

RESEARCH BRIEF

**Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) 2017:
Benchmark Comparisons by Academic Program**

Introduction

What is CCSSE?

- Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) is an annual nationwide survey of community college students.
- CCSSE helps institutions gauge their performance in areas of student engagement.
- NOVA participates in CCSSE every 2-3 years and has done so for over a decade.

What are CCSSE benchmarks?

- CCSSE identifies five **benchmarks** for assessing institutional performance in student engagement based on groups of conceptually-related items on the survey:
 - *Active and Collaborative Learning*
 - *Student Effort*
 - *Academic Challenge*
 - *Student-Faculty Interaction*
 - *Support for Learners*

CCSSE 2017 at NOVA

- At NOVA, **1,694 students** participated in the CCSSE in Spring 2017.

In This Research Brief

NOVA Academic Programs

- This Research Brief details NOVA's scores on the five CCSSE benchmarks by academic program classifications.

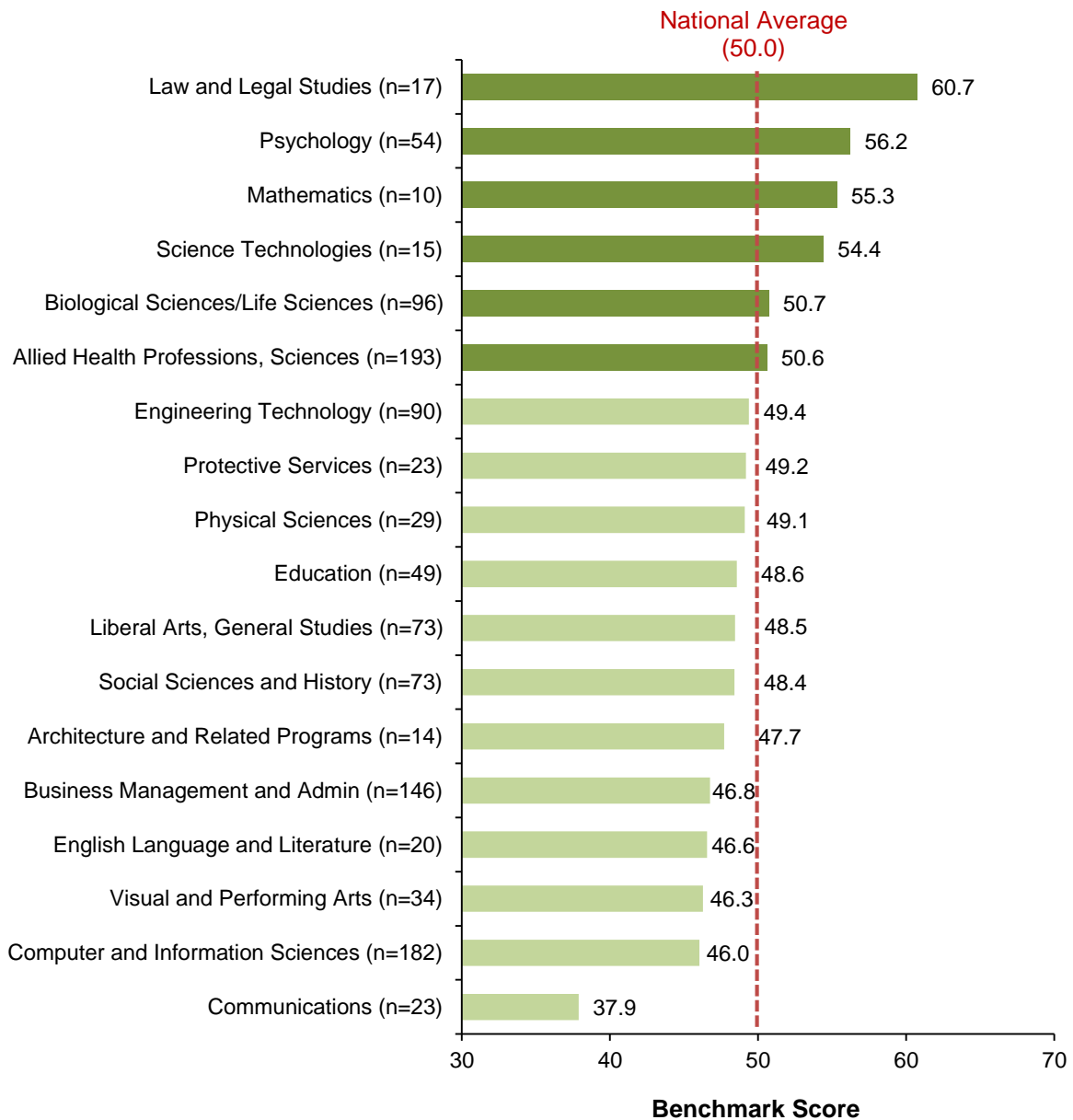
Key Findings

- Student engagement was *greatest* among NOVA students in **Mathematics, Psychology, Science Technologies, Law and Legal Studies, and Allied Health Professions, Sciences** programs, all of which had scores *above* national averages on three out of five benchmarks (e.g., *Active and Collaborative Learning, Academic Challenge, and Student-Faculty Interaction* benchmarks).
- Student engagement tended to be *lowest* among NOVA students in **Physical Sciences, Visual and Performing Arts, Communications, Education, and Protective Services** programs, all of which had scores *below* national averages on all five benchmarks.

Benchmark 1. Active and Collaborative Learning

At NOVA, six academic program classifications scored above the national average for the *Active and Collaborative Learning* benchmark. Scores for this benchmark were *highest* among NOVA students who indicated they were enrolled in **Law and Legal Studies** programs and *lowest* among student who indicated that they were enrolled in **Communications** programs (60.7 versus 37.9). (Figure 1)

Figure 1. CCSSE 2017 NOVA Benchmark Scores by Academic Program: Active and Collaborative Learning

