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# **NSSE 2016**

## **Administration Summary**

University of South Carolina Aiken

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**Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research & Compliance**

Director: Lloyd A. Dawe, Ph.D.

### Administration Summary

This report provides an overview of our NSSE administration, including details about our population and sample, response rates, representativeness of our respondents, survey customization choices, and recruitment message schedule. This information can be useful for assessing data quality and planning future NSSE administrations.

### Population and Respondents

The table at right reports our institution's population sizes, how many students were sampled (whether census-administered or randomly selected), and how many completed the survey.

Survey completions	<i>First-year</i>	<i>Senior</i>
Submitted population	629	1,021
Adjusted population <sup>a</sup>	540	741
Survey sample <sup>b</sup>	539	740
Total respondents <sup>b</sup>	162	261
Full completions <sup>c</sup>	143	227
Partial completions	19	34

a. Adjusted for ineligible students and those for whom survey requests were returned as undeliverable.

b. Targeted, experimental, and locally administered samples were not included.

c. Completed at least one demographic question after the core engagement items on the survey.

### Response Rate and Sampling Error<sup>a</sup>

The table below summarizes response rates and sampling errors for our institution and comparison groups. For more information see NSSE's Response Rate FAQ: [nsse.indiana.edu/pdf/Resp\\_Rate\\_FAQ.pdf](http://nsse.indiana.edu/pdf/Resp_Rate_FAQ.pdf)

	<i>First-year</i>				<i>Senior</i>			
	USC Aiken	COPLAC	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2015 & 2016	USC Aiken	COPLAC	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2015 & 2016
Response rate	30%	24%	25%	22%	35%	28%	33%	24%
Sampling error <sup>b</sup>	+/- 6.4%	+/- 1.3%	+/- 0.8%	+/- 0.2%	+/- 4.9%	+/- 1.2%	+/- 0.7%	+/- 0.2%

a. Comparison group response rate and sampling error were computed at the student level (i.e., they are not institution averages).

b. Also called "margin of error," sampling error is an estimate of the amount the true score on a given item could differ from the estimate based on a sample. For example, if the sampling error is +/- 5.0% and 40% of your students reply "Very often" to a particular item, then the true population value is most likely between 35% and 45%.

### Representativeness and Weighting

The first table at right reports on variables submitted in your population file. Respondent and population percentages are listed side by side as a convenience to see how well the characteristics of your respondents reflect our first-year and senior populations. For more respondent characteristics, refer to the *Respondent Profile* report.

NSSE weights results by institution-reported sex and enrollment status so institutional estimates reflect the population with respect to these characteristics. The second table at right provides the respondent and population proportions used to calculate our 2016 weights. For more information, see [nsse.indiana.edu/html/weighting.cfm](http://nsse.indiana.edu/html/weighting.cfm)

#### Representativeness

	<i>First-year</i>		<i>Senior</i>	
	Respondent %	Population %	Respondent %	Population %
Female	69	62	77	66
Full-time	95	92	75	76
First-time, first-year	96	93	N/A	N/A
Race/ethnicity <sup>a</sup>				
Am. Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	1	1
Asian	1	1	2	2
Black or African American	25	26	23	27
Hispanic or Latino	4	4	4	3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Isl.	0	0	0	0
White	59	57	63	60
Other	0	0	0	0
Foreign or nonresident alien	5	7	2	2
Two or more races/ethnicities	5	4	3	3
Unknown	1	1	2	2

a. Based on the IPEDS categories (not available for Canadian institutions) submitted in the population file. Results not reported for institutions without full (at least 90%) race/ethnicity information in the population file.

#### Weighting

	<i>First-year</i>		<i>Senior</i>	
	Respondent %	Population %	Respondent %	Population %
Full-time, female	65	58	57	49
Full-time, male	30	34	18	26
Part-time, female	4	4	20	17
Part-time, male	1	4	5	8

### Population File

USC Aiken provided a population file for survey administration and was afforded an opportunity to update it.

#### Population file options

Included "group" variables <sup>a</sup>	No
Identified an oversample <sup>b</sup>	No
Updated to identify ineligible students <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Identified students who completed BCSSE 2015 <sup>d</sup>	BCSSE not administered

a. Institutions had the option to include additional variables in their population files for oversampling or for their own *post hoc* analyses. Up to five "group" variables were allowed; If formatting specifications were met, Group 1 can be used in the Report Builder–Institution Version.  
 b. Institutions that did not survey all first-year and senior students (census) had the option to oversample a segment of their population. Oversamples may also be used to survey students in other class years.  
 c. Institutions had the option to update their population files to identify students who did not return to campus in the spring or otherwise did not meet NSSE eligibility criteria.  
 d. Institutions that participated in the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE) can identify BCSSE survey respondents in their NSSE population file. This information is required to receive the longitudinal results in the *BCSSE-NSSE Combined Report*.

### Survey Options

The options at right were available to customize the content of our NSSE survey and to collect complementary data from companion surveys.

#### Administration features

Sample type	Census
Recruitment method	Email
Portal/LMS used <sup>a</sup>	No
Incentive offered	Yes
Survey version	U.S. English
Institution logo used in survey	No
Mobile respondents <sup>b</sup>	232, 55%

#### Additional question sets and companion surveys

Asked optional sexual orientation question	No
Topical module(s)	None
Consortium	None
BCSSE 2015	No
FSSE 2016	No

a. Institutions that used their student portal or learning management system to recruit students are indicated by "Yes" followed by the number and percentage of respondents that used posted survey links."  
 b. Number and percentage of students who responded with either a smartphone or tablet. See the "operating system" variables in your SPSS data file for additional details.

### Recruitment Messages

Students received up to five direct contacts. USC Aiken had the option to customize message content and timing.

#### Message schedule

	Date	Cumulative response rate	
		First-year	Senior
Invitation	02/10/2016	14%	13%
Reminder 1	02/18/2016	21%	20%
Reminder 2	03/01/2016	25%	26%
Reminder 3	03/15/2016	28%	30%
Final reminder	03/21/2016	30%	35%

### Report Customization

USC Aiken had the option to customize the comparison groups used in reports. The group selected for the *Snapshot* comparisons is identified with an asterisk.

#### Comparison groups for NSSE core survey reports

Group 1	COPLAC* (default)
Group 2	Carnegie Class (default)
Group 3	NSSE 2015 & 2016 (default)

#### Comparison groups for additional question set report(s)

None selected
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