

Change Matters and the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)

This month the Office of Research is pleased to provide data from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) that relate directly to one of our new strategic goals and an objective adopted by the Board of Trustees in March, 2007:

Academic excellence. We will uphold the preeminence of academic excellence as the engine that drives College decision-making.

- Increase student engagement and connections with faculty, particularly as measured by the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE).
- Improve the success and persistence of all students, especially underprepared students.

The CCSSE asks questions about institutional practices and student behaviors that research has shown to be highly correlated with student learning and retention. The survey is administered to students in randomly selected classes, excluding distance education classes, and results are weighted to ensure full-time students do not dominate survey results. A total of 792 Oakton students completed usable CCSSE surveys in 2003, and 776 Oakton students completed usable surveys in 2006, though not all students answered every question.

Two CCSSE benchmarks, each comprising several questions, have been associated with student success. The benchmarks are **Active and collaborative learning**, and **Student-faculty interaction**. Numbers in bold are adjusted so that 50 is an average score on the overall benchmark. Readers are invited to discuss these data and to consider ways in which classroom and other Oakton practices might foster greater involvement of students. The benchmarks, benchmark questions, and Oakton's scores on them, are:

Benchmark & Benchmark items	1=Never 2=Sometimes 3=Often 4=Very often	2003	2006		
		Oakton	Oakton	Illinois Consortium	CCSSE Cohort
Active and collaborative learning		48.9	43.9	49.5	50.0
4a. Asked questions in class or contribute to class discussions		2.92	2.75	2.91	2.90
4b. Made a class presentation		2.05	1.95	2.08	2.02
4f. Worked with other students on projects during class		2.50	2.27	2.45	2.45
4g. Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments		1.71	1.69	1.78	1.85
4h. Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)		1.40	1.33	1.35	1.37
4i. Participated in a community-based project as a part of a regular course		1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28
4r. Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)		2.57	2.34	2.54	2.55
Student-faculty interaction		51.7	48.5	51.0	50.0
4k. Used email to communicate with an instructor		2.22	2.36	2.35	2.30
4l. Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor		2.46	2.35	2.50	2.48
4m. Talked about career plans with an instructor or advisor		1.89	1.83	2.01	1.98
4n. Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with instructors outside of class		1.78	1.73	1.70	1.71
4o. Received prompt feedback (written or oral) from instructors on your performance		2.86	2.61	2.66	2.64
4q. Worked with instructors on activities other than coursework		1.37	1.39	1.39	1.38

The Illinois Consortium includes the 11 Illinois community colleges that participated in the CCSSE in Spring 2006 (Blackhawk, College of DuPage, Danville Area, Harper, Illinois Central, Illinois Valley, Malcolm X, Oakton, Prairie State, South Suburban, and Triton). The CCSSE Cohort includes the 57 "large" colleges that participated in the CCSSE in Spring 2006 (Oakton is counted by CCSSE as a "large" college).