

**National Survey of Student Engagement  
First-Year Survey Summary (2012 and 2015 Cohort)**

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was administered in Spring 2016 to first-year and senior students. Summarized below are some of the select questions with comparisons of first-year students between the 2013 and 2016 administration of the survey.

	2012 Cohort	2015 Cohort	Change
<b>Academic Challenge (% often or very often)</b>			
Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments	56%	55%	-1%
Connected your learning to societal problems or issues	60%	58%	-2%
Connected ideas from courses to prior experiences / knowledge	85%	78%	-7%
Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information	50%	54%	+4%
<b>Learning with Peers (% often or very often)</b>			
Asked another student to help you understand course material	61%	62%	+1%
Explained course material to one or more students	64%	63%	-1%
Had discussions with people from a race / ethnicity other than own	68%	63%	-5%
Had discussions with people from an economic background other than own	75%	77%	+2%
<b>Experiences with Faculty (% Very much or quite a bit)</b>			
Talked about career plans with a faculty member ( <i>% often / very</i> )	41%	36%	-5%
Faculty clearly explained course goals and requirements	88%	78%	-10%
Faculty taught course sessions in an organized way	89%	81%	-8%
Faculty provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	77%	78%	+1%
<b>Campus Environment (6 or 7 on a scale from 1=poor to 7=excellent)</b>			
Quality of interactions with other students	63%	52%	-11%
Quality of interactions with faculty members	59%	58%	-1%
Quality of interactions with administrative staff	49%	42%	-7%
Writing clearly and effectively	74%	77%	+3%
Thinking critically and analytically	85%	92%	+7%
Developing or clarifying a personal code of ethics / values	66%	70%	+4%
Solving complex real-world problems	60%	51%	-9%
Being an informed and active citizen	63%	58%	-5%
<b>How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at Saint Mary's?</b>			
% Good or Excellent	95%	88%	-7%
<b>If you could start over again, would you go to Saint Mary's?</b>			
% Probably / Definitely Yes	88%	83%	-5%

Source: National Survey of Student Engagement (2013 and 2016 Administration). Next administration – Spring 2019.