

NSSE and Calvin

Mike Stob

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National Survey of Student Engagement

■ Who?

- First-year (FY) and Senior (SR) students
- 616 colleges and universities in the US
- Calvin participates every third year

■ Format

- Web-based (some institutions use paper)
- All FY and SR students invited
- 434 FY and 479 SR students responded (52%)

Comparisons

- Calvin FY students compared to SR students
- Calvin students compared to those at “comparable” schools (same Carnegie class)
- Calvin students compared to Calvin students in 2006
- Calvin FY students compared to their expectations for college (when asked at Quest in BCSSE)

Benchmarks

- Level of academic challenge
- Active and collaborative learning
- Student-faculty interaction
- Enriching educational experiences
- Supportive campus environment

Level of Academic Challenge

- To what extent does your institution emphasize spending significant amounts of time studying?
- In the past year, how often have you worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards?
- About how much reading and writing have you done?
- How many hours a week do you spend preparing for class and studying?

Academic Challenge - Answers

Spent more than 15 hours per week studying



Calvin emphasized spending time studying



Academic Challenge - Comparisons

No significant difference compared to other schools in the same Carnegie classification

No significant difference compared to 2006 at FY level

A modest but significant improvement compared to 2006 at SR level

Active and Collaborative Learning

In the past year how often have you

- Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions
- Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments
- Did a community-based project as part of a regular class
- Discussed ideas from readings or classes with others outside of class

Active Learning - Answers

Asked questions in class (often or very often)

First-Year Students

Calvin	Carnegie Class
59%	74%

Seniors

Calvin	Carnegie Class
77%	87%

Discussed ideas with others outside of class

First-Year Students

Calvin	Carnegie Class
61%	65%

Seniors

Calvin	Carnegie Class
67%	87%

Active Learning - Comparisons

- Calvin FY student mean is significantly lower than that at other comparable institutions
- Calvin SR student mean is not significantly different than that at other comparable institutions
- Calvin FY students have not changed since 2006
- Calvin SR students have improved since 2006

Student-Faculty Interaction

In the past year, how often have you

- Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor
- Talked about career plans with a faculty member
- Discussed ideas from classes with faculty outside of class
- Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty

Student/Faculty Interaction - Answers

Discussed ideas from classes with faculty outside of class often or very often

First-Year Students		Seniors	
Calvin	Carnegie Class	Calvin	Carnegie Class
14%	27%	29%	39%

Worked on research project with faculty member (planned to do or done)

Calvin	Carnegie Class	Calvin	Carnegie Class
31%	47%	29%	41%

Student/Faculty Interaction - Comparisons

- Calvin FY student mean is significantly lower than that at other comparable institutions
- Calvin SR student mean is significantly lower than that at other comparable institutions
- Calvin FY students have not changed since 2006
- Calvin SR students have improved since 2006

Enriching Educational Experiences

During the past year, have you

- Had serious conversations with students of another race
- Did a practicum, internship, field experience, etc.
- Participated in a learning community
- Spent more than 5 hours a week participating in co-curricular activities

Enriching Educational Experiences - Answers

Institution encourages contact with diverse peers

First-Year Students

Calvin	Carnegie Class
73%	65%

Seniors

Calvin	Carnegie Class
56%	55%

Study abroad (plan to do or done)

Calvin	Carnegie Class
72%	64%

Calvin	Carnegie Class
60%	44%

Enriching Educational Experiences - Comparisons

- Calvin FY student mean is significantly lower than that at other comparable institutions
- Calvin SR student mean is not different than that at other institutions
- Calvin FY students have improved since 2006
- Calvin SR students have not changed since 2006

Supportive Campus Environment

To what extent does your institution emphasize

- Providing the support you need to help you academically
- Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities

Rate the quality of your relationships with

- Other students
- Faculty members
- Administrative personnel and offices

Supportive Campus Environment - Answers

Institution provides substantial support for academic success

First-Year Students		Seniors	
Calvin	Carnegie Class	Calvin	Carnegie Class
85%	86%	89%	84%

Positively rated their relationship with faculty members

Calvin	Carnegie Class	Calvin	Carnegie Class
86%	86%	90%	89%

Supportive Campus Environment - Comparisons

- Calvin FY student mean is not different than that at other comparable institutions
- Calvin SR student mean is significantly greater than that at other institutions
- Calvin FY students have improved since 2006
- Calvin SR students have not changed since 2006

Benchmark Comparisons

Carnegie Class Institutions

	FY	SR
Academic Challenge		
Active and Collaborative Learning	less	less
Student-Faculty Interaction	less	less
Enriching Educational Experiences	less	
Supportive Campus Environment		more

BCSSE

- 902 FY students invited to participate at QUEST
- 838 responses
- 401 also completed NSSE

Comparison of first-year experience
to high school experience
to expectations for college

Compared to High School, FY students

- Made fewer class presentations
- Came to class unprepared more often
- Discussed grades with instructors about as often
- Had serious conversations with students of a different race more often
- Talked with counselor or teacher about career plans less often
- Got lower grades

Compared to their expectations for college, FY students

- Spent less time preparing for class
- Spent less time on co-curricular activities
- Spend more time socializing
- Asked questions in class less often
- Discussed grades with their instructor less often
- Worked with classmates outside of class on class assignments less often
- Discussed ideas with teachers outside of class less often
- Got higher grades

Student Satisfaction

- If they could start college over

91% of FY and 88% of SR students would go to Calvin (probably or certainly)

- Rate your overall educational experience (P,F,G,E)

53% of FY and 64% of SR rate their experience as excellent