

Engaging Students: Oakton Results from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)

Oakton has now administered the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) three times, in 2003, 2006 and 2009. 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, 736 in 2006, and 983 in 2009.

Two CCSSE benchmarks, each comprising several questions, relate directly to Oakton’s strategic goal of Academic Excellence. They 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. We have provided Oakton’s scores for three years as well as the Illinois colleges that participated in CCSSE in 2009 and the most recent CCSSE cohort. The Illinois schools were: College of DuPage, Danville, Elgin, Harold Washington, Harper, Illinois Valley, John Wood, Joliet, Kankakee, Lincoln Land, Morton, Oakton, Rend Lake, Triton, Truman and Wright. A CCSSE cohort comprises colleges who have administered CCSSE in 2007, 2008, and/or 2009. CCSSE cohort scores include the most recent data for these schools.

Benchmark	Oakton			Illinois Schools	CCSSE Cohort
	2003	2006	2009		
Active and Collaborative Learning	48.9	43.9	45.3	48.6	50.0
4.a. Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussion	2.94	2.75	2.79	2.92	2.91
4.b. Made a class presentation	2.05	1.95	1.98	2.05	2.05
4.f. Worked with other students on projects during class assignments	2.50	2.27	2.36	2.50	2.47
4.g. Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class	1.71	1.69	1.77	1.77	1.87
4.h. Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	1.40	1.33	1.37	1.35	1.37
4.i. Participated in a community-based project as a part of a regular course	1.26	1.28	1.29	1.27	1.31
4.r. Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)	2.57	2.34	2.39	2.52	2.56
Student-faculty interaction	51.7	48.5	48.8	49.4	50.0
4.k. Used email to communicate with an instructor	2.22	2.36	2.59	2.55	2.59
4.l. Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	2.46	2.35	2.41	2.50	2.52
4.m. Talked about career plans with an instructor or advisor	1.89	1.83	1.93	2.00	2.03
4.n. Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with instructors outside of class	1.78	1.73	1.73	1.72	1.74
4.o. Received prompt feedback (written or oral) from instructors on your performance	2.86	2.61	2.68	2.66	2.66
4.q. Worked with instructors on activities other than coursework	1.37	1.39	1.42	1.42	1.41

Benchmark scores are computed by averaging scores on survey items that comprise that benchmark. Full-time and part-time student responses are weighted so full-time students don’t dominate results. Benchmark scores are standardized so that the weighted average across all students in the CCSSE cohort is 50.

Responses for individual questions within each benchmark: 1 = Never; 2 = Sometimes; 3 = Often; 4 = Very often

CCSSE scores indicate Oakton remains relatively stable with respect to student engagement, contrary to the strategic objective of strengthening engagement, and is slightly below the average of Illinois and CCSSE cohort schools on most items.