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**NSSE 2015**  
**Sustainability Education Consortium**  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

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## About This Consortium Report

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### Comparison Group

This section summarizes how your consortium comparison group was identified, including selection criteria and whether the default option was taken. This is followed by the resulting list of institutions represented in the 'SustainEC' column of this report.

Group label	SustainEC
Date submitted	6/9/15
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution retained the default comparison group (all consortium participants).
Group description	All other current- and prior-year NSSE institutions sharing your NSSE consortium "Sustainability Education Consortium"

### SustainEC (N=16)

Appalachian State University (Boone, NC)  
 Aquinas College (Grand Rapids, MI)  
 College of New Jersey, The (Ewing, NJ)  
 Dickinson College (Carlisle, PA)  
 Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, VA)  
 Hamline University (Saint Paul, MN)  
 Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College (Baton Rouge, LA)  
 Missouri State University (Springfield, MO)  
 Northland College (Ashland, WI)  
 Philadelphia University (Philadelphia, PA)  
 Plymouth State University (Plymouth, NH)  
 Pratt Institute (Brooklyn, NY)  
 Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX)  
 University of Central Oklahoma (Edmond, OK)  
 University of North Carolina at Asheville (Asheville, NC)  
 University of the District of Columbia (Washington, DC)

## First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UNC Greensboro		SustainEC		UNC Greensboro	SustainEC	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>1. In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?</b>										
a. Completed an assignment that evaluates the sustainability of some activity.	SEC1501a	1	Never	45	19	650	22	<b>2.5</b>	2.3 *	.14 △
		2	Sometimes	77	34	1,100	37			
		3	Often	59	27	852	27			
		4	Very often	43	20	414	14			
		Total		224	100	3,016	100			
b. Made significant contributions in a group project.	SEC1501b	1	Never	11	4	165	7	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	.04
		2	Sometimes	68	31	731	26			
		3	Often	85	37	1,271	41			
		4	Very often	60	28	853	26			
		Total		224	100	3,020	100			
c. Integrated knowledge from multiple academic disciplines in working on a project.	SEC1501c	1	Never	29	12	197	8	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	-.07
		2	Sometimes	70	31	934	32			
		3	Often	79	35	1,251	40			
		4	Very often	46	21	628	20			
		Total		224	100	3,010	100			
d. Completed an assignment that evaluates our responsibilities to future generations.	SEC1501d	1	Never	67	29	776	27	<b>2.3</b>	2.2	.11
		2	Sometimes	64	29	1,085	36			
		3	Often	53	24	772	25			
		4	Very often	40	18	361	12			
		Total		224	100	2,994	100			
<b>2. During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following mental activities?</b>										
a. Understanding the complex relationships between economic, social, and ecological systems.	SEC1502a	1	Very little	43	18	508	16	<b>2.6</b>	2.5	.10
		2	Some	66	30	1,016	35			
		3	Quite a bit	59	27	954	31			
		4	Very much	54	25	513	17			
		Total		222	100	2,991	100			
b. Evaluating the moral dimensions of social or environmental problems.	SEC1502b	1	Very little	31	13	400	14	<b>2.6</b>	2.6	.09
		2	Some	73	33	1,026	36			
		3	Quite a bit	71	32	999	32			
		4	Very much	50	22	560	18			
		Total		225	100	2,985	100			
c. Comprehending ways in which human activities may exceed the carrying capacity of systems that support us.	SEC1502c	1	Very little	54	23	636	21	<b>2.4</b>	2.4	.05
		2	Some	68	31	1,037	36			
		3	Quite a bit	55	25	828	27			
		4	Very much	44	20	465	16			
		Total		221	100	2,966	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for key to triangle symbols.

