



Impressive National Survey Results

6 messages

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To: Cfaculty <cas-faculty-discuss@lists.bethel.edu>

Colleagues-

We recently received our National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) results. This survey focuses more on what students do at their university rather than their satisfaction. I want to share with you today one important area from the survey where we had very impressive results.

Bethel senior participation in High-Impact Practices (HIP) is significantly higher than all of the benchmarks, which includes the Coalition of Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU), our Carnegie Class institutions and the overall NSSE national average.

The six High-Impact Practices are **service-learning** (About how many of your courses at this institution have included a community-based project (service-learning)?), **learning community** (Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together), **research with faculty** (Work with a faculty member on a research project), **internship or field experience** (Participate in an internship, co-op, field experience, student teaching, or clinical placement), **study abroad** (Participate in a study abroad program), and **culminating senior experience** (Complete a culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, portfolio, recital, comprehensive exam, etc.). These have been designated as High-Impact Practices because of their positive associations with student learning and retention (Kilgo et al., 2015; Kuh, 2008).

As you can see below, **90% of Bethel seniors reported participating in at least two HIPs while at Bethel.** This was significantly more than seniors in the comparison groups.



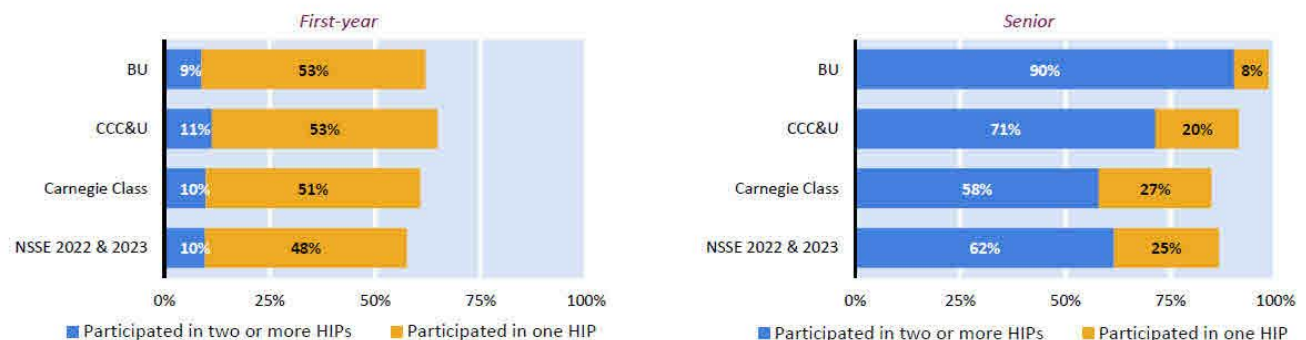
NSSE 2023 High-Impact Practices

Participation Comparisons

Bethel University

Overall HIP Participation

The figures below display the level of participation of students in High-Impact Practices. Both figures include participation in service-learning, learning communities, and research with faculty. The senior figure also includes participation in internships or field experiences, study abroad, and culminating senior experiences. The first segment in each bar shows the percentage who participated in at least two HIPs, and the full bar (both colors) represents the percentage who participated in at least one.



As you can see below, compared to students at other CCCU institutions, **Bethel seniors were significantly more likely to participate in all of the HIPs except for the culminating senior experience.** Technically, all seniors at Bethel should select that HIP because of our capstone Gen Ed course (Contemporary Christian Issues) and the Senior Seminar courses in most majors.

Although our study abroad percentages are down from our last NSSE administration (53% in 2019 vs. 37% in 2023; reduction is mostly due to the pandemic and partly due to cuts to department study abroad programs), they are still

significantly higher than all comparison groups.

And as Stan Thompson (Career Development & Calling) noted yesterday, our students are **significantly more likely to participate in an internship or field experience.**

You will also note that our first-year students are just as likely to participate in HIPs compared to students at other universities.

Statistical Comparisons

The table below displays the percentage of your students who participated in a given High-Impact Practice, including the percentage who participated in at least one or in two or more HIPs. It also graphs the difference, in percentage points, between your students and those of your comparison groups. Blue bars indicate how much higher your institution's percentage is compared to the comparison group. Dark red bars indicate how much lower your institution's percentage is compared to the comparison group. (Comparison group percentages appear on the following pages.)

Your students' participation compared with:

	BU	CCC&U		Carnegie Class		NSSE 2022 & 2023	
	%	Difference ^a	ES ^b	Difference ^a	ES ^b	Difference ^a	ES ^b
<i>First-year</i>							
Service-Learning	59	-1	-.03	+3	.06	+7	.14
Learning Community	9	-3	-.11	-3	-.09	-3	-.09
Research with Faculty	3	-2	-.10	-2	-.09	-2	-.10
Participated in at least one	62	-3	-.06	+1	.03	+4	.09
Participated in two or more	9	-3	-.09	-1	-.04	-1	-.03
<i>Senior</i>							
Service-Learning	86	+14	*** .36	+21	*** .49	+25	*** .58
Learning Community	38	+11	** .23	+15	*** .33	+14	*** .31
Research with Faculty	31	+9	** .19	+12	*** .28	+8	* .17
Internship or Field Exp.	80	+22	*** .48	+34	*** .73	+30	*** .64
Study Abroad	37	+25	*** .59	+30	*** .75	+28	*** .70
Culminating Senior Exp.	66	+6	.13	+20	*** .41	+18	*** .37
Participated in at least one	98	+7	*** .34	+14	*** .55	+12	*** .49
Participated in two or more	90	+19	*** .49	+32	*** .77	+29	*** .70

a. Percentage point differences (institution – comp. group) rounded to whole numbers. Values less than one may not display a bar and may be shown as +0 or -0.
 b. Cohen's *h* (standardized difference between two proportions). Effect sizes indicate the practical importance of observed differences. For service-learning, internships, study abroad, and culminating senior experiences, an ES of about .2 may be considered small, .5 medium, and .8 large. For learning community and research with faculty, an ES of about .1 may be considered small, .3 medium, and .5 large (Rocconi & Gonyea, 2018).
 p* < .05, *p* < .01, ****p* < .001 (z-test comparing participation rates).

Note: Participation includes the percentage of students who responded "done or in progress" except for service-learning which is the percentage who responded that at least "some" courses included a community-based project. Results reflect Report Sample exclusions and are unweighted. Refer to your Administration Summary report for more details.

Group Differences

Compared to women at Bethel, **men were less likely to participate in: service-learning (79% vs. 88%) learning communities (30% vs. 40%), internships (68% vs. 85%), study abroad (30% vs. 41%) and a culminating senior experience (55% vs. 69%).**

Compared to students who started at Bethel, **transfer students were less likely to participate in: internships (74% vs. 83%), study abroad (26% vs. 40%) and a culminating senior experience (55% vs. 68%).**

First generation students were more likely to participate in service-learning (91% vs. 84%) and a culminating senior experience (76% vs. 62%) and less likely to participate in a learning community (30% vs. 38%), research with faculty (21% vs. 34%) and study abroad (23% vs. 42%).

Students of color were more likely to participate in service-learning (100% vs. 85%), a learning community (52% vs. 37%), an internship (91% vs. 79%), and a culminating senior experience (77% vs. 64%) and less likely to participate in research with faculty (10% vs. 32%) and study abroad (27% vs. 40%).

The overall High-Impact Practices results are very positive and should be celebrated!

I hope the start of the academic year begins well for everyone.