

National Survey of Student Engagement—Spring 2002

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Highlighted Facts

- Messiah's first-year and senior students compared well against our two comparison groups: (1) Baccalaureate-General; and (2) all NSSE 2002 participants, but ranked lower in some areas compared to the benchmarked Baccalaureate-Liberal Arts institutions
- The "Student-Faculty Interactions" benchmark was comparatively low
 - Baccalaureate-General: FY=40th-50th percentile; SR=40th percentile
 - Baccalaureate-Liberal Arts: FY=10th-20th percentile; SR=10th-20th percentile
 - NSSE 2002 institutions: FY=50th-60th percentile; SR=60th-70th percentile
- Messiah, as shown in the benchmark analysis, is seen as: (1) a supportive campus environment; (2) offering enriching educational experiences; and (3) having a high level of academic challenge
- 69.2% of Messiah first-year and 70% of senior students indicated at least one parent graduating college
- 70.7% of Messiah first-year students and 72.8% of seniors indicated discussing ideas from readings with others outside of class "often" or "very often"
- Messiah seniors indicated a much lower frequency than did comparison institutions with working with other students on projects during class ("often" or "very often")
 - Messiah seniors: 21.0% (Bac-Gen – 43.3%; NSSE 2002 – 43.4%)
- Students with a "B- or below" average grade indicated a much higher frequency of coming to class without completing readings or assignments ("often" or "very often")
 - First-Year "B or higher" – 12.7%; "B- or lower" – 25.0%
 - Senior: "B or higher" – 25.1%; "B- or lower" – 46.2%
- Messiah students indicated a significantly higher number of assigned textbooks/books than did the comparison institutions (11 or more assigned textbooks/books)
 - Messiah first-year students: 71.9% (Bac-Gen – 47.7%, NSSE 2002 – 49.0%)
 - Messiah senior students: 69.7% (Bac-Gen – 41.3%, NSSE 2002 – 41.8%)
- Messiah students indicated a much higher number of papers/reports of 5 pages or less (11 or more)
 - Messiah first-year students: 67.3% (Bac-Gen – 48.3%, NSSE 2002 – 43.0%)
 - Messiah senior students: 62.3% (Bac-Gen – 40.8%, NSSE 2002 – 37.4%)
- Messiah women were more likely than men to report a decided interest in practicums, community service, and study abroad programs
 - Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment
 - FY: Men – 72.1%, Women – 83.0%; SR: Men – 78.5%, Women – 87.6%
 - Community service
 - FY: Men – 81.4%, Women – 89.5%; SR: Men – 87.7%, Women – 89.7%
 - Study abroad
 - FY: Men – 54.7%, Women – 67.3%; SR: Men – 49.2%, Women – 47.4%

- Excluding “undecided” responses, 86% of Messiah first-year students and 49% of seniors indicated an interest in community service and study abroad experiences
 - Comparison (First-Year): Bac-Gen – 50%, NSSE 2002 – 56%
 - Comparison (Senior): Bac-Gen – 17%, NSSE 2002 – 19%
- Messiah first-year students reported spending an average of 14.5 hours per week, and seniors 14 hours per week, preparing for class—significantly higher than the 11.75 hours for the comparison groups (below—percent spending more than 16 hours per week)
 - Messiah first-year students: 54.7% (Bac-Gen – 38.9%, NSSE 2002 –38.0%)
 - Messiah senior students: 51.2% (Bac-Gen – 37.5%, NSSE 2002 – 37.7%)
- Messiah first-year students reported spending an average of 11 hours per week, and seniors 9 hours per week, relaxing and socializing
- First-year Messiah women spent 2-3 more hours per week than men preparing for class
- Both first-year and seniors Messiah students with a “B or higher” grade spent an average of 3-4 more hours per week preparing for class than did those with a “B- or lower”
- 91.4% of first-year students and 91.3% of senior students at Messiah indicated “quite a bit” or “very much” growth in acquiring a broad general education
- 69.4% of first-year students and 82.7% of senior students at Messiah indicated “quite a bit” or “very much” growth in developing a personal code of values and ethics
- Messiah first-year and senior students reported less growth in the area of “using computing and information technology” than did the comparison institutions
- At Messiah, 51.8% of first-year men and 66.1% of senior men report “quite a bit” or “very much” growth in analyzing quantitative problems—women reported 42.3% and 54.7% respectively
- While first-year Messiah students with a “B or higher” average indicated more growth in their speaking and thinking skills, seniors with a “B- or lower” indicated more growth
- 80.6% of first-year and 85.6% of senior women— compared to 65.9% and 70.8% respectively for men—indicated “quite a bit” or “very much” college emphasis on providing support [for them] to succeed academically
- 55.3% of first-year and 53.6% of senior women—compared to 41.2% and 43.1% for men—indicated “quite a bit” or “very much” college emphasis on providing support [for them] to thrive socially
- Messiah students rated their experience at college more positively than students at comparison institutions and indicated a higher likelihood of returning to the same institution if they could start over
- 60.6% of Messiah first-year women—compared to 38.8% of first-year men—evaluated their educational experience as “excellent”; 58.5% of senior men rated the experience as “excellent” compared to only 53.6% of women
 - Over 90% of men and 95% of women at Messiah rated the experience as “good” or “excellent”
- 57.1% (94.7%) of Messiah first-year women and 43.5% (90.6%) of first-year men indicated they “definitely” (or “probably”) would attend Messiah if they could start over; 51.5% (93.8%) of senior women and 52.3% (84.6%) of senior men indicated the same