NSSE
national survey of student engagement

Marshall University

Multi-Year Benchmark Report
August 2010

Interpreting the Multi-Year Benchmark Report

Key Terms and Features in this Report

Multi-year charts
appear on pages 4 & 6

Y-Axis
Benchmarks are computed on a 0 to 100 scale, however nearly all institutional scores are between the y-axis values of 15 and 85.

Error Bars/Confidence Intervals
Error bars around each benchmark score show the upper and lower bounds of the 95% confidence interval (mean +/- 1.96 * SEM), a range of values 95% likely to contain the true population score. "Upper" and "Lower" limits are also reported in the detailed statistics tables. Where confidence intervals do not overlap between years, a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) is likely to be present.

Benchmark Score
The benchmark score is the weighted average of the students' scores, using only randomly sampled students (including those from census administrations) from each year's data.

n
Unweighted number of respondents represented in the data.

Year
All NSSE administration years since 2004 are listed regardless of participation.

Multi-year detailed statistics
appear on pages 5 & 7

SEM
Standard error of the mean is how much a score based on a sample may differ from the true population score. SEM is used to compute confidence intervals.

SD
Standard deviation, the average amount by which students' scores differ from the mean.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
LAC	**48.2**		**48.4**		**51.4**		**52.7**
n	405		303		307		155
SD	12.1		12.3		11.8		13.7
SEM	.60		.71		.67		1.10
Upper	49.4		49.8		52.7		54.9
Lower	47.0		47.0		50.1		50.6

An important early step in conducting a multi-year analysis is to review the quality of your data for both first-year and senior respondents in each year. The precision of an institution's population estimates can vary from one year to the next. The values in this table were drawn from the *Respondent Characteristics* reports from each NSSE administration.

Data Quality Indicators for Each NSSE Participation Year

Year[a]	Mode[b]	Response Rate[c]		Sampling Error[d]		Number of Respondents[e]	
		FY	SR	FY	SR	FY	SR
2004							
2005							
2006							
2007							
2008	Web-only	18%	23%	4.7%	4.2%	356	459
2009	Web-only	37%	34%	3.4%	3.3%	512	582
2010	Web-only	21%	32%	4.6%	3.5%	351	547

[a] All NSSE administration years since 2004 are listed regardless of participation.

[b] Modes include *Paper* (students receive a paper survey and the option of completing a Web version), *Web* (students receive all correspondence by e-mail and complete the Web version), and *Web+* (students initially invited to participate via e-mail; a subgroup of nonrespondents receive paper surveys).

[c] Response rates (number of respondents divided by sample size) adjusted for ineligibility, nondeliverable mailing addresses, and students who were unavailable during the survey administration.

[d] Sampling error gauges the precision of results based on a sample survey. It is an estimate of how much survey item percentages for your respondents could differ from those of the entire population of students at your institution. Data with larger sampling errors (such as +/-10%) need not be dismissed out of hand, but any results using them should be interpreted more conservatively.
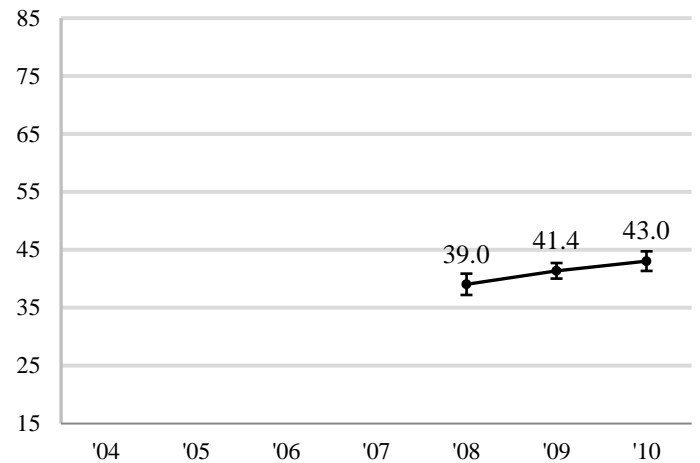
[e] This is the original count used to calculate response rates and sampling errors for each administration's *Respondent Characteristics* report. This number includes all randomly sampled students (including those from census administrations). In 2004 and 2005 it may also include targeted oversamples. For this reason, the counts for 2004 and 2005 may not match those given in the detailed statistics on pages 5 and 7.

