National Survey of Student Engagement (part 2)

This week in *Fast Facts* we will continue looking at the results from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), a nationally normed survey that we administer to freshmen and seniors every three years. The NSSE survey measures student involvement in a number of academic activities as well as co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Results are reported separately for freshmen and seniors. This week we will focus on some of the results for seniors.

One question we can ask in evaluating survey results is whether there are any differences across various groups of students. The chart to the right shows the performance by gender on three global survey measures. The first item shows students’ average overall rating of their college experience (4-point scale with 4 being the highest rating). The second item shows students’ response to the question of whether they would attend the same institution again (4-point scale again). The third item is a composite measure of a number of questions relating to various aspects of student engagement at the institution. (The score for this item has no direct interpretation but shows relative performance.)

These data indicate that female students score higher on overall rating and “would attend again,” but lower on the engagement score.

The chart to the left shows performance by ethnicity for the three global measures. These data indicate that Native American students had the highest score on overall rating and “would attend again,” while white students had the lowest scores on all three measures. (Other ethnic groups are not shown because the number of respondents was too small.)

The chart below left (next page) shows performance by matriculation status. Transfer students had slightly higher scores on overall rating and “would attend again,” but slightly lower scores on the engagement measure.
The chart above right shows performance by residency status. Out-of-state student scored lower on overall rating and “would attend again,” but higher on the engagement measure.

The chart below shows performance by campus (based on student self-identification). Results are variable, but students at the Albuquerque campus had the highest scores on overall rating and “would attend again.” Las Vegas students had the highest score on the engagement indicator.

We also looked at survey outcomes by first-generation status and Pell status, but did not find any significant differences across these categories.

Overall the results suggest some moderate though not extreme differences in survey responses by various student categories. Overall the results are quite positive but do suggest some areas of possible improvement.

Please let us know if you have any comments or any suggestions for future Fast Facts topics. You can send an email to Lee Allard at lallard@nmhu.edu.