Sample

- 2010 NSSE data includes responses from 293 randomly selected Lawrence students, 46% of whom were first-year and 37% were senior students.

- In all, the far-reaching national sample for the survey is more than 363,000 students at 603 colleges and universities.

5 Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice

NSSE's five Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice are based on 42 questions from the NSSE 2010 survey that capture many aspects of the student experience:

- Level of Academic Challenge
- Active and Collaborative Learning
- Student-Faculty Interaction
- Enriching Educational Experiences
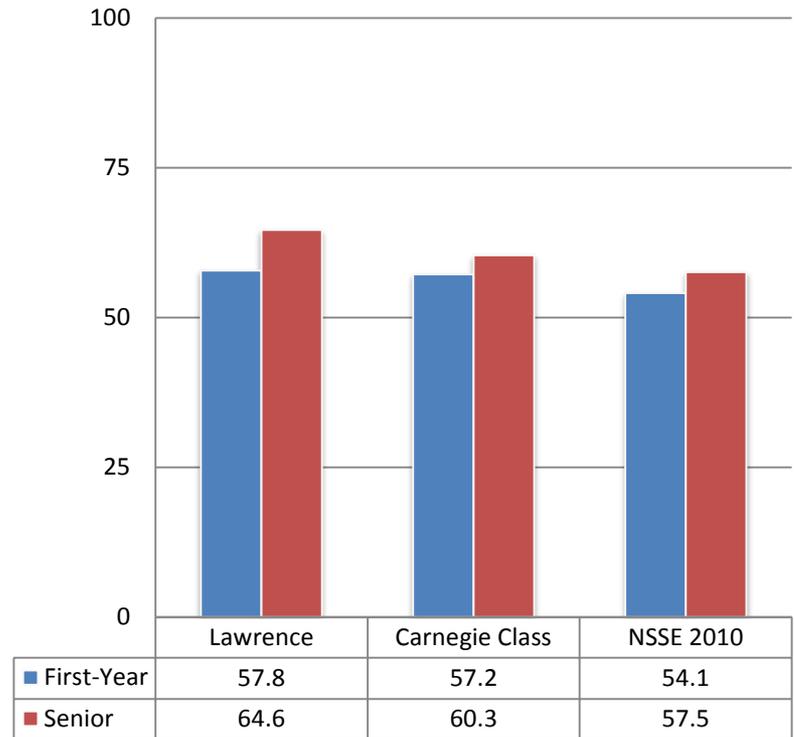- Supportive Campus Environment

All reported data are means.

Level of Academic Challenge

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote high levels of student achievement by emphasizing the importance of academic effort and setting high expectations for student performance. Hours spent preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, etc. related to academic program).

- Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings
- Number of written papers or reports of **20 pages or more**, **between 5 and 19 pages**, and **fewer than 5 pages**
- Coursework emphasizes: **Analysis** of the basic elements of an idea, experience or theory
- Coursework emphasizes: **Synthesis** and organizing of ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships
- Coursework emphasizes: **Making of judgments** about the value of information, arguments, or methods
- Coursework emphasizes: **Applying** theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations
- Working harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations
- Campus environment emphasizes: Spending significant amount of time studying and on academic work

Level of Academic Challenge

	Lawrence	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2010
■ First-Year	57.8	57.2	54.1
■ Senior	64.6	60.3	57.5

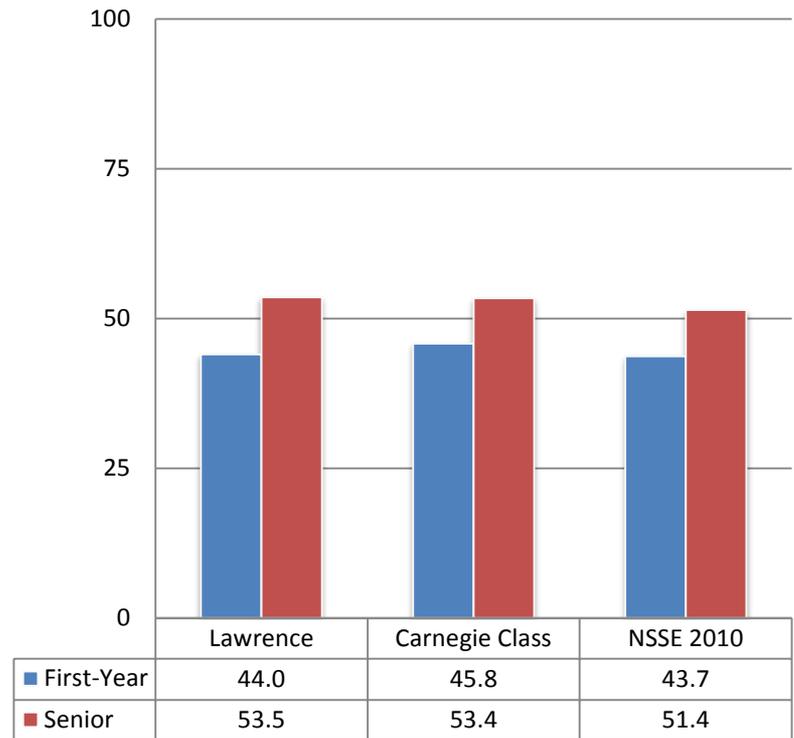LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
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Active and Collaborative Learning

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 readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)

Active and Collaborative Learning

	Lawrence	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2010
■ First-Year	44.0	45.8	43.7
■ Senior	53.5	53.4	51.4

