

# NSSE Results: 2012



**ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

# Administration



- NSSE was administered to freshmen and seniors in Spring 2012 and is administered at IU Southeast on a 3-year rotation
- In 2012, invitations to participate were sent to 1,352 freshmen and 1,350 seniors.
- The overall response rate was 22%, down from 27% in 2009. This decrease in response rate is likely due to a change from in-class, paper format to a fully electronic administration. Survey fatigue may also have played a role.
- A total of 590 students responded to the survey.

# Benchmarks



- **NSSE items are combined into benchmark categories that describe specific aspects of the student experience:**
  - Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)
  - Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)
  - Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)
  - Enriching Educational Experience (EEE)
  - Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)

# Benchmarks



- All benchmark items are rescaled on a 0-100 range. Zero indicating students chose the lowest response option for every item and 100 indicating students chose the highest response option for every item.
- Higher scores should be interpreted as positive outcomes.
- IU Southeast scores are compared to:
  - Self-selected peers (7 current and 2 aspirational)
  - Regional peers (Carnegie Classification: IN, OH, IL, KY)
  - All Carnegie Peers (Master's Large Program Classification)

# Self-Selected Peers



- Auburn University @ Montgomery
- Augusta State University
- Austin Peay State University
- Fort Hayes State University (Aspirational)
- Indiana University South Bend
- IUPFW
- Midwestern State University
- Saginaw Valley State University
- University of Texas @ Tyler (Aspirational)

# Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

- **Items emphasize the importance of academic effort and setting high expectations for student performance.**
  - Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, rehearsing, etc. related to academic program)
  - Campus environment emphasizing time studying and on academic work
  - Working harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations
  - Coursework emphasizing **analysis** of the basic elements of an idea, experience or theory
  - Coursework emphasizing **synthesis** and organizing of ideas, information or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships
  - Coursework emphasizing the **making of judgments** about the value of information, arguments or methods
  - Coursework emphasizing **application** of theories of concepts to practical problems or in new situations
  - Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings
  - Number of written papers or reports

# LAC: Freshmen Results



- **Freshmen Results:**
  - IU Southeast Mean for all items = 53.0
  - Peers Mean for all items = 52.8
  - Regional Carnegie Mean for all items = 53.9
  - All Carnegie Mean for all items = 53.8
- **IU Southeast freshmen did not differ significantly from any other classification peers on this benchmark**

# LAC: Freshmen Results



- **Items within the benchmark that IU Southeast freshmen score significantly lower on than peer institution freshmen.**
  - **Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages (regional and all Carnegie)**



# LAC: Senior Results



- **Senior Results:**
  - IU Southeast Mean for all items = 58.1
  - Peers Mean for all items = 56.9
  - Regional Carnegie Mean for all items = 57.8
  - All Carnegie Mean for all items = 58.0
- **IU Southeast senior did not differ significantly from any other classification peers on this benchmark**

# LAC: Senior Results



- **Items within the benchmark that IU Southeast seniors score significantly higher on than peer institution seniors.**
  - Coursework analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components (selected peers only)
  - Coursework applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations (3)
  - Institution emphasizes spending significant amounts of time studying on academic work (all Carnegie institutions only)

# LAC: Senior Results (cont.)



- **Items within the benchmark that IU Southeast seniors score significantly lower on than peer institution seniors.**
  - **Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages (regional and all Carnegie)**
  - **Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages (regional and all Carnegie)**

# LAC Strengths



- The level of academic challenge for seniors at IU Southeast is significantly greater than comparison groups on coursework stressing intellectual skills like analysis and application and by emphasizing the importance of academic effort through time spent studying.

# LAC Areas for Improvement



- **Emphasis both on short- (fewer than 5 pages) and medium- (between 5 and 19 pages) length written papers or reports.**
- **Questions to consider:**
  - can we increase the level of academic challenge for our students early in their experience to set us apart from our peers?
  - can short- and medium- length writing assignments be used to emphasize synthesis and making of judgments in, especially, our seniors?

