




VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

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The National Survey of Student Engagement annually obtains information from hundreds of thousands of college students across the nation about their participation in educational programs and activities that increase their learning and personal development. The results indicate how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from their college experience. Since survey items reflect confirmed “good practices” in undergraduate education, students who engage in these activities are more likely to be successful and to earn a college degree. The highlights presented below for Valdosta State University represent the 261 first-year students and 217 seniors who completed the NSSE survey in Spring 2005. The results are displayed in five benchmark areas and compare VSU’s responses with those from other four-year USG institutions, other Master’s-level universities, all students participating in the NSSE, and the top 50% of institutions nationwide. The benchmarks, measured on a 1-100 point scale, reflect responses to groups of questions. Some

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- 60% of VSU seniors reported participating in community service or volunteer work, and another 17% plan to do so. Comparable percentages for Master's institutions are 62% and 13%.
 - 55% of first-year students and 57% of seniors at VSU reported that they had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity "often" or "very often." This compares with 48% of first-year students and 49% of seniors at Master's institutions.
 - 54% of VSU seniors responded that they have completed a practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience or clinical assignment, and another 25% said they plan to do so. This compares with 56% and 21%, respectively, at Master's institutions.
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- 70% of first-year and 68% of senior-levelh."

General Education Outcomes

- 87% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to use computing and information technology "quite a bit" or "very much."
- 85% of VSU seniors report acquiring a broad, general education "quite a bit" or "very much."
- 82% of VSU seniors report increasing their ability to work effectively with others "quite a bit" or "very much."
- 78% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to think critically and analytically "quite a bit" or "very much."
- 77% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to analyze quantitative problems "quite a bit" or "very much."
- 75% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to write clearly and effectively "quite a bit" or "very much."