

SACS Accreditation Standards and NSSE Responses.

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SACS	NSSE		YEAR				UT Dallas compared with:								
							UT Dallas 2006		Carnegie Peers			NSSE 2006			
			2006	2005	2004	2003	Mean		Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	
Student Class	Count of students in combined categories expressed as in-year percent of respondents.														
2.10 Producing engaged graduates, prepared for life, work, and leadership in a constantly changing world (more 2.10 below)	Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate from your institution? (Recoded: 0=have not decided, do not plan to do, plan to do; 1=done. Thus, the mean is the proportion responding "done" among all valid respondents.)														
	Worked on a research project with a faculty member outside of	First Year	Plan to do or done	37%	30%	25%	23%	.04		.04			.05		
		Senior	Plan to do or done	30%	27%	23%	25%	.13		.19	***	-.16	.19	***	-.16
	To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much														
	Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work,	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	31%	22%	20%	25%	2.11		2.09			2.13		
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	21%	20%	14%	11%	1.86		1.90			1.91		
	Encouraging contact among students from different economic,	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	54%	52%	54%	51%	2.65		2.52	*	.14	2.57		
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	46%	32%	38%	38%	2.41		2.34			2.40		
	To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much														
	Voting in local, state, or national elections	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	23%	40%	16%	16%	1.87		1.93			1.92		
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	28%	29%	11%	14%	1.92		2.09	***	-.16	2.10	***	-.17
	Learning effectively on your own	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	62%	62%	68%	66%	2.76		2.85			2.85		
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	73%	66%	68%	73%	2.97		2.99			3.00		
	Understanding yourself	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	45%	42%	36%	46%	2.47		2.68	***	-.22	2.71	***	-.25
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	53%	55%	45%	51%	2.58		2.75	***	-.16	2.78	***	-.20
	Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	47%	53%	46%	53%	2.48		2.55			2.57		
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	53%	46%	43%	43%	2.56		2.54			2.57		
	Developing a deepened sense of spirituality	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	15%	14%	12%	N/A	1.59		2.10	***	-.46	2.05	***	-.43
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	25%	24%	13%	N/A	1.80		2.01	***	-.18	1.92	**	-.11
	Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising	First Year	Good/Excellent	73%	77%	76%	80%	2.87		2.90			2.94		
		Senior	Good/Excellent	68%	70%	62%	63%	2.85		2.75	*	.10	2.82		

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			2006	2005	2004	2003	Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	
Student Class	Count of students in combined categories expressed as in-year percent of respondents.													
3.4.9 The institution provides appropriate academic support services	In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often													
	2.10 Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	First Year	Often / Very Often	17%	28%	21%	14%	1.72	1.71			1.67		
		Senior	Often / Very Often	22%	19%	14%	15%	1.95	1.90			1.89		
	Talked about career plans with a faculty member	First Year	Often / Very Often	19%	16%	12%	23%	1.81	2.07	***	-.30	2.11	***	-.34
		Senior	Often / Very Often	30%	12%	18%	30%	2.13	2.33	***	-.22	2.41	***	-.29
	Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate from your institution? (Recorded: 0=have not decided, do not plan to do, plan to do; 1=done. Thus, the mean is the proportion responding "done" among all valid respondents.)													
	Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	First Year	Plan to do or done	79%	86%	77%	74%	.09	.07			.07		
		Senior	Plan to do or done	66%	62%	57%	46%	.34	.50	***	-.33	.53	***	-.38
	Community service or volunteer work	First Year	Plan to do or done	71%	70%	68%	72%	.35	.37			.37		
		Senior	Plan to do or done	54%	68%	48%	43%	.40	.58	***	-.36	.59	***	-.38
	2.10 Participate in a learning community or formal program	First Year	Plan to do or done	21%	21%	15%	31%	.07	.18	***	-.29	.16	***	-.24
		Senior	Plan to do or done	26%	27%	12%	17%	.16	.26	***	-.23	.25	***	-.21
	Foreign language coursework	First Year	Plan to do or done	39%	42%	36%	35%	.10	.22	***	-.28	.22	***	-.29
		Senior	Plan to do or done	41%	36%	28%	23%	.23	.41	***	-.37	.41	***	-.37
	2.10 Study abroad	First Year	Plan to do or done	33%	26%	15%	20%	.03	.02			.03		
		Senior	Plan to do or done	18%	15%	6%	8%	.07	.13	***	-.18	.14	***	-.21
	Independent study or self-designed major	First Year	Plan to do or done	17%	12%	19%	19%	.04	.03			.03		
		Senior	Plan to do or done	30%	19%	17%	24%	.19	.17			.19		
	Culminating senior experience (comprehensive exam, capstone course, thesis, project, etc.)	First Year	Plan to do or done	42%	45%	40%	32%	.01	.01			.01		
		Senior	Plan to do or done	51%	49%	48%	41%	.23	.30	***	-.16	.33	***	-.20
	To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much													
	Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	72%	71%	77%	82%	2.89	2.93			2.99	*	-.13
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	66%	67%	62%	61%	2.75	2.80			2.87	***	-.14

