



# San Jose State University

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Benchmark Comparisons

August 2008

# Interpreting the Benchmark Comparisons Report

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Class

Mean \*

**Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)**

*Benchmark Comparisons*

*San José State compared with:*

<i>Class</i>		<b>California State</b>			<b>NSSE 2008</b>					
		<i>Mean</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Sig</i> <sup>b</sup>	<i>Effect Size</i> <sup>c</sup>	<i>Mean</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Sig</i> <sup>b</sup>	<i>Effect Size</i> <sup>c</sup>			
First-Year	51.3	51.5		-.02	51.8		-.04	52.9	*	-.12
Senior	57.0	56.4		.04	56.1		.06	56.5		.03

**NSSE 2008 Benchmark Comparisons  
San Jose State University**

**Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)**

*Benchmark Comparisons*

*San José State compared with:*

Class	San José State	California State			Carnegie Class			NSSE 2008		
	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Sig <sup>b</sup>	Effect Size <sup>c</sup>	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Sig <sup>b</sup>	Effect Size <sup>c</sup>	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Sig <sup>b</sup>	Effect Size <sup>c</sup>
First-Year	43.7	43.0		.04	42.2		.09	42.5		.07
Senior	51.4	50.2	*	.07	51.3		.01	50.8		.04

**Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) Items**

Students learn more when they are intensely involved in their education and asked to think about what they are learning in different settings. Collaborating with others in solving problems or mastering difficult material prepares students for the messy, unscripted problems they will encounter daily during and after college.

Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions

Made a class presentation

Worked with other students on projects **during class**

Worked with classmates **outside of class** to prepare class assignments

Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)

Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course

Discussed ideas from your reading with other students

## Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)

### Benchmark Comparisons

San José State compared with:

Class	San José State			California State			NSSE 2008			
	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Sig <sup>b</sup>	Effect Size <sup>c</sup>	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Sig <sup>b</sup>	Effect Size <sup>c</sup>	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Sig <sup>b</sup>	Effect Size <sup>c</sup>
First-Year	31.8	31.6		.01	34.1	*	-.12	34.6	**	-.15
Senior	37.5	37.7		-.01	41.2	***	-.18	42.3	***	-.23

### Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI) Items

Students learn firsthand how experts think about and solve practical problems by interacting with faculty members inside and outside the classro

<i>Class</i>	<i>Mean</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Sig</i> <sup>b</sup>	<i>Effect</i> <i>Size</i> <sup>c</sup>	<i>Mean</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Sig</i> <sup>b</sup>	<i>Effect</i> <i>Size</i> <sup>c</sup>	<i>Mean</i>
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# San Jose State University

## Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)

### Benchmark Comparisons

San José State compared with:

Class		California State						NSSE 2008		
		Mean <sup>a</sup>	Sig <sup>b</sup>	Effect Size <sup>c</sup>	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Sig <sup>b</sup>	Effect Size <sup>c</sup>	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Sig <sup>b</sup>	Effect Size <sup>c</sup>
First-Year	55.2	59.2	***	-.21	60.4	***	-.27	61.1	***	-.31
Senior		55.0	***	-.13	57.5	***	-.26	58.0	***	-.28

## NSSE 2008 Benchmark Comparison

### Institutional Performance

This section of the NSSE Benchmark Comparisons report allows you to estimate the performance of your average student in relation to the average student attending two different institutional peer groups identified by NSSE for their high levels of student engagement: (a) those with benchmark scores placing them in the top 50% of all NSSE schools in 2008 and (b) those with benchmark scores in the top 10% for 2008.<sup>a</sup> These comparisons allow an institution to determine if their engagement of their students differs in significant, meaningful ways from these high performing peer groups.