# Active & Collaborative Learning (ACL)



- **Items emphasize the importance of working with others in solving problems or mastering difficult material.**
  - Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions
  - Made a class presentation
  - Worked with other students on projects during class
  - Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments
  - Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)
  - Participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course
  - Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)

# ACL: Freshmen Results



- **Freshmen Results:**
  - IU Southeast Mean for all items = 44.6
  - Peers Mean for all items = 41.4
  - Regional Carnegie Mean for all items = 43.1
  - All Carnegie Mean for all items = 43.8
- IU Southeast freshmen scored significantly higher than peer institutions on this benchmark.
- IU Southeast freshmen responses did not differ significantly from regional or all Carnegie peers.

# ACL : Freshmen Results



- **Items within the benchmark that contribute to the significantly higher score for IU Southeast freshmen than peer institution freshmen.**
  - **Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions (selected peers and all Carnegie)**
  - **Made a class presentation (selected peers and all Carnegie)**
  - **Worked with other students on projects during class (3)**



# ACL : Freshmen Results (cont.)



- **Items within the benchmark that IU Southeast freshmen score significantly lower on than peer institution freshmen.**
  - **Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments (regional and all Carnegie)**
  - **Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course (all Carnegie)**

# ACL : Senior Results



- **Senior Results:**
  - IU Southeast Mean for all items = 54.5
  - Peers Mean for all items = 50.0
  - Regional Carnegie Mean for all items = 52.5
  - All Carnegie Mean for all items = 53.0
- IU Southeast seniors scored significantly higher than both peer institutions and regional peers on this benchmark.
- IU Southeast senior responses did not differ significantly from all Carnegie peers.

# ACL : Senior Results



- **Items within the benchmark that contribute to the significantly higher score for IU Southeast seniors than peer institution seniors.**
  - **Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions (3)**
  - **Made a class presentation (selected peers)**
  - **Worked with other students on projects during class (3)**
  - **Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class (selected peers)**

# ACL : Senior Results (cont.)



- **Items within the benchmark that IU Southeast seniors score significantly lower on than peer institution seniors.**
  - **Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments (all Carnegie)**
  - **Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course (regional and all Carnegie)**

# ACL Strengths



- **In-class student engagement with others – both freshmen and seniors score significantly higher than most peers on these items**
- **Senior engagement with class and reading ideas- is also higher outside of class compared to selected peers**

# ACL Areas for Improvement



- Outside-of-class collaboration- IU Southeast freshmen and seniors score significantly lower than some peers
- Service learning and community-based projects- especially our seniors are not engaging with the community compared to some peers
- **Question to consider:**
  - how can we better engage students outside of the classroom?

# Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)



- **Items emphasize the importance of interacting with faculty members inside and outside the classroom.**
  - Worked or planned to work with a faculty member on a research project outside of course or program requirements
  - Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)
  - Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor
  - Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class
  - Received prompt feedback from faculty on your academic performance (written or oral)
  - Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor

# SFI: Freshmen Results



- **Freshmen Results:**
  - IU Southeast Mean for all items = 36.6
  - Peers Mean for all items = 34.9
  - Regional Carnegie Mean for all items = 36.3
  - All Carnegie Mean for all items = 36.1
- **IU Southeast freshmen did not differ significantly from any other classification peers on this benchmark**



# SFI : Freshmen Results



- **Items within the benchmark that IU Southeast freshmen score significantly higher on than peer institution freshmen**
  - Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor (3)
  - Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor (selected peers)

# SFI : Senior Results



- **Senior Results:**
  - IU Southeast Mean for all items = 45.0
  - Peers Mean for all items = 41.6
  - Regional Carnegie Mean for all items = 44.1
  - All Carnegie Mean for all items = 43.7
- IU Southeast seniors scored significantly higher than peer institutions on this benchmark.
- IU Southeast senior responses did not differ significantly from regional or all Carnegie peers.

