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NSSE general education report

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UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

ST. PETERSBURG

Section One
Comparison of NSSE Items Relating to General Education
Freshmen and Seniors: 2007 and 2009
January 23, 2010

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1.22.09

Institutional Research Office

Section One
Comparison of NSSE Items Relating to General Education
Freshmen and Seniors: 2007 and 2009
January 23, 2010

Executive Summary

USF St. Petersburg continues its use of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) as part of our institutional research agenda to assess student learning and student success. As noted in the literature, the NSSE measures the extent to which: “...*students engage in effective educational practices that are empirically linked with learning, personal development and other desired outcomes such as student satisfaction, persistence, and graduation (NSSE 2006 Overview, p. 1)...*”

In spring 2009, the NSSE was administered to representative samples of USFSP freshmen and seniors. This report compares 2009 findings to findings from 2007 with a particular emphasis on items that measure knowledge, skills and personal development – survey items which are organized around general education. A subset of these items relate to USF St. Petersburg’s General Education allowing the institution to evaluate components of its General Education program.

In addition to comparing USFSP student group data with NSSE normed-group data, comparisons can be made between freshmen scores and senior scores; and since items produce mean scores then group comparisons can be made across time periods as well. The utility of the NSSE is that it provides USFSP with information about its General Education program that is actionable at the academic program-level.

Findings:

In 2009, for both freshmen and senior groups, between two-thirds and three-quarters of respondents indicated that USF St. Petersburg had contributed to their knowledge, skills and personal development in communicating effectively (verbal and written), analyzing quantitative problems, thinking critically, and acquiring a broad general education. However, close to one-half of students indicated weakness in solving real-world problems and understanding people of other racial and ethnic groups. Interestingly, these are the same two areas of weaknesses that were identified in both student groups in the 2007 administration of the NSSE.

Close to eighty percent of freshmen and eighty-six percent of seniors evaluated their entire educational experience as good or excellent; and over eighty percent of freshmen and seniors rated their experience as good or excellent and would start over again at USFSP if given the opportunity.

The findings from this second year of study indicate that USF St. Petersburg positively contribute to student’s overall academic success overall and in the General Education curriculum.

Background

As noted in more detail in Section Two of this report – the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is administered in the spring to freshmen and graduating seniors and it gathers information on student behavior and institutional practices that are empirically related to college outcomes in the areas of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching experiences, and a supportive campus environment.

In 2009, the NSSE was administered to USFSP students as part of the University of South Florida's NSSE administration and at the end of the study USFSP was the recipient of a subset of reported findings. Whereas NSSE allows users to identify institutions for comparison purposes, USF did not select the USF system institutions as a cohort but instead compared themselves to AAU institutions and to other institutions within similar Carnegie Classification. USFSP findings for freshmen and seniors were compared to published NSSE findings for all institutions that participated in NSSE in 2009. In future years USFSP will participate in NSSE as an autonomous institution and may compare itself to other USF System institutions as peers or as part of a consortium of USF System institutions.

In the tables that follow, four response categories were collapsed into two categories and findings were compared to overall NSSE findings for respective groups of freshmen and seniors. Additionally, NSSE produces mean scores which facilitates comparisons over time. Table 1 includes frequency responses for freshmen and seniors in 2007 and 2009 compared to NSSE comparison groups for seven survey items that relate to USFSPs general education program. Table 2 includes mean scores for these same items by group. Table 3 combines frequency responses and mean scores for ten additional items of general interest to the university community.

Findings

Table 1 shows that in 2009, for both freshmen and senior groups, between two-thirds and three-quarters of respondents indicated that USF St. Petersburg had contributed to their knowledge, skills and personal development in five of seven general education items: 1. acquiring a broad general education, 2/3. writing and speaking clearly and effectively, 4. thinking critically and analytically, and 5. analyzing quantitative problems. However, closer to one-half of students indicated weakness in solving real-world problems and understanding people of other racial and ethnic groups – albeit less so for seniors 61.8%. In 2007, these are the same two areas of weaknesses that were identified for both student groups.

