Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE) Highlights

Students enter college with a variety of different backgrounds and experiences. The BCSSE (Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement) (pronounced "bessie") helps universities to better understand their students and those students’ diverse experiences. The BCSSE collects data on incoming college students concerning: 1. their high school experiences, 2. their expectations for the first year of college, and 3. demographic information. Information from the BCSSE can be used for a variety of purposes including faculty development, retention improvement efforts, informing first year programming, academic advising, accreditation, and assessment and improvement. When looking at BCSSE data, it is important to remember that all of the information collected is self-reported.

The 2010 BCSSE was administered to incoming UNCG undergraduates during orientation (SOAR) prior to the start of the 2010-2011 school year. Of the 2,410 students in attendance for the eight sessions of SOAR 98.7% participated in the survey.

The chart to the right shows the percentage of students who responded “never” to the question “During your last year of high school, about how often did you do each of the following?” Almost 3 out of 10 incoming UNCG students had never discussed ideas from class work and readings with a teacher outside of class and 15% reported never having prepared 2 or more drafts of an assignment. Having insight into the high school academic engagement practices of incoming UNCG students gives information to faculty and staff regarding what ways and to what extent students are prepared to engage in collegiate academics.

Looking at the chart to the left, 14% of incoming UNCG students reported spending over 16 hours per week preparing for class during their last year of high school while over 4 times that amount (63% ) report expecting to spend over 16 hours preparing for class during their first year of college. 42% reported spending 0-5 hours per week preparing for class during their last year of high school.

“Never” During Last Year of High School

- Discussed ideas from class work with teacher outside class: 29%
- Worked with classmates outside of class on assignments: 20%
- Prepared 2 or more drafts of a paper: 15%
- Discussed ideas from class work with others outside class: 10%

Hours Spent per Week Preparing for Class

- High School-Final Year:
  - 0-5 hours: 50%
  - 6-15 hours: 25%
  - 16+ hours: 25%

- Expected College:
  - 0-5 hours: 50%
  - 6-15 hours: 25%
  - 16+ hours: 25%
For more information about UNCG’s BCSSE results, to view comparison data, or to view past incoming student survey results please visit the Student Affairs Assessment website at http://studentaffairs.uncg.edu/assessment and click on the “Incoming Student Surveys” navigational link on the right.

A Note on NASPA and StudentVoice:
The following 4 articles are based on benchmark surveys made possible through the NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) Assessment and Knowledge Consortium and powered by StudentVoice. The Consortium allows UNCG and other participating institutions to stay abreast of student opinion regarding many of the programs and services of Student Affairs. Participating institutions can also compare their information to that of other colleges and universities. These surveys help UNCG to evaluate programs and continue to improve and assess the attainment of student learning outcomes.

Mental Health and Counseling Study

The Mental Health and Counseling Study is designed to give a picture of mental health issues facing today’s college students. UNCG’s mental health professionals can use this information to tailor their services to the needs of students. UNCG is also able to benchmark this information against other institutions. The survey covers issues ranging from depression and anxiety to drug use and family concerns.

The Mental Health and Counseling survey is part of the NASPA Assessment and Knowledge Consortium.

The survey was sent electronically to a random sample of 2500 currently enrolled UNCG undergraduate students. No incentives for filling out the survey were provided. The response rate was approximately 18%. Responses rates at UNCG average between 10%- 12% on surveys administered electronically.

The graphic above shows the percentage of students who responded “extremely like me” and “not at all like me” to the statements listed when asked “How well does this describe you during the last 2 weeks?” 60% of students reported responding “extremely like me” to the statement “I feel like my family loves me.” 69% responded “not at all like me” to the statement “I drink alcohol frequently.”

For additional results from the Mental Health and Counseling Study, please visit: studentaffairs.uncg.edu/assessment and click “NASPA Consortium Reports”

Career Planning and Professional Aspirations Study

The Career Planning and Professional Aspirations Study examines UNCG students’ career goals as well as their perceptions of the Career Services Center.

The survey was sent electronically to a random sample of 2500 currently enrolled UNCG undergraduate students. No incentives for filling out the survey were provided. The response rate was approximately 10%.
Career Planning and Professional Aspirations Study (continued)

The bar chart on page 2 shows what UNCG students think that they will do after graduation. The most frequent response was attending graduate or professional school with 46% of students who responded choosing this option. The second most popular response was working in the private sector with 25%.

The pie chart to the left shows how frequently the UNCG students surveyed reported using online social networking sites for career-related purposes. 64% of students report never utilizing online social networking sites as career resources.

For additional results from the Career Planning Study, please visit: studentaffairs.uncg.edu/assessment and click “NASPA Consortium Reports.”

Campus Recreation Study

The Campus Recreation Study assesses the level of participation in campus recreation services, the impact of campus recreation offerings on student recruitment and retention, and the recreational needs and interests of students.

The survey sample was a random sample of 2500 currently enrolled UNCG undergraduate students and achieved a 9% response rate with no incentives.

When students were asked how important recreation, sports, and fitness activities were to them before enrolling at UNCG, 23% responded “very important” which is about 7% below the national average. However, when asked how important such activities were going to be after leaving college, 47% responded “very important” which is approximately 8% above the national average.

When students were asked “If you were improving/expanding recreation facilities, which of the following would be important to you?”, the top five responses were: 1. additional cardio equipment 2. additional open and/or park space 3. adding a juice bar or food service area 4. mind/ body offerings 5. additional aquatic offerings. (Students could choose as many options as they wanted.)

For additional results from the Campus Recreation study, please visit: studentaffairs.uncg.edu/assessment and click “NASPA Consortium Reports.”
In the Elliott University Center (EUC) and Programming survey, students were asked about their experiences with various features of the EUC, the frequency of their use of the facility, and the frequency of their participation in and experiences with EUC events. The response rate was approximately 11% from a random sample of 2500.

When students were asked “In which of the following types of on-campus activities do you actively participate? (Check all that apply),” they had the choice of the following activities: student media (yearbook, newspaper, radio), student government, intercollegiate athletics, Greek-letter organizations, political activism, recreational activities (sport clubs, intramurals), community service, performing arts, other student organizations, honor societies, campus events (movies, speakers, concerts), and none of the above.

The chart above shows the most popular responses. “None of the above” was the most common choice. Community service was the second most popular among those responding to the survey with almost one in three respondents reporting that they actively participate in community service.

The chart to the left shows respondents perceptions of their likelihood to complete their degree at UNCG as a result of attending events at the EUC.

For additional results from the Elliott University Center and Programming Study, please visit: studentaffairs.uncg.edu/assessment and click “NASPA Consortium Reports.”

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