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 these 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Role</th>
<th>Role Summary</th>
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</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 Member</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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**Step 1. Identify resources on your campus**

Thomas Nelson Laird and colleagues (2009) outlined four roles that faculty can take in institutional assessment efforts (Table 1)—as source of data, as audience member for the presentation of findings, as data analyst, and as beneficiary of assessment knowledge used to inform campus decisions and programming.

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

**Step 2. Become familiar with your data file and reports**

In addition to receiving a file of their raw FSSE data, each FSSE institution receives—in their Institutional Report binder—five customized FSSE reports: an overview with selected results, a side-by-side presentation of NSSE and FSSE response distributions, the frequency distributions of faculty responses, a summary of respondent demographics, and a summary of important survey 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 facilitate your assessment efforts. To corroborate your FSSE findings, make connections between these reports and other assessment results archived in your office or results from projects underway.

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

In addition to the FSSE Snapshot report, information on the frequencies of demographic characteristics, response distributions for the core survey, and the Disciplinary Area Report, the Institutional Report may include up to two optional reports—a Topical Module and/or consortium report.

**Topical Modules**

In 2013, NSSE and FSSE introduced a new feature for participating institutions: the Topical Module, a short set of questions on a topic related to current issues in higher education and student engagement. Institutions can select one module, appended to the core survey, at no charge. A second module option is available for an additional fee. FSSE 2015 Topical Modules include:

- 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.indiana.edu/html/topicalmodules.cfm

Additional modules will be developed and introduced over time, and 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, institution type, or statewide system commonality. Institutions participating in a NSSE consortium now have the opportunity to administer consortium questions, appended to the core instrument, along with their FSSE administration. Including such items provides additional, customized context for faculty responses about the student experience. For more information or to view a complete list of historical consortium participation in NSSE, visit nsse.indiana.edu/html/consortia.cfm

**FSSE Disciplinary Area Report**

The Disciplinary Area Report, 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 are given the option to customize their disciplinary groupings or to use FSSE’s default categories.

**Step 3. Know your audiences and tailor presentations for 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, if you anticipate skepticism or resistance from a specific audience, begin by drafting a list of likely questions from them. Then, structure your presentation to address these questions and ease their concerns. Alternatively, having advance conversation with key members of your target audience can help you to tailor your presentation to their concerns and to provide the type of information of greatest use to them. Such conversation can foster buy-in and guide future work with an audience.
Step 4. Use online tools and resources to generate your reports

The online resources detailed below are indispensable—not only for generating reports but also for helping you highlight interesting findings, such as how your institution’s faculty compare to the FSSE population overall. The Sample Analyses (see details on page 4) are especially useful this way.

fsse.indiana.edu/html/sampleAnalyses.cfm

The FSSE Summary Tables are basic tabulations, updated annually, of survey responses by faculty and institution characteristics. Participating institutions can use these tables for comparison group information.

fsse.indiana.edu/html/overall_results.cfm

As well as tools that help FSSE users analyze their own data, for an additional fee, customized analyses are available. FSSE staff will create customized aggregated reports that allow comparisons between groups of faculty. Because FSSE ensures the anonymity of faculty respondents, certain demographic and academic variables are not returned to institutions with these reports. On the FSSE website, information is available on the timeline and cost for a customized analysis.

fsse.indiana.edu/html/customAnalysis.cfm

Tell Us Your Story

Collecting and documenting the many ways colleges and universities use FSSE 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 are willing to share 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).

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 educational practice—focusing on using results to support enhancements to 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, the college developed and disseminated Student Engagement in Learning: Luther Faculty & Senior Students, a report comparing Luther College’s faculty responses on FSSE to student responses on previous NSSE administrations.

The University of Houston-Victoria found that FSSE results provided opportunities for outreach to others on campus with data relevant to their work. Open faculty meetings allow discussion of how FSSE results can be used to make informed decisions on campus, and targeted emails go to offices that may find FSSE informative.
At Indiana State University (ISU), academic advising has been an area of focus for the past several years. ISU has administered the advising module on both NSSE and FSSE, giving them two lenses through which to view this facet of the student experience. By using both instruments, they examine and respond to advising issues from both student and faculty perspectives, as well as capture how first years, seniors, and faculty think about advising at ISU. This approach has allowed the campus to drill down to college-level results and stimulate faculty conversations about areas of strength and improvement across the university. A task force on faculty advising is using FSSE results in part to develop new directions for their advising approach and to think about ways to reward and train faculty for advising.

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. The university also used FSSE data to inform a review of its general education program.

Maximize the Impact of Your Data with FSSE Resources

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

Online Resources

As well as the previously mentioned online resources, several other FSSE resources are available on the FSSE website (fsse.indiana.edu) 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 website, where they may be downloaded for free. fsse.indiana.edu/pubs.cfm

Sample Analyses. FSSE’s Sample Analyses web page contains illustrated findings from past FSSE administrations. It also has downloadable SPSS syntax with which participants can easily reproduce the featured illustrations with their institution’s data. These featured illustrations can help in making presentations of FSSE results that are readily understandable to various campus audiences. fsse.indiana.edu/html/sampleAnalyses.cfm

Outreach Services

FSSE Webinars. Free and interactive, these webinars allow participants to query and engage in discussion with the presenters. We send invitations to FSSE participants when FSSE-related webinars are scheduled. Recordings of past webinars, with their PowerPoint slides, are available on the NSSE website. To browse FSSE webinars, click “All” in the year field and enter “FSSE” in the keyword field. nsse.indiana.edu/webinars/archives.cfm

NSSE User Workshops. Based on user interest, workshops are coordinated through the NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice and provide institutional researchers, faculty, administrators, and staff opportunities to gather and share 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. If you are interested in participating in or hosting a workshop, contact Jillian Kinzie (jikinzie@indiana.edu) or FSSE staff (fsse@indiana.edu). Workshop sessions by FSSE staff are often designed to guide users in presenting results to best fit their institutional assessment needs and their campus audiences. Materials from past workshop sessions may be found online: nsse.indiana.edu/html/workshops_webinars_presentations_papers.cfm

Final Word

Information on how FSSE institutions use their survey results is collected using various methods including interviews with users and searches of institution websites. Throughout the year, we share examples of how institutions use and share their results on the FSSE website (fsse.indiana.edu). If you would like for us to feature your institution’s story among these examples or if you need more information about any of the services mentioned above, please contact us at fsse@indiana.edu.