Interpreting the Top 10% and Top 50% Comparisons

This section of the NSSE Benchmark Comparisons report allows you to estimate the performance of your average student in relation to the average student attending two different institutional peer groups identified by NSSE for their high levels of student engagement: (a) institutions with benchmark scores placing them in the top 50% of all NSSE schools in 2011 and (b) institutions with benchmark scores in the top 10% for 2011.[a] These comparisons allow an institution to determine if the engagement of their students differs in significant, meaningful ways from students in these high performing peer groups.

Example

		NSSEville State	NSSE 2011 Top 50%			NSSE 2011 Top 10%		
		Mean	*Mean*	*Sig*	*Effect size*	*Mean*	*Sig*	*Effect size*
First-Year	LAC	57.1	55.8	*	.10	60.5	***	-0.28
	ACL	50.3	45.8	***	.28	50.7		-0.02
	SFI	37.3	37.2		.01	42.0	***	-0.24
	EEE	21.8	30.0	***	-.63	34.4	***	-0.98
	SCE	60.9	64.7	***	-.21	69.7	***	-0.49

NSSEville State compared with

Based on the example above NSSEville State CAN conclude...

◆ The average score for NSSEville State first-year students is slightly above (i.e., small positive effect size) that of the average student attending NSSE 2011 schools that scored in the top 50% on Level of Academic Challenge (LAC).

◆ The average NSSEville State first-year student is as engaged (i.e., not significantly different) as the average student attending NSSE 2011 schools that scored in the top 10% on Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL).

◆ It is *likely* that NSSEville State is in the top 50% of all NSSE 2011 schools for first-year students on Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) and Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL).[a]

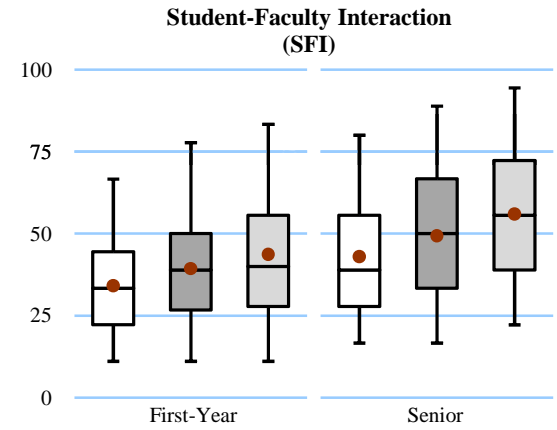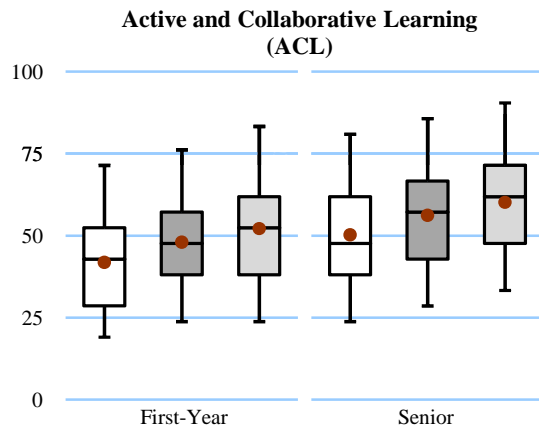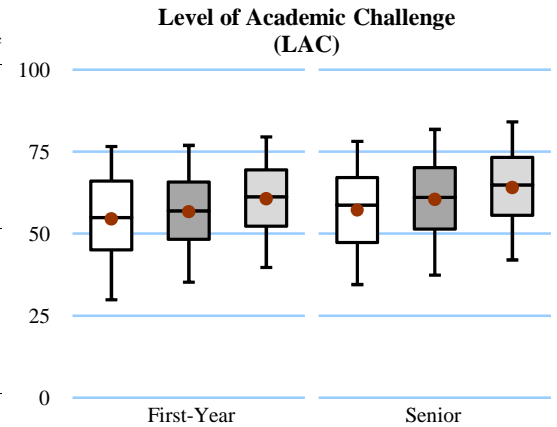**Based on the example above NSSEville State CANNOT conclude[a]...**

◆ NSSEville State is in the top half of all schools on the Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI) benchmark for first-year students.

