

National Survey of Student Engagement Spring 2007

University of Kansas

Executive Summary

Overview

One thousand two hundred and fifty-nine (1,259) students from the University of Kansas completed the web-based version of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), which assesses the extent to which students engage in effective educational practices, during Spring 2007¹. The response rate was 27% for freshmen and 36% for seniors. Demographics of the samples are displayed on pages 16 and 17.

	Freshmen		Seniors	
	Females	Males	Females	Males
	365	236	397	261
Total	601		658	

Data from the KU sample are compared with two samples:

- 10 universities that belong to the Association of American Universities Data Exchange (AAUDE) NSSE consortium that participated during 2007². *This group is labeled AAUDE on tables with comparison data.*
- 33 Carnegie Doctoral Research Extensive institutions that participated during 2007⁴. *This group is labeled Carnegie on tables with comparison data.*
- 16 universities that belong to the Association of American Universities that participated during 2007³. *This group is labeled AAU 16 on tables with comparison data.*

NSSE Survey

Student engagement was assessed through combining responses to items that comprised five benchmark areas of effective educational practice. The five benchmark areas are:

- Level of academic challenge
- Active and collaborative learning
- Enriching educational experiences
- Student-faculty interactions
- Supportive campus environment

Scales for the individual NSSE questions predominantly ran from 1 to either 4 or 7; scales are supplied below for each set of questions. The NSSE mean benchmark values are on a scale of 0 to 100, with higher values indicating greater levels of student engagement. Note values do vary substantially across the five benchmarks; these variances are consistent across samples. All benchmark values were calculated by NSSE⁵.

Rank Order and Score of NSSE Benchmarks by Student Level

Benchmark value comparisons with the AAUDE consortium and Carnegie Doctoral Research-Extensive samples indicate KU students are well engaged.

First Year Students

First year students' benchmark scores (100 point scale) ranked as follows. The rank order of benchmark scores is identical for freshmen in all samples.

First Year Students	KU		AAUDE		Carnegie		AAU 16	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Supportive campus environment	1	58.4	1	58.4	1	58.0	1	59.2
Level of academic challenge	2	52.0	2	52.8	2	51.4	2	52.3
Active and collaborative learning	3	41.2	3	39.8	3	39.4	3	39.4
Student-faculty interactions	4	33.9	4	30.8	4	30.4	4	30.3
Enriching educational experiences	5	27.3	5	29.3	5	28.4	5	29.6

Senior Year Students

Seniors' benchmark scores (100 point scale) ranked as follows. The rank order of benchmark scores is nearly identical for seniors in the four samples.

Senior Year Students	KU		AAUDE		Carnegie		AAU 16	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Supportive campus environment	1	56.5	2	54.9	2	54.2	1	55.7
Level of academic challenge	2	55.9	1	55.3	1	54.8	2	55.2
Active and collaborative learning	3	49.5	3	47.4	3	47.7	3	47.7
Enriching educational experiences	4	43.1	4	43.3	4	41.6	4	43.6
Student-faculty interactions	5	43.0	5	39.6	5	39.3	5	39.8

Mean Values for Items Contributing to NSSE's Five National Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice

Below are mean values for the KU and comparison samples by class rank for the individual items that contributed to each of the five benchmark scores. The text of some items has been shortened; please [click here](#) to be directed to the 2007 NSSE survey

Benchmark 1: Level of Academic Challenge

1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very often

		KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	1 st year	2.61	2.50	2.51	2.51
	4 th year	2.63	2.53	2.56	2.54

1 = Very little 2 = Some 3 = Quite a bit 4 = Very much

		KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory	1 st year	3.11	3.13	3.09	3.12
	4 th year	3.27	3.23	3.22	3.24
Synthesizing and organizing ideas into new interpretations	1 st year	2.85	2.90	2.85	2.89
	4 th year	3.02	3.02	3.00	3.01
Making judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods	1 st year	2.78	2.79	2.78	2.78
	4 th year	3.00	2.90	2.90	2.90
Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	1 st year	3.02	3.07	3.03	3.08
	4 th year	3.18	3.15	3.15	3.17
Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	1 st year	3.13	3.14	3.12	3.18
	4 th year	3.07	3.07	3.06	3.10

