# Analysis of FHSU Results for the 2008 National Survey of Student Engagement by Major Department

A Study Detailing Engagement Means for Seniors at the Major Department Level

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## 1. Analytic Parameters

These analyses are predicated on the following parameters, unless otherwise indicated:

**Dependent measures:** NSSE indexes and questions
**Independent variable:** Major department
**Sample\Population:** Students with class rank of senior
**Notations:** Top five departments are noted in green and the bottom five departments are noted in yellow for each index. Departments with percentage of completion higher than 33% noted in blue.

## 2. Results

The sampling (n = 440) is randomly drawn from the larger senior population (N = 1806) submitted for analysis. The sample included 287 female students and 153 male students. The racial composition of this sample is noted below.

| Native American | Asian | African American | White | Hispanic | Other/Not Identified |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 13 | 9 | 376 | 15 | 26 |

Active department recruitment of senior students to take NSSE is always helpful. The following table details (by department) the number of seniors in the sample, the number of seniors actually participating, and the percentage of completion. Departments with greater than 33% participation are noted in blue.

| Major Department | | n | Sample | % Response |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| COAS (239\892 = 26.8%) | 101 Art | 13 | 85 | 15.3% |
| | 104 Chemistry | 5 | 13 | 38.5% |
| | 117 Communication Studies | 7 | 30 | 23.3% |
| | 107 English | 7 | 17 | 41.1% |
| | 120 General Studies | 87 | 272 | 32.0% |
| | 105 Geosciences | 1 | 19 | 5.2% |
| | 109 History | 10 | 36 | 27.8% |
| | 118 Information Networking and Telecommunications | 20 | 73 | 27.4% |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 121 Justice Studies | 14 | 82 | 17.1% |
| | 110 Mathematics and Computer Science | 5 | 23 | 21.7% |
| | 108 Modern Languages | 3 | 8 | 38.5% |
| | 111 Music | 9 | 33 | 27.3% |
| | 112 Philosophy | 3 | 12 | 25.0% |
| | 113 Physics | 6 | 13 | 46.2% |
| | 114 Political Science | 5 | 22 | 22.7% |
| | 115 Psychology | 13 | 51 | 25.5% |
| | 116 Sociology and Social Work | 31 | 103 | 30.1% |
| COBL (60\322 = 18.6%) | 403 Economics and Finance | 6 | 45 | 13.3% |
| | 405 Leadership Studies | 14 | 48 | 29.2% |
| | 401 Management and Marketing | 24 | 143 | 16.8% |
| | 404 Accounting and Information Systems | 16 | 86 | 18.6% |
| COET (33\149 = 22.1%) | 235 Teacher Education | 26 | 101 | 25.7% |
| | 233 Technology Studies | 7 | 48 | 14.6% |
| CHLS (81\431 = 18.8%) | 300 Agriculture | 10 | 69 | 14.5% |
| | 305 Allied Health | 14 | 65 | 21.5% |
| | 302 Biological Sciences | 11 | 48 | 22.9% |
| | 317 Communication Disorders | 3 | 19 | 15.8% |
| | 331 Health and Human Performance | 22 | 123 | 17.9% |
| | 340 Nursing | 21 | 107 | 19.6% |

**Analysis 2.1: Level of Academic Challenge.** This analysis explored the difference between senior students of different major departments on level of academic challenge. This index measures challenging intellectual and creative work deemed central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote high levels of student achievement by emphasizing the importance of academic effort and setting high expectations for student performance. This index includes the following items:

- Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, rehearsing, etc. related to academic program)
- Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings
- Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more; number of written papers or reports of between 5 and 19 pages; and number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages
- 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 or arguments
- Coursework emphasizing application of theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations
- Working harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations
- Campus environment emphasizing time studying and on academic work

| Peer Mean | NSSE Mean | n | FHSU Mean | Std Dev | Lower Control Limit | Upper Control Limit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 56.1 | 56.6 | 393 | 54.65 | 14.94 | 53.17 | 56.13 |