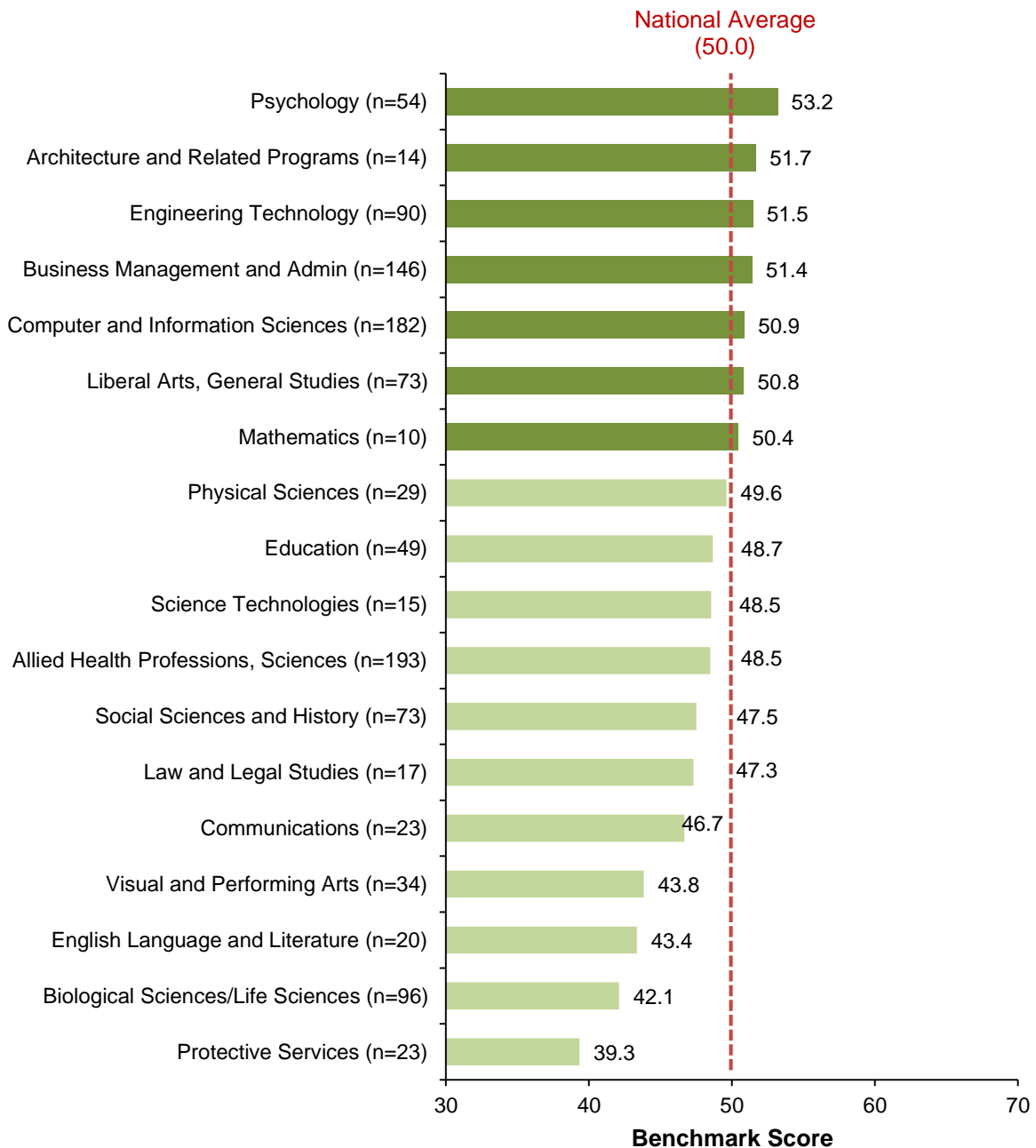


Note: Academic program classification based on students' selection from a list of program codes (see Table A3 in the Appendix). Academic program selections of 'Other', 'University Transfer', 'Undecided', or 'Not Applicable' were excluded along with academic programs with fewer than 10 respondents (see Table A2 in the Appendix).

Benchmark 2. Student Effort

Seven academic program classifications scored above the national average for the *Student Effort* benchmark at NOVA. Scores for this benchmark were *highest* among NOVA students who indicated that they were enrolled in **Psychology** programs and *lowest* among students who indicated that they were enrolled in **Protective Services** programs (53.2 versus 39.3). (Figure 2)

