National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Comparisons to Carnegie Peers*

DePaul’s first-year and senior students reported more frequent discussions with students from diverse groups and more instances of effective teaching practices than students at Carnegie peer institutions, according to recent student responses to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

NSSE was created to assess students’ experiences inside and outside the classroom, asking students to indicate the frequency with which they engaged in various educationally enriching activities. These activities are grouped around indicators of engagement, which are further aggregated into themes. The average scores of DePaul first-year students exceeded those for students at Carnegie peer institutions across all themes—Academic Challenge, Learning with Peers, Experiences with Faculty and Supportive Campus—with the exception of the Collaborative Learning indicator, though these differences were generally small. Similarly, the average scores for DePaul seniors were higher than those for students at Carnegie peer institutions across themes, with the exception of three engagement indicators: Learning Strategies, Collaborative Learning and Quality of Interactions.

Despite these differences, the highest and lowest-rated indicators for DePaul students were similar to those for students at Carnegie peer institutions. Both student groups reported Discussions with Diverse Others were the most frequently occurring experiences and Student-Faculty Interactions were the least frequently occurring experiences.

* Carnegie peers are institutions who have the same Doctoral Research University (DRU) classification as DePaul, based on a system developed by the Carnegie Foundation in 1973. Examples of other DRU institutions are St. John’s University, Pace University, Benedictine University and Marquette University.

Source: 2013 and 2014 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) from the IRMA NSSE Interactive Report. Scores for each item were recoded on a 0-60 scale and Engagement Indicator mean scores were calculated. Data above are an aggregate of the responses from both the 2013 and 2014 NSSE administrations. Contact Joe Filkins with questions at jfilkins@depaul.edu.