



Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement

OFFICIAL LAUNCH IN 2007

The Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE, pronounced “Bessie”), a project that has been pilot tested by the National Survey of Student Engagement for the past two years, will officially launch in 2007. As a companion to NSSE, BCSSE measures entering first-year students’ high school academic and co-curricular involvement, as well as the importance that these students place on their participation in educationally purposeful activities during college. To better understand the influence of the institution on student engagement during college, it is important to measure and control for both the engagement patterns that students have established prior to entering college and the importance that they place on student engagement while in college. Standing alone, BCSSE results can be used to improve pre-college orientation and other programmatic efforts with an eye toward enhancing student engagement and learning during the first year of college. In combination with NSSE data, BCSSE data will help institutions to assess the impact of their programmatic efforts on student success during the first year of college.

What will participating institutions receive?

Within four to six weeks after completed BCSSE surveys have been returned to Indiana University, participating schools will receive an electronic report containing summary information on their entering students, a copy of the BCSSE data file, and a codebook that describes the information in the data file. For those institutions that also participate in NSSE during the same academic year, the institution will receive with their NSSE *Institutional Report* a combined BCSSE-NSSE summary report and a combined BCSSE-NSSE data file for students who completed both instruments.

BCSSE Quick Facts

Target. BCSSE is administered to entering first-year students only.

Administration. BCSSE is administered locally by the participating institution. The institution determines if BCSSE is administered to the entire population or a sample of entering first-year students. Also, the institution determines if selection into the sample will be determined through a random, targeted, or convenience design.

Mode. The BCSSE instrument is available in paper and Web modes. An institution must choose either the paper or Web mode for its local administration; no combination of the paper and web modes of administration is provided to participating institutions.

Timeline. BCSSE registration will begin in January 2007 and run through the end of May 2007. Administration of the BCSSE instrument may begin at institutions as early as May and can run through late September. As noted above, BCSSE results are delivered to institutions within four to six weeks after an institution’s administration ends. For those institutions that also participate in NSSE, BCSSE student identifiers are returned to institutions to be included in their NSSE population files. A combined BCSSE-NSSE report is delivered with the NSSE *Institutional Report* during August of the next calendar year.

Coming This Fall

BCSSE will launch its Web site, available via www.nsse.iub.edu, which will include:

- Results of the pilot administrations, including recent research using pilot data
- Sample reports and survey for the upcoming 2007 administration
- Tips for local administration
- Registration and cost information

For more information, or for an electronic copy of a sample BCSSE *Institutional Report*, contact us at bcsse@indiana.edu