Figure 2. CCSSE 2017 NOVA Benchmark Scores by Academic Program: Student Effort

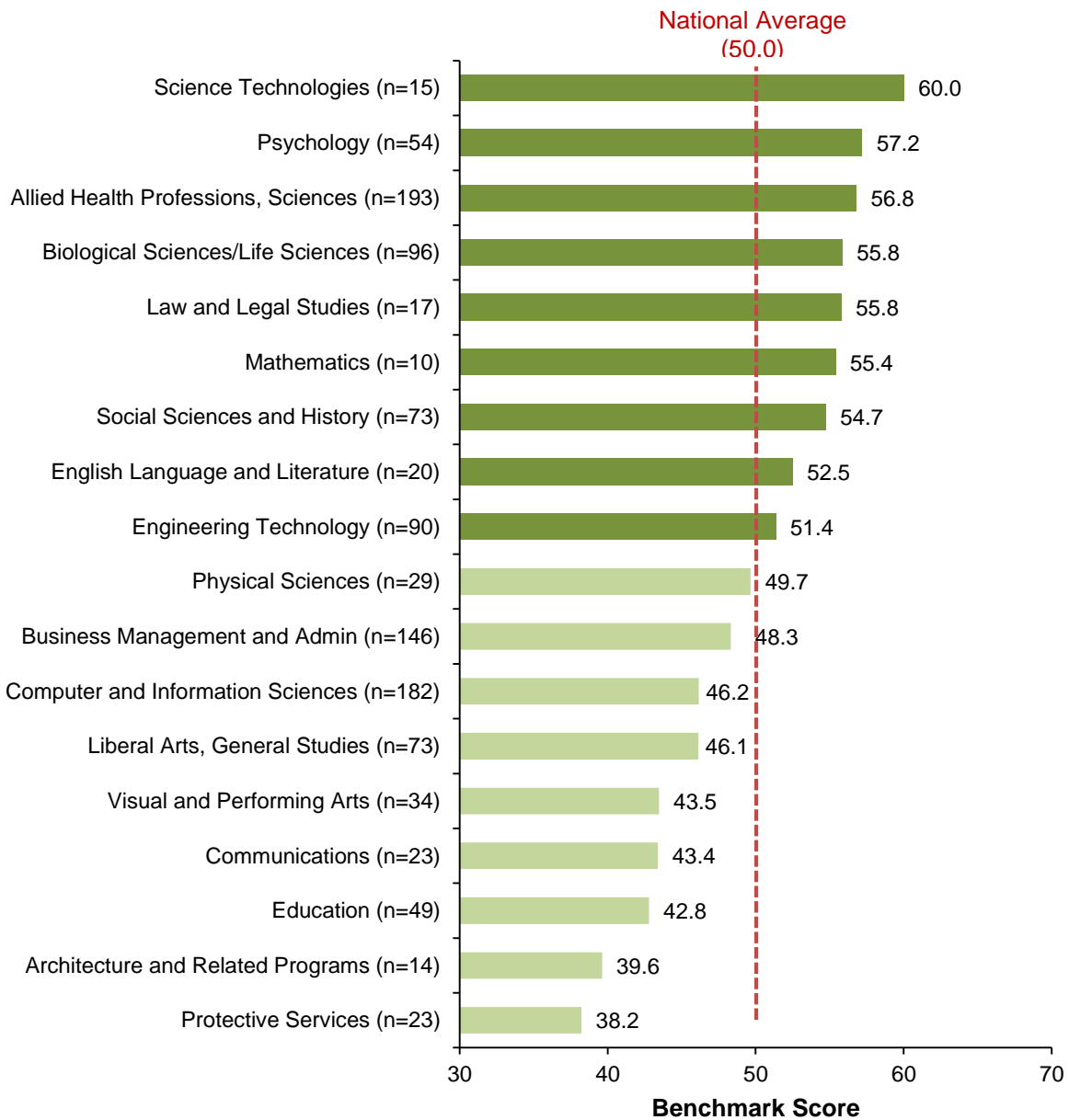


Note: Academic program classification based on students' selection from a list of program codes (see Table A3 in the Appendix). Academic program selections of 'Other', 'University Transfer', 'Undecided', or 'Not Applicable' were excluded along with academic programs with fewer than 10 respondents (see Table A2 in the Appendix).

Benchmark 3. Academic Challenge

At NOVA, *nine* academic program classifications scored above the national average for the *Academic Challenge* benchmark. Scores for this benchmark were *highest* among NOVA students who indicated that they were enrolled in **Science Technologies** programs and *lowest* among student who indicated that they were enrolled in **Protective Services** programs (60.0 versus 38.2). (Figure 3)

Figure 3. CCSSE 2017 NOVA Benchmark Scores by Academic Program: Academic Challenge

