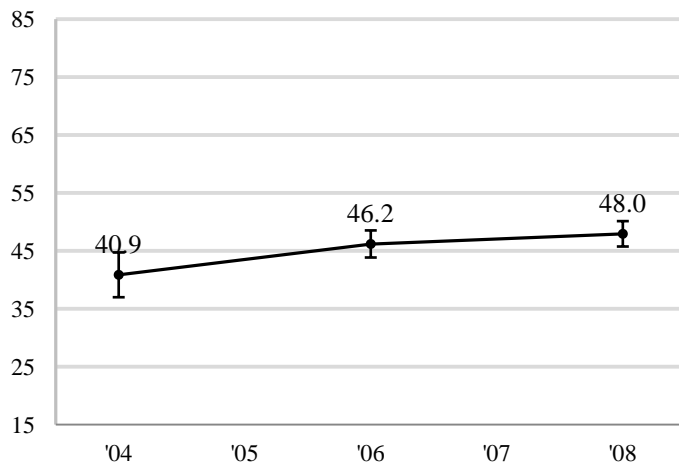
Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)



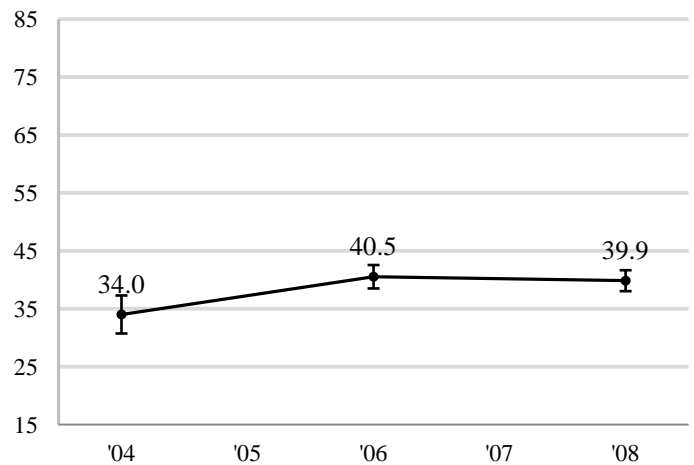
Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)



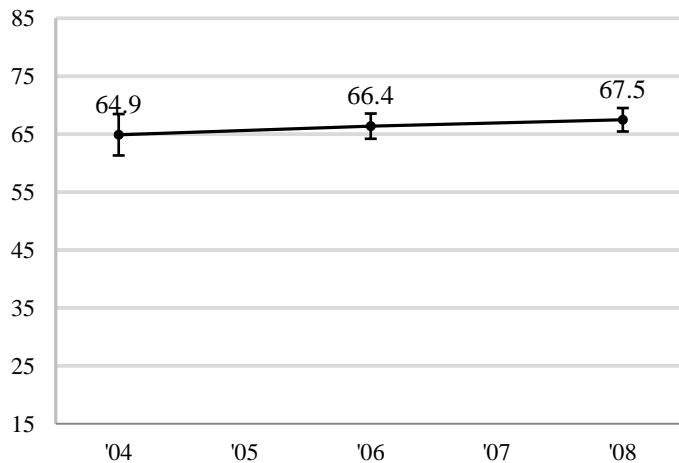
Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)



Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)



Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)



Notes:

- Benchmark scores are charted for all years of participation. See page 7 for detailed statistics.
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		Seniors				
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Level of Academic Challenge	LAC	54.1		54.9		57.4
	n	106		257		360
	SD	14.1		13.0		12.6
	SEM	1.37		.81		.66
	Upper	56.8		56.5		58.7
	Lower	51.4		53.3		56.1
Active and Collaborative Learning	ACL	46.7		52.7		53.6
	n	106		260		374
	SD	16.4		16.1		17.2
	SEM	1.59		1.00		.89
	Upper	49.8		54.7		55.4
	Lower	43.5		50.8		51.9
Student Faculty Interaction	SFI	40.9		46.2		48.0
	n	106		257		364
	SD	20.3		19.1		21.3
	SEM	1.97		1.19		1.12
	Upper	44.7		48.5		50.1
	Lower	37.0		43.9		45.8
Enriching Educational Experiences	EEE	34.0		40.5		39.9
	n	106		256		357
	SD	17.2		16.5		17.4
	SEM	1.67		1.03		.92
	Upper	37.3		42.6		41.7
	Lower	30.7		38.5		38.0
Supportive Campus Environment	SCE	64.9		66.4		67.5
	n	106		255		354
	SD	18.8		17.8		19.4
	SEM	1.83		1.11		1.03
	Upper	68.5		68.6		69.5
	Lower	61.3		64.2		65.5

^a n=number of respondents; SD=standard deviation; SEM=standard error of the mean; Upper/Lower=95% confidence interval limits