# SFI : Senior Results



- **Items within the benchmark that contribute to the significantly higher score for IU Southeast seniors than peer institution seniors.**
  - **Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor (selected peers)**
  - **Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class (selected peers)**
  - **Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance (3)**

# SFI Strengths



- **Grades and careers – even our freshmen begin to develop an early interest in how their education fits into their career goals**
- **Academic feedback – our seniors emphasized the promptness with which our faculty provide feedback significantly more than their peers at other institutions**

# SFI Areas for Improvement



- The only items that our students did not report significantly higher engagement with than our peers were working with faculty on out-of-class activities or on faculty work outside of course requirements
- **Questions to consider:**
  - can faculty utilize undergraduates more in research?
  - are there ways in which faculty can become better engaged in the out-of-class experience?

# Enriching Educational Experience (EEE)



- **Items emphasize the importance of complementary learning opportunities that enhance academic programs.**
  - Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, publications, student government, sports, etc.)
  - Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience or clinical assignment
  - Community service or volunteer work
  - Foreign language coursework and study abroad
  - Independent study or self-designed major
  - Culminating senior experience (comprehensive exam, capstone course, thesis, project, etc.)
  - Serious conversations with students of different religious beliefs, political opinions or personal values
  - Serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity
  - Using electronic technology to discuss or complete an assignment
  - Campus environment encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds
  - Participating in a learning community or another formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together

# EEE: Freshmen Results



- **Freshmen Results:**
  - IU Southeast Mean for all items = 24.3
  - Peers Mean for all items = 24.7
  - Regional Carnegie Mean for all items = 26.2
  - All Carnegie Mean for all items = 27.3
- IU Southeast freshmen scored significantly lower than both regional peers and all Carnegie peers on this benchmark.
- IU Southeast freshmen responses did not differ significantly from selected peers.

# EEE : Freshmen Results



- Item within the benchmark that IU Southeast freshmen score significantly higher on than peer institution freshmen
  - Institution encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds



# EEE : Freshmen Results (cont.)



- **Items within the benchmark that IU Southeast freshmen score significantly lower on than peer institution freshmen.**
  - Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own (selected peers and all Carnegie)
  - Community service or volunteer work (all Carnegie only)
  - Participating in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together (regional and all Carnegie)
  - Foreign language coursework (regional and all Carnegie)
  - Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.) (regional and all Carnegie)

# EEE : Senior Results



- **Senior Results:**
  - IU Southeast Mean for all items = 39.4
  - Peers Mean for all items = 36.1
  - Regional Carnegie Mean for all items = 38.6
  - All Carnegie Mean for all items = 39.6
- IU Southeast seniors scored significantly higher than selected peer institutions on this benchmark
- IU Southeast senior responses did not differ significantly from regional or all Carnegie peers.

# EEE : Senior Results



- **Items within the benchmark that contribute to the significantly higher score for IU Southeast seniors than peer institution seniors.**
  - Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own (3)
  - Had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values (3)
  - Foreign language coursework (3)
  - Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.) (selected peers only)

# EEE : Senior Results (cont.)



- **Items within the benchmark that IU Southeast seniors score significantly lower on than peer institution seniors.**
  - Used an electronic medium (listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment (selected and regional peers)
  - Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment (all Carnegie only)
  - Study abroad (3)
  - Participating in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together (regional and all Carnegie)

# EEE Strengths



- **Contact and conversations with diverse others – IU Southeast freshmen report the institution encouraging contact and seniors report actual interaction, both at levels significantly greater than their respective peers**
- **Enriching education for seniors – report significantly higher foreign language coursework and capstone experience**

# EEE Areas for Improvement



- **For freshmen:**
  - Increasing high-impact experiences such as community service, learning communities, and co-curricular opportunities
  - Enriching in- and out-of-class experiences by increasing conversations with diverse others
- **For all students:**
  - More electronic means outside of (or instead of) class to enrich the in-class experience
  - Increasing high-impact experiences such as study abroad, learning communities, and internship/clinical opportunities
- **Questions to consider:**
  - can we make changes that help our students' engagement in enriching educational experiences earlier in their careers?
  - at what point do our students begin meaningful interactions with diverse others?
  - do we consider increasing opportunities and access to study abroad, learning communities and field experiences?