		<i>1 = None</i>	<i>2 = 1 - 4</i>	<i>3 = 5 - 10</i>	<i>4 = 11 - 20</i>	<i>5 = More than 20</i>		
					KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	1 st year				3.33	3.36	3.22	3.29
	4 th year				3.27	3.23	3.14	3.17
Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more	1 st year				1.15	1.22	1.20	1.20
	4 th year				1.50	1.59	1.58	1.59
Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages	1 st year				2.24	2.28	2.18	2.16
	4 th year				2.53	2.60	2.52	2.54
Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages	1 st year				2.94	3.07	2.95	2.95
	4 th year				3.06	3.06	3.00	3.02

		<i>1 = 0 hrs/wk</i>	<i>2 = 1 - 5 hrs/wk</i>	<i>3 = 6 - 10 hrs/wk</i>	<i>4 = 11 - 15 hrs/wk</i>	<i>5 = 16 - 20 hrs/wk</i>		
		<i>6 = 21 - 25 hrs/wk</i>		<i>7 = 26 - 30 hrs/wk</i>	<i>8 = More than 30 hrs/wk</i>			
					KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Preparing for class	1 st year				4.31	4.41	4.27	4.47
	4 th year				4.26	4.24	4.23	4.29

Benchmark 2: Active and Collaborative Learning

		<i>1 = Very little</i>	<i>2 = Some</i>	<i>3 = Quite a bit</i>	<i>4 = Very much</i>		
				KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Asked questions or contributed to class discussions	1 st year			2.83	2.61	2.56	2.53
	4 th year			3.03	2.84	2.85	2.80
Made a class presentation	1 st year			2.09	2.04	2.04	2.00
	4 th year			2.67	2.59	2.60	2.58
Worked with other students on projects during class	1 st year			2.48	2.36	2.34	2.32
	4 th year			2.51	2.41	2.42	2.38
Worked with other students on projects outside of class to prepare class assignments	1 st year			2.33	2.44	2.44	2.50
	4 th year			2.84	2.80	2.81	2.86
Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	1 st year			1.75	1.73	1.75	1.76
	4 th year			1.84	1.90	1.90	1.94
Participated in a community-based project as a part of a regular course	1 st year			1.43	1.47	1.47	1.46
	4 th year			1.54	1.59	1.60	1.60
Discussed ideas from your reading or classes with others outside of class	1 st year			2.65	2.66	2.63	2.65
	4 th year			2.88	2.79	2.79	2.79

Benchmark 3: Enriching Education Experiences

	1 = Never	2 = Sometimes	3 = Often	4 = Very often		
			KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own	1 st year		2.57	2.65	2.62	2.67
	4 th year		2.74	2.74	2.72	2.78
Had serious conversations with students who differ from you	1 st year		2.77	2.78	2.74	2.77
	4 th year		2.90	2.80	2.78	2.82
Encouraging contact among students from different backgrounds	1 st year		2.60	2.71	2.65	2.74
	4 th year		2.35	2.46	2.38	2.47
Used an electronic medium to discuss or complete an assignment	1 st year		2.57	2.72	2.68	2.71
	4 th year		2.76	2.85	2.85	2.87

		1 = 0 hrs/wk	2 = 1 – 5 hrs/wk 6 = 21 – 25 hrs/wk	3 = 6 – 10 hrs/wk 7 = 26 – 30 hrs/wk	4 = 11 – 15 hrs/wk 8 = More than 30 hrs/wk	5 = 16 – 20 hrs/wk				
							KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Participating in co-curricular activities	1 st year						2.37	2.40	2.36	2.47
	4 th year						2.38	2.41	2.26	2.46

		<i>Percent Done/Plan to do</i>			
		KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	1 st year	84%	87%	85%	88%
	4 th year	73%	79%	76%	78%
Community service or volunteer work	1 st year	80%	81%	81%	83%
	4 th year	74%	74%	74%	76%
Foreign language coursework	1 st year	56%	59%	57%	58%
	4 th year	60%	56%	56%	57%
Study abroad	1 st year	50%	56%	49%	53%
	4 th year	33%	31%	27%	29%
Independent study or self-designed major	1 st year	14%	14%	14%	14%
	4 th year	31%	23%	23%	23%
Participate in a learning community	1 st year	25%	42%	39%	42%
	4 th year	23%	32%	32%	33%
Culminating senior experience	1 st year	40%	41%	42%	41%
	4 th year	53%	49%	53%	50%

