Institutions use FSSE to corroborate NSSE results and to gain a better understanding of student engagement on their campuses. Building on the foundation laid by *Using NSSE Data*, this guide offers topics and tips that will help you make use of your FSSE findings. Many FSSE institutions share their results in practical and distinctive ways, including the following:

- Accreditation self-studies
- Assessment and improvement
- Curricular reform
- Faculty development programs
- Faculty workshops and retreats
- Grant proposals, applications, and progress reports
- Institutional research
- Scholarship of teaching and learning (SOTL) initiatives

Whether you seek to include faculty and other colleagues in campus discussions or to learn how FSSE results have been used at different institutions, you will find helpful hints on the following pages.

Where to Begin

Given the volume of information FSSE provides, you may be unsure where to begin. If you are just getting started with your FSSE findings, here are five steps to guide your work. Later in this document are specific examples of how various institutions use their FSSE results and information on additional resources available to participating institutions.

### Table 1

**Faculty Roles in Institutional Assessment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Role</th>
<th>Role Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source of Data</td>
<td>Information can be collected from faculty about their observations of students, the importance they place on aspects of student engagement, and the practices they use to encourage student engagement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience</td>
<td>Assessment findings should be presented to faculty members through multiple avenues including reports, meetings, lectures, and workshops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Analyst</td>
<td>Faculty members with expertise in data analysis can assist their institutions through investigations that use assessment data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficiary of Assessment Knowledge</td>
<td>The knowledge derived from assessment processes should be used to inform the development and adaptation of campus programs including those aimed at improving faculty understanding and instructional practice.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


### Step One: Identify resources on your campus.

Nelson Laird, Smallwood, Niskodé-Dossett, and Garver (2009) outlined four roles that faculty can assume in institutional assessment efforts (Table 1)—serving as a source of data, as an audience member for the presentation of findings, as a data analyst, and as a beneficiary of assessment knowledge used to inform campus decisions and programming.

Since some of your colleagues on campus may also fit these roles, a good place to begin is to identify those who can help and the role that best suits each person. This is a great way to gain buy-in from groups of colleagues who will be integral in setting the tone regarding how the results are received on campus. It may be especially helpful if the office that is charged with analyzing student engagement data is small and can use the extra expertise.

### Step Two: Become familiar with your reports and data file.

In addition to the raw FSSE data file, each institution receives four customized FSSE reports in its *Institutional Report* binder: a combined report presenting NSSE and FSSE response distributions side by side, frequency distributions of faculty responses, a summary of respondent demographics, and a summary of important administration details. Browsing through these reports will give you a good idea of the information provided. Colleagues who are able and willing to serve as data analysts may be helpful in this process.
As you view your FSSE reports, think about the types of information that will both interest your campus colleagues and be most useful to your assessment efforts. Make connections with other assessment results archived in your office or with projects underway that will help corroborate your FSSE findings.

If you have trouble deciding where to focus, consider using exercises in Working with FSSE and NSSE Findings: A Facilitator’s Guide. Akin to an instructor’s manual, this guide provides preparation notes for facilitators, outlines for addressing topics related to FSSE and NSSE data, and exercises and worksheets that may be used to help others understand the utility of the survey data in a specific campus environment.

fsse.iub.edu/pdf/FSSE_Facilitators_Guide.pdf

In addition to the frequencies of demographic information and response distributions for the core survey, participating institutions may receive up to two optional reports, topical modules and/or a consortium report, and the Disciplinary Area Report.

Topical Modules

In 2013, NSSE and FSSE introduced a new feature for participating institutions: the topical module. A module is a short set of questions on a topic related to current issues in higher education and student engagement. Institutions could select one module, which was appended to the core survey, at no charge. A second module option was available for an additional fee. The 2014 FSSE Topical Modules included:

- Academic Advising
- Civic Engagement
- Experiences with Diverse Perspectives
- Development of Transferable Skills
- Learning with Technology
- Experiences with Writing
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

To view these modules in their entirety, visit fsse.iub.edu/html/topicalmodules.cfm

Additional modules will be developed and introduced over time, while modules that are especially popular or relevant will be retained. If you have suggestions for future modules, please contact us via email at fsse@indiana.edu

Consortia

Consortia typically form around a shared institutional mission, type, or statewide system commonality. Institutions participating in a NSSE consortium now have the opportunity to administer consortium items, additional questions appended to the core instrument, along with their FSSE administration. Including such items with a FSSE administration allows faculty responses to give context to the student experience. For more information or to view a complete list of historical consortium participation in NSSE, visit nsse.iub.edu/html/consortia.cfm

FSSE Disciplinary Area Report

The new Disciplinary Area Report, to be delivered in the fall, provides your frequency distributions in up to ten categories of related disciplines. Along with the NSSE Major Field Report, this report adds context to the student experience within different disciplinary areas. Institutions were given the option to customize their disciplinary groupings or to use FSSE’s default categories.

Step Three: Know your audiences and tailor a presentation to fit them.

Often, FSSE users prepare multiple reports highlighting different findings for different audiences. Knowing your target audience can serve as a filter for your survey results and guide your decisions about which information to include.