◆ NSSEville State is a "top ten percent" institution on Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL) for first-year students.

Additional information regarding the Top 50% and Top 10% section of the benchmark report can be found on the NSSE Web site. **nsse.iub.edu/links/institutional_reporting**

[a] Precision-weighted means (produced by Hierarchical Linear Modeling) were used to determine the top 50% and top 10% institutions for each benchmark, separately for first-year and senior students. Using this method, benchmark scores of institutions with relatively large standard errors are adjusted substantially toward the grand mean of all students, while those with smaller standard errors receive smaller corrections. Thus, schools with less stable data, though they may have high scores, may not be identified among the top scorers. NSSE does not publish the names of the top 50% and top 10% institutions because of our commitment not to release individual school results and our policy against the ranking of institutions.
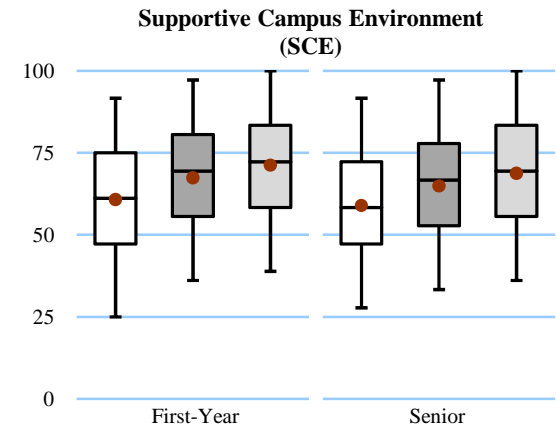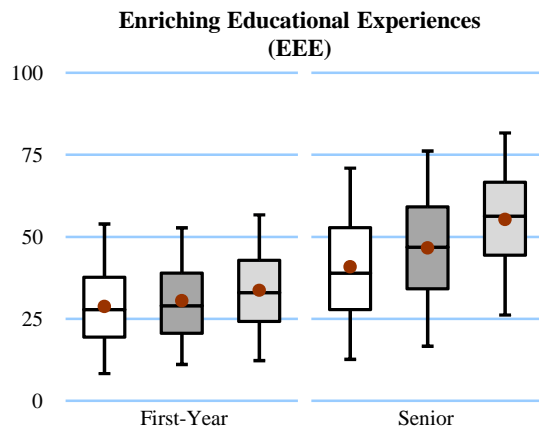
		UNC Greensboro	UNC Greensboro compared with					
			NSSE 2011 Top 50%			NSSE 2011 Top 10%		
		Mean [a]	Mean [a]	Sig [b]	Effect size [c]	Mean [a]	Sig [b]	Effect size [c]
First-Year	LAC	54.5	56.7	**	-.17	60.6	***	-.49
	ACL	41.9	48.0	***	-.37	52.1	***	-.58
	SFI	34.1	39.3	***	-.27	43.7	***	-.45
	EEE	28.8	30.5	**	-.13	33.7	***	-.35
	SCE	60.8	67.4	***	-.36	71.2	***	-.58
Senior	LAC	57.2	60.5	***	-.24	64.1	***	-.53
	ACL	50.3	56.2	***	-.35	60.1	***	-.56
	SFI	43.0	49.3	***	-.29	56.0	***	-.58
	EEE	40.9	46.7	***	-.33	55.3	***	-.87
	SCE	58.9	64.9	***	-.31	68.7	***	-.53

Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

Legend

☐ UNC Greensboro
▨ Top 50%
☐ Top 10%

This display compares your students with those attending schools that scored in the top 50% and top 10% of all NSSE 2011 institutions on a particular benchmark.

Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL)

Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI)

Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE)

Supportive Campus Environment (SCE)

Note: Each box and whiskers chart plots the 5th (bottom of lower bar), 25th (bottom of box), 50th (middle line), 75th (top of box), and 95th (top of upper bar) percentile scores. The dot shows the benchmark mean. See page 2 for an illustration. See pages 10 and 11 for percentile values.

[a] Weighted by gender and enroll. status (and by inst. size for comp. groups).

[b] * p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed).

[c] Mean diff. divided by the pooled standard dev.