NSSE
national survey of
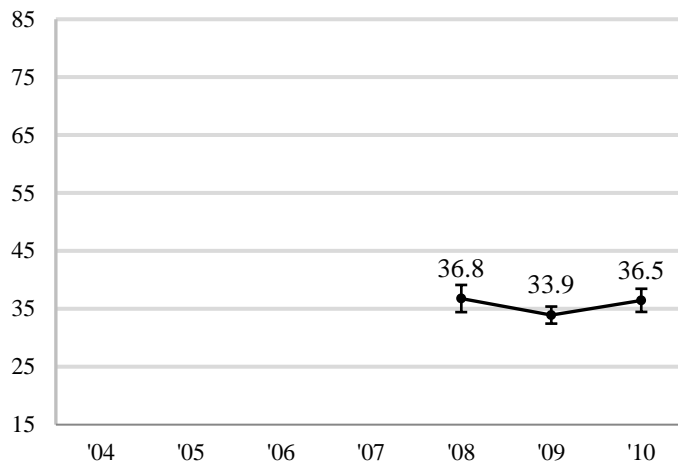student engagement

Marshall University

First-Year Students

Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)
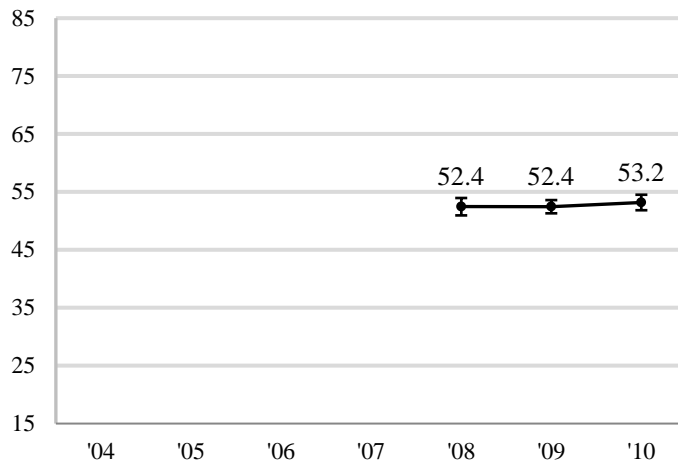
52.4   52.4   53.2

Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)

39.0   41.4   43.0

Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)

36.8   33.9   36.5

Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)

25.4   26.1   25.1

Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)

