

**Benchmark**  
**Level of Academic Challenge**

**NSSE 2003 Means Comparison Report**

*U of Nevada-Reno compared with:*

				UNR	Doc-Ext			PEER			
		Variable	Class	Mean	Doc-Ext Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>	Peer Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>	
<b>1. Academic and Intellectual Experiences</b>											
LAC	r.	Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	WORKHARD	FY	2.46	2.52		2.49			
				SR	2.59						2.60
<b>2. Mental Activities</b>											
LAC	b.	Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and	ANALYZE	FY	2.98	3.15	***	-0.22	3.04		
				SR	3.27						
LAC	c.	Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships	SYNTHESZ	FY	2.74	2.84			2.73		
				SR	3.04						
LAC	d.	Making judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and	EVALUATE	FY	2.69	2.74			2.64		
				SR	2.81						
LAC	e.	Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	APPLYING	FY	2.86	3.02	**	-0.18	2.91		
				SR	3.09						
<b>4. Reading and Writing</b>											
LAC	a.	Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	READASGN	FY	3.36	3.47			3.43		
				SR	3.48						
LAC	c.	Number of written papers or reports of <b>20 pages or more</b>	WRITEMOR	FY	1.24	1.18			1.20		
				SR	1.63						
LAC	d.	Number of written papers or reports <b>between 5 and 19 pages</b>	WRITEMID	FY	2.44	2.33			2.39		
				SR	2.72						
LAC	e.	Number of written papers or reports of <b>fewer than 5 pages</b>	WRITESML	FY	3.32	3.12	**	.18	3.28		
				SR	3.23						
<b>9. Time Usage</b>											
LAC	a.	Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other activities related to your academic program)	ACADPR01	FY	4.13	4.15			4.12		
				SR	4.39						
<b>10. Institutional Environment</b>											
LAC	a.	Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	ENVSCHOL	FY	3.06	3.15			3.01		
				SR	3.05						

a \* p<.05 \*\* p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed).

b Effect size = mean difference divided by comparison group standard deviation.

Blue = Sig. more engagement

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**Active & Collaborative Learning**

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1.	Academic and Intellectual Experiences	Variable	Class								
ACL	a.	Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	CLQUEST	FY SR	2.75 2.94	2.64 2.89	* .	.13	2.51 2.77	*** ***	.31 .20
ACL	b.	Made a class presentation	CLPRESEN	FY SR	2.14 2.71	1.99 2.61	*** *	.21 .11	2.04 2.52	* ***	.14 .22
ACL	g.	Worked with other students on projects during class	CLASSGRP	FY SR	2.48 2.38	2.28 2.35	***	.25	2.29 2.37	***	.24
ACL	h.	Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	OCCGRP	FY SR	2.33 2.71	2.35 2.78			2.44 2.77	* .	-.14
ACL	j.	Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)	TUTOR	FY SR	1.68 1.78	1.69 1.83			1.63 1.76		
ACL	k.	Participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course	COMMPROJ	FY SR	1.36 1.62	1.38 1.51	*	.14	1.36 1.50	**	.17
ACL	t.	Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, coworkers, etc.)	OOCIDEAS	FY SR	2.71 2.86	2.76 2.88			2.68 2.80		

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**Student Faculty Interaction**

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				Mean	Doc-Ext Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>	Peer Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size <sup>b</sup>	
				Variable	Class						
<b>SFI</b>	n.	Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor	FACGRADE	FY	2.56	2.55			2.49		
				SR	2.73	2.78			2.66		
<b>SFI</b>	o.	Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor	FACPLANS	FY	1.99	2.04			2.06		
				SR	2.15	2.31	**	-.17	2.22		
<b>SFI</b>	p.	Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	FACIDEAS	FY	1.65	1.69			1.66		
				SR	1.90	1.94			1.85		
<b>SFI</b>	q.	Received prompt feedback from faculty on your academic performance (written or oral)	FACFEED	FY	2.37	2.55	***	-.23	2.48	*	-.14
				SR	2.67	2.70			2.59		
<b>SFI</b>	s.	Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)	FACOTHER	FY	1.37	1.41			1.40		
				SR	1.55	1.68	**	-.15	1.62		
<b>5. Problem Sets</b>											
<b>SFI</b>	d.	Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements	RESEARCH	FY	.29	.31			0.29		
				SR	.29	.29			0.27		

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**Enriching Educational Experiences**

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<b>1. Academic and Intellectual Experiences</b>										
EEE	m.	Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor	EMAIL	FY 2.94	3.06	*	<b>-0.15</b>	3.04		
				SR 3.19	3.30	**	<b>-0.14</b>	3.21		
EEE	u.	Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own	DIVRSTUD	FY 2.69	2.72			2.52	*	<b>.17</b>
				SR 2.59	2.75	**	<b>-0.16</b>	2.55		
EEE	v.	Had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or	DIFFSTU2	FY 2.77	2.84			2.73		
				SR 2.66	2.77	*	<b>-0.12</b>	2.65		
<b>7. Enriching Educational Experiences</b>										
EEE	a.	Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment	INTERN	FY .76	.83	**	<b>-0.19</b>	0.82	*	<b>-0.14</b>
				SR .70	.72			0.71		
EEE	b.	Community service or volunteer work	VOLUNTER	FY .68	.77	***	<b>-0.22</b>	0.71		
				SR .59	.67	**	<b>-0.15</b>	0.61		
EEE	e.	Foreign language coursework	FORLANG	FY .43	.50	*	<b>-0.13</b>	0.39		
				SR .41	.44			0.38		
EEE	g.	Independent study or self-designed major	INDSTUDY	FY .12	.13			0.15		
				SR .31	.23	***	<b>.19</b>	0.27		
EEE	h.	Culminating senior experience (comprehensive exam, capstone course, thesis, project, etc.)	SENIORX	FY .59	.35	***	<b>.50</b>	0.37	***	<b>.45</b>
				SR .77	.48	***	<b>.59</b>	0.47	***	<b>.61</b>
<b>9. Time Usage</b>										
EEE	d.	Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, social fraternity or sorority,	COCURR01	FY 2.09	2.26	*	<b>-0.12</b>	2.09		
				SR 1.82	2.13	***	<b>-0.21</b>	2.02	*	<b>-0.15</b>
<b>10. Institutional Environment</b>										
EEE	c.	Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds	ENVDIVRS	FY 2.38	2.58	**	<b>-0.20</b>	2.33		
				SR 2.06	2.34	***	<b>-0.28</b>	2.11		

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**Supportive Campus Environment**

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SCE	a.	Relationships with other students	ENVSTU	FY	5.49	5.73	**	-.19	5.72	**	-.19
				SR	5.50	5.71	**	-.16	5.68	*	-.14
SCE	b.	Relationships with faculty members	ENVFAC	FY	5.15	5.26			5.08		
				SR	5.36	5.37			5.17	*	.16
SCE	c.	Relationships with administrative personnel and offices	ENVADM	FY	4.64	4.82	*	-.13	4.72		
				SR	4.62	4.57			4.41	*	.13
<b>10. Institutional Environment</b>											
SCE	b.	Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically	ENVSUPRT	FY	2.87	2.96	*	-.12	2.83		
				SR	2.64	2.76	**	-.14	2.59		
SCE	d.	Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)	ENVNACAD	FY	1.90	2.00			1.86		
				SR	1.57	1.77	***	-.23	1.66		
SCE	e.	Providing the support you need to thrive socially	ENVSOCAL	FY	2.09	2.34	***	-.27	2.20		
				SR	1.78	2.06	***	-.31	1.92	**	-.16

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