Table 1
Items Relating to USF St. Petersburg's General Education

	Freshmen				Seniors			
	FR07	NSSE07	FR09	NSSE09	SR07	NSSE07	SR09	NSSE09
To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?								
11a. Acquiring a broad general education								
	FR07	NSSE07	FR09	NSSE09	SR07	NSSE07	SR09	NSSE09
Very Little/Some	27.5	29.0	25.0	19.0	16.2	20.0	20.3	17.0
Quite a Bit/Very Much	72.5	71.0	75.0	81.0	83.8	80.0	79.3	83.0
11c. Writing clearly and effectively								
	FR07	NSSE07	FR09	NSSE09	SR07	NSSE07	SR09	NSSE09
Very Little/Some	31.0	31.0	32.3	26.0	18.8	18.0	20.9	23.0
Quite a Bit/Very Much	69.0	69.0	67.7	74.0	81.2	82.0	79.1	77.0
11d. Speaking clearly and effectively								
	FR07	NSSE07	FR09	NSSE09	SR07	NSSE07	SR09	NSSE09
Very Little/Some	48.3	49.0	37.4	34.0	23.1	24.0	29.2	29.0
Quite a Bit/Very Much	51.7	51.0	62.6	66.0	76.9	76.0	70.8	71.0
11e. Thinking critically and analytically								
	FR07	NSSE07	FR09	NSSE09	SR07	NSSE07	SR09	NSSE09
Very Little/Some	31.0	31.0	26.0	17.0	7.7	8.0	15.0	13.0
Quite a Bit/Very Much	69.0	69.0	74.0	83.0	92.3	92.0	85.0	87.0
11f. Analyzing quantitative problems								
	FR07	NSSE07	FR09	NSSE09	SR07	NSSE07	SR09	NSSE09
Very Little/Some	41.3	43.0	36.4	28.0	20.5	19.0	20.7	26.0
Quite a Bit/Very Much	58.7	57.0	63.6	72.0	79.5	81.0	79.3	74.0
11i. Understanding people of other racial and ethnic groups								
	FR07	NSSE07	FR09	NSSE09	SR07	NSSE07	SR09	NSSE09
Very Little/Some	51.7	54.0	49.0	42.0	44.4	58.0	43.4	44.0
Quite a Bit/Very Much	48.3	46.0	51.0	58.0	55.6	42.0	56.6	56.0
11m. Solving complex real-world problems								
	FR07	NSSE07	FR09	NSSE09	SR07	NSSE07	SR09	NSSE09
Very Little/Some	55.2	57.0	51.0	41.0	45.3	46.0	38.2	37.0
Quite a Bit/Very Much	44.8	43.0	49.0	59.0	54.7	54.0	61.8	63.0

Four response categories were collapsed into two: 1. Very Little and Some; 2. Quite a Bit and Very Much.

Table 2 shows relative stability in mean scores for USFSP freshmen and seniors from 2007 to 2009. The data in this table also reflects that in general terms the mean scores for USFSP freshmen and seniors are at the same level as normed data for respective NSSE groups by year. As noted in the previous discussion, whereas two items were found to be of concern for our institution – this data suggests that USFSP mean scores are not out of range when compared to normed data.

Table 2
Mean Scores for National Comparison – General Education Items

	Freshmen				Seniors	
	2004	2005	2007	2009	2007	2009
To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?						
11a. Acquiring a broad general education						
			FR07	FR09	SR07	SR09
USF Avg. Score			3.0	3.0	3.3	3.5
NSSE Avg. Score			3.1	3.2	3.2	3.5
11c. Writing clearly and effectively						
			FR07	FR09	SR07	SR09
USF Avg. Score			2.8	2.9	3.2	3.2
NSSE Avg. Score			2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1
11d. Speaking clearly and effectively						
			FR07	FR09	SR07	SR09
USF Avg. Score			2.4	2.7	3.2	2.9
NSSE Avg. Score			2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9
11e. Thinking critically and analytically						
			FR07	FR09	SR07	SR09
USF Avg. Score			2.8	3.1	3.5	3.3
NSSE Avg. Score			3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4
11f. Analyzing quantitative problems						
			FR07	FR09	SR07	SR09
USF Avg. Score			2.6	2.8	3.2	3.2
NSSE Avg. Score			2.9	2.9	3.0	3.1
11i. Understanding people of other racial and ethnic groups						
			FR07	FR09	SR07	SR09
USF Avg. Score			2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7
NSSE Avg. Score			2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7
11m. Solving complex real-world problems						
			FR07	FR09	SR07	SR09
USF Avg. Score			2.4	2.6	2.7	2.8
NSSE Avg. Score			2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8

Note: USFSP and NSSE Avg. Scores are weighted averages based on the numerical values of the Likert scores where: Very Little=1, Some=2, Quite a Bit=3, and Very Much=4.

