



CU-Colorado Springs

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) 2002 Responses from CU-Colorado Springs Students *Community and Campus Engagement*

Research Brief No. 6

NSSE Overview

In spring 2002, CU-Colorado Springs participated in a national study of college students, along with 367 other four-year colleges and universities. Seven hundred randomly selected first-year and senior students at CU-Colorado Springs were invited to share their views by completing *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 NSSE questionnaire took students less than 15 minutes to complete and participants had the choice of using paper or the Web. 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. Approximately 301 students completed a survey (131 freshmen and 170 seniors), providing a 43% response rate.

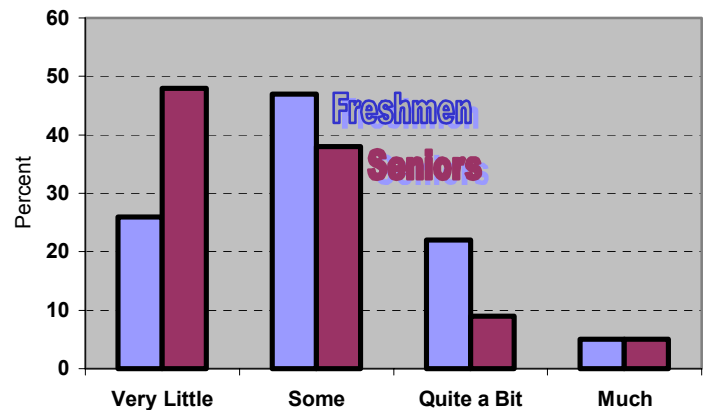
Community and Campus Engagement

Survey findings clearly suggest that at CU-Colorado Springs more students are engaged in the community than in campus activities. Outside employment draws students into the larger community. At the same time, this commitment and other personal obligations may be significant enough to keep students from spending more time on campus.

The majority of CU-Colorado Springs' freshmen (57%) and seniors (68%) do not spend any time per week participating in co-curricular activities (such as, organizations, campus publications, and student government).

In addition, CU-Colorado Springs students reported less social interaction with fellow students than their national peers.

To what extent has CU-Colorado Springs provided the support you need to thrive socially?



When asked whether their institution was providing the support they need to thrive socially, 73% of freshmen and 86% of seniors indicated “very little or some.”

CU-Colorado Springs' seniors spend significantly more time providing care for dependents living with them than other seniors, even those at other urban institutions. When asked whether the institution was helping them cope with their non-academic responsibilities (work, family), the majority of freshmen and seniors responded “very little.”

Survey responses reflect that not only are CU-Colorado Springs students working more hours, financial concerns are more likely to keep them from graduating on time, compared to students in more traditional institutions.

For further information on NSSE and CU-Colorado Springs' results, contact the Office of Institutional Research.

Prepared by: Office of Institutional Research

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