#### Table

#### Table

	Institution	Top 50% of all NSSE schools in 2008			Top 10% of all NSSE schools in 2008		
		Mean	Sig	Effect size	Mean	Sig	Effect size
LAC	57.1	55.8	*	.10	60.5	***	-0.28
ACL	50.3	45.8	***	.28	50.7		-0.02
SFI	37.3	37.2		.01	42.0	***	-0.24
EEE	21.8	30.0	***	-.63	34.4	***	-0.98
SCE	60.9	64.7	***	-.21	69.7	***	-0.49

#### Table

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The average score for NSSEville State first-year students is slightly above (i.e., small positive effect size) that of the average student attending NSSE 2008 schools that scored in the top 50% on Level of Academic Challenge (LAC).

The average NSSEville State first-year student is as engaged (i.e., not significantly different) as the average student attending NSSE 2008 schools that scored in the top 10% on Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL).

It is *likely* that NSSEville State is in the top 50% of all NSSE 2008 schools for first-year students on Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) and Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL).<sup>a,b</sup>

#### Table

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NSSEville State is in the top half of all schools on the Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI) benchmark for first-year students.<sup>b</sup>

NSSEville State is a "top ten percent" institution on Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) for first-year students.<sup>b</sup>

For additional information on how to understand and use the Top 50% and Top 10% section of the benchmark report, see [www.nsse.iub.edu/2008\\_Institutional\\_Report/](http://www.nsse.iub.edu/2008_Institutional_Report/).

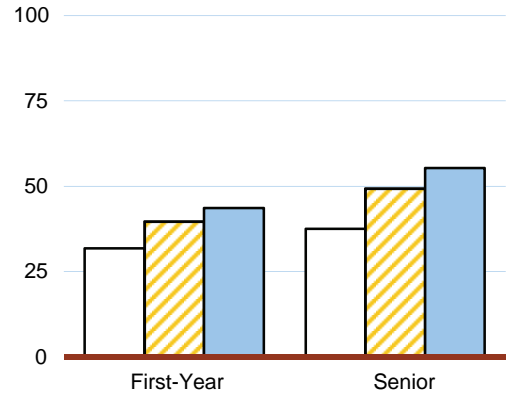
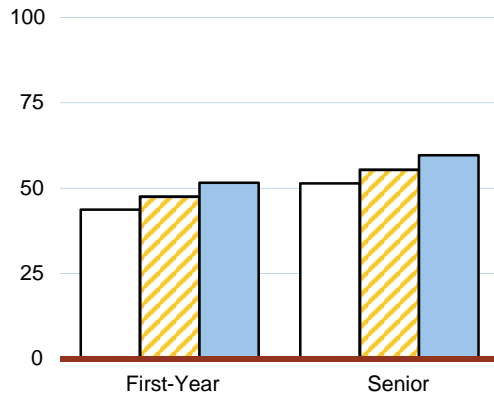
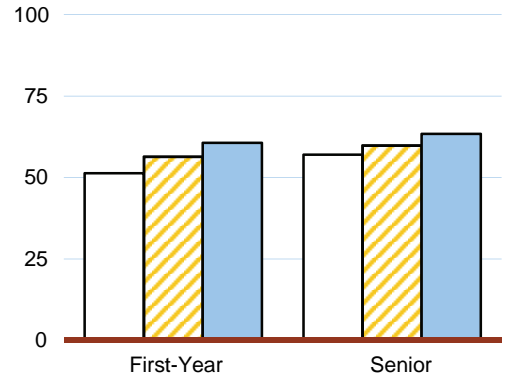
<sup>a</sup> Precision-weighted means (produced by Hierarchical Linear Modeling) were used to determine the top 50% and top 10% institutions for each benchmark, separately for first-year and senior students. Using this method, benchmark scores of institutions with relatively large standard errors are adjusted substantially toward the grand mean of all students, while those with smaller standard errors receive smaller corrections. Thus, schools with less stable data, though they may have high scores, may not be identified among the top scorers.

<sup>b</sup> NSSE does not publish the names of the top 50% and top 10% institutions because of our commitment not to release individual school results and because our policy against the ranking of institutions.