Benchmark 4: Student Interactions with Faculty Members

		<i>1 = Never</i>	<i>2 = Sometimes</i>	<i>3 = Often</i>	<i>4 = Very often</i>		
				KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Discussed grades or assignments with instructor	1 st year			2.64	2.43	2.45	2.42
	4 th year			2.75	2.65	2.69	2.65
Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	1 st year			2.24	2.09	2.08	2.08
	4 th year			2.50	2.32	2.30	2.33
Discussed ideas from readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	1 st year			1.88	1.78	1.75	1.76
	4 th year			2.12	1.99	1.98	1.99
Worked with faculty members on activities other than course work	1 st year			1.55	1.53	1.51	1.52
	4 th year			1.81	1.76	1.75	1.77
Received prompt feedback from faculty on academic performance	1 st year			2.61	2.51	2.49	2.47
	4 th year			2.86	2.63	2.64	2.64

				<i>Percent Done/Plan to do</i>			
				KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of requirements	1 st year			38%	44%	38%	41%
	4 th year			32%	38%	35%	37%

Benchmark 5: Supportive Campus Environment

	<i>1 = Very little</i>	<i>2 = Some</i>	<i>3 = Quite a bit</i>	<i>4 = Very much</i>		
			KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Emphasize: Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically	1 st year		2.98	3.00	2.98	3.03
	4 th year		2.85	2.79	2.76	2.82
Emphasize: Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities	1 st year		1.98	2.09	2.08	2.13
	4 th year		1.73	1.84	1.80	1.87
Emphasize: Providing the support you need to thrive socially	1 st year		2.41	2.43	2.40	2.46
	4 th year		2.18	2.21	2.15	2.24

		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>					
									KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16	
Quality: Relationships with other students	1 st year	<i>Unfriendly, unsupportive, sense of alienation</i>								5.59	5.56	5.52	5.58
	4 th year	<i>Friendly, supportive, sense of belonging</i>								5.72	5.54	5.54	5.59

		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>					
									KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16	
Quality: Relationships with faculty members	1 st year	<i>Unavailable, unhelpful, unsympathetic</i>								5.17	4.93	4.93	4.94
	4 th year	<i>Available, helpful, sympathetic</i>								5.50	5.11	5.15	5.14

		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>					
									KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16	
Quality: Relationships with administrative personnel and offices	1 st year	<i>Unhelpful, inconsiderate, rigid</i>								4.50	4.49	4.50	4.56
	4 th year	<i>Helpful, considerate, flexible</i>								4.57	4.41	4.39	4.47

Supplemental AAUDE Items

KU and AAUDE students also responded to 20 additional questions chosen by the AAUDE. These questions were designed to supplement NSSE items by querying related issues. AAUDE questions tapped into issues such as:

- Satisfaction with class size
- Quality of instruction and advising
- Ease of securing classes
- Plans upon graduation

Mean Values for AAUDE Items

Below are mean values for the KU and AAUDE samples by class rank for the individual AAUDE items.

		<i>1 = Far larger than you'd like</i>	<i>2 = Somewhat larger</i>	<i>3 = OK in size</i>	<i>4 = Smaller than you'd like</i>		
						KU	AAUDE
Consider the size of the lower-division classes you've taken at this university – have they generally been:	1 st year					2.49	2.38
	4 th year					2.20	2.13
Consider the size of the upper-division classes you've taken at this university – have they generally been:	1 st year					2.72	2.70
	4 th year					2.85	2.77

		<i>1 = Poor</i>	<i>2 = Fair</i>	<i>3 = Good</i>	<i>4 = Excellent</i>	
						KU AAUDE
How would you rate the quality of instruction in lower-division courses?	1 st year				2.78	2.78
	4 th year				2.56	2.52
How would you rate the quality of instruction in upper-division courses?	1 st year				3.05	3.04
	4 th year				3.30	3.23
How would you rate the academic quality of this university in general ?	1 st year				3.34	3.37
	4 th year				3.19	3.27
How would you rate the academic quality of your major program ?	1 st year				3.34	3.42
	4 th year				3.37	3.31
How would you rate the quality of academic advising you have received from your college or department at this university?	1 st year				2.77	2.90
	4 th year				2.74	2.76
How would you rate this university's responsiveness to student academic problems?	1 st year				2.68	2.72
	4 th year				2.46	2.53

