## The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)

## Overview of 2017 Survey Results South Arkansas Community College

## Introduction

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), a product and service of the Center for Community College Student Engagement, provides information about effective educational practice in community colleges. The Center's goal is to provide member colleges with results that can be used to inform decision making and target institutional improvements. Student engagement, or the amount of time and energy students invest in meaningful educational practices, is the underlying foundation for the Center's work. The CCSSE survey instrument is designed to capture student engagement as a measure of institutional quality.

## CCSSE Member Colleges

The 2017 CCSSE Cohort includes 537 community and technical colleges from 47 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and two Canadian provinces. CCSSE uses a cohort of participating colleges in all core survey analyses. As the survey instrument was refreshed in 2017, the 2017 cohort consists of only the colleges that participated in CCSSE 2017 and 2017.

## CCSSE Sampling

In CCSSE sampling procedures, students are sampled at the classroom level. The survey was administered in classes randomly selected from among all face-to-face and hybrid courses offered by the institution during the spring academic term. Certain course types are not eligible for inclusion in the CCSSE administration. These include non-credit, dual-enrollment, distance learning, most ESL courses, individual instruction, and individual study or self-paced classes.

Of those students sampled at our institution, 307 respondents submitted usable surveys. The number of completed surveys produced an overall "percent of target" rate of $51 \%$. The percent of target rate is the ratio of the adjusted number of completed surveys (surveys that were filled out properly and did not fall into any of the exclusionary categories) to the target sample size.

## Excluded Respondents

Excluding certain respondents from institutional and cohort-level reports ensures that results are comparable across institutions. Respondents are excluded from institutional reports for the following reasons:

- The respondent did not indicate whether he or she was enrolled full-time or part-time at the institution.
- The survey is invalid. A survey is invalid if a student does not answer any of the 19 sub-items in item 4, answers very often to all 19 sub-items, or answers never to all 19 sub-items.
- The student reported his or her age as under 18.
- The student indicated that he or she had taken the survey in a previous class or did not respond to item 3.
- Oversample respondents are not included because they are selected outside of CCSSE's primary sampling procedures.


## 2017 Student Respondent Profile

Please note that percentages may not total $100 \%$ in each category due to missing data and/or rounding.

## Enrollment Status

$34 \%$ of surveyed students report being part-time college students, compared to $28 \%$ of the 2017 CCSSE Cohort colleges' student respondents. 66\% of the student respondents at our college report attending college full-time, while $72 \%$ of the 2017 CCSSE Cohort colleges' student respondents attended full-time.

Population data ${ }^{1}$ indicate that $60 \%$ of students attend our college part-time and $40 \%$ attend full-time. The inverse representation of part-time and full-time students in our respondent and actual student populations is the result of random sampling and the in-class administration process. For this reason, survey results are either weighted or disaggregated on the full-time/part-time variable so that reports will accurately reflect the underlying student population.

## Age

$65 \%$ of our college students are between 18 and 24 years old. Students at our college are older than the 2017 CCSSE Cohort, of which over two-thirds (70\%) of students are between 18 and 24 years of age.

## Gender Identity

$33 \%$ of student respondents identify as a man and $61 \%$ as a woman, while $6 \%$ identify as Other or that they prefer not to respond.

## Racial/Ethnic Identification

$80 \%$ of our student respondents identify with a single racial/ethnic identity: 47\% White, 21\% Hispanic or Latino, 25\% Black or African American, 1\% Asian, 1\% American Indian or Alaska Native, and 0\% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. 4\% marked more than one category when responding to the question, "What is your racial or ethnic identification."

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## International Students

6\% of our students responded yes to the question, "Are you an international student or non-resident alien?"
Our college has a greater international students than the 2017 CCSSE Cohort, of which 4\% are international.

## First-Generation Status

$47 \%$ of student respondents indicate that neither parent has attended at least some college; accordingly, these students are considered "first-generation."
$44.9 \%$ of respondents indicate that their mothers have at least some college experience, while $31.1 \%$ indicate that their fathers do.

The results for the following student respondent categories are weighted according to the most recent IPEDS population data.

## Non-Native English Speaking Students

At our college, $12.3 \%$ of CCSSE respondents are non-native English speakers.

## College-Sponsored Activities

68.5\% of students respondents do not participate in any college-sponsored activities (including organizations, campus publications, student government, intramural sports, etc.) while $24.2 \%$ spend 1 to 5 hours per week participating in these activities.