When preparing to present survey results, you may anticipate skepticism or resistance from a specific audience. Begin by drafting a list of likely questions. Then, structure your presentation to address these issues and ease the concerns of your audience. Alternatively, a preliminary conversation with key members of your target audience can help you tailor your presentation to address their concerns and provide the type of information of greatest use to them. Such conversations can foster buy-in and guide future work with that group.
**Step Five: Communicate results.**

FSSE institutions share their results in innovative ways. While quite a few institutions post FSSE reports on their Web sites, some share them only with internal audiences. Almost all institutions share their results with faculty members, usually during faculty meetings or retreats. How institutions share their FSSE results—the internal and external audiences they target, the channels of communication they use, the results they select to share—should be guided by the institutions’ assessment needs and purpose for administering the survey.

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**Tell Us Your Story**

Collecting and documenting the many ways FSSE colleges and universities use their results is an ongoing process. These examples form a shared resource for colleges and universities and facilitate continuing efforts to improve the quality of the undergraduate experience. If you wish to send specific examples of internal reports or brochures from your institution that highlight FSSE data, usage strategies, and special activities, please contact our FSSE team (fsse@indiana.edu).

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**Uses of FSSE Results: Examples from Participating Institutions**

**Quinnipiac University**’s FSSE and NSSE findings are presented to the deans’ council and other campus constituents. The findings are integrated on campus as part of a program that assesses student learning outcomes achievement. This program helps students develop their own learning plans and fosters a team-based model of academic advising involving students, faculty, and alumni. Additionally, Quinnipiac uses FSSE to improve its curriculum—focusing on service-learning, faculty feedback, undergraduate research opportunities, and more.

At **Fisk University**, FSSE findings have been incorporated into annual institutional effectiveness planning procedures. FSSE data have been used alongside course evaluations and other assessment tools to provide campus officials with an idea of whether or not student and faculty classroom expectations are aligned. FSSE findings have also been shared in academic departments, providing faculty with student feedback to improve syllabi and inform teaching strategies.

**Luther College**’s Faculty Assessment Committee, with the Office of Assessment and Institutional Research, assists in packaging student engagement data in a manner that will be most useful to colleagues across campus. Also, **Student Engagement in Learning: Luther Faculty & Senior Students**, 3 Mississippi State University
a report comparing Luther College’s faculty responses on FSSE to student responses on previous NSSE administrations, was developed and disseminated.

To disseminate and build interest in NSSE and FSSE findings, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (School of Mines) developed a card game to engage small groups of campus constituents—including faculty, staff, and students—in discussions about student engagement data. The School of Mines found that the game raised awareness about the types of data collected and stimulated conversation regarding future implications and applications of survey findings. Most importantly, the game helped reduce some of the barriers between faculty, staff, and students. The School of Mines has published and presented on this technique, resulting in the card game being adopted by other campuses.

At Viterbo University, FSSE results have been used to support a Title III grant and Higher Learning Commission/North Central Association Comprehensive Self-Study Report. Additionally, Viterbo used FSSE data to inform a review of the campus general education program.

Maximize the Impact of Your Data with FSSE Resources

FSSE provides services and resources to help participating institutions make use of their survey results. Explanations of these are below.

Online Resources

Several additional FSSE resources, listed below, are available on the FSSE Web site (fsse.iub.edu). The purpose of these resources is to help institutional leaders facilitate workshops, presentations, and discussions with campus colleagues about FSSE results and student engagement practices.

Publications and Presentations. FSSE staff members participate in professional meetings and conferences throughout the year. Their papers and presentations at these conferences are archived on the FSSE Web site, where they may be downloaded for free. fsse.iub.edu/pubs.cfm

Topical Findings. FSSE’s Topical Findings Web page contains illustrated findings from past FSSE administrations. It also has downloadable SPSS syntax that FSSE participants may use to easily reproduce the featured illustrations using their own data. The featured illustrations assist with the task of presenting FSSE results to campus audiences in a manner that is readily understandable. fsse.iub.edu/html/topicalFindings.cfm

Outreach Services

FSSE Webinars. Free and interactive, these Webinars allow participants to pose questions to the presenters as well as engage in discussion with them. Recordings of past Webinars and the accompanying PowerPoint presentations are available on the NSSE Web site. nsse.iub.edu/webinars/archives.cfm

Once at the site, click “All” in the year category and enter “FSSE” in the search field. We send invitations to FSSE participants when FSSE-related Webinars are scheduled.

User Workshops. User workshops are coordinated by the NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice and provide institutional researchers, faculty, administrators, and staff opportunities to gather ideas about how to use NSSE and FSSE results in assessment, accreditation, self-studies, general education reviews, reviews of academic and student life programs, and faculty development initiatives. Workshops are provided based on user interest. If you are interested in participating in or hosting a workshop, contact Jillian Kinzie (jikinzie@indiana.edu) or FSSE staff (fsse@indiana.edu). FSSE staff members regularly present sessions at the User Workshops on topics that help users present their survey results in the manner that best fits their institutional assessment needs and their campus audiences. Copies of past presentations may be found online. nsse.iub.edu/links/workshop_presentations

Final Word

Information on how FSSE institutions use their survey results is collected using various methods including the FSSE Report Card (a client feedback tool), interviews with users, and a search of institutional Web sites. We share examples of how institutions use and share their results on the FSSE Web site (fsse.iub.edu) throughout the year. If you would like to have your institution’s story featured or need additional information regarding any of the services mentioned above, please contact us at fsse@indiana.edu