

2023 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 important educational 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 necessary resources to improve the undergraduate experience.

In the Spring 2023 semester, all first-year and senior students were invited to participate in the NSSE; approximately 22% of these students completed the survey. A variety of recruitment messages were used to encourage student participation, including emails from President Coley, messages displayed on students' Bronco portal, and advertisements posted in the library. The first 500 respondents were provided with \$5 Bronco Bucks, and 10 seniors were randomly selected to receive \$100 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.

	Cal Poly Pomona	CSU ¹	Master's ²	NSSE Total ³
Institutions	N = 1	N = 14	N = 192	N = 789
First-year students	405	7,783	47,568	201,075
Seniors	813	15,420	57,856	221,707
Total	1,218	23,203	105,424	422,782

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 Only those CSUs who participated in NSSE in 2022 and 2023. See Appendix B.

² Carnegie Classification: Master's Colleges. and Universities. Only NSSE participants from 2022 and 2023.

³ All institutions who participated in NSSE in 2022 and 2023.

Written Communication

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

**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	CSU	Master's L	NSSE TOTAL
Given a course presentation?	FY	2.4	2.4	2.2***	2.2***
	SR	3.0	2.6*	2.9*	2.7*

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

***Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .001$

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

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

**Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .01$

***Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .001$

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	CSU	Master's L	NSSE TOTAL
Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments?	FY	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6
	SR	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
Connected your learning to societal problems or issues?	FY	2.6	2.6	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	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
	SR	2.5	2.7***	2.7***	2.7***
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue?	FY	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
	SR	2.8	2.9*	2.9*	2.9**
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	2.9	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	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1
	SR	3.1	3.2**	3.2***	3.2***

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***Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .001$

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	CSU	Master's L	NSSE TOTAL
Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new solutions?	FY	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9
	SR	3.1	3.0	3.1	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	3.0	3.1
Forming a new idea or understanding from various pieces of information?	FY	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
	SR	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0

How much has your experience at this institution:					
1 = Very little, 2 = Some, 3 = Quite a bit, 4 = Very much		Mean Response			
		CPP	CSU	Master's L	NSSE TOTAL
Contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in thinking critically and analytically?	FY	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1
	SR	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3

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	CSU	Master's L	NSSE TOTAL
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source?	FY	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
	SR	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0

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	2.7	2.6	2.6*	2.6
	SR	2.8	2.7*	2.7*	2.7
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)?	FY	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4
	SR	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information?	FY	2.6	2.4**	2.3***	2.4**
	SR	2.5	2.5	2.5*	2.5

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**Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .01$

***Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .001$

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	2.9	2.8**	2.7***	2.7***
	SR	3.0	2.9***	2.9***	2.9***

**Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .01$

***Please note that these scores are significantly different from the corresponding CPP score, $p < .001$

Summary

Written Communication

- CPP first-year students and seniors reported similar levels regarding how much CPP has contributed to their written communication knowledge and skills. That is, first-year students stated that CPP contributed “Some” (albeit almost “Quite a Bit”) to their knowledge, skills, and personal development in writing clearly and effectively. There were no significant differences between CPP students and their peers at other universities. On the other hand, seniors reported CPP has contributed “Quite a Bit” to their written communication knowledge and skills, which is statistically lower than their peers at other universities.

Oral Communication

- Seniors reported giving course presentations more often than first-year students. CPP first-year students and seniors reported giving course presentations statistically more often than their peers at other universities.
- Similar to the comparison groups, first-year students rated their perception of how CPP contributed to their knowledge, skills, and personal development in speaking clearly and effectively slightly greater than senior students.

Critical Thinking

- First-year and senior students reported the frequency of their engagement with critical thinking activities as being statistically significantly less than their peers at comparative institutions.
- CPP first-year and senior students stated their coursework emphasized critical thinking tasks “Some” and “Quite a Bit”, respectively.
- Students feel CPP has contributed “Quite a Bit” to their critical thinking knowledge, skills, and personal development, on par with student 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 rates of their peers in comparison groups.

Quantitative Reasoning

- First-year students indicated they “Sometimes” engage in quantitative reasoning activities, similar to their peers in the comparison groups. CPP Seniors reported engaging in quantitative reasoning similarly, if not the same levels, as first-year students.
- Seniors engaged in some quantitative reasoning activities statistically less frequently than their peers in comparison groups, and some other activities statistically more frequently than their peers.