Table 3 includes analysis of additional items that may be of overall interest to the university. Two-thirds to three-quarters of freshmen in 2009 and eighty to eighty-eight percent of seniors in 2009 rated their USFSP educational experience as good or excellent and indicated they would attend the university if able to start over again.

Table 3
Items Relating to USF St. Petersburg's General Education

	Freshmen				Seniors				
	2007		2009		2007		2009		
13. Evaluate your entire educational experience									
	FR07	NSSE07	FR09	NSSE09	SR07	NSSE07	SR09	NSSE09	
Poor/Fair	16.0	14.0	23.5	23.0	15.0	6.0	12.5	14.0	
Good/Excellent	84.0	86.0	76.5	77.0	85.0	94.0	87.5	86.0	
Mean Scores	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	
14. If you could start over again would you go to the same institution you are attending									
	FR07	NSSE07	FR09	NSSE09	SR07	NSSE07	SR09	NSSE09	
Poor/Fair	20.0	29.0	33.3	16.0	18.0	8.0	19.4	18.0	
Good/Excellent	80.0	71.0	66.7	84.0	78.0	82.0	80.6	82.0	
Mean Scores	3.1	3.2	2.9	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.2	

Four item response categories were collapsed into two.

Discussion and Actions

This report will be presented to the General Education Committee and the Planning, Effectiveness and Budget Committee and will be made available to the faculty in advance of the March 19th GE Task Force meetings.

Section Two
Summary of NSSE Items Relating to General Education
Freshmen and Seniors: 2004 – 2007
Original Report: 1.22.09

Executive Summary

USF St. Petersburg participated in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) from 2004-2007 and is again participating in the NSSE in 2009. The NSSE which is administered to entering freshmen and graduating seniors measures the extent to which: *“...students engage in effective educational practices that are empirically linked with learning, personal development and other desired outcomes such as student satisfaction, persistence, and graduation (NSSE 2006 Overview, p. 1)...”*

In addition to helping institutions understand student perceptions of their college experiences, the NSSE includes a bank of sixteen items that measure knowledge, skills and personal development which are organized around general education. A subset of these items relate to USF St. Petersburg’s General Education allowing the institution to evaluate components of its General Education program.

Over a four-year period, and across both freshmen and senior groups, well over one-half of respondents indicated that USF St. Petersburg had contributed to their knowledge, skills and personal development in communicating effectively, analyzing quantitative problems and in acquiring a broad general education. However, student self reports also indicated several areas of weakness, namely solving real-world problems and understanding people of other racial and ethnic groups.

The NSSE provides USF St. Petersburg with information about its General Education program that is actionable.

Background

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was developed and is administered by Indiana University and its theoretical basis is Chickering and Gamson’s Seven Principles of Good Practice in Undergraduate Education (1987). NSSE is administered in the spring to freshmen and graduating seniors and it gathers information on student behavior and institutional practices that are empirically related to college outcomes. NSSE benchmarks effective practices in the areas of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching experiences, and a supportive campus environment.

Findings from the NSSE can be used for many purposes however the emphasis of this report is general education. Responses by freshmen and seniors are compared on a bank of sixteen questions relating to knowledge, skills and personal development resulting

from general education. Responses are collected via Likert-scale, so USF St. Petersburg group mean responses can be compared with national responses.

Findings

Table 1 focuses on the subset of items that relate to USF St. Petersburg. In order to facilitate comparison, response categories have been collapsed from four to two. On Item #1: Acquiring a broad general education – the overwhelming response by freshmen and seniors, across four years, is that the institution contributed “quite a bit or very much” to their knowledge, skills and personal development in this area. In contrast, on Items #12 and #13, responses for freshmen and seniors across all years are split evenly by response categories. Students indicated that the institution did not overwhelmingly contribute to their knowledge, skills or personal development in “Understanding people of other racial and ethnic groups” and “Solving complex real world problems.”