| Major Department | | n | Mean | Std Dev | Minimum | Maximum |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| COAS | 101 Art | 12 | 56.31 | 11.34 | 36.90 | 74.68 |
| | 104 Chemistry | 5 | 58.57 | 7.76 | 48.93 | 67.10 |
| | 117 Communication Studies | 7 | 43.80 | 14.88 | 20.24 | 65.26 |
| | 107 English | 6 | 69.12 | 13.24 | 50.87 | 88.64 |
| | 120 General Studies | 83 | 51.84 | 15.35 | 22.63 | 84.91 |
| | 105 Geosciences | 1 | 66.02 | | | |
| | 109 History | 7 | 56.35 | 11.86 | 37.01 | 73.59 |
| | 118 Information Networking and Telecommunications | 20 | 51.52 | 13.67 | 30.64 | 72.30 |
| | 121 Justice Studies | 13 | 53.76 | 15.79 | 25.54 | 79.98 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 110 Mathematics and Computer Science | 5 | 50.11 | 14.69 | 37.45 | 73.70 |
| | 108 Modern Languages | 3 | 49.93 | 23.98 | 28.57 | 75.87 |
| | 111 Music | 9 | 47.08 | 9.45 | 36.15 | 69.37 |
| | 112 Philosophy | 3 | 70.27 | 9.89 | 58.87 | 76.62 |
| | 113 Physics | 6 | 61.35 | 30.47 | .00 | 82.58 |
| | 114 Political Science | 5 | 65.35 | 7.92 | 55.09 | 72.40 |
| | 115 Psychology | 12 | 49.40 | 14.95 | 17.21 | 76.19 |
| | 116 Sociology and Social Work | 31 | 58.83 | 12.38 | 32.63 | 80.15 |
| COBL | 403 Economics and Finance | 5 | 58.55 | 18.20 | 33.66 | 83.01 |
| | 405 Leadership Studies | 14 | 57.14 | 13.09 | 39.34 | 78.22 |
| | 401 Management and Marketing | 24 | 55.10 | 13.68 | 27.35 | 73.92 |
| | 404 Accounting and Information Systems | 16 | 54.24 | 16.48 | 29.87 | 86.36 |
| COET | 235 Teacher Education | 23 | 55.79 | 16.02 | 28.14 | 84.31 |
| | 233 Technology Studies | 6 | 51.20 | 21.09 | 28.47 | 84.59 |
| CHLS | 300 Agriculture | 10 | 44.03 | 17.21 | 19.48 | 73.05 |
| | 305 Allied Health | 14 | 55.93 | 11.92 | 36.90 | 78.90 |
| | 302 Biological Sciences | 9 | 61.08 | 14.38 | 39.71 | 80.41 |
| | 317 Communication Disorders | 3 | 59.16 | 13.72 | 43.61 | 69.59 |
| | 331 Health and Human Performance | 21 | 52.30 | 13.40 | 30.41 | 81.49 |
| | 340 Nursing | 20 | 61.32 | 12.37 | 34.23 | 87.68 |

**Analysis 2.2: Active and Collaborative Learning.** This analysis explored the difference between senior students of different major departments. Students learn more when they are intensely involved in their education and asked to think about what they are learning in different settings. Collaborating with others in solving problems or mastering difficult material prepares students for the messy, unscripted problems they will encounter daily during and after college. This index includes the following items:

- 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
- 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.)

| Peer Mean | NSSE Mean | n | FHSU Mean | Std Dev | Lower Control Limit | Upper Control Limit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 51.4 | 50.8 | 410 | 45.34 | 21.82 | 43.22 | 47.46 |