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			2006	2005	2004	2003	Mean	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b			Mean	Sig ^a
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3.4.14 The institution's use of technology enhances student learning, is appropriate for meeting the objectives of its programs, and ensures that students have access to and training in the use of technology.	In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often													
	Made a class presentation	First Year	Often / Very Often	10%	16%	5%	9%	1.98	2.09	***	-.14	2.23	***	-.31
		Senior	Often / Very Often	40%	44%	39%	28%	2.33	2.70	***	-.43	2.80	***	-.55
	Used an electronic medium to discuss or complete an assignment	First Year	Often / Very Often	55%	63%	65%	59%	2.74	2.69			2.64		
		Senior	Often / Very Often	64%	65%	48%	70%	2.94	2.88			2.85	*	.09
	Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor	First Year	Often / Very Often	60%	53%	55%	56%	2.74	3.02	***	-.33	3.01	***	-.32
		Senior	Often / Very Often	77%	55%	76%	74%	3.20	3.31	***	-.15	3.31	***	-.14
	To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much													
	Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	51%	55%	44%	52%	2.55	2.78	***	-.25	2.75	***	-.21
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	36%	44%	34%	24%	2.25	2.59	***	-.36	2.57	***	-.34
	Using computers in academic work	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	86%	92%	80%	88%	3.42	3.35			3.32	*	.14
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	88%	87%	83%	76%	3.39	3.47	**	-.11	3.47	**	-.11
	To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much													
	2.10 Using computing and information technology	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	74%	72%	61%	72%	3.09	3.01			2.99		
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	78%	74%	77%	69%	3.18	3.23			3.21		

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	Student Class	Count of students in combined categories expressed as in-year percent of respondents.												
3.5.1 The institution identifies college-level competencies within the general education core and provides evidence that graduates have attained those competencies.	To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much													
	Acquiring a broad general education	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	73%	73%	73%	75%	2.92	3.10	***	-.24	3.12	***	-.25
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	74%	72%	69%	72%	3.03	3.22	***	-.24	3.24	***	-.27
	To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much													
	Writing clearly and effectively	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	47%	51%	59%	59%	2.47	2.89	***	-.48	2.95	***	-.56
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	68%	66%	56%	52%	2.85	3.02	***	-.20	3.07	***	-.26
	Speaking clearly and effectively	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	38%	34%	40%	41%	2.28	2.67	***	-.42	2.75	***	-.52
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	60%	52%	51%	48%	2.72	2.90	***	-.20	2.96	***	-.27
	Thinking critically and analytically	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	72%	67%	68%	80%	2.91	3.14	***	-.29	3.16	***	-.31
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	84%	77%	83%	87%	3.22	3.32	**	-.13	3.33	***	-.14
	Analyzing quantitative problems	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	67%	69%	58%	69%	2.85	2.86		.09	2.85		.11
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	77%	68%	75%	70%	3.11	3.03	*		3.01	**	
	2.10 Working effectively with others	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	51%	49%	32%	48%	2.57	2.89	***	-.36	2.92	***	-.40
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	66%	59%	68%	62%	2.84	3.11	***	-.31	3.14	***	-.34
	2.10 Solving complex real-world problems	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	52%	43%	41%	46%	2.51	2.57			2.58		
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	53%	48%	58%	48%	2.58	2.74	***	-.16	2.72	***	-.14
	2.10 Developing a personal code of values and ethics	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	37%	34%	34%	44%	2.27	2.59	***	-.32	2.59	***	-.32
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	50%	38%	35%	36%	2.47	2.68	***	-.20	2.65	***	-.17
	2.10 Contributing to the welfare of your community	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	30%	22%	16%	26%	2.11	2.37	***	-.27	2.34	***	-.24
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	39%	30%	26%	31%	2.15	2.44	***	-.28	2.42	***	-.26

