



National Survey of Student Engagement

Executive Snapshot 2008

Guilford College

Dear Colleague:

This is a summary of some key findings from your institution's performance on the 2008 National Survey of Student Engagement. We hope you can use this information to stimulate discussion on your campus about how to improve the undergraduate experience at Guilford College.

Sincerely,
 Alexander C. McCormick
 Director, National Survey of Student Engagement

Are All Students at Guilford College Equally Engaged?

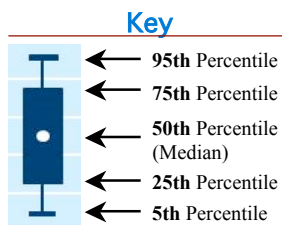
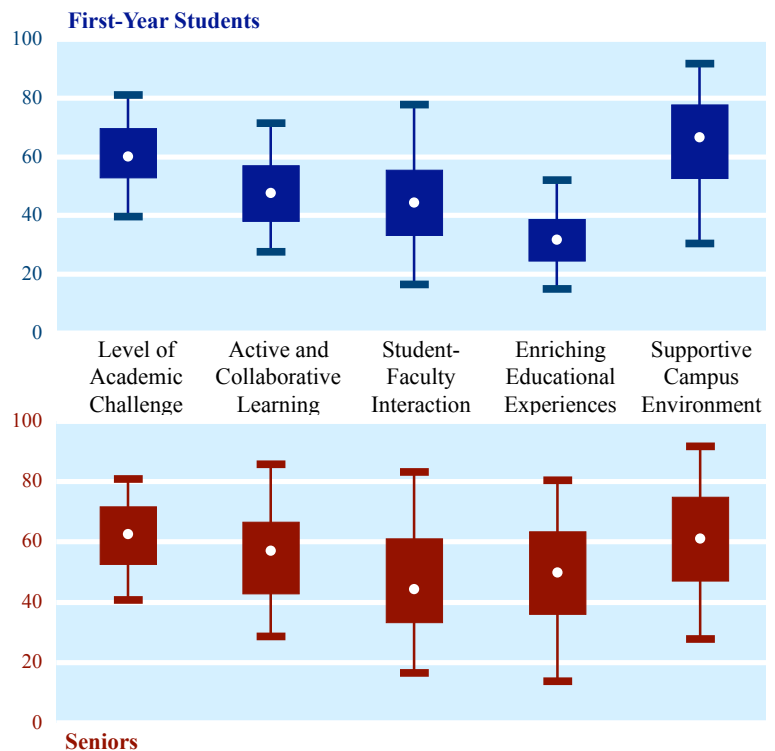
Quality in U.S. higher education is often considered an institutional attribute, as if one college offers a uniformly better or worse education than another. Yet, a robust finding from decades of research on college students holds that student experiences and outcomes are more varied among students *within* institutions than *between* institutions.

In this year's annual report NSSE urges institutions to "look within," calling attention to the need to examine variation in the student experience at your institution. Your (hypothetical) average student does not describe all students and groups on your campus.

The adjacent figures illustrate this phenomenon. We plotted your students' NSSE benchmark scores in a "box and whiskers" chart (see key). Here you can see the range and variation of your scores (whiskers), as well as where the mid-range or normal scores fell (box). Note the dispersion of your scores. The greater the range, the more varied the student experience is at your institution.

Improving the experience of your least engaged students may be the most effective way to raise your benchmark scores and improve your overall institutional quality. Even high-performing institutions have much to learn by examining variation in student engagement – by looking within.

Variation in NSSE Benchmark Scores by Class at Guilford College



The dot signifies the median – the score that divides all students' scores into two equal halves (means are reported on page 4). The box shows the middle 50% of your scores (from the 25th to 75th percentiles) and the whiskers show the range of scores excluding outliers (from the 5th to the 95th percentile).