| Major Department | | n | Mean | Std Dev | Minimum | Maximum |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| COAS | 101 Art | 13 | 59.07 | 13.11 | 38.10 | 76.19 |
| | 104 Chemistry | 5 | 62.86 | 16.97 | 38.10 | 80.95 |
| | 117 Communication Studies | 7 | 51.70 | 12.11 | 28.57 | 61.90 |
| | 107 English | 7 | 59.69 | 18.19 | 41.67 | 90.48 |
| | 120 General Studies | 85 | 29.92 | 17.08 | .00 | 80.95 |
| | 105 Geosciences | 1 | 66.67 | | | |
| | 109 History | 10 | 47.02 | 16.94 | 23.81 | 83.33 |
| | 118 Information Networking and Telecommunications | 20 | 39.76 | 22.98 | 4.76 | 100.00 |
| | 121 Justice Studies | 14 | 34.86 | 23.88 | 4.76 | 80.95 |
| | 110 Mathematics and Computer Science | 5 | 44.76 | 18.63 | 33.33 | 76.19 |
| | 108 Modern Languages | 3 | 65.08 | 31.70 | 28.57 | 85.71 |
| | 111 Music | 9 | 44.44 | 22.59 | 19.05 | 85.71 |
| | 112 Philosophy | 3 | 50.79 | 16.72 | 33.33 | 66.67 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 113 Physics | 6 | 60.32 | 32.11 | .00 | 95.24 |
| | 114 Political Science | 5 | 71.43 | 15.79 | 47.62 | 90.48 |
| | 115 Psychology | 13 | 46.15 | 12.35 | 23.81 | 66.67 |
| | 116 Sociology and Social Work | 31 | 39.02 | 22.24 | .00 | 90.48 |
| COBL | 403 Economics and Finance | 6 | 55.16 | 16.52 | 42.86 | 85.71 |
| | 405 Leadership Studies | 14 | 55.78 | 22.83 | 19.05 | 90.48 |
| | 401 Management and Marketing | 24 | 43.55 | 17.30 | 9.52 | 76.19 |
| | 404 Accounting and Information Systems | 16 | 42.56 | 15.79 | 19.05 | 76.19 |
| COET | 235 Teacher Education | 26 | 61.45 | 22.02 | 19.05 | 100.00 |
| | 233 Technology Studies | 7 | 39.68 | 27.90 | 14.29 | 95.24 |
| CHLS | 300 Agriculture | 10 | 50.47 | 20.72 | 28.57 | 85.71 |
| | 305 Allied Health | 13 | 48.72 | 9.55 | 33.33 | 66.67 |
| | 302 Biological Sciences | 11 | 56.49 | 15.65 | 19.05 | 71.43 |
| | 317 Communication Disorders | 3 | 52.38 | 9.52 | 42.86 | 61.90 |
| | 331 Health and Human Performance | 22 | 50.36 | 21.07 | 19.05 | 100.00 |
| | 340 Nursing | 21 | 53.68 | 24.22 | 19.05 | 100.00 |

**Analysis 2.3: Student-Faculty Interaction.** This analysis explored the difference between senior students of different major departments. Students learn firsthand how experts think about and solve practical problems by interacting with faculty members inside and outside the classroom. As a result, their teachers become role models, mentors, and guides for continuous, life-long learning. This index includes the following items:

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

| Peer Mean | NSSE Mean | n | FHSU Mean | Std Dev | Lower Control Limit | Upper Control Limit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NA | NA | 398 | 45.34 | 22.24 | 43.15 | 47.53 |

| Major Department | | n | Mean | Std Dev | Minimum | Maximum |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| COAS | 101 Art | 12 | 56.11 | 22.64 | 20.00 | 86.67 |
| | 104 Chemistry | 5 | 61.33 | 22.80 | 33.33 | 80.00 |
| | 117 Communication Studies | 7 | 46.67 | 19.25 | 26.67 | 80.00 |
| | 107 English | 6 | 63.33 | 28.52 | 33.33 | 100.00 |
| | 120 General Studies | 84 | 38.21 | 18.18 | 6.67 | 93.33 |
| | 105 Geosciences | 1 | 40.00 | | | |
| | 109 History | 7 | 36.19 | 15.80 | 20.00 | 66.67 |
| | 118 Information Networking and Telecommunications | 20 | 43.00 | 22.42 | 13.33 | 100.00 |
| | 121 Justice Studies | 13 | 42.56 | 27.43 | 13.33 | 100.00 |
| | 110 Mathematics and Computer Science | 5 | 53.33 | 21.08 | 26.67 | 80.00 |
| | 108 Modern Languages | 3 | 57.78 | 27.76 | 26.67 | 80.00 |
| | 111 Music | 9 | 49.63 | 20.03 | 20.00 | 73.33 |
| | 112 Philosophy | 3 | 60.00 | 20.00 | 40.00 | 80.00 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 113 Physics | 6 | 62.22 | 33.64 | .00 | 93.33 |
| | 114 Political Science | 5 | 74.67 | 12.82 | 53.33 | 86.67 |
| | 115 Psychology | 13 | 44.10 | 16.67 | 20.00 | 73.33 |
| | 116 Sociology and Social Work | 31 | 41.51 | 20.20 | 13.33 | 100.00 |
| COBL | 403 Economics and Finance | 5 | 56.00 | 29.29 | 13.33 | 86.67 |
| | 405 Leadership Studies | 14 | 34.29 | 25.33 | .00 | 86.67 |
| | 401 Management and Marketing | 24 | 39.44 | 21.79 | .00 | 100.00 |
| | 404 Accounting and Information Systems | 16 | 42.92 | 14.59 | 13.33 | 73.33 |
| COET | 235 Teacher Education | 23 | 44.63 | 20.24 | 13.33 | 100.00 |
| | 233 Technology Studies | 7 | 42.54 | 24.56 | 13.33 | 93.33 |
| CHLS | 300 Agriculture | 10 | 36.67 | 27.08 | 6.67 | 100.00 |
| | 305 Allied Health | 14 | 65.95 | 19.13 | 40.00 | 100.00 |
| | 302 Biological Sciences | 10 | 54.00 | 27.30 | .00 | 93.33 |
| | 317 Communication Disorders | 3 | 40.00 | 17.64 | 20.00 | 53.33 |
| | 331 Health and Human Performance | 22 | 51.31 | 20.56 | 22.22 | 100.00 |
| | 340 Nursing | 20 | 48.67 | 22.90 | 13.33 | 100.00 |