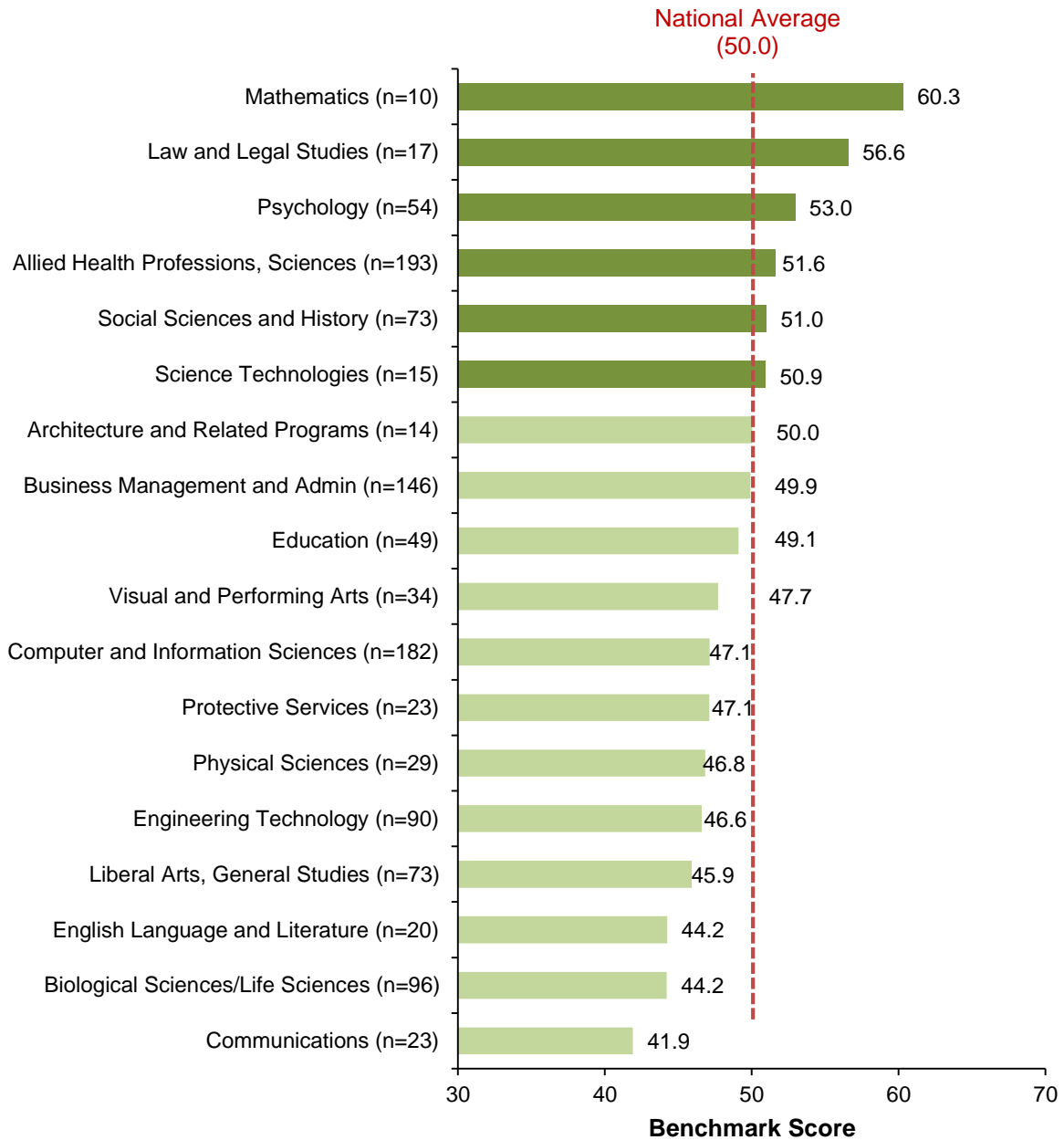


Note: Academic program classification based on students' selection from a list of program codes (see Table A3 in the Appendix). Academic program selections of 'Other', 'University Transfer', 'Undecided', or 'Not Applicable' were excluded along with academic programs with fewer than 10 respondents (see Table A2 in the Appendix).