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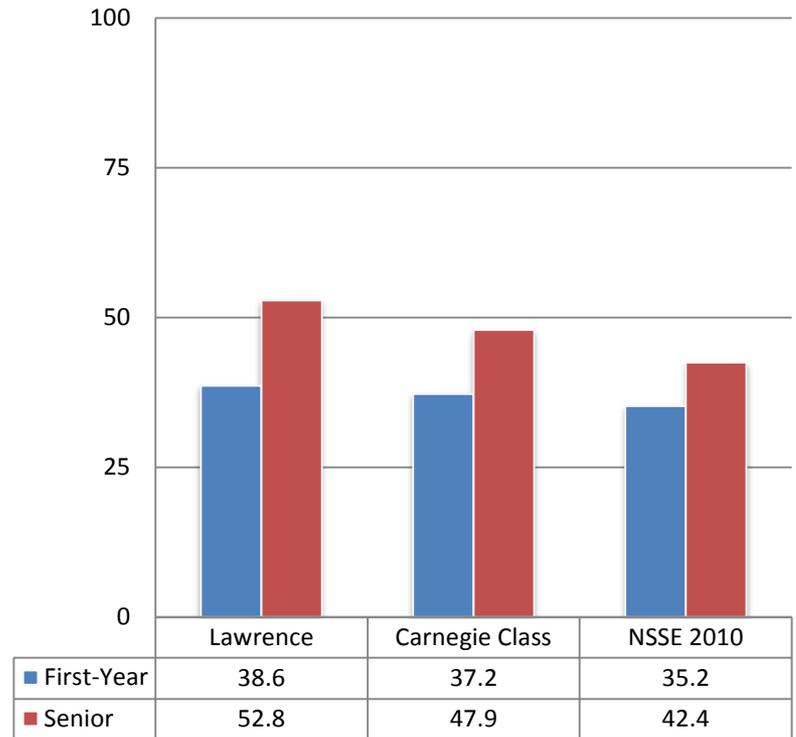UNIVERSITY
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Student-Faculty Interaction

Students learn firsthand how experts think about and solve practical problems by interacting with faculty members inside and outside the classroom. As a result, their teachers become role models, mentors, and guides for continuous, life-long learning.

- Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor
- Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor
- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class
- Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student-life activities, etc.)
- Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance
- Worked on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements

Student-Faculty Interaction

	Lawrence	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2010
First-Year	38.6	37.2	35.2
Senior	52.8	47.9	42.4

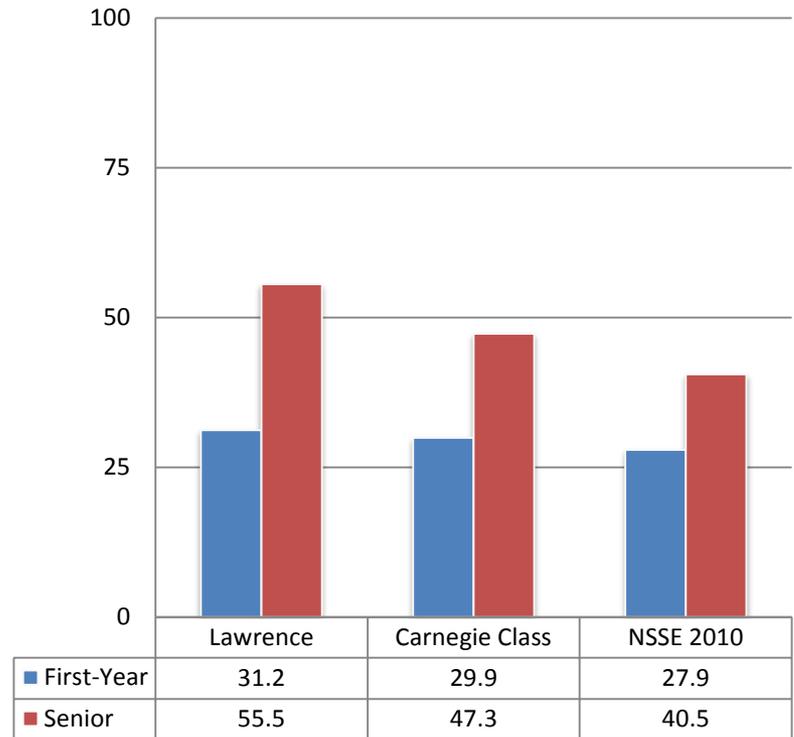LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
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Enriching Educational Experiences

Complementary learning opportunities enhance academic programs. Diversity experiences teach students valuable things about themselves and others. Technology facilitates collaboration between peers and instructors. Internships, community service, and senior capstone courses provide opportunities to integrate and apply knowledge.

- Hours spent participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student gov., social fraternity or sorority, etc.)
- Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment
- Community service or volunteer work
- Foreign language coursework and study abroad
- Independent study or self-designed major
- Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project/thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)
- Serious conversations with students of different religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values
- Serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own
- Using electronic medium (e.g., listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment
- Campus environment encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds
- Participate in a learning community or some other formal program where groups of students take two or more classes together

Enriching Educational Experiences

	Lawrence	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2010
First-Year	31.2	29.9	27.9
Senior	55.5	47.3	40.5

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Supportive Campus Environment

Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that are committed to their success and cultivate positive working and social relations among different groups on campus.

- Campus environment provides the support you need to help you succeed academically
- Campus environment helps you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
- Campus environment provides the support you need to thrive socially
- Quality of relationships with other students
- Quality of relationships with faculty members
- Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices

Supportive Campus Environment

	Lawrence	Carnegie Class	NSSE 2010
First-Year	65.5	65.3	62.5
Senior	62.6	62.0	59.6

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