

**UC Clermont
and the
2004 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)**

Brief History

CCSSE was established in 2001 as a project of the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin. Major grants from the Houston Endowment, the Lumina Foundation for Education, the MetLife Foundation, and The Pew Charitable Trusts have supported the work.

CCSSE works in partnership with the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), a survey that focuses on four-year colleges and universities. Established in 1998, *NSSE* is directed by George Kuh and headquartered at Indiana University in the Center for Postsecondary Research and Planning. The *NSSE* survey, administered to first-year and senior students in four-year institutions, emerged in response to concerns about quality in American undergraduate education and about the lack of emphasis on student learning in the major (and highly visible) college rankings in the United States.

From the beginning, though, there was a recognized need for a student engagement survey specifically designed for community and technical colleges. Thus, *CCSSE* was launched in 2001, with the intention of producing new information about community college quality and performance that would provide value to institutions in their efforts to improve student learning and retention, while also providing policymakers and the public with more appropriate ways to view the quality of undergraduate education.

CCSSE Member Colleges

Spring 2004 was the second national administration of *CCSSE*. A total of 152 institutions across 30 states participated in the 2004 administration. Seventeen of these member colleges are classified by size as extra-large institutions (15,000 + credit students), 25 as large (8,000-14,999), 35 as medium (4,500-7,999), and 75 as small (<4,500). Forty of the 2004 member colleges are located in urban areas, 51 in suburban areas, and 61 in rural areas. For the 2004 survey, UC Clermont is classified as a small college with an enrollment of 2,408 located in a suburban area.

Survey Administration

Credit classes were randomly selected – stratified by time of day (morning, afternoon, and evening) – from institutional class data files to participate in the survey. Of those sampled, 92,301 students submitted usable surveys. The number of completed surveys produced an overall “percent of target” rate of 80% (ratio of the adjusted number of completed surveys to target sample sizes). UC Clermont had an adjusted survey count of 526 with a percent of target rate of 88%. 191,056 students from 232 institutions in 36 states and British Columbia have completed the *CCSSE* survey since 2002.

41 UC Clermont classes – 11 each in the Business and Science, Math and Engineering divisions and 19 in the Humanities and Social Sciences division - were selected by *CCSSE* for survey administration. The paper survey instruments were administered in-class during Spring Quarter 2004 and took approximately 30-35 minutes for students to complete. 98% of the classes selected were able to accommodate the survey administration. The survey administration was a college-wide effort with 6 faculty, 10 staff and 2 administrators volunteering to serve as survey administrators.

Student Respondent Profile

To compare the characteristics of student respondents with the characteristics of the underlying student population for each participating college, *CCSSE* uses the data reported by the institution in its 2002 IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) Enrollment Report for the following variables: gender, race and ethnicity, student age, and enrollment status (full- or part-time). The data are aggregated to compare the 2004 *CCSSE* survey respondent population to the total student population of 2004 *CCSSE* member colleges.

Gender

Of the 90,303 student respondents who answered this item, 40% are male and 60% are female. This mirrors the full population of *CCSSE* students, comprised of 41% males and 59% females. Small college respondents were comprised of 37% male and 63% female. UC Clermont student respondents were 44% male and 56% female. UC Clermont 2002 students were comprised of 39% males and 61% females.

Age

2004 *CCSSE* respondents range in age from 18 to 65+ years old. Approximately 89% are between 18 to 39 years old; 64% are 18-24 years old while 25% are 25 to 39 years old. 93% of UC Clermont respondents were between 18 to 39 years old; 68% were 18-24 years old while 25% were 25 to 39 years old. Approximately 86% of the UC Clermont fall quarter 2002* students were between 18 to 39 years old; 59% were 18-24 years old while 27% were 25 to 39 years old.

** data based on 15th day census as UC Clermont age categories are not reported to IPEDS*

Racial Identification

Sixty-one percent of *CCSSE* respondents identify themselves as White/non-Hispanic, 13% as Hispanic/Latino/Spanish, 10% as Black or African American, 4% as Asian, 2% as Native American, and 3% marked “other”. Ninety-two percent of UC Clermont respondents identified themselves as White/non-Hispanic, 1% as Hispanic/Latino/Spanish, 1% as Black or African American, 1% as Asian, 1% as Native American, and 2% marked “other”. Eighty-eight percent of UC Clermont 2002 students identified themselves as White/non-Hispanic, 0% as Hispanic/Latino/Spanish, 2% as Black or African American, 1% as Asian, 0% as Native American, and 7% as “other”.

International Students

Responses to the question, “are you an international student or foreign national?” reflect variations related to college size. Four percent of small college respondents answered “yes,” 6% of medium size college respondents responded “yes,” 8% of large institution respondents answered “yes,” while extra-large institutions had the highest representation of international students with 11% of respondents responding “yes”. Three percent of UC Clermont respondents answered “yes” while 0% of UC Clermont 2002 students reported being international students or foreign nationals.

Enrollment Status

Sixty-six percent of the *CCSSE* student respondents report attending college full-time, while 36% of the *CCSSE* colleges’ total student population attended full-time. Only 34% of the surveyed students report being part-time college students, compared to 64% as reported to IPEDS. This inverse representation is a result of the sampling technique and the in-class administration process. For this reason, survey results are either weighted or disaggregated on the full-time/part-time variable so that reports will accurately reflect the underlying student population. Seventy-seven percent of UC Clermont respondents report attending full-time, while 23% report attending part-time. Fifty-seven percent of the UC Clermont 2002 students attended full-time and 43% attended part-time.

The following student respondent categories are weighted according to Fall 2002 IPEDS population data.

Parents’ Educational Attainment

Sixty percent of UC Clermont respondents report that their mothers’ highest level of education is a high school diploma (with no college experience), and 53.8% indicate that level for their fathers.

Educational Attainment

Sixty-eight percent of *CCSSE* respondents report starting their college careers at the community college where they completed the survey. Sixty-nine percent of UC Clermont respondents started their college careers here. Approximately 72% of *CCSSE* respondents indicate that their highest level of educational attainment is a high school diploma or GED; 67% have completed fewer than 30 credit hours of college-level work; 18% report either a certificate or an associate degree; 7% have earned a bachelor’s degree; and 2% have earned an advanced degree. Of UC Clermont respondents, 75% indicate that their highest level of educational attainment is a high school diploma or GED; 62% have completed fewer than 30 credit hours of college-level work; 15% report either a certificate or an associate degree; 6% have earned a bachelor’s degree; and 1% have earned an advanced degree.

Credit Hours Earned

Forty-seven percent of *CCSSE* respondents have completed fewer than 15 credit hours; 21% have completed 15-29 credit hours; and 32% have completed more than 30 credit hours. Of UC Clermont respondents, 39% have completed fewer than 15 credit hours; 23% have completed 15-29 credit hours; and approximately 38% have completed more than 30 credit hours.

Grades

Forty-six percent of *CCSSE* respondents report that they earned grades of *B+* or higher, while 2% report that they earned grades of *C-* or lower. Approximately 51% of UC Clermont respondents report that they earned grades of *B+* or higher, while less than 1% report that they earned grades of *C-* or lower.

External Commitments

Sixty percent of *CCSSE* respondents work 21 or more hours per week; 28% of students care for dependents at least 11 hours per week; and 15% of students spend at least six hours per week commuting to class. Sixty-six percent of UC Clermont respondents work 21 or more hours per week; 24% of students care for dependents at least 11 hours per week; and 18% of students spend at least six hours per week commuting to class.