## Total Credit Hours Earned

$51.6 \%$ of surveyed students have completed fewer than 15 credit hours; $28.2 \%$ have completed $15-29$ credit hours; and $20.1 \%$ have completed more than 30 credit hours.

## External Commitments

$36.6 \%$ of student respondents work 21 or more hours per week; $8 \%$ care for dependents $6-10$ hours per week; and $18.5 \%$ spend $6-10$ hours per week commuting to class.

## Goals

Students were asked to indicate their reasons or goals for attending this college and could mark multiple goals as applicable. $44 \%$ identified transferring to a 4 -year college or university as a goal, while $80.8 \%$ identified obtaining an associate degree and $65.4 \%$ identified completing a certificate program as a goal. $63.7 \%$ indicated that obtaining or updating job-related skills is a goal, and $37.8 \%$ a career change as a goal for attending the college.

## CCSSE Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice

To assist colleges in their efforts to reach for excellence, the Center reports national benchmarks of effective educational practice in community colleges. Research shows that the more actively engaged students are-with college faculty and staff, with other students, and with the subject matter-the more likely they are to learn and to achieve their academic goals.

CCSSE benchmarks are groups of conceptually related survey items that focus on institutional practices and student behaviors that promote student engagement-and are positively related to student learning and persistence. Benchmarks are used to compare each institution's performance to that of similar institutions and with the CCSSE Cohort. Each individual benchmark score is computed by averaging the scores on survey items that make up that benchmark. Benchmark scores are standardized so that the mean (the average of all participating students) always is 50 and the standard deviation is 25 . The five benchmarks of effective educational practice in community colleges are: active and collaborative learning, student effort, academic challenge, student-faculty interaction, and support for learners.

## Active and Collaborative Learning

Students learn more when they are actively involved in their education and have opportunities to think about and apply what they are learning in different settings. Through collaborating with others to solve problems or master challenging content, students develop valuable skills that prepare them to deal with the kinds of situations and problems they will encounter in the workplace, the community, and their personal lives.


## Student Effort

Students' behaviors contribute significantly to their learning and the likelihood that they will attain their educational goals. "Time on task" is a key variable, and there are a variety of settings and means through which students may apply themselves to the learning process.


## Academic Challenge

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Ten survey items address the nature and amount of assigned academic work, the complexity of cognitive tasks presented to students, and the standards faculty members use to evaluate student performance.


## Student-Faculty Interaction

In general, the more interaction students have with their teachers, the more likely they are to learn effectively and persist toward achievement of their educational goals. Personal interaction with faculty members strengthens students' connections to the college and helps them focus on their academic progress. Working with an instructor on a project or serving with faculty members on a college committee lets students see first-hand how experts identify and solve practical problems. Through such interactions, faculty members become role models, mentors, and guides for continuous, lifelong learning.