**Analysis 2.4: Enriching Educational Experiences.** This analysis explored the difference between senior students of different major departments. Complementary learning opportunities enhance academic programs. Diversity experiences teach students valuable things about themselves and others. Technology facilitates collaboration between peers and instructors. Internships, community service, and senior capstone courses provide opportunities to integrate and apply knowledge. This index includes the following items:

- Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, publications, student government, sports)
- Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment
- Community service or volunteer work
- Foreign language coursework & study abroad
- Independent study or self-designed major
- Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, 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
- Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together

| Peer Mean | NSSE Mean | n | FHSU Mean | Std Dev | Lower Control Limit | Upper Control Limit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 37.8 | 40.5 | 390 | 34.72 | 17.64 | 32.97 | 36.48 |

| Major Department | | n | Mean | Std Dev | Minimum | Maximum |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| COAS | 101 Art | 12 | 39.17 | 20.35 | 13.89 | 77.38 |
| | 104 Chemistry | 1 | 51.83 | 20.10 | 33.33 | 85.32 |
| | 117 Communication Studies | 7 | 38.76 | 19.98 | 17.86 | 62.30 |
| | 107 English | 6 | 49.14 | 15.23 | 37.30 | 77.38 |
| | 120 General Studies | 81 | 28.80 | 15.25 | 2.78 | 75.00 |
| | 105 Geosciences | 1 | 55.16 | | | |
| | 109 History | 7 | 35.26 | 10.74 | 25.00 | 57.94 |
| | 118 Information Networking and Telecommunications | 20 | 29.03 | 15.90 | 11.11 | 61.51 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 121 Justice Studies | 12 | 35.16 | 17.76 | 18.18 | 72.22 |
| | 110 Mathematics and Computer Science | 5 | 38.49 | 20.29 | 9.52 | 60.32 |
| | 108 Modern Languages | 3 | 60.75 | 9.20 | 50.40 | 67.97 |
| | 111 Music | 9 | 30.18 | 14.86 | 13.89 | 51.19 |
| | 112 Philosophy | 3 | 40.21 | 28.67 | 8.33 | 63.89 |
| | 113 Physics | 6 | 42.33 | 21.92 | .00 | 60.71 |
| | 114 Political Science | 5 | 65.40 | 12.67 | 48.41 | 75.40 |
| | 115 Psychology | 12 | 32.54 | 13.48 | 13.89 | 52.78 |
| | 116 Sociology and Social Work | 31 | 38.76 | 19.98 | 5.56 | 88.74 |
| COBL | 403 Economics and Finance | 5 | 29.59 | 18.75 | 12.30 | 56.75 |
| | 405 Leadership Studies | 14 | 37.07 | 18.09 | 16.67 | 76.59 |
| | 401 Management and Marketing | 24 | 31.93 | 16.29 | 8.33 | 63.89 |
| | 404 Accounting and Information Systems | 16 | 34.10 | 15.10 | 8.33 | 62.30 |
| COET | 235 Teacher Education | 23 | 32.82 | 13.33 | 2.78 | 58.33 |
| | 233 Technology Studies | 6 | 38.53 | 27.22 | 12.12 | 67.86 |
| CHLS | 300 Agriculture | 10 | 29.84 | 17.88 | 3.97 | 52.78 |
| | 305 Allied Health | 14 | 32.96 | 8.86 | 19.44 | 45.63 |
| | 302 Biological Sciences | 9 | 29.50 | 17.10 | 2.78 | 56.35 |
| | 317 Communication Disorders | 3 | 31.75 | 15.62 | 20.63 | 49.60 |
| | 331 Health and Human Performance | 21 | 37.21 | 16.23 | 11.11 | 67.06 |
| | 340 Nursing | 20 | 37.92 | 22.88 | 5.16 | 96.43 |