NSSE 2008 Question Comparisons

By examining individual NSSE questions, you can better understand what contributes to your institution's overall benchmark scores. This section features the five questions on which your first-year and senior students scored the highest and the five questions on which they scored the lowest, relative to students at your first selected comparison group (listed in your *NSSE 2008 Selected Comparison Groups* report).

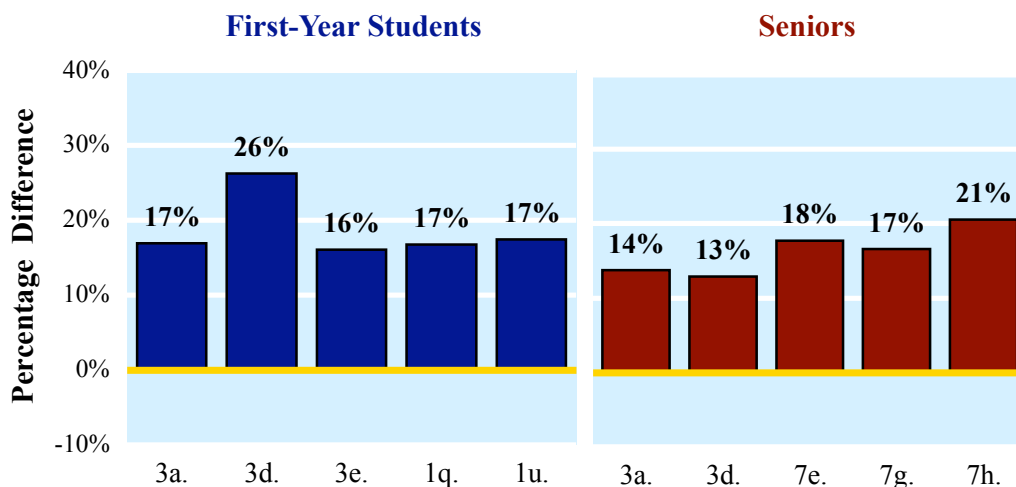
While these questions were chosen to represent the largest differences (in percentage points), they may not be the most important to your institutional mission or current program or policy goals. We encourage you to review your *NSSE Institutional Report 2008* for additional results of particular interest to your campus.

Highest Performing Areas

Question	Benchmark ¹	Percent of students who...	Comparison Groups			
			Guilford College	Southeast Private	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2008
First-Year Students						
3a.	LAC	Read more than 10 assigned books or book-length packs of readings	62%	45%	54%	35%
3d.	LAC	Wrote more than 4 papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages	65%	38%	45%	33%
3e.	LAC	Wrote more than 10 papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages	54%	38%	40%	31%
1q.	SFI	Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty ²	83%	66%	66%	56%
1u.	EEE	Had serious conversations w/ students of another race or ethnicity ²	73%	55%	57%	51%
Seniors						
3a.	LAC	Read more than 10 assigned books or book-length packs of readings	55%	41%	49%	34%
3d.	LAC	Wrote more than 4 papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages	68%	55%	61%	47%
7e.	EEE	Completed foreign language coursework	66%	48%	61%	41%
7g.	EEE	Did an independent study or self-designed major	41%	24%	30%	18%
7h.	EEE	Completed a culminating senior experience (capstone, thesis, comp. exam)	63%	43%	52%	32%

The adjacent figure, based on the table above, displays the questions on which your students compare most favorably with those in your first selected comparison group named:

Southeast Private





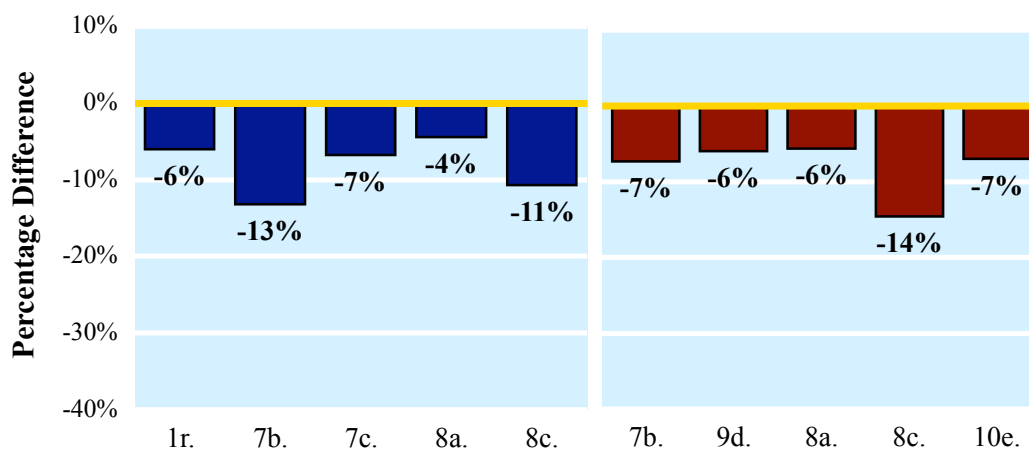
Lowest Performing Areas

Comparison Groups

Ques- tion	Bench- mark ¹	Percent of students who...	Guilford College	Southeast Private	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2008
First-Year Students						
1r.	LAC	Worked harder than you expected to meet an instructor's expectations ²	56%	62%	58%	55%
7b.	EEE	Participated in community service or volunteer work	38%	51%	41%	38%
7c.	EEE	Participated in a learning community	11%	17%	12%	16%
8a.	SCE	Positively rated their relationships with other students ³	76%	81%	81%	77%
8c.	SCE	Positively rated their relationships with admin. personnel and offices ³	51%	62%	61%	54%
Seniors						
7b.	EEE	Participated in community service or volunteer work	63%	70%	68%	60%
9d.	EEE	Spent more than 5 hours/week participating in co-curricular activities	27%	33%	41%	25%
8a.	SCE	Positively rated their relationships with other students ³	79%	84%	82%	80%
8c.	SCE	Positively rated their relationships with admin. personnel and offices ³	48%	62%	56%	53%
10e.	SCE	Said the institution provides substantial support for students' social needs ⁴	36%	43%	39%	36%

First-Year Students

Seniors



The adjacent figure, based on the table above, displays the questions on which your students compared least favorably with those in your first selected comparison group named:

Southeast Private

Notes

¹ LAC=Level of Academic Challenge; ACL=Active and Collaborative Learning; SFI=Student-Faculty Interaction; EEE=Enriching Educational Experiences; SCE=Supportive Campus Environment

² Combination of students responding 'very often' or 'often'

³ Rated at least 5 on a 7-point scale

⁴ Combination of students responding 'very much' or 'quite a bit'

Respondent Characteristics

The adjacent table displays your number of respondents, response rate, and sampling error by class. Sampling error is an estimate of the margin by which the true percentage of your students may differ from the reported percentage on a given item (because not all of your students completed surveys).

	N	Resp. Rate	Sampling Error
First-Year Students	196	44%	+/-5.3%
Seniors	279	53%	+/-4%

Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice

To represent the multi-dimensional nature of student engagement, NSSE developed five indicators of effective educational practice. These "benchmarks" are created from clusters of NSSE questions that best represent these practices.

The table below summarizes key benchmark results for your institution and institutions in your selected comparison groups. The '+' symbol indicates that your institution's score is higher than the respective comparison group ($p < .05$), the '-' symbol indicates a score lower than the comparison group, and a blank space indicates no significant difference. For additional details, review your *NSSE 2008 Benchmark Comparisons* report.