| Item |  |  | Your College |  | Small Colleges |  | 2017 Cohort |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Variable | Responses | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Item 4: In your experiences at this college during the current academic year, about how often have you done each of the following? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4j. Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor [STUFAC] | EMAIL | Never | 25 | 8.3 | 3,304 | 6.4 | 10,114 | 5.7 |
|  |  | Sometimes | 64 | 21.1 | 13,779 | 26.8 | 49,656 | 28.0 |
|  |  | Often | 92 | 30.2 | 16,161 | 31.4 | 56,193 | 31.7 |
|  |  | Very often | 123 | 40.4 | 18,258 | 35.5 | 61,196 | 34.5 |
|  |  | Total | 304 | 100.0 | 51,502 | 100.0 | 177,160 | 100.0 |
| 4k. Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor [STUFAC] | FACGRADE | Never | 17 | 5.5 | 3,914 | 7.6 | 15,648 | 8.8 |
|  |  | Sometimes | 107 | 35.7 | 19,349 | 37.4 | 69,375 | 39.0 |
|  |  | Often | 98 | 32.7 | 16,893 | 32.7 | 55,885 | 31.4 |
|  |  | Very often | 78 | 26.0 | 11,555 | 22.3 | 36,915 | 20.8 |
|  |  | Total | 300 | 100.0 | 51,711 | 100.0 | 177,824 | 100.0 |
| 4I. Talked about career plans with an instructor or advisor [STUFAC] | FACPLANS | Never | 63 | 20.7 | 10,656 | 20.7 | 42,907 | 24.2 |
|  |  | Sometimes | 122 | 40.2 | 21,479 | 41.8 | 74,859 | 42.3 |
|  |  | Often | 82 | 26.9 | 12,396 | 24.1 | 38,299 | 21.6 |
|  |  | Very often | 37 | 12.2 | 6,889 | 13.4 | 20,963 | 11.8 |
|  |  | Total | 304 | 100.0 | 51,420 | 100.0 | 177,029 | 100.0 |
| 4 m . Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with instructors outside of class <br> [STUFAC] | FACIDEAS | Never | 130 | 43.3 | 20,872 | 40.6 | 77,890 | 44.1 |
|  |  | Sometimes | 118 | 39.1 | 19,817 | 38.6 | 64,865 | 36.7 |
|  |  | Often | 36 | 12.1 | 7,229 | 14.1 | 23,118 | 13.1 |
|  |  | Very often | 17 | 5.5 | 3,475 | 6.8 | 10,853 | 6.1 |
|  |  | Total | 300 | 100.0 | 51,393 | 100.0 | 176,726 | 100.0 |
| 4n. Received prompt feedback (written or oral) from instructors on your performance [STUFAC] | FACFEED | Never | 20 | 6.6 | 3,048 | 5.9 | 11,643 | 6.6 |
|  |  | Sometimes | 100 | 33.0 | 15,623 | 30.3 | 54,868 | 31.0 |
|  |  | Often | 121 | 39.8 | 20,705 | 40.2 | 70,499 | 39.8 |
|  |  | Very often | 62 | 20.5 | 12,161 | 23.6 | 40,144 | 22.7 |
|  |  | Total | 304 | 100.0 | 51,537 | 100.0 | 177,153 | 100.0 |
| 4p. Worked with instructors on activities other than coursework [STUFAC] | FACOTH | Never | 191 | 64.1 | 31,393 | 61.3 | 115,277 | 65.6 |
|  |  | Sometimes | 67 | 22.5 | 12,731 | 24.9 | 39,630 | 22.5 |
|  |  | Often | 32 | 10.6 | 4,951 | 9.7 | 14,642 | 8.3 |
|  |  | Very often | 8 | 2.8 | 2,148 | 4.2 | 6,298 | 3.6 |
|  |  | Total | 298 | 100.0 | 51,223 | 100.0 | 175,847 | 100.0 |

## Support for Learners

Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that are committed to their success and cultivate positive working and social relationships among different groups on campus. Community college students also benefit from services targeted to assist them with academic and career planning, academic skill development, and other areas that may affect learning and retention.


CCSSE Benchmark Scores for SouthArk


CCSSE Benchmark Scores for SouthArk compared
to Small Colleges
 Learning

[^1]
## Academic Experience

A positive academic experience is a product of many ingredients, one of which is the amount of time and energy students invest in their academic work. CCSSE asks students to respond to several survey items in order to gauge how actively they are involved in their education. Students are given the opportunity to mark very often, often, sometimes, or never in response to items such as the following:

- Item 4 a —Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions
- Item 4b-Made a class presentation
- Item $4 f$-Worked with other students on projects during class
- Item 4 g -Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare assignments

While some students are highly involved in their academic experience (those who marked often or very often), others are less engaged, as illustrated by their responses of never, as displayed in the following graph.

CCSSE Cohort Academic Experience


## Index of Survey Items Associated with Selected Findings Categories

Academic Experience
4a-s
Barriers to Persistence
23a-d
Curricular Experiences
$4 \mathrm{i}, 8 \mathrm{a}, 8 \mathrm{f}, 15-17$

| Educational Goals | Student Learning |
| :--- | :--- |
| $26 a-f$ | $5 a-f$ |
|  |  |
| Relationships | Student Satisfaction |
| $4 \mathrm{f}-\mathrm{g}, 4 \mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{r}, 9 \mathrm{c}, 9 \mathrm{e}$ | $12 \mathrm{a} 2-12 \mathrm{~m} 2,35,36$ |
| Student Support Services | Promising Practices |
| $12 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{m}$ | $13-22$ |

## Developmental Education \& ESL

8b-e, 18


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Population data are those reported for the most recent IPEDS enrollment report.
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[^1]:    - College Name ■ Comparison Group