**Analysis 2.5: Supportive Campus Environment.** This analysis explored the difference between senior students. Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that are committed to their success and cultivate positive working and social relations among different groups on campus. This index includes the following items:

- 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

| Peer Mean | NSSE Mean | n | FHSU Mean | Std Dev | Lower Control Limit | Upper Control Limit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 57.3 | 58.0 | 384 | 59.57 | 20.99 | 57.46 | 61.68 |

| Major Department | | n | Mean | Std Dev | Minimum | Maximum |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| COAS | 101 Art | 12 | 64.81 | 19.80 | 27.78 | 94.44 |
| | 104 Chemistry | 5 | 79.44 | 13.41 | 63.89 | 91.67 |
| | 117 Communication Studies | 7 | 54.76 | 19.02 | 27.78 | 83.33 |
| | 107 English | 6 | 57.87 | 16.52 | 33.33 | 83.33 |
| | 120 General Studies | 78 | 57.94 | 20.94 | 5.56 | 100.00 |
| | 105 Geosciences | 1 | 58.33 | | | |
| | 109 History | 7 | 48.81 | 34.24 | 8.33 | 100.00 |
| | 118 Information Networking and Telecommunications | 20 | 56.11 | 18.20 | 30.56 | 100.00 |
| | 121 Justice Studies | 12 | 65.81 | 19.97 | 25.00 | 100.00 |
| | 110 Mathematics and Computer Science | 5 | 56.11 | 8.65 | 47.22 | 69.44 |
| | 108 Modern Languages | 2 | 31.94 | 1.96 | 30.56 | 33.33 |
| | 111 Music | 8 | 68.40 | 15.06 | 41.67 | 94.44 |
| | 112 Philosophy | 3 | 72.22 | 15.47 | 55.56 | 86.11 |
| | 113 Physics | 6 | 56.94 | 31.71 | .00 | 91.67 |
| | 114 Political Science | 5 | 77.22 | 12.01 | 58.33 | 91.67 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 115 Psychology | 12 | 59.95 | 20.57 | 27.78 | 94.44 |
| | 116 Sociology and Social Work | 31 | 60.84 | 21.26 | 13.89 | 97.22 |
| COBL | 403 Economics and Finance | 5 | 52.44 | 15.51 | 36.11 | 73.33 |
| | 405 Leadership Studies | 14 | 59.33 | 21.86 | 33.33 | 100.00 |
| | 401 Management and Marketing | 24 | 55.32 | 21.30 | 19.44 | 100.00 |
| | 404 Accounting and Information Systems | 16 | 59.90 | 20.46 | 13.89 | 100.00 |
| COET | 235 Teacher Education | 23 | 55.07 | 17.70 | 11.11 | 83.33 |
| | 233 Technology Studies | 5 | 46.11 | 35.55 | 8.33 | 94.44 |
| CHLS | 300 Agriculture | 10 | 47.50 | 22.85 | 16.67 | 77.78 |
| | 305 Allied Health | 14 | 71.83 | 10.27 | 58.33 | 88.89 |
| | 302 Biological Sciences | 9 | 60.19 | 26.17 | 13.89 | 100.00 |
| | 317 Communication Disorders | 3 | 51.85 | 16.97 | 33.33 | 66.67 |
| | 331 Health and Human Performance | 21 | 71.29 | 20.19 | 30.56 | 100.00 |
| | 340 Nursing | 20 | 57.25 | 21.80 | 22.22 | 93.33 |