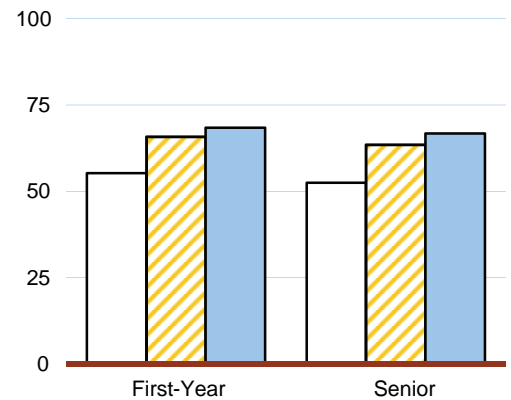
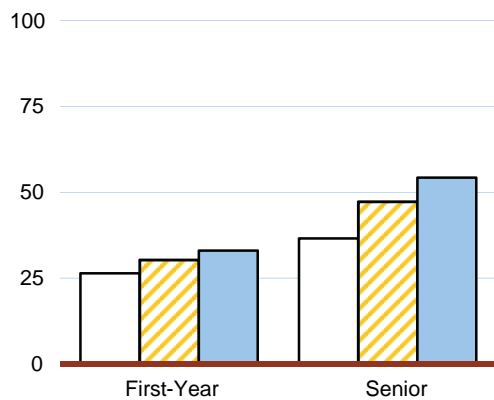
San José State compared with

	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Sig <sup>b</sup>	Effect size <sup>c</sup>	Mean <sup>a</sup>	Sig <sup>b</sup>	Effect size <sup>c</sup>
LAC	51.3	56.4	***	-.39	60.7	***	-.73
ACL	43.7	47.5	***	-.23	51.6	***	-.44
SFI	31.8	39.7	***	-.40	43.6	***	-.56
EEE	26.4	30.3	***	-.29	33.0	***	-.46
SCE	55.2	65.8	***	-.57	68.5	***	-.71
LAC	57.0	59.9	***	-.21	63.3	***	-.47
ACL	51.4	55.4	***	-.23	59.7	***	-.48
SFI	37.5	49.3	***	-.55	55.3	***	-.83
EEE	36.5	47.3	***	-.61	54.3	***	-1.03
SCE	52.5	63.5	***	-.58	66.7	***	-.77



San José State  
 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.



<sup>a</sup> Weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

<sup>b</sup> \* p<.05 \*\* p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed).

<sup>c</sup> Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation.

NSSE 2008 Benchmark Comparisons  
Detailed Statistics and Effect Sizes  
San Jose State University