		Comparison Groups			
		Guilford College	Southeast Private	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2008
Class					
Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)					
<i>How challenging is your institution's intellectual and creative work?</i>	First-Year	61	+	+	+
	Senior	62	+		+
Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)					
<i>Are your students actively involved in their learning, individually and working with others?</i>	First-Year	49		+	+
	Senior	56	+	+	+
Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)					
<i>Do your students work with faculty members inside and outside the classroom?</i>	First-Year	43	+	+	+
	Senior	48			+
Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)					
<i>Do your students take advantage of complementary learning opportunities?</i>	First-Year	32		+	+
	Senior	50	+		+
Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)					
<i>Do your students feel the institution is committed to their success?</i>	First-Year	64			
	Senior	61	-		+

IPEDS:198613

For More Information

A comprehensive summary of all results is contained in your institutional report, which we sent in August to Thomas Coaxum, Institutional Research and Assessment. Reports used in this Executive Snapshot included the: NSSE 2008 Mean Comparisons, Frequency Distributions, Benchmark Comparisons, and Respondent Characteristics.



National Survey of Student Engagement

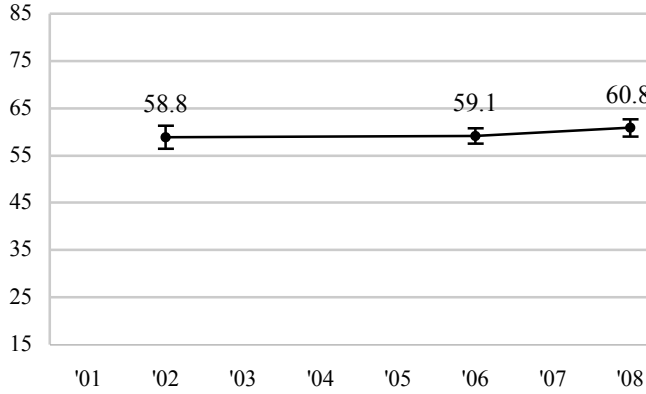
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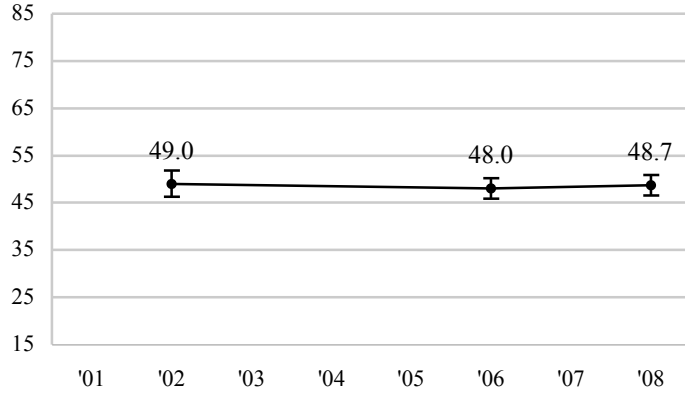


First-Year Students

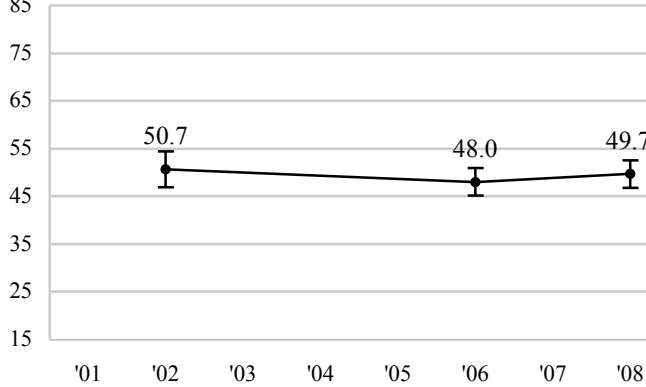
Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)



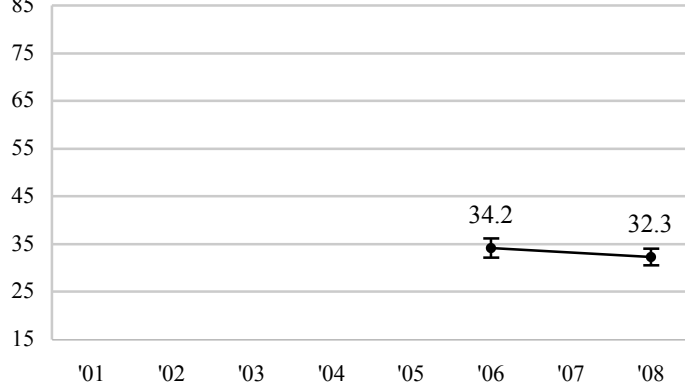
Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)



