



# Interpreting BCSS - NSSE Crosstabulations

## Items

The survey items from the BCSS 2004-05 pilot and from NSSE 2005 are listed in the order that they appear on *The College Student Report*. The survey names and item numbers appear in the left column, followed by the wording of the items as they appear on the survey instruments.

## Spearman's $\rho$ (Rho)

Spearman's Rho is a correlation coefficient that shows the degree of relationship between two variables that are measured on an ordinal scale. Spearman's Rho may range from -1.0 to +1.0, with -1.0 being a perfect negative relationship, +1.0 being a perfect positive relationship, and 0.0 being no relationship between two variables.

## Variable Names

The name of each variable is provided as it appears in the BCSS 2004-05 and NSSE 2005 codebooks and in the BCSS-NSSE combined data file.

## High/Low

For this type of item HIGH represents student responses of 'Very often' or 'Often,' while LOW represents student responses of 'Sometimes' or 'Never.' Note: HIGH and LOW may be defined differently depending on the response options of the particular items.

## Cell Percentages

Each cell in the 2x2 matrix contains the percentage of students at your institution who provided responses to the corresponding BCSS 2004-05 and NSSE 2005 items. For example, the percentage in the top left can be interpreted as "With regard to talking about career plans with a faculty member or advisor, 7% of students reported a LOW level of expectations at the time that they entered college and a HIGH level of engagement at the end of their first year of college."



## BCSS-NSSE Combined Report

## BCSS 2004 and NSSE 2005 Frequency Distributions Sample Institution

### First-Year Experiences by Entering Level of Expectations

Survey Item	Variable	Crosstabulation		
NSSE 1m. Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor	EMAIL	High	62%	Spearman's $\rho$ = 0.29 *** N = 435
BCSS 17a. Use e-mail to communicate with an instructor	XEMAIL	Low	17%	
NSSE 1n. Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	FACGRADE	High	38%	Spearman's $\rho$ = 0.30 *** N = 434
BCSS 17b. Discuss grades or assignments with an instructor	XFACGRAD	Low	32%	
NSSE 1o. Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	FACPLANS	High	20%	Spearman's $\rho$ = 0.27 *** N = 434
BCSS 17c. Talk about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	XFACPLAN	Low	38%	

## Statistical Significance

One, two, and three asterisks represent significance levels of  $p < .05$ ,  $.01$ , and  $.001$ , respectively. The smaller the significance level, the smaller the probability that the relationship between the two variables is due to chance. For more information on statistical significance, please see the document entitled "Interpreting the Means Comparison Report" located in the Means Comparisons tab in this binder.

## Sample Size

Sample size (N) represents the number of students at your institution who provided responses to both the BCSS 2004-05 and NSSE 2005 items.