

Hi, my name is Karthiyesan Balasankar and I am a second-year student majoring in Computer Science. My name is Alexandria Bernard and I am a sophomore studying Business Information Systems. Today, we will be presenting our research on understanding the OSU undergraduate experience based on data collected from the 2019 NSSE survey.

Originally, our research experience with University Information and Technology was going to involve analyzing data that we collected ourselves through interviews. However, in response to Covid-19, we began working with Student Affairs Assessment to understand the undergraduate experience.

The National Survey of Student Engagement, commonly referred to as “NSSE”, is designed to provide institutions with information regarding their undergraduate students' experiences.

We began with an initial analysis of survey data and then requested breakdowns of each question based on the Corvallis student demographics of gender, race/ethnicity, first-generation status, and Greek affiliation to create the 2019 NSSE report.

In our research, we focus on two particular subsets of NSSE: Engagement Indicators and High-Impact Practices. When asked how often students engage with people of another race or ethnicity, White and international students had statistically low response rates of “very often.” The data suggests that a large portion of students of color will at some point start to interact with students of another race over their years at OSU, but that does not seem to hold true for White and international students. It may be beneficial to integrate more opportunities for promoting cross-racial interactions. NSSE also asks that students rate the quality of their campus interactions. Undergraduate experiences with academic advisors are reported possessing the highest quality, but an area for improvement is highlighted in student interactions with other administrative staff and offices, as only 34.3% of respondents rated their interactions highly.

In addition to Engagement Indicators, NSSE surveys students regarding their participation in High-Impact Practices. Also known as HIPs, they represent enriching educational experiences. One HIP asks students if they have participated or plan to participate in an internship or field experience. We noticed that only 33.3% of Black or African American seniors had done an internship during their college career. This was significantly lower than students of other racial backgrounds, such as Asian students who composed 55.8% and multi-racial students who made up 65.5% of respondents. This suggests that there should be more emphasis on providing equitable opportunities for participation in internships.

To get more insights of 2019 NSSE data and implications, check out our 2019 NSSE Report or our complimentary StoryMap that offers a condensed alternative. Both of these resources will soon be available on the Division of Student Affairs website and you can also find them linked below this video.

[2019 NSSE Report PDF](#)

[2019 NSSE ArcGIS StoryMap](#)