

Overview

Each year the Australasian Survey of Student Engagement (AUSSE) asks students at universities and other higher and tertiary education institutions across Australia and New Zealand to reflect on the time they devote to various learning activities. The topics explored by the survey are linked to previous research on positive student learning outcomes. Results from the AUSSE can provide current and prospective students and staff at an institution with insights into their institution's performance.

The following responses reflecting students' engagement were provided by 1000 randomly selected Australasia University first- and later-year students as part of the 2012 AUSSE survey.

Academic Challenge

Academic challenge can be defined as the extent to which expectations and assessments challenge students to learn.

80% of first-year and 79% of later-year students feel that their institution places at least quite a bit of emphasis on spending significant amounts of time on academic work.

42% of first-year and 42% of later-year students spend more than 10 hours per week preparing for class, while 34% of first-year and 35% of later-year students spend five or less per week on homework.

Active Learning

Active learning is the extent of students' efforts to actively construct their knowledge, both inside the classroom and in the broader world.

52% of first-year and 54% of later-year students frequently ask questions or contribute to discussions in class or online.

55% of first-year students frequently work with other students during class and 48% on assignments with other students outside of class. 45% of later-year students frequently work with other students during class and 47% on assignments with other students outside.

31% of first-year students and 36% of later-year students have participated in a community-based project as part of their study during the current academic year.

Student and Staff Interactions

The student and staff interactions scale measures the level and nature of students' contact with teaching staff.

25% of first-year and 34% of later-year students often discuss their grades and assignments with teaching staff, while 46% of first-year and 51% of later year students frequently receive prompt feedback from teachers on their academic performance.

16% of first-year and 23% of later-year students frequently talk about career plans with teaching staff or advisors and 16% of first-year and 20% of later-year students often discuss ideas from classes or readings with teaching staff outside of class.

Enriching Educational Experiences

Enriching educational experiences indicates the level of students' participation in broadening activities.

By later-year, 34% of students have done a practicum or internship, 35% have done community service or volunteer work, 32% have participated in a study group or learning community, 14% have studied a foreign language and 6% have participated in study abroad or student exchange programs.

21% of first year and 26% of later year students spend more than five hours per week participating in extracurricular activities. 46% of first year and 41% of later year students do not participate in extracurricular activities.

20% of first-year and 13% of later-year students feel that their institution very much encourages contact among students from different backgrounds.

Supportive Learning Environment

The supportive learning environment scale indicates a student's feelings of legitimization within the learning community.

78% of first year and 71% of later year students report that they find other students friendly, supportive and help them feel belonged.

75% of first year and 77% of later year students find teaching staff available, helpful and sympathetic, and 64% of first year and 56% of later year students find administrative staff helpful, considerate and flexible.

Work Integrated Learning

Work integrated learning shows the level of integration of employment-focused work experiences into study.

46% of later year students frequently blend their academic learning with workplace experience.

By later year, 34% of students have taken part in industry placement or work experience and 72% of students feel that their experience at their institution has contributed at least quite a bit to their acquisition of work-related knowledge and skills.