

Mission-Specific Indicator: NSSE Benchmarks

The NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) provides five benchmark comparisons: *Levels of Academic Challenge*, *Active and Collaborative Learning*, *Student-Faculty Interaction*, *Enriching Educational Experiences*, and *Supportive Campus Environment*. The NSSE measures the extent to which students engage in effective educational practices that are linked with learning, personal development, and other desired outcomes, such as student satisfaction, persistence, and graduation. We track these data over time as well as make comparisons to other institutions.

NSSE Composite Score

Population	2007		2011	
	Plymouth State	Carnegie Peers	Plymouth State	Carnegie Peers
First-Year (FY)	203.7	200.2	230.4	220.3
Seniors (SR)	193.6	185.6	267.7	248.9

Note: Plymouth State 2007 seniors score restated for 2011 report

Benchmarks Score for NSSE Participation

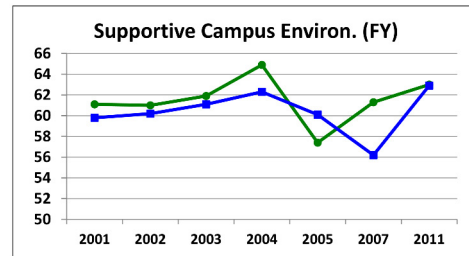
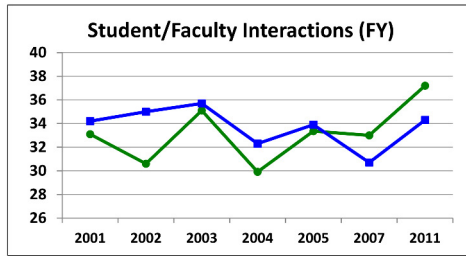
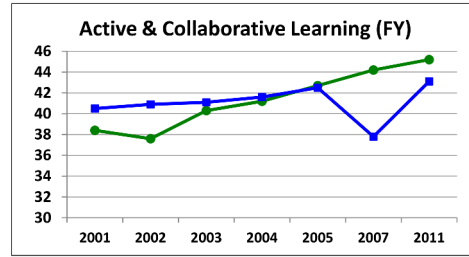
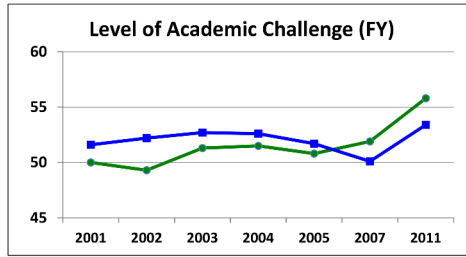
Benchmark	Class	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2007	2011	Carnegie Peers
Level of Academic Challenge	FY	49.9	49.3	51.3	51.5	50.8	51.9	55.8 *	53.4
	SR	54.2	57.8	53.9	55.0	56.0	55.9	57.4	57.5
Active and Collaborative Learning	FY	38.5	37.6	40.3	41.2	42.7	44.2	45.2 *	43.1
	SR	50.8	50.8	49.5	51.7	51.9	51.7	54.6	52.0
Enriching Educational Experiences	FY	Data not available					21.7	23.6	26.5 *
	SR	Data not available					36.4	39.9	38.3
Student-Faculty Interaction	FY	34.7	33.7	37.5	35.5	39.0	38.1	42.8 *	34.4
	SR	48.0	48.5	45.8	46.9	49.8	49.1	52.5 *	41.5
Supportive Campus Environment	FY	61.1	61.0	61.9	64.9	57.4	61.3	63.0	62.9
	SR	54.9	59.2	57.5	57.8	59.8	60.0	63.3	59.6

*Indicates significance at the p<.05 level or greater note

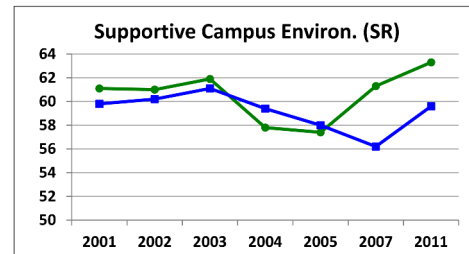
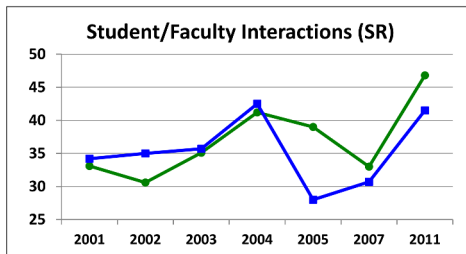
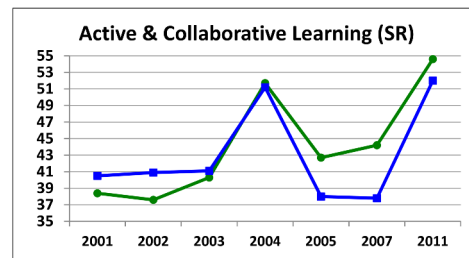
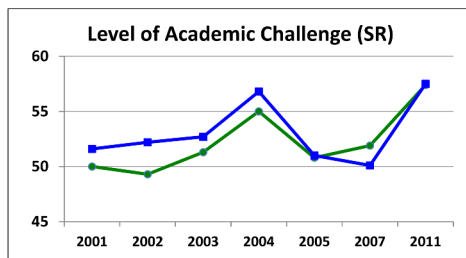
Note: These data are not percentages; they are raw Benchmark scores. Data listed under "Carnegie Peers" are the average Benchmark Scores for institutions participating in NSSE that fall in the same Carnegie classification as PSU: "Masters Large." There were 240 institutions in the Carnegie Peer group.

Mission-Specific Indicator: NSSE Benchmarks, continued
Trends 2001–2011

First Year Student Data



Senior Student Data



—●— PSU —■— Comparators

Note: Trend line data not available for Enriching Educational Experiences

Campus Analysis: Plymouth State University has participated in the NSSE in 7 of the last 11 years. We participated in spring 2011 and will continue to do so every third year. NSSE results are reported to the campus community, and strategic initiatives aimed at improving the educational experiences of students are implemented using those results. PSU has improved since 2001 in all four benchmark categories for which comparison by year is available. We are particularly pleased with *Student-Faculty Interaction* scores, as the questions ask students the extent to which they talked about career plans with faculty; discussed ideas from readings with faculty members outside of class; or worked with faculty members on activities other than course work (committees, orientation, student life activities, and more).

Of particular importance in the figures above is the significant shift around the 2005–07 data. In the earlier years, PSU was significantly below its comparators on all benchmarks for both first-year students and seniors. Data from the NSSE and additional findings from the Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year (<http://www.fyfoundations.org/>) project, of which PSU was a founding institution, was used extensively in the development of the new general education program. The program was instituted in 2005, and we began to see significant changes in the measures above. This positive shift continued in 2007 and 2011 and, at least in part, can be attributed to the positive changes in the general education program and the pedagogical changes that faculty have made in recent years to include more active and collaborative learning activities.