



University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

2004 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Part I: Time Use and Engagement

Research Brief No. 17

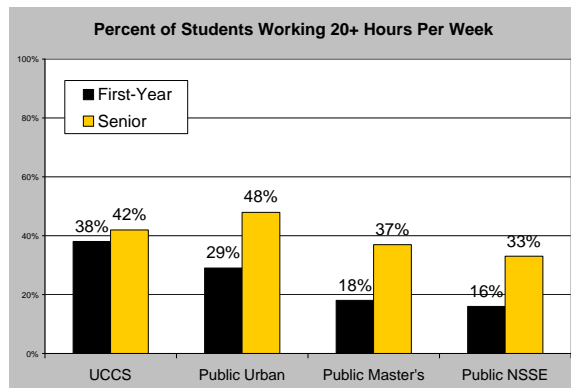
NSSE Overview

In 2004, 143 first-year and 135 senior students at UCCS participated in *The College Student Report*. This survey is part of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) that is administered by the Indiana University at Bloomington.

The survey asked students how they spend time, the nature and quality of their interactions with faculty members and peers, and what they had gained from their classes and other aspects of their college experience.

Time Use

Survey findings suggest that UCCS students are more likely to work than their peers at comparable institutions. In addition, UCCS students work more hours per week than their peers. Approximately 38% of first-year and 42% of senior students reported working 20 hours or more per week.



The time spend by a typical UCCS is different than that of a typical college student. In general, a week for UCCS students involve 11-15 hours working off campus, 6-10 hours preparing for class, 1-5 hours providing care for dependents, 1-5 hours commuting, and few hours participating in co-curricular activities.

Community Engagement

UCCS students also report lower levels of community engagement as part of their educational experience than college students nationally. When asked to what extent their experiences at UCCS contribute to their personal development in the area of contributing to the welfare of the community, 39% of first-year and 35% of senior students responded “very little.” Likewise, 76% of first-year and 71% of senior students indicate they had never participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course.

Gains in Personal Growth: Contributing to the Welfare of Your Community		
	First-Year	Senior
Very little	39%	35%
Some	40%	35%
Quite a bit	13%	17%
Very much	8%	13%

However, 69% of first-year students indicated they have done or plan to engage in community service or volunteer work before graduating. Sixty percent of seniors have or plan to do community service. Thus, one might conclude that many UCCS students are involved in the community through work and service, but their engagement in the greater community is not integrated into their coursework.

Institutional Environment

UCCS students show lower evaluations of the institutional environment than college students nationally. They report that UCCS provides “very little” to “some” emphasis on encouraging contact among students of different backgrounds, helping them cope with non-academic responsibilities, providing support to thrive socially, and attending campus events and activities.