Benchmark 4. Student-Faculty Interaction

Six academic program classifications scored above the national average for the *Student-Faculty Interaction* benchmark at NOVA. Scores for this benchmark were *highest* among NOVA students who indicated that they were enrolled in **Mathematics** programs and *lowest* among students who indicated that they were enrolled in **Communications** programs (60.3 versus 41.9). (Figure 4)

Figure 4. CCSSE 2017 NOVA Benchmark Scores by Academic Program: Student-Faculty Interaction

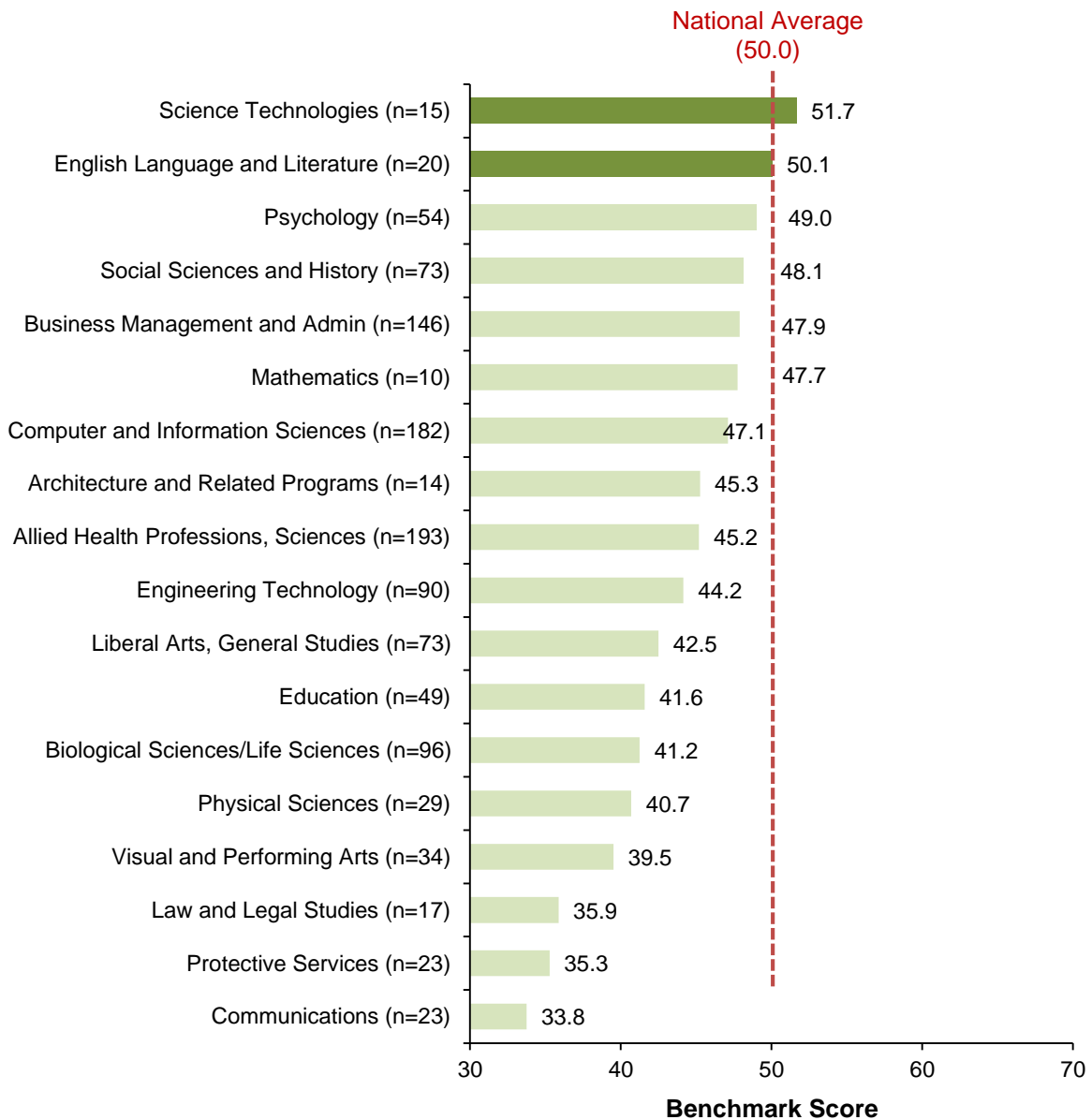


Note: Academic program classification based on students' selection from a list of program codes (see Table A3 in the Appendix). Academic program selections of 'Other', 'University Transfer', 'Undecided', or 'Not Applicable' were excluded along with academic programs with fewer than 10 respondents (see Table A2 in the Appendix).

Benchmark 5. Support for Learners

Overall, NOVA scores were *lowest* for the *Support for Learners* benchmark when compared to the national average (46.6 versus 50.0, see *Table A1*). Thus, only *two* academic program classifications scored above the national average for the *Support for Learners* benchmark. Scores for this benchmark were *highest* among NOVA students who indicated that they were enrolled in **Science Technologies** programs and *lowest* among students who indicated that they were enrolled in **Communications** programs (51.7 versus 33.8). (Figure 5)

Figure 5. CCSSE 2017 NOVA Benchmark Scores by Academic Program: Support for Learners



Note: Academic program classification based on students' selection from a list of program codes (see Table A3 in the Appendix). Academic program selections of 'Other', 'University Transfer', 'Undecided', or 'Not Applicable' were excluded along with academic programs with fewer than 10 respondents (see Table A2 in the Appendix).

Appendix

Table A1. Overall Benchmark Scores for NOVA: CCSSE 2017