# Supportive Campus Environment



- **Items emphasize the importance of commitment to student success and cultivating positive working and social relationships among campus groups.**
  - Campus environment provides the support you need to help you succeed academically
  - Campus environment helps you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
  - Campus environment provides the support you need to thrive socially
  - Quality of relationships with other students
  - Quality of relationships with faculty members
  - Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices

# SCE: Freshmen Results



- **Freshmen Results:**
  - IU Southeast Mean for all items = 63.5
  - Peers Mean for all items = 60.7
  - Regional Carnegie Mean for all items = 64.0
  - All Carnegie Mean for all items = 63.3
- IU Southeast freshmen scored significantly higher than peer institutions on this benchmark.
- IU Southeast freshmen responses did not differ significantly from regional or all Carnegie peers.



# SCE: Freshmen Results



- **Items within the benchmark that contribute to the significantly higher score for IU Southeast freshmen than peer institution freshmen.**
  - **Campus environment provides the support you need to thrive socially**
  - **Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices**

# SCE: Senior Results



- **Senior Results:**
  - IU Southeast Mean for all items = 64.4
  - Peers Mean for all items = 60.4
  - Regional Carnegie Mean for all items = 60.9
  - All Carnegie Mean for all items = 60.8
- IU Southeast seniors scored significantly higher than peer institutions on this benchmark.
- IU Southeast seniors scored significantly higher than regional Carnegie peers.
- IU Southeast seniors scored significantly higher than all Carnegie peers.

# SCE: Senior Results



- **Items within the benchmark that contribute to the significantly higher score for IU Southeast seniors than all comparison groups.**
  - Campus environment provides the support you need to help you succeed academically (3)
  - Campus environment provides the support you need to thrive socially (selected peers only)
  - Quality of relationships with other students (3)
  - Quality of relationships with faculty members (3)
  - Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices (regional and all Carnegie)

# SCE Strengths



- Providing the support students need to thrive socially—both freshmen and seniors scored higher than comparison groups for this item.
- Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices—both freshmen and seniors scored higher than comparison groups for this item.
- Seniors—by the time our students are seniors they score higher than at least one of the comparison groups for all but one item in this benchmark.

# SCE Areas for Improvement



- Helping students cope with non-academic responsibilities such as work and family—freshmen and seniors scores were no different from comparison group scores for this item.
- Freshmen—compared to seniors, freshmen find the campus less supportive of their academic and relationship needs.
- **Questions to consider:**
  - at what point do our students begin to feel more supported?
  - can we make changes that help our students feel supported earlier in their experience?

# Additional Item Summary



- **Strengths:**
  - IU Southeast freshmen and seniors indicate higher satisfaction than peers and would more often choose IU Southeast again compared to peers
  - Seniors report higher attendance at art, dance, music and theater performances than peers
- **Areas for improvement:**
  - Freshmen work on campus at a lower rate than peers
  - Freshmen and seniors spend more hours working off campus than peers
  - Freshmen and seniors spend more hours commuting to campus than peers
  - Seniors spend more hours caring for dependants than peers
  - Freshmen report less attendance at Arts functions than peers
  - Freshmen and seniors report less institutional influence on their sense of spirituality than peers

# Additional Item Summary



- **Questions to consider:**
  - Can we impact student engagement by increasing work opportunities on campus for freshmen?
  - What initiatives could assist student engagement for those spending significant hours commuting to campus?
  - Are there opportunities to engage students in nontraditional ways that take into account increased time commuting, working, and caring for dependents?
  - Can we expand engagement with the Arts earlier in the student experience?

# Conclusions



- Overall, IU Southeast students report the greatest levels of engagement at or above the level of comparison groups for active and collaborative learning and a supportive campus environment.
- Seniors engage in interactions with faculty and enriching educational experiences at greater levels than peers.
- However, opportunities exist to increase student engagement in some areas, including enriching educational experiences for freshmen and level of academic challenge for all students.



