

2020 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Core Competencies Summary Report

Cal Poly Pomona (CPP) is deeply committed to ensuring an educational experience that fosters student learning and success for every student. As part of that commitment, the Office of Assessment and Program Review participates in the nationwide National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) every three years to gather information as to the extent to which CPP is meeting this commitment. This survey collects information from first-year and senior students about their participation in programs and activities, what they have gained from their classes, the quality of interactions with faculty and students, as well as their satisfaction with educationally-important activities. Survey results are used to understand and improve student learning and experiences, and also assists the institution in addressing potential equity gaps, and identifying additional resources to improve the undergraduate experience.

In the Spring 2020 semester, all first-year and senior students were invited to participate in the NSSE; approximately 25% of these students completed the survey. A variety of recruitment messages were used to encourage student participation, including emails from President Coley's office, messages displayed on students' Bronco portal, and advertisements posted around campus. The first 500 respondents were incentivized with a \$5 Starbucks gift card. However, due to the COVID-19 restrictions soon after the survey launched, these students were provided the opportunity to choose between the gift card or Bronco Bucks.

CPP's NSSE results were compared with three peer groups. The table below outlines the approximate number of first-year and senior respondents from each category. The list of institutions for each of the comparative groups are detailed in appendices A and B at the end of this report.

	Cal Poly Pomona	Master's ¹	CSU ²	NSSE Total ³
Institutions	N = 1	N = 118	N = 9	N = 881
First-year students	698	40,237	8,612	255,699
Seniors	1,049	53,308	15,048	295,777
Total	1,747	93,545	23,660	551,476

This report focuses on relevant NSSE responses related to the five Core Competencies (i.e., written communication, oral communication, information literacy, critical thinking, and quantitative reasoning) as recommended by WSCUC as key proficiencies expected of all undergraduate students. A summary of the findings is provided at the end of this report.

¹ Carnegie Classification: Master's Colleges, and Universities. Only NSSE participants from 2019 and 2020. See Appendix A.

² Only those CSUs who participated in NSSE in 2019 and 2020. See Appendix B.

³ All institutions who participated in NSSE in 2019 and 2020. See Appendix B.

Written Communication

During the current school year:					
How many papers, reports, other writing tasks of the following lengths have you been assigned?		Mean Response			
		CPP	Master's	CSU	NSSE TOTAL
Up to 5 pages	FY	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.5
	SR	8.2	7.7*	8.0	7.7*
Between 6 and 10 pages	FY	2.9	2.4*	2.4*	2.3*
	SR	4.5	4.0*	4.2	3.7*
11 pages or more	FY	1.5	1.0*	1.2*	1.0*
	SR	3.0	2.3*	2.4*	2.0*

*Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .05$

How much has your experience at this institution:					
1 = Very little, 2 = Some, 3 = Quite a bit, 4 = Very much		Mean Response			
		CPP	Master's	CSU	NSSE TOTAL
Contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in writing clearly and effectively?	FY	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8
	SR	2.9	3.1*	3.1*	3.0*

*Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .05$

How much confidence do you have in your ability to complete tasks requiring:			
1 = Very little, 2 = Some, 3 = Quite a bit, 4 = Very much		Mean Response	
		CPP	Master's
Clear writing?	SR	3.2	3.3*

*Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .05$

Oral Communication

During the current school year, how often have you done the following:					
1 = Never, 2 = Sometimes, 3 = Often, 4 = Very often		Mean Response			
		CPP	Master's	CSU	NSSE TOTAL
Given a course presentation?	FY	2.4	2.3*	2.5*	2.3*
	SR	3.0	2.6*	2.9*	2.7*

**Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .05$*

How much has your experience at this institution:					
1 = Very little, 2 = Some, 3 = Quite a bit, 4 = Very much		Mean Response			
		CPP	Master's	CSU	NSSE TOTAL
Contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in speaking clearly and effectively?	FY	2.8	2.8	2.9*	2.7*
	SR	2.9	2.9	3.0*	2.9

**Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .05$*

How much confidence do you have in your ability to complete tasks requiring:			
1 = Very little, 2 = Some, 3 = Quite a bit, 4 = Very much			Mean Response
			CPP Master's
Persuasive speaking?	SR	3.0	3.1

Critical Thinking

During the current school year, about how often have you done the following:					
1 = Never, 2 = Sometimes, 3 = Often, 4 = Very often		Mean Response			
		CPP	Master's	CSU	NSSE TOTAL
Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments?	FY	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6
	SR	3.0	2.9*	3.0*	2.9*
Connected your learning to societal problems or issues?	FY	2.5	2.5	2.6*	2.6*
	SR	2.7	2.8*	2.8*	2.8*
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender, etc.) in course discussion or assignments?	FY	2.5	2.5	2.6*	2.6*
	SR	2.5	2.6*	2.7*	2.6*
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue?	FY	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8*
	SR	2.8	2.8*	2.8*	2.8*
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from their perspective?	FY	2.9	2.9	2.9*	2.9
	SR	2.9	3.0	3.0*	3.0
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept?	FY	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9
	SR	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Connected ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge	FY	2.9	3.0*	3.0*	3.0*
	SR	3.1	3.2*	3.2*	3.2*

*Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .05$

During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized:					
1 = Very little, 2 = Some, 3 = Quite a bit, 4 = Very much		Mean Response			
		CPP	Master's	CSU	NSSE TOTAL
Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new solutions?	FY	2.8	2.9*	2.8	2.9*
	SR	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1
Analyzing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts?	FY	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9*
	SR	3.0	3.0	3.1*	3.0
Forming a new idea or understanding from various pieces of information?	FY	2.8	2.9*	2.9*	2.9*
	SR	2.9	3.0*	3.0*	3.0

*Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .05$

How much confidence do you have in your ability to complete tasks requiring:			
1 = Very little, 2 = Some, 3 = Quite a bit, 4 = Very much		Mean Response	
		CPP	Master's
Critical thinking and analysis of arguments and information?	SR	3.4	3.4*

*Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .05$

Information Literacy

During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized:					
1 = Very little, 2 = Some, 3 = Quite a bit, 4 = Very much		Mean Response			
		CPP	Master's	CSU	NSSE TOTAL
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source?	FY	2.8	2.9*	2.9*	2.9
	SR	2.9	3.0*	3.0*	2.9*

**Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .05$*

Quantitative Reasoning

During the current school year, about how often have you done the following:					
1 = Never, 2 = Sometimes, 3 = Often, 4 = Very often		Mean Response			
		CPP	Master's	CSU	NSSE TOTAL
Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information (numbers, graphs, statistics, etc.)?	FY	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6
	SR	2.8	2.6*	2.6*	2.7*
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)?	FY	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3
	SR	2.5	2.5	2.4*	2.4*
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information?	FY	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3
	SR	2.6	2.4*	2.4*	2.4*

**Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .05$*

How much has your experience at this institution:					
1 = Very little, 2 = Some, 3 = Quite a bit, 4 = Very much		Mean Response			
		CPP	Master's	CSU	NSSE TOTAL
Contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in analyzing numerical and statistical information?	FY	2.8	2.7*	2.7*	2.7*
	SR	3.1	2.9*	2.9*	2.9*

**Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .05$*

Summary

Written Communication

- Both first-year and senior students stated that CPP contributed “quite a bit” to their knowledge, skills, and personal development in writing clearly and effectively. There was no difference in responses between these two groups of students.
- While seniors reported that they feel “quite a bit” confident in their ability to write clearly, they feel significantly less confident than peers at comparative institutions.

Oral Communication

- Seniors reported giving course presentations more often than first-year students.
- There is minimal growth between first-year and senior students in their perception of how CPP contributed to their knowledge, skills, and personal development in speaking clearly and effectively.

Critical Thinking

- First-year and senior students reported the frequency of their engagement with critical thinking as being significantly less than their peers at comparative institutions.
- Seniors felt “quite a bit” confident about their ability to complete tasks requiring critical thinking, and analysis of arguments and information, on par with their peers at comparative institutions.

Information Literacy

- First-year and senior students reported that their coursework emphasized evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source at equal or slightly lower rates than their peers in comparison groups.

Quantitative Reasoning

- First-year students indicated they “sometimes” engage in quantitative reasoning, similar to their peers in the comparison groups. Seniors reported doing this with greater frequency than first-year students.
- Seniors engaged in quantitative reasoning activities more frequently than their peers in comparison groups.