	Mean Statistics			Distribution Statistics					Reference Group Comparison Statistics			Effect
	Mean	SD <sup>b</sup>	SEM <sup>c</sup>	Percentiles <sup>d</sup>					Deg. of Freedom <sup>e</sup>	Mean Diff.	Sig. <sup>f</sup>	
	5th	25th	50th	75th	95th							
<b>LEVEL OF ACADEMIC CHALLENGE (LAC)</b>												
San José State (N = 355)	51.3	13.1	.7	29	42	51	61	73				
California State	51.5	12.9	.2	31	43	51	60	73	3,380	-.2	.747	-.02
Carnegie Class	51.8	13.4	.1	30	43	52	61	74	18,252	-.5	.475	-.04
NSSE 2008	52.9	13.5	.1	31	44	53	62	75	61,459	-1.6	.030	-.12
Top 50%	56.4	13.1	.1	35	48	56	66	77	22,262	-5.1	.000	-.39
Top 10%	60.7	12.8	.2	38	52	61	70	80	4,271	-9.4	.000	-.73
<b>ACTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING (ACL)</b>												
San José State (N = 396)	43.7	17.1	.9	19	33	43	52	76				
California State	43.0	16.5	.3	19	33	43	52	71	3,774	.7	.448	.04
Carnegie Class	42.2	16.8	.1	19	29	42	52	71	20,267	1.4	.090	.09
NSSE 2008	42.5	16.9	.1	19	29	42	52	71	67,760	1.2	.172	.07
Top 50%	47.5	17.0	.1	24	33	48	57	76	21,067	-3.8	.000	-.23
Top 10%	51.6	17.9	.3	24	38	50	62	83	4,863	-7.9	.000	-.44
<b>STUDENT-FACULTY INTERACTION (SFI)</b>												
San José State (N = 361)	31.8	19.5	1.0	6	17	28	39	72				
California State	31.6	18.0	.3	7	17	28	40	67	3,411	.2	.821	.01
Carnegie Class	34.1	18.7	.1	11	22	33	44	72	18,434	-2.3	.023	-.12
NSSE 2008	34.6	18.7	.1	11	22	33	44	72	61,941	-2.8	.005	-.15
Top 50%	39.7	19.4	.1	11	28	39	50	78	17,591	-7.9	.000	-.40
Top 10%	43.6	21.2	.4	13	28	39	56	83	453	-11.7	.000	-.56
<b>ENRICHING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES (EEE)</b>												
San José State (N = 343)	26.4	14.5	.8	8	17	25	33	50				
California State	26.1	13.2	.2	8	17	25	33	50	3,250	.3	.657	.03
Carnegie Class	26.4	13.4	.1	8	17	25	34	50	17,642	.0	.949	.00
NSSE 2008	27.5	13.6	.1	8	18	26	36	51	59,653	-1.1	.136	-.08
Top 50%	30.3	13.7	.1	11	21	29	38	54	27,422	-3.9	.000	-.29
Top 10%	33.0	14.3	.2	11	23	32	42	58	5,951	-6.6	.000	-.46
<b>SUPPORTIVE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT (SCE)</b>												
San José State (N = 338)	55.2	20.4	1.1	25	42	53	69	92				
California State	59.2	18.9	.4	28	47	58	72	92	3,156	-4.0	.000	-.21
Carnegie Class	60.4	19.0	.1	28	47	61	75	92	17,175	-5.2	.000	-.27
NSSE 2008	61.1	18.9	.1	31	47	61	75	92	340	-5.9	.000	-.31
Top 50%	65.8	18.4	.1	33	53	67	78	94	348	-10.6	.000	-.57
Top 10%	68.5	18.4	.3	36	56	69	81	97	384	-13.2	.000	-.71

<sup>a</sup> All statistics are weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

<sup>b</sup> Standard Deviation is a measure of the average amount the individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.

<sup>c</sup> The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus/minus the product of 1.96 times the standard error of the mean.

<sup>d</sup> A percentile is the point in the distribution of student-level benchmark scores at or below which a given percentage of scores can fall.

<sup>e</sup> Degrees of freedom used to compute the t-tests. Values vary for the total Ns due to weighting and the equal variance assumption.

<sup>f</sup> Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between the mean of your institution and the comparison group occurred by chance.

<sup>g</sup> Effect size is calculated by subtracting the comparison group mean from the school mean, and dividing the result by the standard deviation.

NSSE 2008 Benchmark Comparisons  
Detailed Statistics and Effect Sizes  
San Jose State University