| | Benchmark | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| | Active and Collaborative Learning | Student Effort | Academic Challenge | Student-Faculty Interaction | Support for Learners |
| NOVA | 49.6 | 49.8 | 49.8 | 48.9 | 46.6 |
| National Average | 50.0 | 50.0 | 50.0 | 50.0 | 50.0 |

Table A2. NOVA Benchmark Scores by Academic Program: CCSSE 2017*

| Academic Program | n | Benchmark | | | | |
|--|-----|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| | | Active and Collaborative Learning | Student Effort | Academic Challenge | Student-Faculty Interaction | Support for Learners |
| Allied Health Professions and Related Sciences | 193 | 50.6 | 48.5 | 56.8 | 51.6 | 45.2 |
| Architecture and Related Programs | 14 | 47.7 | 51.7 | 39.6 | 50.0 | 45.3 |
| Biological Sciences/Life Sciences | 96 | 50.7 | 42.1 | 55.8 | 44.2 | 41.2 |
| Business Management and Administrative Services | 146 | 46.8 | 51.4 | 48.3 | 49.9 | 47.9 |
| Communications | 23 | 37.9 | 46.7 | 43.4 | 41.9 | 33.8 |
| Computer and Information Sciences | 182 | 46.0 | 50.9 | 46.2 | 47.1 | 47.1 |
| Education | 49 | 48.6 | 48.7 | 42.8 | 49.1 | 41.6 |
| Engineering Technologies/Technicians | 90 | 49.4 | 51.5 | 51.4 | 46.6 | 44.2 |
| English Language and Literature | 20 | 46.6 | 43.4 | 52.5 | 44.2 | 50.1 |
| Law and Legal Studies | 17 | 60.7 | 47.3 | 55.8 | 56.6 | 35.9 |
| Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies, and Humanities | 73 | 48.5 | 50.8 | 46.1 | 45.9 | 42.5 |
| Mathematics | 10 | 55.3 | 50.4 | 55.4 | 60.3 | 47.7 |
| Physical Sciences | 29 | 49.1 | 49.6 | 49.7 | 46.8 | 40.7 |
| Protective Services | 23 | 49.2 | 39.3 | 38.2 | 47.1 | 35.3 |
| Psychology | 54 | 56.2 | 53.2 | 57.2 | 53.0 | 49.0 |
| Science Technologies | 15 | 54.4 | 48.5 | 60.0 | 50.9 | 51.7 |
| Social Sciences and History | 73 | 48.4 | 47.5 | 54.7 | 51.0 | 48.1 |
| Visual and Performing Arts | 34 | 46.3 | 43.8 | 43.5 | 47.7 | 39.5 |
| University Transfer | 72 | 47.7 | 42.8 | 43.9 | 44.5 | 38.2 |
| Undecided | 48 | 44.9 | 41.8 | 45.3 | 40.2 | 43.2 |
| Other | 55 | 47.0 | 48.2 | 42.6 | 47.3 | 46.5 |
| Not Applicable | 12 | 57.4 | 53.0 | 49.6 | 52.0 | 54.5 |

