

**Summary of Academic Questions from NSSE 2004-2012**

Fitchburg State University has administered National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) in 2004, 2006, 2009 and 2012. Data in each table provided represents the % of students selecting the top two options on the survey for Fitchburg State in each year and for comparison the 2012 results for New England Public institutions and Public Masters institutions nationwide.

**Emphasis on Intellectual and mental activities:** Fitchburg State University students are very rarely challenged to examine the strengths and weaknesses of their own views or to try to imagine an issue from someone else’s perspective relative to students at other institutions, and there is some evidence that the curriculum could be modified to more often require them to include diverse perspectives in their class discussions and writing assignments. In addition, while students at Fitchburg State are often asked to work on a paper or project that requires integrating ideas or information from various sources, as seniors they do not appear to be asked to do so as frequently as students from other institutions.

During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=Never, 2=Sometimes, 3=Often, 4=Very often(The first two questions did not exist in 2004)

	Year	2004 % 3/4	2006 % 3/4	2009 % 3/4	2012 % 3/4	2012 NE Public	2012 Masters
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue.	Fr	NA	41%	41%	40%	45%	52%
	Sr	NA	47%	61%	48%	60%	58%
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective	Fr	NA	54%	51%	51%	57%	62%
	Sr	NA	56%	66%	57%	68%	66%
Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources.	Fr	66%	81%	85%	75%	78%	79%
	Sr	80%	79%	85%	84%	88%	87%

**Growth in Learning Outcomes:** Fitchburg State University students report the lowest contribution of the institution to their understanding of people from other racial and ethnic backgrounds and their personal code of values and ethics. While students from most institutions report low institutional contributions to these areas, Fitchburg State freshman consistently report lower contribution of the institution to their understanding of people from diverse backgrounds than do their peers at other schools.

To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills and personal development in the following areas? 1 = very little, 2 = some, 3 = quite a bit, 4 = very much

		2004 % 3/4	2006 % 3/4	2009 % 3/4	2012 % 3/4	2012 NE Public	2012 Masters
Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	Fr	42%	44%	55%	48%	49%	58%
	Sr	39%	43%	52%	52%	53%	57%
Developing a personal code of values and ethics	Fr	46%	40%	55%	60%	52%	58%
	Sr	46%	40%	58%	59%	57%	61%

**Course and Curricular Strategies:** Both freshmen and seniors at Fitchburg State reported relatively infrequent experience with preparing multiple drafts of a paper or assignment, relative to students at other institutions. Freshmen also infrequently gave class presentations and were rarely involved in learning communities. There were also very few students involved in community based projects, and Fitchburg State students participated in community service less frequently than their peers. Students at other institutions are much more likely to engage in learning communities or foreign language coursework, although in recent surveys Fitchburg State has closed the gap in terms of study abroad experience. Finally, one hallmark of a Fitchburg State education appears to be that students are more likely to engage in an internship, practicum, clinical assignment or other field-based experience than students at other institutions.

In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = often, 4 = very often

	Year	2004 % 3/4	2006 % 3/4	2009 % 3/4	2012 % 3/4	2012 NE Public	2012 Masters
Made a class presentation	Fr	29%	32%	29%	28%	38%	37%
	Sr	71%	53%	65%	61%*	56%	62%
Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	Fr	34%	43%	53%	50%	61%	60%
	Sr	49%	36%	40%	48%	55%	50%
Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course	Fr	15%	7%	10%	8%	11%	14%
	Sr	12%	17%	14%	14%	16%	21%

Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate from your institution? (Percentages represent students who plan to or have done the activity (3 or 4).

		2004 % 3/4	2006 % 3/4	2009 % 3/4	2012 % 3/4	2012 NE Public	2012 Masters
Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	Fr	87%	82%	87%	88%	80%	81%
	Sr	72%	74%	74%*	81%*	79%	77%
Community service or volunteer work	Fr	67%	61%	69%	62%	74%	79%
	Sr	53%	62%	66%	68%	70%	75%
Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together	Fr	30%	27%	32%	34%	42%	44%
	Sr	30%	30%	34%	31%	35%	39%
Foreign language coursework (Diversity/Global Learning)	Fr	32%	33%	31%	31%	36%	49%
	Sr	32%	29%	27%	34%	35%	45%
Study abroad (Diversity/Global Learning)	Fr	23%	26%	36%	27%	37%	39%
	Sr	11%	6%	15%	16%	15%	19%

\* denotes results that are significantly higher than at least some peer institutions