Executive Summary

The Beginning College Survey for Student Engagement (BCSSE) has a goal to measure and predict student engagement based on high school experiences and attitudes toward college. The survey, administered by the Indiana Center for Postsecondary Research, is similar to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) which measures engagement at college of first year and senior students. The University of North Dakota participated in BCSSE for the first time during the summer of 2010. A total of 1,823 incoming students were invited to participate, with 496 completing the survey for a response rate of 27%.

- One third of UND’s respondents indicated they were first-generation students, with neither parent having obtained a Bachelor’s degree.
- Eight of ten respondents report they had at least four years of math coursework in high school, however just 32% indicate they had calculus coursework and 29% have had statistics coursework. This is significantly behind what is reported at Doctoral institutions.
- UND respondents are less likely than their Doctoral peers to have taken advanced placement or honors courses in high school, however they are more likely to have taken college courses for credit, with 46% of UND’s BCSSE respondents indicating they have done so.
- Seventy percent of respondents report they work for pay during high school. Three-quarters (75%) indicate they plan on working for pay while attending college.
- Incoming students spend relatively little time preparing for class in high school, with 39% indicating they study 1-5 hours per week and 30% indicating 6-10 hours per week is spent studying. These students do, however, report they plan on dedicating more time once they get to college, with 55% planning on spending 11-20 hours per week and 31% planning to spend more than 20 hours per week preparing for class.
- BCSSE respondents show respectable levels of classroom engagement in high school. Respondents indicate they “often” ask questions in class or contribute to class discussions. They rarely come to class without completing readings or assignments and rarely miss a day of school.
- Incoming UND students are highly involved in athletic teams during high school, as well as community service and performing arts programs. On the other hand, minimal involvement is reported in student publications such as newspaper or yearbook, student government, and vocational clubs such as business, health, or technology clubs.
- Items where students feel they will have difficulty at college include managing their time, paying for expenses, and learning course material. Students are confident in their ability to make new friends.
- Eighty-seven percent of respondents plan on graduating from UND with a degree.
- BCSSE summarizes results into six benchmark areas. While UND scored lowest on the Expected Academic Difficulty benchmark, its scores were comparable to Doctoral and Public institution peers. UND scores lower that peers on the remaining five benchmarks and the difference is statistically significant.

This same group of students will be invited to participate in the NSSE survey during the spring of their first year. Combining the results of these two surveys may point out areas where UND can enhance the overall first-year experience. These enhancements have the potential to increase freshman retention.
University of North Dakota
2010 Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE)
Dashboard

A total of 496 incoming first year students completed the BCSSE prior to beginning classes at UND; Response rate was 27%.

BCSSE Benchmark Scores
UND generally scores lower when compared to their national counterparts. Expected Academic Difficulty is the only benchmark where UND does not differ significantly from Doctoral and Public respondents.

How Will You Finance Your Education
(\% Responding More than Half)
UND students are much more reliant on student loans and less on scholarships and parents than national counterparts

During your last year of high school, how often did you do the following:
(1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = often, 4 = very often)

Benchmark scores are calculated by summarizing several survey component questions. Scores are measured on a scale of 1 to 10.