Note: Academic program classifications are based on students' selections from a list of CCSSE program codes (see Table A3, next page). Academic program classifications with fewer than 10 respondents were excluded from this table.

*Highest benchmark scores (i.e., above 50.0) are shaded blue. Lowest benchmark scores (i.e., below 50.0) are shaded red.

Table A3. CCSSE Academic Program Codes

| Code | Academic Program |
|-------------|---|
| 1 | Agriculture |
| 2 | Allied Health Professions and Related Sciences (nursing, physical therapy, dental, EMT, veterinary, etc.) |
| 3 | Architecture and Related Programs (city/urban, community/regional planning, etc.) |
| 4 | Biological Sciences/Life Sciences (biology, biochemistry, botany, zoology, etc.) |
| 5 | Business Management and Administrative Services (accounting, business administration, marketing, etc.) |
| 6 | Communications (advertising, journalism, television/radio, etc.) |
| 7 | Computer and Information Sciences |
| 8 | Conservation and Renewable Natural Resources (fishing, forestry, wildlife, etc.) |
| 9 | Construction Trades (masonry, carpentry, plumbing and pipe fitters, etc.) |
| 10 | Education |
| 11 | Engineering Technologies/Technicians |
| 12 | English Language and Literature (composition, creative writing, etc.) |
| 13 | Foreign Languages and Literature (French, Spanish, etc.) |
| 14 | History |
| 15 | Law and Legal Studies |
| 16 | Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies, and Humanities |
| 17 | Mathematics |
| 18 | Technicians and Repairers (air conditioning, heating and refrigeration, auto body, etc.) |
| 19 | Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies (international relations, ecology, environmental studies, etc.) |
| 20 | Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies |
| 21 | Personal and Miscellaneous Services (gaming and sports, cosmetic, culinary, etc.) |
| 22 | Physical Sciences (astronomy, chemistry, geology, physics, etc.) |
| 23 | Precision Production Trades (drafting, graphic, precious metal worker, etc.) |
| 24 | Protective Services (criminal justice and corrections, fire protection, etc.) |
| 25 | Psychology |
| 26 | Public Administration and Services (public policy, social work, etc.) |
| 27 | Science Technologies (biological technology, nuclear and industrial radiological technology, etc.) |
| 28 | Social Sciences and History (anthropology, archaeology, economics, political science, sociology, etc.) |
| 29 | Transportation and Materials Moving Workers (air, vehicle, and water workers, etc.) |
| 30 | Visual and Performing Arts (art, music, theatre, dance, etc.) |
| 31 | Vocational Home Economics (child care/guidance worker and manager, housekeeping, etc.) |
| 32 | University Transfer |
| 33 | Undecided |
| 34 | Other |
| 35 | Not Applicable |

Note: List of academic program classifications provided to students when completing the CCSSE survey. Students selected the code number that best fit the description of their NOVA program or major. CCSSE academic program classifications may differ from NOVA academic program classifications, however, the list encompasses most of NOVA's academic program offerings.