

*Assessment Update for Greenville College
October, 2003*

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was developed by George Kuh to compare student responses from one institution with student responses from two comparison groups: a randomly selected group of CCCU institutions and a randomly selected group of institutions that use NSSE but are not CCCU affiliated. Here are a few of the highlights:

GC senior scores are significantly higher than CCCU senior scores in “understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds.”

GC is significantly higher than CCCU and the NSSE comparison groups in “encouraging contact among students from different social, economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.”

GC freshmen scores are significantly lower than freshman in the CCCU group on “acquiring a broad general education” and “writing clearly and effectively.” GC senior scores (memorize, apply analyze, synthesize) are not significantly different from the CCCU or NSSE groups.

GC freshmen scores indicate that they are most likely to work cooperatively on projects than freshmen from the CCCU or NSSE groups.

A significant number of GC seniors work off-campus for pay to support and provide care for dependents living with them.

How can your department or program benefit from this information? Are you intentional about including cooperative learning tasks in your entry level courses? Are you tolerant and patient with the low academic orientation of some of our entering freshmen, knowing that with our help they may catch a love of learning for its own sake? Do you include discussion of time management issues in your regular advising sessions with both underclassmen and upperclassmen?

(NSSE Respondents 2001: GC seniors: 119; 1st Year GC: 76; CCCU comparison sample: 1335; BAC-Gen comparison sample: 2495; NSSE 2001 comparison sample: 37, 270)

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