Table 1
Items Relating to USF St. Petersburg’s General Education

	Freshmen				Seniors			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?								
1. Acquiring a broad general education								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
Very Little/Some	23.9	21.7	17.1	27.5	17.9	11.6	8.9	16.2
Quite a Bit/Very Much	76.1	78.3	82.9	72.5	82.1	88.4	91.1	83.8
3. Writing clearly and effectively								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
Very Little/Some	29.9	38.3	21.9	31.0	21.8	26.3	23.9	18.8
Quite a Bit/Very Much	70.1	61.7	78.1	69.0	78.2	73.7	76.1	81.2
4. Speaking clearly and effectively								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
Very Little/Some	47.8	50.0	41.4	48.3	30.7	29.5	25.3	23.1
Quite a Bit/Very Much	52.2	50.0	58.6	51.7	69.3	70.2	74.7	76.9
5. Thinking critically and analytically								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
Very Little/Some	19.4	18.3	21.9	31.0	18.8	14.2	8.9	7.7
Quite a Bit/Very Much	80.6	81.7	78.1	69.0	81.2	85.8	91.1	92.3
6. Analyzing quantitative problems								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
Very Little/Some	38.8	48.3	19.5	41.3	36.6	32.4	22.6	20.5
Quite a Bit/Very Much	61.2	51.7	80.5	58.7	63.4	67.6	77.4	79.5
12. Understanding people of other racial and ethnic groups								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
Very Little/Some	49.3	47.5	53.7	51.7	47.6	45.2	53.4	44.4
Quite a Bit/Very Much	50.7	52.5	46.3	48.3	52.4	54.8	46.6	55.6
13. Solving complex real-world problems								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
Very Little/Some	59.1	55.0	48.8	55.2	50.5	42.6	41.8	45.3
Quite a Bit/Very Much	40.9	45.0	51.2	44.8	49.5	57.4	58.2	54.7

Four response categories are collapsed to two: 1. Very Little and Some; 2. Quite a Bit and Very Much.

Table 2 shows average Likert-scaled responses and average responses for all NSSE respondents. USF St. Petersburg freshmen and senior average scores are at the NSSE average.

Table 2
Average Scores for National Comparison – General Education Items

	Freshmen				Seniors			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?								
1. Acquiring a broad general education								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
USF Avg. Score	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3
NSSE Avg. Score	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2
3. Writing clearly and effectively								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
USF Avg. Score	2.9	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.2
NSSE Avg. Score	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.0
4. Speaking clearly and effectively								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
USF Avg. Score	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.4	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.2
NSSE Avg. Score	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9
5. Thinking critically and analytically								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
USF Avg. Score	3.1	3.2	3.2	2.8	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5
NSSE Avg. Score	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3
6. Analyzing quantitative problems								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
USF Avg. Score	2.7	2.6	3.0	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.2
NSSE Avg. Score	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0
12. Understanding people of other racial and ethnic groups								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
USF Avg. Score	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.7
NSSE Avg. Score	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
13. Solving complex real-world problems								
	FR04	FR05	FR06	FR07	SR04	SR05	SR06	SR07
USF Avg. Score	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7
NSSE Avg. Score	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7

Note: USFSP and NSSE Avg. Scores are weighted averages based on the numerical values of the Likert scores where: Very Little=1, Some=2, Quite a Bit=3, and Very Much=4.

Detailed responses to the sixteen general education items including average mean scores which can be used to compare to national statistics are reported in [Appendix 1](#).

Discussion

Responses suggest that USF St. Petersburg is consistently contributing to students' knowledge, skills and personal development in general education. However, two response categories may suggest areas of institutional concern. Students indicated that the

institution did not overwhelmingly contribute to their knowledge, skills or personal development in “understanding people of other racial and ethnic groups” nor in “solving complex real world problems.”

Actions Taken

These findings have been forwarded to the GE Committee for discussion by GE Taskforces.