## First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UNC Greensboro		SustainEC		UNC Greensboro	SustainEC	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>3. During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?</b>										
a. Participated in a campus or community sustainability project.	SEC1503a	1	Never	132	57	1,395	48	<b>1.7</b>	1.8	-.09
		2	Sometimes	51	23	998	33			
		3	Often	27	13	395	12			
		4	Very often	15	7	203	7			
		Total		225	100	2,991	100			
b. Altered your behavior to become more sustainable.	SEC1503b	1	Never	62	27	628	22	<b>2.1</b>	2.3 *	-.14
		2	Sometimes	93	42	1,246	41			
		3	Often	51	22	812	27			
		4	Very often	20	9	291	10			
		Total		226	100	2,977	100			
c. Went on a field trip in your bioregion.	SEC1503c	1	Never	145	62	2,085	70	<b>1.6</b>	1.5	.12
		2	Sometimes	48	23	586	19			
		3	Often	24	11	195	7			
		4	Very often	8	4	109	4			
		Total		225	100	2,975	100			
<b>4. To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following?</b>										
a. Taking responsibility for the welfare of your communities.	SEC1504a	1	Very little	50	22	357	13	<b>2.4</b>	2.6 ***	-.27
		2	Some	72	32	915	31			
		3	Quite a bit	63	29	1,053	35			
		4	Very much	36	17	664	21			
		Total		221	100	2,989	100			
b. Learning about sustainability.	SEC1504b	1	Very little	50	23	420	15	<b>2.4</b>	2.6 **	-.21
		2	Some	75	34	947	34			
		3	Quite a bit	59	27	910	30			
		4	Very much	38	17	710	22			
		Total		222	100	2,987	100			
c. Understanding local economies and/or ecosystems.	SEC1504c	1	Very little	71	31	557	18	<b>2.2</b>	2.4 ***	-.25
		2	Some	66	31	1,080	36			
		3	Quite a bit	55	25	837	29			
		4	Very much	30	13	494	17			
		Total		222	100	2,968	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for key to triangle symbols.

## First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UNC Greensboro		SustainEC		UNC Greensboro	SustainEC	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>5. To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?</b>										
a. Articulating a vision of a just and sustainable society.	SEC1505a	1	Very little	48	21	488	17	<b>2.4</b>	2.4	-.06
		2	Some	81	36	1,122	38			
		3	Quite a bit	57	27	932	31			
		4	Very much	35	16	439	14			
		Total		221	100	2,981	100			
b. Acquiring skills to lead or facilitate group activities.	SEC1505b	1	Very little	30	13	317	12	<b>2.6</b>	2.6	-.05
		2	Some	80	36	1,017	35			
		3	Quite a bit	73	33	1,093	35			
		4	Very much	39	18	551	18			
		Total		222	100	2,978	100			
c. Understanding the consequences of your choices.	SEC1505c	1	Very little	20	9	261	9	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	.02
		2	Some	56	26	841	28			
		3	Quite a bit	93	42	1,214	40			
		4	Very much	52	23	667	23			
		Total		221	100	2,983	100			
d. Understanding the economic dimensions of sustainability.	SEC1505d	1	Very little	54	24	589	19	<b>2.3</b>	2.4	-.08
		2	Some	75	34	1,134	40			
		3	Quite a bit	62	29	841	27			
		4	Very much	29	13	409	15			
		Total		220	100	2,973	100			
e. Acquiring the skills to help organizations become more sustainable.	SEC1505e	1	Very little	55	24	615	20	<b>2.3</b>	2.4	-.04
		2	Some	79	36	1,068	37			
		3	Quite a bit	48	21	866	28			
		4	Very much	39	18	420	15			
		Total		221	100	2,969	100			
f. Understanding issues of social justice.	SEC1505f	1	Very little	33	14	387	15	<b>2.6</b>	2.6	.08
		2	Some	72	33	990	34			
		3	Quite a bit	64	29	1,011	32			
		4	Very much	54	24	573	19			
		Total		223	100	2,961	100			
g. Persevering in achieving long-term goals despite adversity.	SEC1505g	1	Very little	21	9	297	11	<b>2.8</b>	2.7	.03
		2	Some	71	33	885	30			
		3	Quite a bit	68	31	1,082	36			
		4	Very much	59	27	698	23			
		Total		219	100	2,962	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for key to triangle symbols.

