

Minnesota State University, Mankato
Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement
Executive Summary for Fall 2008 Administration

General Information

The Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE) collects data from students starting college about their high school academic and co-curricular experiences, as well as their expectations for participating in educationally purposeful activities during the first year of college. BCSSE reports include data on many important student characteristics including:

- High school academic and co-curricular engagement.
- High school academic preparation (e.g., AP courses)
- Expectations to engage in academically meaningful activities during the first year of college
- Academic aspirations, preparation, and persistence
- Expected grades and intention to graduate
- Financial aid, first-generation status, and other important characteristics

The Survey

The survey was administered to 2,332 incoming first year students during the first six weeks of the 2008 fall semester, 570 students completed the survey yielding a response rate of approximately 25%. This report is a summary of the results. The first section of the report describes background characteristics of first-year students who responded to the survey. The second section presents mean scale scores and selected student comparisons.

Background Characteristics of Survey Respondents

| Enrollment Status | Percent |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Full-time | 99% |
| Less than full-time | 1% |

| Gender | Percent |
|---------------|----------------|
| Female | 63% |
| Male | 37% |

| Racial/Ethnic Identification | Percent |
|--|----------------|
| American Indian or other Native American | 1% |
| Asian, Asian American or Pacific Islander | 4% |
| Black or African American | 2% |
| White (non-Hispanic) | 88% |
| Mexican or Mexican American | 1% |
| Other Hispanic or Latino | 1% |
| Multiracial | 1% |
| Other | 0% |
| I prefer not to respond | 2% |

| First Generation Status | Percent |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Yes | 48% |
| No | 52% |

| International or Foreign National Student | Percent |
|--|----------------|
| Yes | 3% |
| No | 97% |

Mean Scale Scores

The following table presents respondents’ mean scores for item responses in each scale. BCSSE scales were constructed by converting the responses for each item to a 0-10 range. Responses have also been divided by gender, race and whether the individual’s parents completed a 4-year degree (first-generation college student).

| BCSSE Scale | Mean Scores for All Students | Gender Comparison | Racial/Ethnic Comparison Other = American Indian or other Native American, Asian, Asian American or Pacific Islander, Mexican or Mexican American, Puerto Rican, other Hispanic Latino, Multiracial, Other | First-Generation Comparison First Generation = No parent or guardian having graduated with a 4-year college degree |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| High School Academic Engagement <i>Engagement in educationally relevant behaviors during the last year of high school</i> | M = 4.91 | Male 4.62 Female 5.13** | Caucasian 4.93 Other 5.20 | First Generation 4.95 Non- First Generation 4.95 |
| Expected Academic Engagement <i>Expected engagement in educationally relevant behaviors during the first year of college</i> | M = 5.17 | Male 5.14 Female 5.19 | Caucasian 5.13 Other 5.56 | First Generation 5.25 Non-First Generation 5.09 |
| Expected Academic Perseverance <i>Student certainty that they will persist in the face of academic adversity</i> | M = 6.36 | Male 6.20 Female 6.51 | Caucasian 6.35 Other 6.65 | First Generation 6.41 Non-First Generation 6.37 |
| Expected Academic Difficulty <i>Expected academic difficulty during the first year of college</i> | M = 5.04 | Male 4.90 Female 5.14 | Caucasian 5.06 Other 4.87 | First Generation 5.06 Non-First Generation 5.03 |
| Perceived Academic Preparation <i>Student perception of their academic preparation.</i> | M = 6.80 | Male 6.87 Female 6.78 | Caucasian 6.83 Other 6.82 | First Generation 6.85 Non-First Generation 6.81 |
| Importance of Campus Environment <i>Student-rated importance that the institution provides challenging and supportive environment</i> | M = 6.93 | Male 6.54 Female 7.15** | Caucasian 6.91 Other 6.05 | First Generation 7.08 Non-First Generation 6.78 |

** T-test results (2-tailed). Difference between means is significant at the P<.001 level

For More Information

A comprehensive summary of BCSSE 2008 results can be accessed by contacting the Office of Institutional Planning, Research and Assessment, 315 Wigley Administration, 507-389-1333.