	Mean Statistics			Distribution Statistics					Reference Group Comparison Statistics			
	Mean	SD <sup>b</sup>	SEM <sup>c</sup>	Percentiles <sup>d</sup>					Deg. of Freedom <sup>e</sup>	Mean Diff.	Sig. <sup>f</sup>	Effect size <sup>g</sup>
				5th	25th	50th	75th	95th				
<b>LEVEL OF ACADEMIC CHALLENGE (LAC)</b>												
San José State (N = 914)	57.0	14.3	.5	34	47	57	67	81				
California State	56.4	14.2	.2	33	47	56	66	79	6,955	.6	.267	.04
Carnegie Class	56.1	14.3	.1	32	46	56	66	79	29,849	.9	.060	.06
NSSE 2008	56.5	14.3	.0	33	47	57	67	79	88,160	.4	.352	.03
Top 50%	59.9	13.8	.1	37	51	60	70	81	28,424	-2.9	.000	-.21
Top 10%	63.3	13.5	.2	40	54	64	73	84	1,209	-6.4	.000	-.47
<b>ACTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING (ACL)</b>												
San José State (N = 969)	51.4	17.1	.5	28	38	50	62	81				
California State	50.2	17.0	.2	24	38	48	62	81	7,387	1.2	.045	.07
Carnegie Class	51.3	17.5	.1	24	38	52	62	81	31,467	.1	.851	.01
NSSE 2008	50.8	17.6	.1	24	38	48	62	81	93,119	.6	.255	.04
Top 50%	55.4	17.2	.1	29	43	56	67	86	29,621	-4.0	.000	-.23
Top 10%	59.7	17.3	.2	33	48	57	71	90	6,707	-8.2	.000	-.48
<b>STUDENT-FACULTY INTERACTION (SFI)</b>												
San José State (N = 923)	37.5	20.9	.7	11	22	33	50	78				
California State	37.7	20.2	.3	11	22	33	50	78	6,994	-3	.727	-.01
Carnegie Class	41.2	20.9	.1	11	28	39	56	83	30,022	-3.7	.000	-.18
NSSE 2008	42.3	21.2	.1	11	28	39	56	83	88,602	-4.9	.000	-.23
Top 50%	49.3	21.5	.1	17	33	47	67	89	1,010	-11.8	.000	-.55
Top 10%	55.3	21.7	.4	22	39	56	72	94	1,610	-17.8	.000	-.83
<b>ENRICHING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES (EEE)</b>												
San José State (N = 890)	36.5	17.2	.6	11	23	35	48	67				
California State	36.5	17.1	.2	11	24	36	48	67	6,740	.0	.995	.00
Carnegie Class	37.8	17.8	.1	11	25	36	50	69	29,171	-1.3	.039	-.07
NSSE 2008	40.5	18.2	.1	12	27	40	53	72	910	-3.9	.000	-.22
Top 50%	47.3	17.7	.1	18	35	47	60	76	30,455	-10.8	.000	-.61
Top 10%	54.3	17.3	.3	22	43	55	67	81	5,447	-17.8	.000	-1.03
<b>SUPPORTIVE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT (SCE)</b>												
San José State (N = 878)	52.5	18.7	.6	22	39	53	64	86				
California State	55.0	19.2	.3	22	42	56	69	89	6,620	-2.5	.000	-.13
Carnegie Class	57.5	19.5	.1	25	44	58	72	89	28,670	-5.0	.000	-.26
NSSE 2008	58.0	19.4	.1	25	44	58	72	90	84,989	-5.5	.000	-.28
Top 50%	63.5	18.9	.1	31	50	64	78	94	25,558	-11.0	.000	-.58
Top 10%	66.7	18.5	.2	33	56	67	81	97	6,623	-14.2	.000	-.77

<sup>a</sup> All statistics are weighted by gender, enrollment status, and institutional size.

<sup>b</sup> Standard Deviation is a measure of the average amount the individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.

<sup>c</sup> The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus/minus the product of 1.96 times the standard error of the mean.

<sup>d</sup> A percentile is the point in the distribution of student-level benchmark scores at or below which a given percentage of scores fall.

<sup>e</sup> Degrees of freedom used to compute the t-tests. Values vary for the total Ns due to weighting and the equal variance assumption.

<sup>f</sup> Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between the mean of your institution and the comparison group occurred by chance.

<sup>g</sup> Effect size is calculated by subtracting the comparison group mean from the school mean, and dividing the result by the standard deviation.