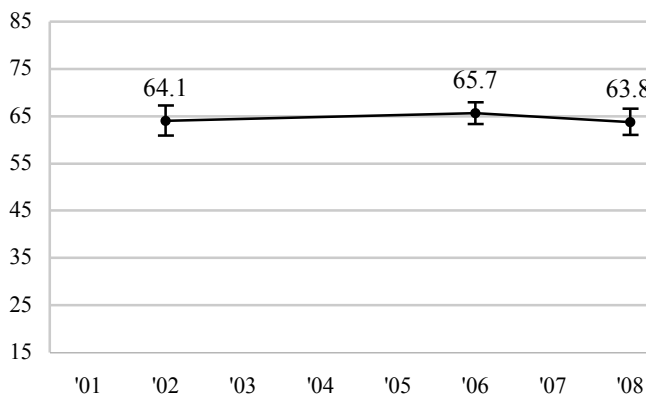
Student-Faculty Interaction (SFC)^b



Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)^c



Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)



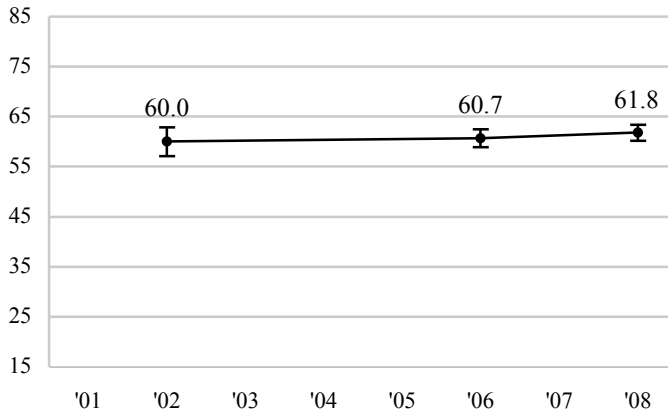
Notes:

- a. Recalculated benchmark scores are charted for all years of participation since 2001. See page 5 for detailed statistics. For more information and recommendations for analyzing multi-year NSSE data, consult the *Multi-Year Data Analysis Guide* : www.nsse.iub.edu/pdf/2008_Institutional_Report/Multiyear_Data_Guide.pdf.
- b. For institutions with 2001-2003 data, due to a change to the 'research with faculty' item in 2004, 'SFC' (the alternate version of 'SFI' that does not include that item) is charted on this page. Statistics for both versions are provided on page 5.
- c. 2001-2003 'EEE' scores are not provided because these scores are not comparable with those of later years; response options for several 'EEE' items were altered in 2004.