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3.8.1 The institution provides facilities, services, and learning / information resources that are appropriate to support its teaching, research and service mission.	In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often														
	Made a class presentation	First Year	Often / Very Often	10%	16%	5%	9%	1.98	2.09	***	-.14	2.23	***	-.31	
		Senior	Often / Very Often	40%	44%	39%	28%	2.33	2.70	***	-.43	2.80	***	-.55	
	Worked with other students on projects during class	First Year	Often / Very Often	19%	20%	25%	25%	2.04	2.40	***	-.43	2.40	***	-.44	
		Senior	Often / Very Often	33%	40%	27%	37%	2.19	2.48	***	-.32	2.52	***	-.37	
	Worked with classmates outside class to prepare assignments	First Year	Often / Very Often	36%	42%	25%	29%	2.36	2.36			2.36			
		Senior	Often / Very Often	53%	56%	53%	58%	2.55	2.80	***	-.27	2.75	***	-.23	
	Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	First Year	Often / Very Often	16%	28%	21%	14%	1.72	1.71			1.67			
		Senior	Often / Very Often	32%	19%	14%	15%	1.95	1.90			1.89			
	Used an electronic medium to discuss or complete an assignment	First Year	Often / Very Often	56%	63%	65%	59%	2.74	2.69			2.64			
		Senior	Often / Very Often	64%	65%	48%	70%	2.94	2.88			2.85	*	.09	
	Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor	First Year	Often / Very Often	59%	53%	55%	56%	2.74	3.02	***	-.33	3.01	***	-.32	
		Senior	Often / Very Often	76%	55%	76%	74%	3.20	3.31	***	-.15	3.31	***	-.14	
	To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much														
	Providing support you need to help you succeed academically	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	72%	71%	77%	82%	2.89	2.93			2.99	*	-.13	
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	66%	67%	62%	61%	2.75	2.80			2.87	***	-.14	
	Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	83%	83%	85%	84%	3.13	3.04			3.07			
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	84%	88%	85%	81%	3.20	3.07	***	.16	3.08	***	.15	

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3.9.3 The institution provides services supporting its mission with qualified personnel to ensure the quality and effectiveness of its student affairs programs.	In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often														
	Talked about career plans with a faculty member	First Year	Often / Very Often	18%	16%	12%	23%	1.81	2.07	***	-.30	2.11	***	-.34	
		Senior	Often / Very Often	30%	12%	18%	30%	2.13	2.33	***	-.22	2.41	***	-.29	
	2.10 Attended an art exhibit, gallery, play, dance, or other theatre performance	First Year	Often / Very Often	31%	22%	25%	No Data*	2.21	2.12			2.10			
		Senior	Often / Very Often	18%	25%	14%	No Data*	1.85	1.98	***	-.15	2.01	***	-.18	
	2.10 Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities	First Year	Often / Very Often	53%	50%	47%	No Data*	2.64	2.79	*	-.14	2.77	*	-.12	
		Senior	Often / Very Often	47%	38%	41%	No Data*	2.52	2.71	***	-.19	2.70	***	-.18	
	2.10 Participated in activities to enhance your spirituality (worship, meditation, prayer, etc.)	First Year	Often / Very Often	31%	28%	20%	No Data*	1.99	2.21	**	-.19	2.09			
		Senior	Often / Very Often	38%	35%	14%	No Data*	2.21	2.36	**	-.13	2.18			
				Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate from your institution? (Recoded: 0=have not decided, do not plan to do, plan to do; 1=done. Thus, the mean is the proportion responding "done" among all valid respondents.)											
	2.10 Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	First Year	Plan to do or done	79%	86%	77%	74%	.09	.07			.07			
		Senior	Plan to do or done	66%	62%	57%	46%	.34	.50	***	-.33	.53	***	-.38	
	2.10 Community service or volunteer work	First Year	Plan to do or done	69%	70%	68%	72%	.35	.37			.37			
		Senior	Plan to do or done	52%	68%	48%	43%	.40	.58	***	-.36	.59	***	-.38	
	Study abroad	First Year	Plan to do or done	33%	26%	15%	20%	.03	.02			.03			
		Senior	Plan to do or done	17%	15%	6%	8%	.07	.13	***	-.18	.14	***	-.21	