59.9   60.9   61.3
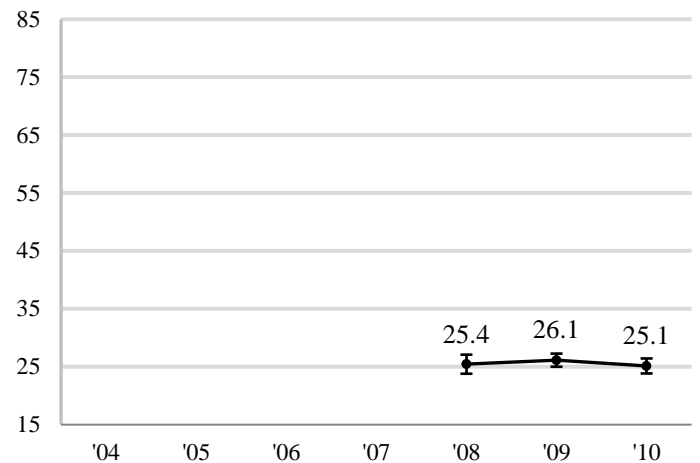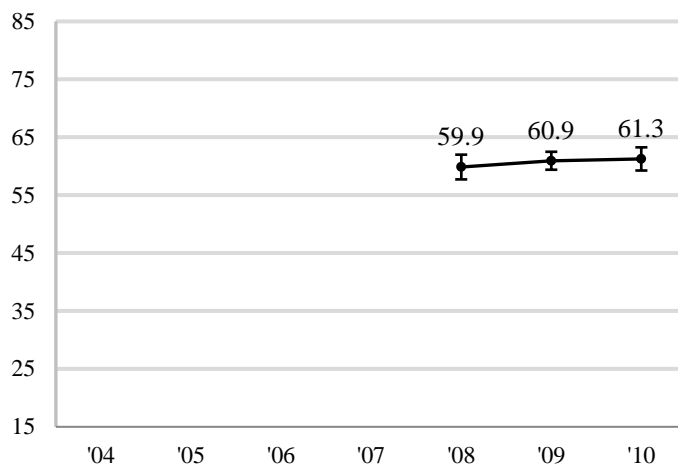
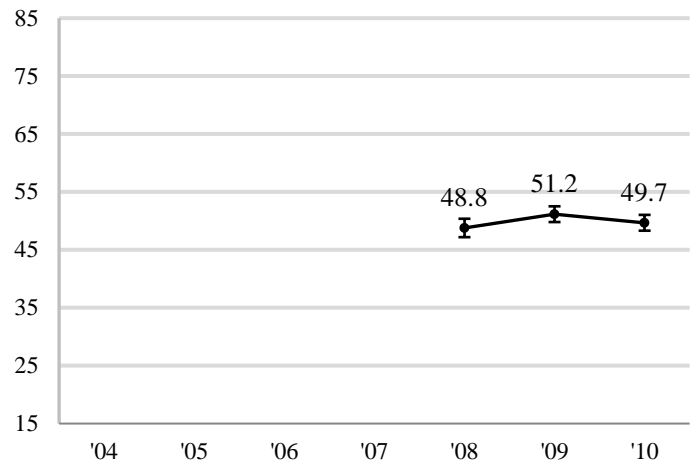|		First-Year Students						
		2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Level of Academic Challenge	**LAC**					**52.4**	**52.4**	**53.2**
	n					310	492	335
	SD					13.5	12.9	12.5
	SEM					.77	.58	.68
	Upper					54.0	53.6	54.5
	Lower					50.9	51.3	51.8
Active and Collaborative Learning	**ACL**					**39.0**	**41.4**	**43.0**
	n					354	504	351
	SD					17.7	15.4	16.2
	SEM					.94	.69	.86
	Upper					40.9	42.7	44.7
	Lower					37.2	40.0	41.4
Student Faculty Interaction	**SFI**					**36.8**	**33.9**	**36.5**
	n					312	491	337
	SD					21.1	16.7	18.7
	SEM					1.20	.75	1.02
	Upper					39.1	35.4	38.5
	Lower					34.4	32.4	34.5
Enriching Educational Experiences	**EEE**					**25.4**	**26.1**	**25.1**
	n					301	491	329
	SD					14.5	12.8	12.0
	SEM					.84	.58	.66
	Upper					27.1	27.3	26.4
	Lower					23.8	25.0	23.8
Supportive Campus Environment	**SCE**					**59.9**	**60.9**	**61.3**
	n					296	479	322
	SD					18.7	17.3	18.3
	SEM					1.09	.79	1.02
	Upper					62.0	62.5	63.3
	Lower					57.7	59.4	59.3

[a] n=number of respondents; *SD* =standard deviation; *SEM* =standard error of the mean; Upper/Lower=95% confidence interval limits
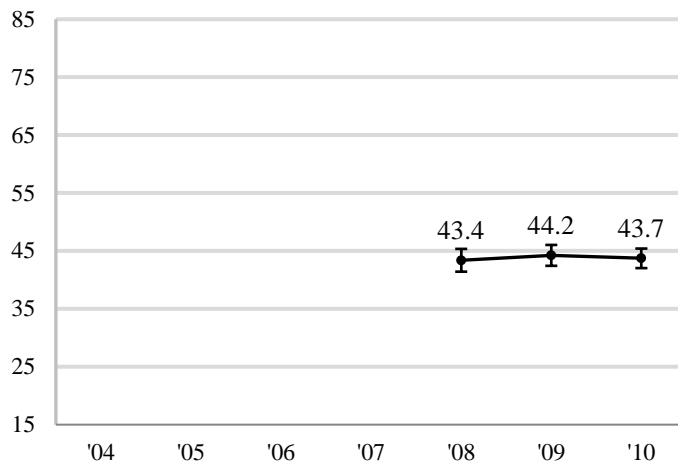
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Seniors

Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)
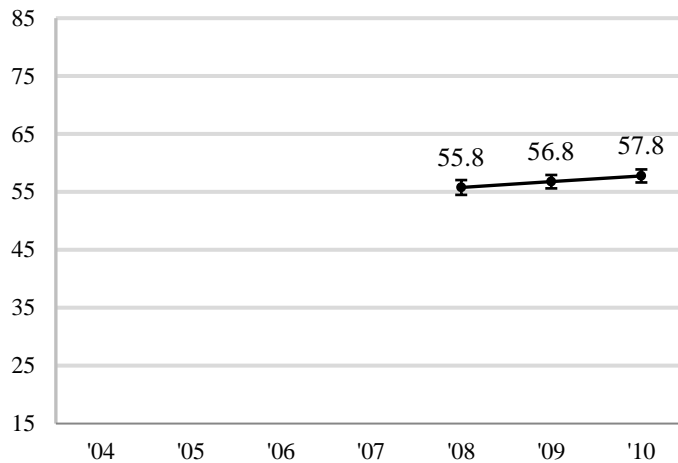
55.8 56.8 57.8

Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)

48.8 51.2 49.7

Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)

43.4 44.2 43.7

Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)

40.9 41.3 41.2

Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)

57.6 58.1 58.0
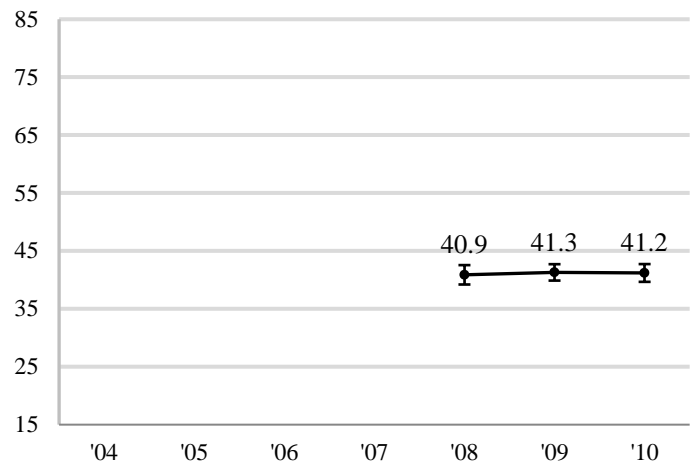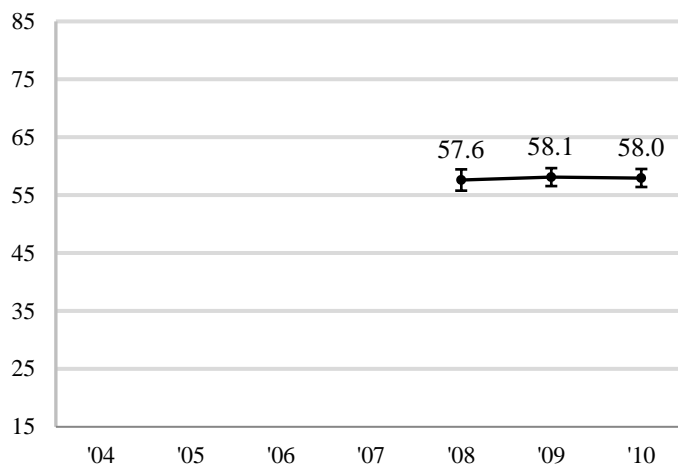
		Seniors						
		2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Level of Academic Challenge	**LAC**					**55.8**	**56.8**	**57.8**
	n					439	562	539
	SD					13.7	14.0	13.3
	SEM					.65	.59	.57
	Upper					57.0	57.9	58.9
	Lower					54.5	55.6	56.6
Active and Collaborative Learning	**ACL**					**48.8**	**51.2**	**49.7**
	n					457	566	539
	SD					17.3	16.5	16.2
	SEM					.81	.69	.70
	Upper					50.4	52.5	51.0
	Lower					47.2	49.8	48.3
Student Faculty Interaction	**SFI**					**43.4**	**44.2**	**43.7**
	n					440	562	537
	SD					21.1	21.8	20.0
	SEM					1.00	.92	.86
	Upper					45.3	46.0	45.4
	Lower					41.4	42.4	42.0
Enriching Educational Experiences	**EEE**					**40.9**	**41.3**	**41.2**
	n					431	556	537
	SD					17.7	17.0	18.1
	SEM					.85	.72	.78
	Upper					42.5	42.7	42.7
	Lower					39.2	39.9	39.7
Supportive Campus Environment	**SCE**					**57.6**	**58.1**	**58.0**
	n					424	551	531
	SD					19.3	18.6	18.3
	SEM					.94	.79	.79
	Upper					59.5	59.7	59.5
	Lower					55.8	56.6	56.4

[a] n=number of respondents; *SD* =standard deviation; *SEM* =standard error of the mean; Upper/Lower=95% confidence interval limits

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