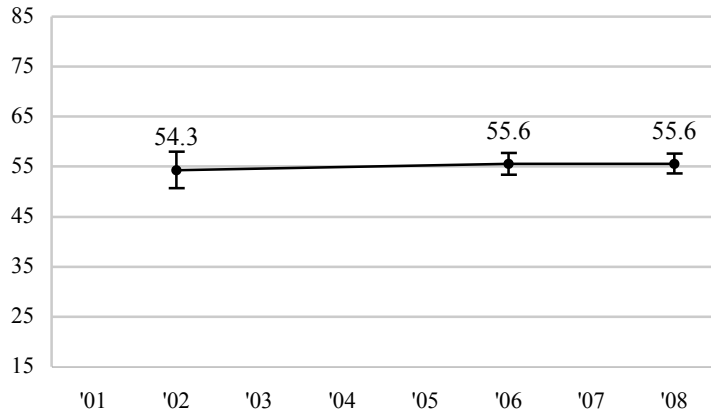


Seniors

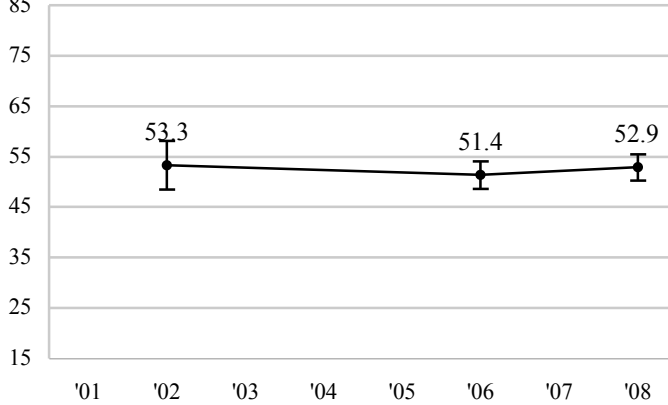
Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)



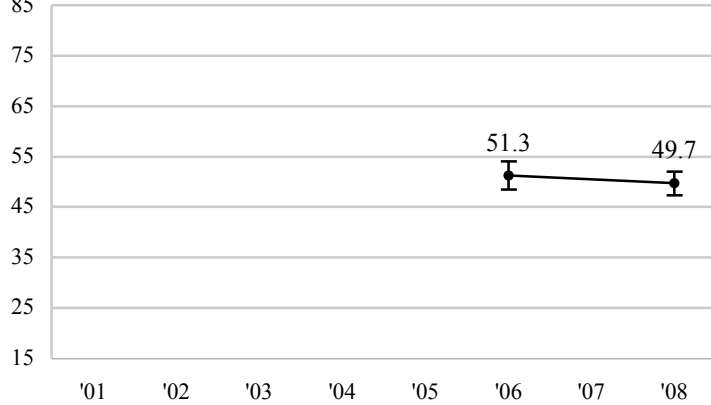
Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)



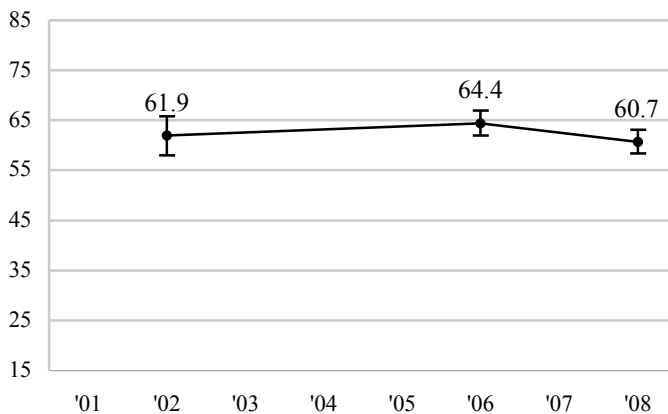
Student-Faculty Interaction (SFC)^b



Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)^c



Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)