Appendix 1

Detail on General Education Survey Items Including Avg. Score for National Comparison

	2004		2005		2006		2007	
To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?								
1. Acquiring a broad general education								
	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	1.5	4.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.4	3.4	3.4
Some	22.4	13.9	21.7	10.5	17.1	7.5	24.1	12.8
Quite a Bit	44.8	38.6	46.7	43.7	43.9	37.7	37.9	30.8
Very Much	31.3	43.6	31.7	44.7	39.0	53.4	34.5	53.0
USFSP Avg. Score	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.4	3.0	3.3
NSSE Avg. Score	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2
2. Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills								
	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	10.4	10.9	28.3	11.1	9.8	9.0	13.8	8.5
Some	53.7	28.7	33.3	28.4	51.2	25.7	41.4	19.7
Quite a Bit	25.4	34.7	25.0	28.4	22.0	27.1	37.9	29.1
Very Much	10.4	25.7	13.3	32.1	17.1	38.2	6.9	42.7
USFSP Avg. Score	2.4	2.8	2.2	2.8	2.5	2.9	2.4	3.1
NSSE Avg. Score	2.7	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.7	3.0
3. Writing clearly and effectively								
	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	3.0	3.0	8.3	5.8	2.4	2.7	10.3	1.7
Some	26.9	18.8	30.0	20.5	19.5	21.2	20.7	17.1
Quite a Bit	44.8	42.6	38.3	39.5	41.5	38.4	48.3	37.6
Very Much	25.4	35.6	23.3	34.2	36.6	37.7	20.7	43.6
USFSP Avg. Score	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.2
NSSE Avg. Score	2.9	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.9	3.0
4. Speaking clearly and effectively								
	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	9.0	7.9	16.7	11.1	7.3	4.8	20.7	2.6
Some	38.8	22.8	33.3	18.4	34.1	20.5	27.6	20.5
Quite a Bit	35.8	36.6	30.0	40.0	26.8	45.2	41.4	35.9
Very Much	16.4	32.7	20.0	30.5	31.7	29.5	10.3	41.0
USFSP Avg. Score	2.6	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.4	3.2
NSSE Avg. Score	2.7	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.9
5. Thinking critically and analytically								
	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	1.4	10.3	1.7
Some	16.4	18.8	18.3	14.2	19.5	7.5	20.7	6.0
Quite a Bit	46.3	37.6	48.3	41.1	36.6	41.8	44.8	36.8
Very Much	34.3	43.6	33.3	44.7	41.5	49.3	24.1	55.6
USFSP Avg. Score	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.4	2.8	3.5
NSSE Avg. Score	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.3
6. Analyzing quantitative problems								
	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	6.0	5.9	13.3	6.9	4.9	2.7	17.2	3.4
Some	32.8	30.7	35.0	25.5	14.6	19.9	24.1	17.1
Quite a Bit	44.8	36.6	31.7	36.7	56.1	39.0	44.8	34.2
Very Much	16.4	26.7	20.0	30.9	24.4	38.4	13.8	45.3
USFSP Avg. Score	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.1	2.6	3.2
NSSE Avg. Score	2.6	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0

Note: USFSP and NSSE Avg. Scores are weighted averages based on the numerical values of the Likert scores where: Very Little=1, Some=2, Quite a Bit=3, and Very Much=4.

Appendix 1 (Continued)

2004 2005 2006 2007

To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?

7. Using computing and information technology

	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	7.5	4.0	8.3	4.2	4.9	.7	17.2	3.4
Some	32.8	17.0	30.0	20.0	29.3	18.5	27.6	12.8
Quite a Bit	50.7	33.0	40.0	33.7	24.4	31.5	41.4	29.1
Very Much	9.0	46.0	21.7	42.1	41.5	49.3	13.8	54.7
USFSP Avg. Score	2.6	3.2	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.3	2.5	3.4
NSSE Avg. Score	2.8	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.2

8. Working effectively with others

	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	4.5	1.0	13.3	4.2	10.0	4.1	13.8	3.4
Some	31.3	25.7	26.7	21.1	37.5	18.5	37.9	19.7
Quite a Bit	46.3	45.5	45.0	41.6	30.0	37.7	34.5	31.6
Very Much	17.9	27.7	15.0	33.2	22.5	39.7	13.8	45.3
USFSP Avg. Score	2.8	3.0	2.6	3.0	2.7	3.1	2.5	3.2
NSSE Avg. Score	2.8	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.0	3.2	2.9	3.1

