

The NSSE is an annual survey that assesses the extent to which first-year and senior undergraduates engage in educational practices associated with high levels of learning and development. The survey is based on the

SJSU: Activities Most Frequently Experienced	Freshmen	Seniors
Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources	3.10	3.37
Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor	2.92	3.23
Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments	2.88	2.94

1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often



## Challenge of Examinations

The only question in this section asks, "Select the circle that best represents the extent to which your examinations during the current school year challenged you to do your best work?"

- There were no significant differences between SJSU students and any of the comparison groups. San Jose State's first-year student average was 5.23 and the senior average was 5.32 on a continuous scale where 1=very little and 7=very much.

## Additional Collegiate Experiences

In this section, students are asked six questions pertaining to the frequency of their experience with college related activities. Items relate to artistic experiences, physical fitness, spiritual growth, and reflections of your own perspectives.

- In comparison to students in participating Master's institutions and students in the NSSE group, SJSU students participate in spiritual enhancement activities less often. Seniors also have less experience with reflecting on the positives and negatives of their own views. No other differences were found significant.

Freshmen: Significant Differences	SJSU	CSU	Master's	NSSE
Participated in activities to enhance your spirituality (worship, meditation, prayer, etc.)	1.86	1.77	1.96	2.06*

1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often; \* indicates significant difference

Seniors: Significant Differences	SJSU	CSU	Master's	NSSE
Participated in activities to enhance your spirituality (worship, meditation, prayer, etc.)	1.86	1.92	2.06*	2.12*
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	2.53	2.64*	2.65*	2.69*

1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often; \* indicates significant difference

## Enriching Educational Experiences

This section asks about student participation in various experiences including internships, volunteerism, learning communities, research, foreign language coursework, study abroad, independent study or self-designed major, and culminating experiences. The question, "Which of the following have you done, do you plan to do, do not plan to do, or have not decided before you graduate from your institution?" was asked and the tables below represent the proportion of freshmen and seniors responding "Done" among all valid respondents.

### Freshman Comparisons

- The only significant difference in enriching educational experiences between San Jose State and a comparison group was a difference in taking foreign language coursework where the national average student participated in foreign language coursework more than SJSU students.

Freshmen: Significant Differences	SJSU	CSU	Master's	NSSE
Foreign language coursework	.14	.19	.18	.22*

\* indicates significant difference

### Senior Comparisons

- Out of a total of eight items, SJSU seniors had significantly lower means on seven items. They have participated in fewer field work experiences, volunteer work, working with faculty on research projects, taking foreign language coursework, studying abroad, independent study, and a culminating senior experience.

Seniors: Significant Differences	SJSU	CSU	Master's	NSSE
Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	.47	.42	.48	.53*
Community service or volunteer work	.52	.50	.55	.60*
Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements	.16	.14	.16	.20*
Foreign language coursework	.25	.36*	.34*	.41*
Study abroad	.07	.09	.10	.15*
Independent study or self-designed major	.12	.11	.16*	.18*
Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)	.26	.29	.30	.33*

\* indicates significant difference

## Quality of Relationships

## Institutional Environment

The questions in this section ask students about the extent to which their institution emphasizes certain resources and activities. The question is phrased, "To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following?" in regard to various resources and activities.

- The degree of support needed for academic success SJSU freshmen and seniors feel their institution emphasizes is less than that reported by their peers in all three comparison groups. Seniors also feel the support needed to thrive socially is not being greatly emphasized at San Jose State.

Freshmen: Signm

The final two questions on the standard survey instrument relate to student satisfaction and are reproduced below.

Satisfaction: Significant Differences		SJSU	CSU
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