

2005 NSSE Results Ohio University and Peers Executive Summary

OVERALL

- NSSE has provided Ohio University with a summary report of its spring 2005 results, comparing Ohio University's results with a comparison group of 45 "peer" universities. Most of Ohio University's presidential peers are in this group.
- Ohio University's means for senior respondents were higher (indicating more engagement) on all six components of the NSSE, significantly higher on five of the six components, than the senior respondents from Ohio University's selected peer institutions.
- Ohio University's means for freshmen respondents compare generally less well, and on three components, significantly less well than Ohio University's selected peer group.
- 2005 NSSE data provide evidence that freshmen at Ohio University perceive their first year of college as less engaging than the freshmen from the selected peer institutions perceive their first-year experience.
- 2005 NSSE data also indicate that Ohio University seniors perceive that their educational experiences are significantly more engaging than their counterparts at the selected peer institutions.
- If Ohio University's freshmen are retained after their first year, they will receive a value-added engaging educational experience, as evidenced by the higher senior NSSE ratings.

LEVEL OF ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

- Of the 11 items included in the Level of Academic Challenge component of the NSSE, Ohio University freshmen respondent means were lower on 8 of the 11 items than Ohio University's selected peers. Five of those items were significantly different.
- Ohio University senior respondents reported significantly more assigned course readings and writing assignments than Ohio University's selected peers.
- While Ohio University freshmen prepared significantly less for class than the selected peer group, Ohio University seniors prepared significantly more for class than those at the peer group.
- Both Ohio University freshmen and seniors spent significantly less amounts of time studying and on academic work.

ACTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

- Of the 7 items included in the Active and Collaborative Learning component, Ohio University senior respondent means were greater on 6 of the items than the peer institutions. Four of those items were significantly different.
- Ohio University freshmen means were greater on 4 of the items in this component than the peer institutions'.
- Ohio University seniors asked significantly more questions or contributed to class discussions, significantly more made a class presentation, worked significantly more with other students on projects during class, and significantly more participated in a community-based project than their peers.

- Ohio University freshmen asked significantly less questions in class or contributed to class discussions, significantly fewer made a class presentation, and significantly few participated in a community-based project.

STUDENT-FACULTY INTERACTION

- Of the 6 items included in the Student-Faculty Interaction component of the NSSE, Ohio University senior respondent means were higher on all 6 items, and significantly higher on 4 of the 6 items.
- While significantly fewer Ohio University freshmen discussed grades or assignments with an instructor than their peers, significantly more Ohio University seniors discussed grades or assignments with an instructor than their peers.
- Significantly more Ohio University freshmen and seniors talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor than freshmen and seniors at the peer institutions.

ENRICHING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Ohio University senior respondent means were higher on 8 of the 11 items included in the Enriching Educational Experiences component of the NSSE than seniors at peer institutions. Five items: participating in co-curricular activities, encouraging contact among students from different backgrounds, used an electronic medium to discuss or complete an assignment, had serious conversations with students or a different race or ethnicity, had completed a practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience or clinical assignment were significantly higher than their peers.
- Ohio University freshmen respondent means were lower on 9 of the 11 items in this component. Five of those items were significantly different.
- More Ohio University freshmen and seniors respondents perceived that the institutional environment at Ohio was more encouraging of contact among students from different backgrounds than indicated by students at the peer institutions.
- Significantly more Ohio University freshmen and seniors had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than their own than the freshmen and senior respondents at the peer institutions.

SUPPORTIVE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

- In comparison with the peer institutions, Ohio University freshmen perceive that Ohio University provides a more supportive campus environment.
- Of the 6 items in the Supportive and Campus Environment component of the NSSE, Ohio University freshmen respondent means were higher than the peer institutions on all 6 items.
- Ohio University senior respondent means were higher than the peer institutions' means on 5 of the 6 items included in this component.
- Ohio University seniors perceived that Ohio University was not as supportive helping students cope with non-academic responsibilities as the peer institutions' senior respondents indicated their campuses were.