Appendix A

Master's Comparison Universities: Master's Colleges and Universities

Abilene Christian University (Abilene, TX)	Pfeiffer University (Misenheimer, NC)
Alabama A&M University (Normal, AL)	Pittsburg State University (Pittsburg, KS)
Arcadia University (Glenside, PA)	Plymouth State University (Plymouth, NH)
Ashford University (San Diego, CA)	Point Loma Nazarene University (San Diego, CA)
Auburn University at Montgomery (Montgomery, AL)	Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX)
Baldwin Wallace University (Berea, OH)	Providence College (Providence, RI)
Bentley University (Waltham, MA)	Purdue University Fort Wayne (Fort Wayne, IN)
Bowie State University (Bowie, MD)	Purdue University Northwest (Hammond, IN)
Brenau University (Gainesville, GA)	Queens University of Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)
Bridgewater State University (Bridgewater, MA)	Radford University (Radford, VA)
Butler University (Indianapolis, IN)	Rollins College (Winter Park, FL)
Cabrini University (Radnor, PA)	Saint Ambrose University (Davenport, IA)
California Lutheran University (Thousand Oaks, CA)	Saint Joseph's College (Standish, ME)
California State University-Bakersfield (Bakersfield, CA)	Saint Xavier University (Chicago, IL)
California State University-Dominguez Hills (Carson, CA)	Salve Regina University (Newport, RI)
California State University-Long Beach (Long Beach, CA)	San Francisco State University (San Francisco, CA)
California State University-Stanislaus (Turlock, CA)	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania (Shippensburg, PA)
California State University, Chico (Chico, CA)	Southeastern Louisiana University (Hammond, LA)
California State University, Fullerton (Fullerton, CA)	Southern Connecticut State University (New Haven, CT)
California State University, Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA)	Southern Oregon University (Ashland, OR)
California State University, Sacramento (Sacramento, CA)	Southwestern Oklahoma State University (Weatherford, OK)
Campbellsville University (Campbellsville, KY)	St. Edward's University (Austin, TX)
Chaminade University of Honolulu (Honolulu, HI)	State University of New York at Brockport (Brockport, NY)
Christian Brothers University (Memphis, TN)	State University of New York at New Paltz (New Paltz, NY)
Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, The (Charleston, SC)	Stevenson University (Stevenson, MD)
Columbus State University (Columbus, GA)	Stockton University (Galloway, NJ)
Concordia University Chicago (River Forest, IL)	Suffolk University (Boston, MA)
Concordia University Nebraska (Seward, NE)	Sul Ross State University (Alpine, TX)
Concordia University Texas (Austin, TX)	SUNY College at Oswego (Oswego, NY)
CUNY Bernard M Baruch College (New York, NY)	SUNY Cortland (Cortland, NY)
Davenport University (Grand Rapids, MI)	SUNY-Buffalo State College (Buffalo, NY)
DeSales University (Center Valley, PA)	Texas A&M International University (Laredo, TX)
Eastern Illinois University (Charleston, IL)	Texas A&M University-San Antonio (San Antonio, TX)
Eastern Washington University (Cheney, WA)	University of Central Missouri (Warrensburg, MO)
Emporia State University (Emporia, KS)	University of Houston-Clear Lake (Houston, TX)
Endicott College (Beverly, MA)	University of Illinois Springfield (Springfield, IL)
Fairfield University (Fairfield, CT)	University of Michigan-Dearborn (Dearborn, MI)
Fontbonne University (Saint Louis, MO)	University of New Haven (West Haven, CT)
Framingham State University (Framingham, MA)	University of North Carolina at Pembroke (Pembroke, NC)
Georgia College & State University (Milledgeville, GA)	University of Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls, IA)
Governors State University (University Park, IL)	University of South Florida-St. Petersburg (St. Petersburg, FL)
Holy Family University (Philadelphia, PA)	University of Southern Maine (Portland, ME)
James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA)	University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)
Lenoir-Rhyne University (Hickory, NC)	University of Tampa, The (Tampa, FL)
Lewis University (Romeoville, IL)	University of Texas Permian Basin, The (Odessa, TX)
Manhattan College (Riverdale, NY)	University of West Florida, The (Pensacola, FL)
McKendree University (Lebanon, IL)	University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (Oshkosh, WI)
McNeese State University (Lake Charles, LA)	University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (La Crosse, WI)
Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry, NY)	University of Wisconsin-Platteville (Platteville, WI)
Midwestern State University (Wichita Falls, TX)	University of Wisconsin-Stout (Menomonie, WI)
Minnesota State University, Mankato (Mankato, MN)	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (Whitewater, WI)
National University (La Jolla, CA)	Viterbo University (La Crosse, WI)
Neumann University (Aston, PA)	Wayland Baptist University (Plainview, TX)
New England College (Henniker, NH)	West Texas A&M University (Canyon, TX)
New York Institute of Technology (Old Westbury, NY)	Western Governors University (Salt Lake City, UT)
Newman University (Wichita, KS)	Western Oregon University (Monmouth, OR)
Nicholls State University (Thibodaux, LA)	William Paterson University of New Jersey (Wayne, NJ)
Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago, IL)	Xavier University (Cincinnati, OH)
Northeastern State University (Tahlequah, OK)	
Oklahoma Christian University (Edmond, OK)	

Appendix B

CSU Comparison Universities

California State University-Bakersfield (Bakersfield, CA)
California State University-Dominguez Hills (Carson, CA)
California State University-Long Beach (Long Beach, CA)
California State University-Stanislaus (Turlock, CA)
California State University, Chico (Chico, CA)
California State University, Fullerton (Fullerton, CA)
California State University, Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA)
California State University, Sacramento (Sacramento, CA)
San Francisco State University (San Francisco, CA)

All other NSSE 2019 and 2020 U.S. participants

View list at: <https://nsse.indiana.edu/doc/nsse2019and2020.docx>