

***Enhancing Student Learning
and the Scholarship of Teaching***

Five National Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

1. Level of Academic Challenge

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote high levels of student achievement by setting high expectations for student performance.

2. Student Interactions with Faculty Members

Students learn firsthand how experts think about and solve practical problems by interacting with faculty members inside and outside the classroom. As a result, their teachers become role models, mentors, and guides for continuous, life-long learning.

3. Active and Collaborative Learning

Students learn more when they are intensively involved in their education and are asked to think about and apply what they are learning in different settings. Collaborating with others in solving problems or mastering difficult material prepares student to deal with the messy, unscripted problems they will encounter daily, both during and after college.

4. Enriching Educational Experiences

Complementary learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom augment the academic program. Experiencing diversity teaches students valuable things about themselves and other cultures. Used appropriately, technology facilitates learning and promotes collaboration between peers and instructors. Internships, community service, and senior capstone courses provide students with opportunities to synthesize, integrate, and

apply their knowledge. Such experiences make learning more meaningful and, ultimately, more useful because what students know becomes a part of who they are.

5. Supportive Campus Environment

Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that are committed to their success and cultivate positive working and social relations among different groups on campus.

Adapted from the 2004 Annual NSSE Survey Report

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) documents dimensions of quality in undergraduate education and provides information and assistance to colleges, universities, and other organizations to improve student learning. Its primary activity is annually surveying college students to assess the extent to which they engage in educational practices associated with high levels of learning and development.

For more information on the NSSE, please visit <http://www.indiana.edu/~nsse/>

Freshmen and Senior students at Iowa State University participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) during the spring semester. Their scores on these five benchmarks are utilized as performance indicators for the ISU Strategic Plan and are reported to the Board of Regents.

For more information on the ISU Strategic Plan, please visit <http://www.iastate.edu/~strategicplan/>

Further teaching resources can be found on our CELT website at www.celt.iastate.edu