		<i>1 = Hardly ever</i>	<i>2 = Some of the time</i>	<i>3 = Most of the time</i>	<i>4 = Always or nearly always</i>	
						KU AAUDE
Would you say that the courses you need to take for your major have been available:	1 st year				3.15	3.09
	4 th year				3.26	3.18
Would you say that the courses you need to take for your general education requirements have been available:	1 st year				3.17	3.04
	4 th year				3.15	3.13

	<i>1 = Strongly disagree</i>	<i>2 = Disagree</i>	<i>3 = Agree</i>	<i>4 = Strongly agree</i>		
					KU	AAUDE
The advisor(s) in your college or department is (are) available when you need to see her/him (them).			1 st year		2.99	3.06
			4 th year		3.06	3.05
The information you've received from academic advisors has been accurate and up to date.			1 st year		3.11	3.16
			4 th year		3.04	3.08
At this university students have to run around from one place to another to get the information or approvals they need.			1 st year		2.83	2.88
			4 th year		2.94	2.95
Most of the time, professors in my courses make it clear what they expect me to learn.			1 st year		3.23	3.17
			4 th year		3.31	3.22

	<i>1 = Hardly ever</i>	<i>2 = Some of the time</i>	<i>3 = Most of the time</i>	<i>4 = Always or nearly always</i>		
					KU	AAUDE
While attending this university how often have you been challenged to do the very best you can?			1 st year		3.47	3.51
			4 th year		3.38	3.37

Distributions for AAUDE Items

During the past year, from what source did you receive *most* of your academic advising?

		<i>Percent Yes</i>	
		KU	AAUDE
Advisors in your college or department	1 st year	56%	54%
	4 th year	56%	53%
Instructors or staff members not formally assigned as advisors	1 st year	11%	9%
	4 th year	19%	15%
Online registration and degree tracking system	1 st year	2%	7%
	4 th year	8%	14%
Undergraduate catalog or other publications	1 st year	10%	6%
	4 th year	9%	6%
Friends or Family	1 st year	18%	21%
	4 th year	7%	11%
Not applicable	1 st year	3%	3%
	4 th year	2%	2%

I expect to complete a Bachelor's degree:

		<i>Percent Yes</i>	
		KU	AAUDE
I may well not complete a bachelor's degree	1 st year	1%	1%
	4 th year	0%	0%
At another college or university	1 st year	4%	3%
	4 th year	0%	0%
At this university in more than 5 years total	1 st year	4%	2%
	4 th year	13%	11%
At this university in more than 4 years but within 5 years total	1 st year	30%	26%
	4 th year	40%	31%
At this university in a total of 4 years or less	1 st year	61%	68%
	4 th year	47%	58%

Within one year of ending your undergraduate studies, which do you plan to do?

		<i>Percent Yes</i>	
		KU	AAUDE
Attend graduate or professional school	1 st year	36%	37%
	4 th year	29%	28%
Be employed (including self- and part-time employment)	1 st year	24%	28%
	4 th year	49%	51%
Attend graduate/professional school and be employed at the same time	1 st year	20%	18%
	4 th year	13%	11%
Take time off, have/raise a family, relax, travel, etc.	1 st year	3%	2%
	4 th year	1%	3%
I am not at all sure what I will be doing	1 st year	17%	16%
	4 th year	8%	7%

From the list below, choose one item that best describes the biggest obstacle to your academic progress.

		<i>Percent Yes</i>	
		KU	AAUDE
Money, work obligations, finances	1 st year	39%	31%
	4 th year	37%	36%
Family obligations	1 st year	3%	3%
	4 th year	6%	6%
Difficulties getting the courses you need	1 st year	4%	8%
	4 th year	5%	5%
Lack of good academic advising	1 st year	5%	6%
	4 th year	8%	8%
Lack of personal motivation	1 st year	23%	23%
	4 th year	15%	17%
No real obstacles	1 st year	26%	28%
	4 th year	30%	29%

What is your primary reason for working for pay (either on- or off-campus)?

		<i>Percent Yes</i>	
		KU	AAUDE
To gain knowledge/skills	1 st year	5%	7%
	4 th year	13%	14%
To earn money for basic expenses	1 st year	44%	33%
	4 th year	57%	51%
To earn extra spending money	1 st year	12%	16%
	4 th year	16%	17%
For something to do	1 st year	1%	1%
	4 th year	1%	2%
I don't work for pay	1 st year	38%	43%
	4 th year	13%	17%

Freshmen Respondents

Note: the below demographics reflect students who completed this survey.

	KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Number of Respondents	601	7,787	21,351	11,390
Overall Response Rate	27%	31%	26%	30%
Mode of Administration				
Paper	0%	0%	1%	0%
Web	100%	100%	99%	100%
Gender				
Female	61%	60%	60%	59%
Male	39%	40%	40%	41%
Race/Ethnicity⁶				
African American/Black	2.1%	4.8%	4.0%	4.1%
American Indian/Native American	.3%	.6%	.7%	.5%
Asian American/Pacific Islander	6.0%	13.2%	12.0%	13.3%
Caucasian/White	79.0%	68.5%	68.7%	67.5%
Hispanic	3.0%	3.5%	4.9%	4.9%
Other	2.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%
Multiple	2.1%	2.7%	3.0%	2.8%
Unknown	5.1%	5.2%	5.2%	5.5%
International	7%	4%	4%	5%
Enrollment Status⁷				
Full Time	98%	99%	97%	98%
Part Time	2%	1%	3%	2%
Place of Residence⁸				
On-campus	73%	87%	78%	84%
Off-campus	27%	13%	22%	16%

Senior Respondents

Note: the below demographics reflect students who completed this survey.

	KU	AAUDE	Carnegie	AAU 16
Number of Respondents	658	7,582	21,718	10,977
Overall Response Rate	36%	28%	26%	28%
Mode of Administration				
Paper	0%	0%	0%	0%
Web	100%	100%	100%	100%
Gender				
Female	60%	58%	57%	57%
Male	40%	42%	43%	43%
Race/Ethnicity⁶				
African American/Black	2.3%	4.0%	3.5%	3.6%
American Indian/Native American	1.0%	.4%	.7%	.4%
Asian American/Pacific Islander	3.9%	11.7%	8.8%	11.1%
Caucasian/White	78.9%	71.2%	72.5%	71.0%
Hispanic	3.8%	2.6%	4.0%	3.9%
Other	1.2%	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%
Multiple	2.3%	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%
Unknown	6.6%	6.4%	6.7%	6.4%
International	4%	5%	4%	5%
Enrollment Status⁷				
Full Time	91%	93%	89%	91%
Part Time	9%	7%	11%	9%
Place of Residence⁸				
On-campus	11%	16%	15%	18%
Off-campus	89%	84%	85%	82%

**Technical Footnotes to Supplement the Spring 2004
National Survey of Student Engagement
Executive Summary**

- ¹ Data from the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy students are not included in this report. These students completed the survey locally and were not included in NSSE's benchmark calculations.
- ² The 10 AAUDE institutions that participated in the 2007 NSSE survey administration are: Indiana University Bloomington, Iowa State University, Michigan State University, The Ohio State University, University of California-Berkeley, University of Maryland-College Park, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Seattle-Washington.
- ³ The 16 AAU universities that participated in 2007 are: Carnegie Mellon University, Case Western Reserve University, Indiana University Bloomington, Iowa State University, Michigan State University, Purdue University, Rice University, Texas A&M University, The Ohio State University, The University of Texas at Austin, University of California-Berkeley, University of Maryland-College Park, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Washington-Seattle.
- ⁴ The 33 Carnegie doctoral research universities that participated in 2007 are: Arizona State University, Carnegie Mellon University, Case Western Reserve University, Colorado State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Indiana University Bloomington, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College, Michigan State University, Montana State University-Bozeman, Oregon State University, Purdue University, Rice University, Texas A&M University, The Ohio State University, The University of Tennessee, The University of Texas Austin, University of California-Berkeley, University of Cincinnati, University of Connecticut, University of Georgia, University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Kentucky, University of Maryland-College Park, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, University of New Mexico, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Pittsburgh, University of South Carolina Columbia, University of South Florida, University of Utah, and University of Washington-Seattle.
- ⁵ NSSE calculated overall institution benchmark values by placing the individual items for each benchmark on a 100-point scale, taking the average of the items, and weighting the average by each school's ratio of full time/part time students and sex of respondents. NSSE used this weighting scheme in order to compensate for the fact that part-time and male students were underrepresented.
- ⁶ Race/ethnicity data were based on student report.
- ⁷ Students supplied their enrollment status. Number of credit hours was not provided by NSSE to help students determine the correct status. Students were told that a part time status was "Less than full-time."
- ⁸ On-campus housing included both university-operated residence halls and fraternity/sorority houses.