SACS Accreditation Standards and NSSE Responses.

Statistical Significance: Items with mean differences that are larger than would be expected by chance alone are noted with one, two, or three asterisks, referring to three significance levels ($p < .05$, $p < .01$, and $p < .001$). The smaller the significance level, the smaller the likelihood that the difference is due to chance. *Please note that statistical significance does not guarantee that the result is substantive or important.* Large sample sizes (like those produced by NSSE) tend to produce more statistically significant results even though the magnitude of mean differences may be inconsequential. It is recommended to start by interpreting only those items with three asterisks ($p < .001$) and to consult effect sizes (see below) in order to make judgments about the practical meaning of the results.

Effect size: This indicates the "practical significance" of the mean difference. It is calculated by dividing the mean difference by the standard deviation of the group with which the institution is being compared (consortium, Carnegie type, or NSSE 2005). In practice, an effect size of .2 is often considered small, .5 moderate, and .8 large. A positive sign indicates that your institution's mean was greater, thus showing an affirmative result for the institution. A negative sign indicates the institution lags behind the comparison group, suggesting that the student behavior or institutional practice represented by the item may warrant attention. An exception to this interpretation is the "coming to class unprepared" item (item 1f.) where a negative sign is preferred (i.e., meaning fewer students reporting coming to class unprepared).

SACS	NSSE		YEAR				UT Dallas compared with:				NSSE 2006			
							UT Dallas 2006		Carnegie Peers					
			2006	2005	2004	2003	Mean		Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b	Mean	Sig ^a	Effect Size ^b
	Student Class	Count of students in combined categories expressed as in-year percent of respondents.												
3.9.3 CONT'D	About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following? 1=0 hrs/wk, 2=1-5 hrs/wk, 3=6-10 hrs/wk, 4=11-15 hrs/wk, 5=16-20 hrs/wk, 6=21-25 hrs/wk, 7=26-30 hrs/wk, 8=more than 30 hrs/wk													
	2.10 Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority)	First Year	21 or more	3%	2%	8%	4%	2.08	2.19			2.17		
		Senior	21 or more	2%	0%	0%	2%	1.69	2.02	***	-.23	2.08	***	-.26
	Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.)	First Year	21 or more	22%	23%	28%	16%	4.26	3.90	**	.21	3.79	***	.28
		Senior	21 or more	11%	5%	9%	7%	3.31	3.49	**	-.11	3.48	**	-.11
	To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much													
	2.10 Providing the support you need to thrive socially	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	34%	24%	32%	28%	2.18	2.37	***	-.21	2.37	***	-.21
		Senior	Quite a bit/Very Much	23%	17%	14%	12%	1.93	2.15	***	-.23	2.14	***	-.23
	2.10 Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic	First Year	Quite a bit/Very Much	52%	55%	44%	52%	2.55	2.78	***	-.25	2.75	***	-.21
Senior		Quite a bit/Very Much	36%	44%	34%	24%	2.25	2.59	***	-.36	2.57	***	-.34	