9. Voting in local, state, or national elections

	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	40.9	52.5	45.0	41.1	56.1	46.6	37.9	41.9
Some	40.9	30.7	23.3	25.8	26.8	28.1	27.6	30.8
Quite a Bit	9.1	11.9	18.3	20.0	9.8	13.7	20.7	12.8
Very Much	9.1	5.0	13.3	13.2	7.3	11.6	13.8	14.5
USFSP Avg. Score	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.0
NSSE Avg. Score	1.9	1.8	2.5	2.3	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.1

10. Learning effectively on your own

	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	4.5	5.0	6.7	6.3	9.8	5.5	6.9	7.7
Some	29.9	23.0	21.7	17.4	22.0	24.7	24.1	23.1
Quite a Bit	40.3	44.0	50.0	50.0	34.1	38.4	48.3	33.3
Very Much	25.4	28.0	21.7	26.3	34.1	31.5	20.7	35.9
USFSP Avg. Score	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9
NSSE Avg. Score	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.0

11. Understanding yourself

	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	14.9	25.7	13.3	16.3	17.1	14.4	17.2	13.7
Some	34.3	21.8	35.0	32.1	26.8	30.8	24.1	29.1
Quite a Bit	37.3	33.7	31.7	31.1	31.7	31.5	37.9	25.6
Very Much	13.4	18.8	20.0	20.5	24.4	23.3	20.7	31.6
USFSP Avg. Score	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8
NSSE Avg. Score	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.8

12. Understanding people of other racial and ethnic groups

	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	20.9	22.8	15.3	10.5	12.2	13.0	20.7	16.2
Some	28.4	24.8	32.2	34.7	41.5	40.4	31.0	28.2
Quite a Bit	41.8	34.7	30.5	33.2	24.4	28.8	31.0	29.9
Very Much	9.0	17.8	22.0	21.6	22.0	17.8	17.2	25.6
USFSP Avg. Score	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.7
NSSE Avg. Score	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6

Note: USFSP and NSSE Avg. Scores are weighted averages based on the numerical values of the Likert scores where: Very Little=1, Some=2, Quite a Bit=3, and Very Much=4.

Appendix 1 (Continued)

2004 2005 2006 2007

To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?

13. Solving complex real-world problems

	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	12.1	9.9	21.7	8.9	17.1	8.2	20.7	9.4
Some	47.0	40.6	33.3	33.7	31.7	33.6	34.5	35.9
Quite a Bit	36.4	34.7	30.0	42.1	31.7	40.4	27.6	27.4
Very Much	4.5	14.9	15.0	15.3	19.5	17.8	17.2	27.4
USFSP Avg. Score	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.7
NSSE Avg. Score	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.7

14. Developing a personal code of values and ethics

	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	15.2	21.8	25.0	22.1	24.4	15.8	27.6	12.8
Some	36.4	33.7	31.7	33.7	34.1	34.9	34.5	35.9
Quite a Bit	34.8	32.7	28.3	27.9	19.5	33.6	27.6	29.1
Very Much	13.6	11.9	15.0	16.3	22.0	15.8	10.3	22.2
USFSP Avg. Score	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.2	2.6
NSSE Avg. Score	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.7

15. Contributing to the welfare of your community

	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	22.7	35.6	40.0	29.5	34.1	24.7	24.1	17.1
Some	34.8	35.6	31.7	35.3	36.6	38.4	51.7	41.0
Quite a Bit	34.8	17.8	20.0	22.1	17.1	22.6	17.2	26.5
Very Much	7.6	10.9	8.3	13.2	12.2	14.4	6.9	15.4
USFSP Avg. Score	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.4
NSSE Avg. Score	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4

16. Developing a deepened sense of spirituality

	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Very Little	39.4	68.3	58.3	58.9	58.5	68.5	55.2	56.4
Some	34.8	16.8	21.7	21.1	26.8	15.8	20.7	21.4
Quite a Bit	19.7	5.9	11.7	10.5	7.3	6.8	20.7	10.3
Very Much	6.1	8.9	8.3	9.5	7.3	8.9	3.4	12.0
USFSP Avg. Score	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.8
NSSE Avg. Score	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.9

Note: USFSP and NSSE Avg. Scores are weighted averages based on the numerical values of the Likert scores where: Very Little=1, Some=2, Quite a Bit=3, and Very Much=4.