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UNC Greensboro		SustainEC		UNC Greensboro	SustainEC	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>1. In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?</b>										
a. Completed an assignment that evaluates the sustainability of some activity.	SEC1501a	1	Never	147	23	917	25	<b>2.4</b>	2.3 *	.10
		2	Sometimes	197	30	1,292	34			
		3	Often	176	27	890	24			
		4	Very often	136	20	662	17			
		Total		656	100	3,761	100			
b. Made significant contributions in a group project.	SEC1501b	1	Never	38	6	114	3	<b>3.1</b>	3.3 ***	-.18
		2	Sometimes	107	17	550	15			
		3	Often	238	37	1,238	33			
		4	Very often	268	40	1,854	48			
		Total		651	100	3,756	100			
c. Integrated knowledge from multiple academic disciplines in working on a project.	SEC1501c	1	Never	41	6	155	5	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	-.08
		2	Sometimes	151	24	822	23			
		3	Often	243	37	1,364	36			
		4	Very often	217	33	1,406	36			
		Total		652	100	3,747	100			
d. Completed an assignment that evaluates our responsibilities to future generations.	SEC1501d	1	Never	154	24	900	26	<b>2.5</b>	2.4 *	.10
		2	Sometimes	184	28	1,247	33			
		3	Often	163	25	851	23			
		4	Very often	152	23	735	19			
		Total		653	100	3,733	100			
<b>2. During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following mental activities?</b>										
a. Understanding the complex relationships between economic, social, and ecological systems.	SEC1502a	1	Very little	107	17	628	17	<b>2.7</b>	2.6 **	.14
		2	Some	151	23	1,122	30			
		3	Quite a bit	193	29	1,071	29			
		4	Very much	204	31	922	24			
		Total		655	100	3,743	100			
b. Evaluating the moral dimensions of social or environmental problems.	SEC1502b	1	Very little	90	14	563	16	<b>2.8</b>	2.6 ***	.16
		2	Some	163	25	1,073	29			
		3	Quite a bit	191	29	1,156	31			
		4	Very much	210	31	943	24			
		Total		654	100	3,735	100			
c. Comprehending ways in which human activities may exceed the carrying capacity of systems that support us.	SEC1502c	1	Very little	158	25	927	26	<b>2.5</b>	2.4	.08
		2	Some	170	27	1,055	29			
		3	Quite a bit	152	23	917	25			
		4	Very much	172	26	817	21			
		Total		652	100	3,716	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for key to triangle symbols.

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UNC Greensboro		SustainEC		UNC Greensboro	SustainEC	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>3. During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?</b>										
a. Participated in a campus or community sustainability project.	SEC1503a	1	Never	412	62	1,945	54	<b>1.6</b>	1.7 **	-0.12
		2	Sometimes	146	22	1,116	28			
		3	Often	50	8	413	11			
		4	Very often	47	7	273	7			
		Total		655	100	3,747	100			
b. Altered your behavior to become more sustainable.	SEC1503b	1	Never	162	25	755	22	<b>2.3</b>	2.3	-0.01
		2	Sometimes	233	35	1,496	40			
		3	Often	172	27	980	26			
		4	Very often	85	13	504	13			
		Total		652	100	3,735	100			
c. Went on a field trip in your bioregion.	SEC1503c	1	Never	499	76	2,450	67	<b>1.4</b>	1.5 ***	-0.15
		2	Sometimes	85	13	764	20			
		3	Often	40	7	273	7			
		4	Very often	27	4	237	6			
		Total		651	100	3,724	100			
<b>4. To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following?</b>										
a. Taking responsibility for the welfare of your communities.	SEC1504a	1	Very little	121	19	542	16	<b>2.5</b>	2.5	-0.04
		2	Some	219	33	1,206	33			
		3	Quite a bit	177	27	1,201	32			
		4	Very much	136	21	790	19			
		Total		653	100	3,739	100			
b. Learning about sustainability.	SEC1504b	1	Very little	115	18	643	18	<b>2.5</b>	2.5	-0.02
		2	Some	231	35	1,143	31			
		3	Quite a bit	171	27	1,073	29			
		4	Very much	137	21	876	21			
		Total		654	100	3,735	100			
c. Understanding local economies and/or ecosystems.	SEC1504c	1	Very little	153	23	828	23	<b>2.3</b>	2.4	-0.02
		2	Some	238	36	1,296	34			
		3	Quite a bit	148	23	967	27			
		4	Very much	113	17	627	16			
		Total		652	100	3,718	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for key to triangle symbols.



## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UNC Greensboro		SustainEC		UNC Greensboro	SustainEC	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>5. To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?</b>										
a. Articulating a vision of a just and sustainable society.	SEC1505a	1	Very little	141	21	673	19	<b>2.4</b>	2.4	-.01
		2	Some	218	34	1,325	36			
		3	Quite a bit	175	27	1,075	29			
		4	Very much	116	18	658	16			
		Total		650	100	3,731	100			
b. Acquiring skills to lead or facilitate group activities.	SEC1505b	1	Very little	66	10	256	7	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	-.06
		2	Some	155	23	848	23			
		3	Quite a bit	228	36	1,431	38			
		4	Very much	202	31	1,192	31			
		Total		651	100	3,727	100			
c. Understanding the consequences of your choices.	SEC1505c	1	Very little	62	10	317	9	<b>2.8</b>	2.9	-.03
		2	Some	173	27	934	25			
		3	Quite a bit	217	33	1,366	36			
		4	Very much	193	30	1,114	29			
		Total		645	100	3,731	100			
d. Understanding the economic dimensions of sustainability.	SEC1505d	1	Very little	165	25	847	23	<b>2.4</b>	2.4	.01
		2	Some	198	30	1,292	35			
		3	Quite a bit	169	27	982	26			
		4	Very much	116	18	605	16			
		Total		648	100	3,726	100			
e. Acquiring the skills to help organizations become more sustainable.	SEC1505e	1	Very little	162	25	865	24	<b>2.4</b>	2.4	.00
		2	Some	209	31	1,263	34			
		3	Quite a bit	159	25	963	26			
		4	Very much	118	18	628	16			
		Total		648	100	3,719	100			
f. Understanding issues of social justice.	SEC1505f	1	Very little	94	15	509	15	<b>2.7</b>	2.6	.03
		2	Some	203	31	1,111	30			
		3	Quite a bit	184	28	1,139	30			
		4	Very much	169	26	961	24			
		Total		650	100	3,720	100			
g. Persevering in achieving long-term goals despite adversity.	SEC1505g	1	Very little	64	10	421	12	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	.04
		2	Some	177	27	985	27			
		3	Quite a bit	222	35	1,231	32			
		4	Very much	182	28	1,074	29			
		Total		645	100	3,711	100			

### First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
		UNC Greensboro	SustainEC	UNC Greensboro	SustainEC	UNC Greensboro	SustainEC			
								<i>Comparisons with:</i>		
									SustainEC	
SEC1501a	225	2.47	2.34	.07	.02	1.02	0.97	2,249	.043	.14
SEC1501b	225	2.89	2.85	.06	.02	0.86	0.89	2,252	.617	.04
SEC1501c	225	2.66	2.72	.06	.02	0.95	0.87	267	.342	-.07
SEC1501d	225	2.32	2.21	.07	.02	1.08	0.98	266	.153	.11
SEC1502a	222	2.58	2.49	.07	.02	1.05	0.96	264	.207	.10
SEC1502b	226	2.64	2.55	.06	.02	0.97	0.94	2,230	.182	.09
SEC1502c	221	2.43	2.38	.07	.02	1.06	0.99	265	.491	.05
SEC1503a	226	1.70	1.78	.06	.02	0.95	0.92	2,236	.193	-.09
SEC1503b	227	2.13	2.26	.06	.02	0.92	0.91	2,230	.046	-.14
SEC1503c	226	1.56	1.46	.06	.02	0.83	0.81	2,226	.084	.12
SEC1504a	221	2.39	2.65	.07	.02	1.01	0.95	2,228	.000	-.27
SEC1504b	222	2.38	2.59	.07	.02	1.02	0.99	2,229	.002	-.21
SEC1504c	222	2.20	2.44	.07	.02	1.03	0.97	2,216	.000	-.25
SEC1505a	222	2.37	2.43	.07	.02	0.99	0.93	2,227	.380	-.06
SEC1505b	223	2.55	2.59	.06	.02	0.93	0.91	2,226	.493	-.05
SEC1505c	222	2.79	2.77	.06	.02	0.91	0.90	2,228	.759	.02
SEC1505d	221	2.30	2.37	.07	.02	0.98	0.95	2,221	.269	-.08
SEC1505e	222	2.33	2.37	.07	.02	1.04	0.97	2,219	.614	-.04
SEC1505f	224	2.63	2.55	.07	.02	1.01	0.96	2,216	.277	.08
SEC1505g	220	2.75	2.73	.06	.02	0.95	0.94	2,214	.677	.03

## Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
		UNC Greensboro	SustainEC	UNC Greensboro	SustainEC	UNC Greensboro	SustainEC			
								<i>Comparisons with:</i>		
									SustainEC	
SEC1501a	654	2.45	2.34	.04	.02	1.05	1.03	4,397	.014	.10
SEC1501b	649	3.10	3.26	.04	.01	0.90	0.84	4,388	.000	-.18
SEC1501c	651	2.96	3.03	.04	.01	0.90	0.88	4,380	.052	-.08
SEC1501d	652	2.46	2.35	.04	.02	1.09	1.06	880	.023	.10
SEC1502a	653	2.74	2.60	.04	.02	1.07	1.03	4,380	.001	.14
SEC1502b	652	2.78	2.62	.04	.02	1.04	1.02	4,367	.000	.16
SEC1502c	650	2.50	2.41	.04	.02	1.12	1.09	875	.064	.08
SEC1503a	653	1.60	1.72	.04	.02	0.92	0.92	4,383	.004	-.12
SEC1503b	650	2.28	2.29	.04	.02	0.98	0.95	4,365	.756	-.01
SEC1503c	648	1.40	1.52	.03	.01	0.80	0.87	934	.000	-.15
SEC1504a	651	2.51	2.55	.04	.02	1.02	0.98	871	.377	-.04
SEC1504b	652	2.51	2.53	.04	.02	1.01	1.02	4,370	.613	-.02
SEC1504c	650	2.34	2.36	.04	.02	1.02	1.00	4,349	.682	-.02
SEC1505a	649	2.42	2.42	.04	.02	1.01	0.98	4,358	.899	-.01
SEC1505b	649	2.87	2.93	.04	.02	0.97	0.91	863	.157	-.06
SEC1505c	644	2.83	2.86	.04	.02	0.97	0.95	4,356	.452	-.03
SEC1505d	646	2.37	2.35	.04	.02	1.05	1.00	865	.753	.01
SEC1505e	647	2.36	2.36	.04	.02	1.05	1.01	4,348	.940	.00
SEC1505f	649	2.66	2.63	.04	.02	1.03	1.01	4,348	.536	.03
SEC1505g	643	2.81	2.78	.04	.02	0.96	0.99	4,330	.396	.04

## Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Counts are unweighted; column percentages cannot be replicated from counts.
- b. All statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Unless otherwise noted, statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent  $t$ -tests. Items with categorical response sets are left blank.
- c. These are the values used to calculate means. For the majority of items, these values match the codes in the data file and codebook.
- d. Effect size for independent  $t$ -tests uses Cohen's  $d$ .
- e. Statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Categorical items are not listed.
- f. The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus or minus 1.96 times the standard error of the mean.
- g. A measure of the amount individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.
- h. Degrees of freedom used to compute the  $t$ -tests. Values differ from  $N$ s due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.
- i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent  $t$ -tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the comparison group is due to chance.

### **Key to symbols:**

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- △ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

Note: It is important to interpret the direction of differences relative to item wording and your institutional context.