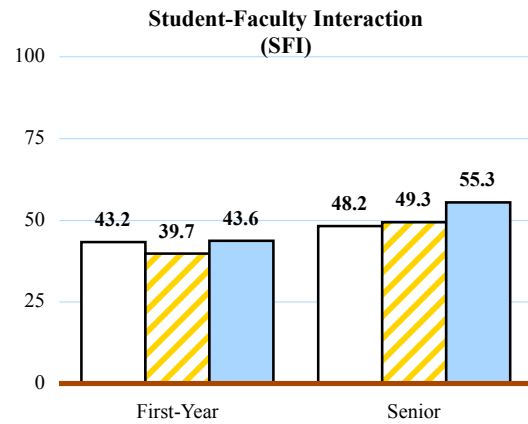
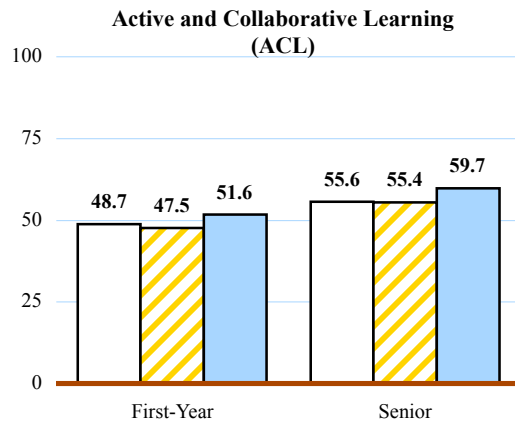
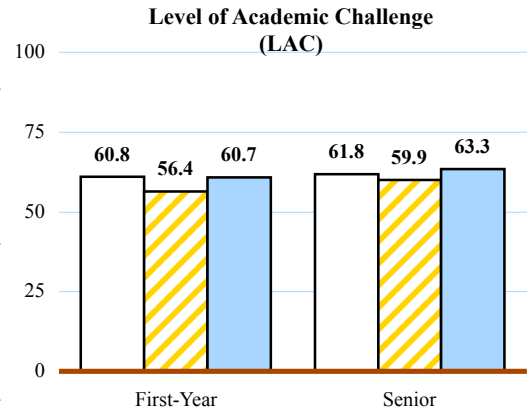
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Guilford College compared with

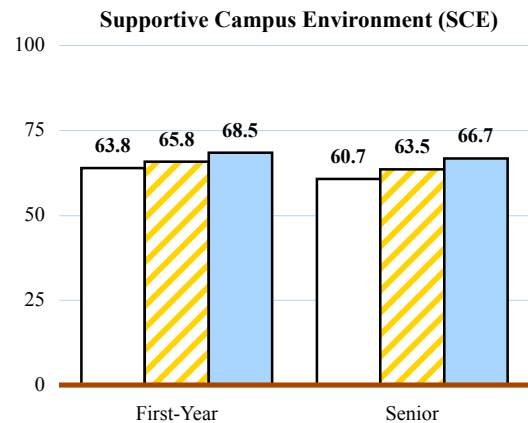
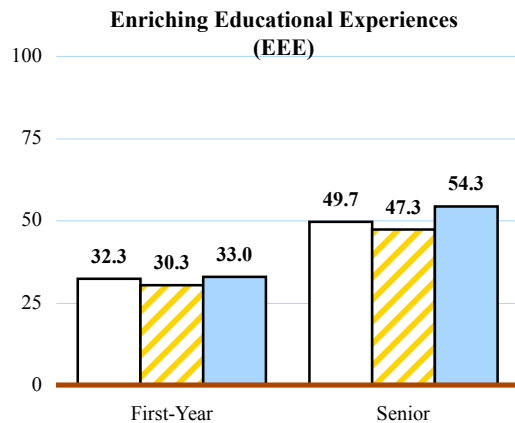
	Guilford College	NSSE 2008 Top 50%			NSSE 2008 Top 10%			
		Mean ^a	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect size ^c	Mean ^a	Sig ^b	Effect size ^c
First-Year	LAC	60.8	56.4	***	.34	60.7		.01
	ACL	48.7	47.5		.07	51.6	*	-.16
	SFI	43.2	39.7	*	.18	43.6		-.02
	EEE	32.3	30.3	*	.14	33.0		-.05
	SCE	63.8	65.8		-.11	68.5	**	-.25
Senior	LAC	61.8	59.9	*	.14	63.3		-.12
	ACL	55.6	55.4		.01	59.7	***	-.23
	SFI	48.2	49.3		-.05	55.3	***	-.33
	EEE	49.7	47.3		.14	54.3	***	-.27
	SCE	60.7	63.5	*	-.15	66.7	***	-.32



Legend

- Guilford College
- Top 50%
- Top 10%

This display compares your students with those attending schools that scored in the top 50% and top 10% of all NSSE 2008 institutions on a particular benchmark.



^a Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

^b * p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

^c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.