



Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement

Interpreting the Mean Scale Scores and Selected Student Comparisons

Scale
The BCSSE scale appears in the left column of the report.

Variable Name
The variable name of the scale as it appears in the data file and codebook.

Institution-Level
Results for each item for the institution overall.

Selected Student Comparisons
Results for each item by gender and first-generation status.



Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement

BCSSE 2008 Mean Scale Scores and Selected Student Comparisons
NSSEville State University

BCSSE Scales ^a	Variable	All Students			Gender Comparisons				First Generation ^d Comparisons			
		Mean	SD	N	Means		Tests of mean differences		Means		Tests of mean differences	
					Female	Male	Sig ^b	Effect size ^c	Yes	No	Sig ^b	Effect size ^c
High School Academic Engagement <i>Engagement in educationally relevant behaviors during high school</i>	HS_acad	5.31	1.35	1,440	5.48	5.09	***	.29	5.04	5.43	***	-.29

Mean
The unweighted scale mean is reported overall for the institution, as well as by gender and first-generation status

Statistical Significance
Items with mean differences that are larger than would be expected by chance alone are noted with one, two, or three asterisks, referring to three significance levels ($p < .05$, $p < .01$, and $p < .001$). The smaller the significance level, the smaller the likelihood that the difference is due to chance. Statistical significance does not guarantee the result is substantive or important. Large sample sizes tend to generate more statistically significant results even though the magnitude of mean differences may be inconsequential. It is recommended to consult effect sizes to judge the practical meaning of the results.

Effect Size
Effect size indicates the "practical significance" of the mean difference. It is calculated by dividing the mean difference by the pooled standard deviation. In practice, an effect size of .2 is often considered small, .5 moderate, and .8 large.