

# RESEARCH BRIEF

No. 83-15

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## Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) 2015: Benchmark Scores by Student Demographics

### *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 different areas of **student engagement**.

#### What are 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 2015 at NOVA

- At NOVA, **1,588 students** participated in the CCSSE in Spring 2015.

### *In This Research Brief*

#### NOVA Student Demographics

- NOVA's scores on the above mentioned benchmarks are disaggregated by the following respondent demographics:
  - Full-Time/Part-Time Status
  - Gender
  - Age Group
  - Race/Ethnicity
- Results by student demographics for NOVA respondents are provided in a table in the Appendix.

## Highlights

### Full-Time/Part-Time Status

- On average, **full-time students** gave NOVA higher scores than part-time students on all five benchmarks of student engagement.

### Gender

- Overall, **female** students assigned NOVA higher scores than male students on four of the five benchmarks of student engagement.
- In particular, on the *Academic Challenge* benchmark, female students gave NOVA a score that was 7 points higher than that given by male students.

### Age Group

- In general, younger students (**ages 29 and under**) reported higher scores on *Student-Faculty Interaction* than older students (ages 30 and older).
- Older students reported higher levels of engagement on *Academic Challenge* than younger students.

### Race/Ethnicity

- Overall, the highest scores for each benchmark were given by **Black** students, while the lowest scores for four of the five benchmarks were given by **White** students.
- **Black** and **Hispanic** students gave their lowest scores to the *Active and Collaborative Learning* benchmark. In contrast, **White** students gave *Active and Collaborative Learning* their highest scores.

## Data Notes

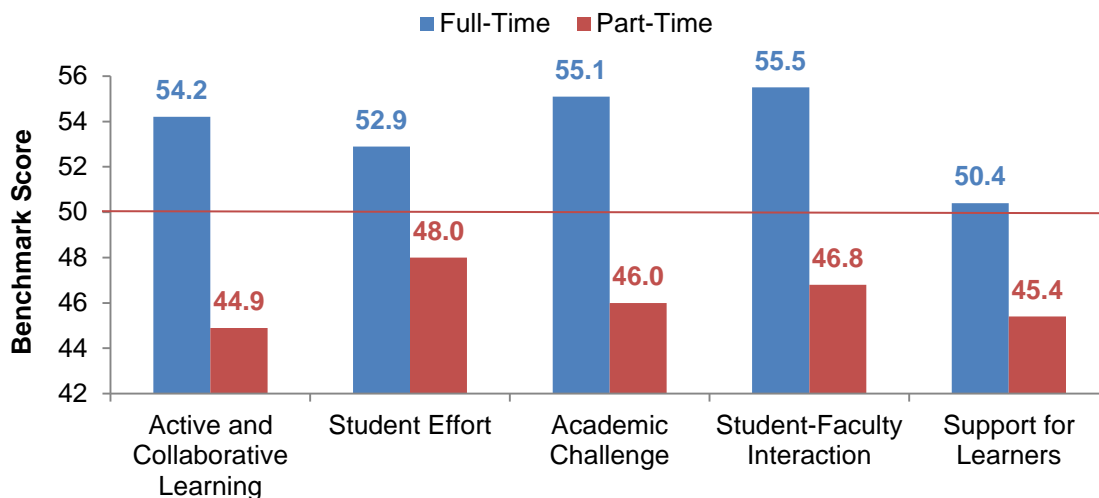
### Benchmark Scores

- Each benchmark score was calculated by averaging the scores of items that comprise that benchmark. The scores were then transformed (standardized), such that the **national average is always 50** for all benchmarks.
- With this kind of transformation, the scores of other colleges can be viewed as relative scores; this provides an easy way to assess whether an individual college or a group of colleges are performing above or below the mean (50) on each benchmark.
- This standardization process was done by CCSSE.

## Full-Time/Part-Time Status

On average, **full-time** students gave NOVA higher scores than **part-time** students on all five benchmarks of student engagement. **Full-time** students, on average, rated each benchmark above the national average (50.0), and **part-time** students rated each benchmark below the national average. The differences in scores ranged from 5 to 9 points.

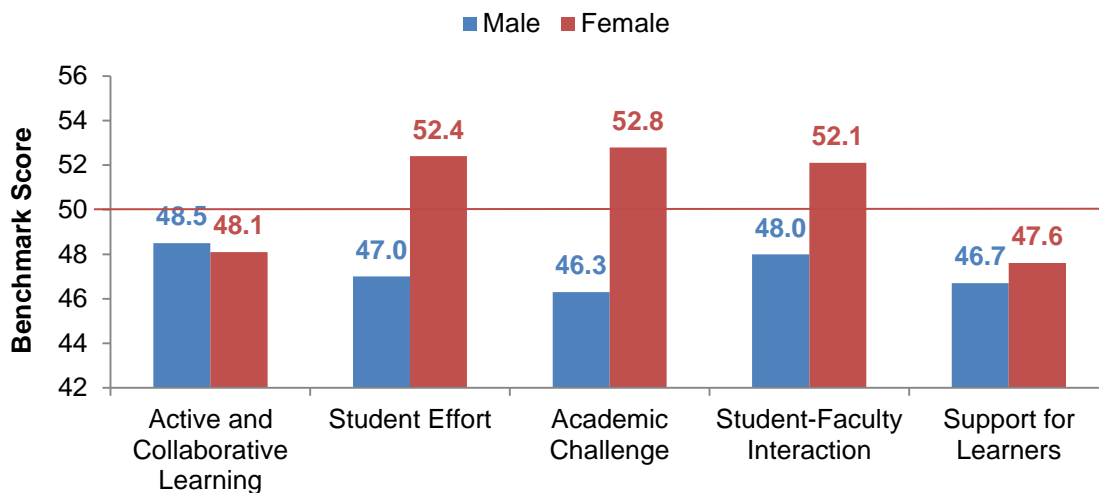
**Figure 1. CCSSE Benchmark Scores by Enrollment Status: Spring 2015**



## Gender

Overall, **female** students assigned NOVA higher scores than **male** students on four of the five benchmarks of student engagement. The largest difference was seen for the *Academic Challenge* benchmark, for which **female** students gave NOVA a score that was 7 points higher than that given by **male** students.

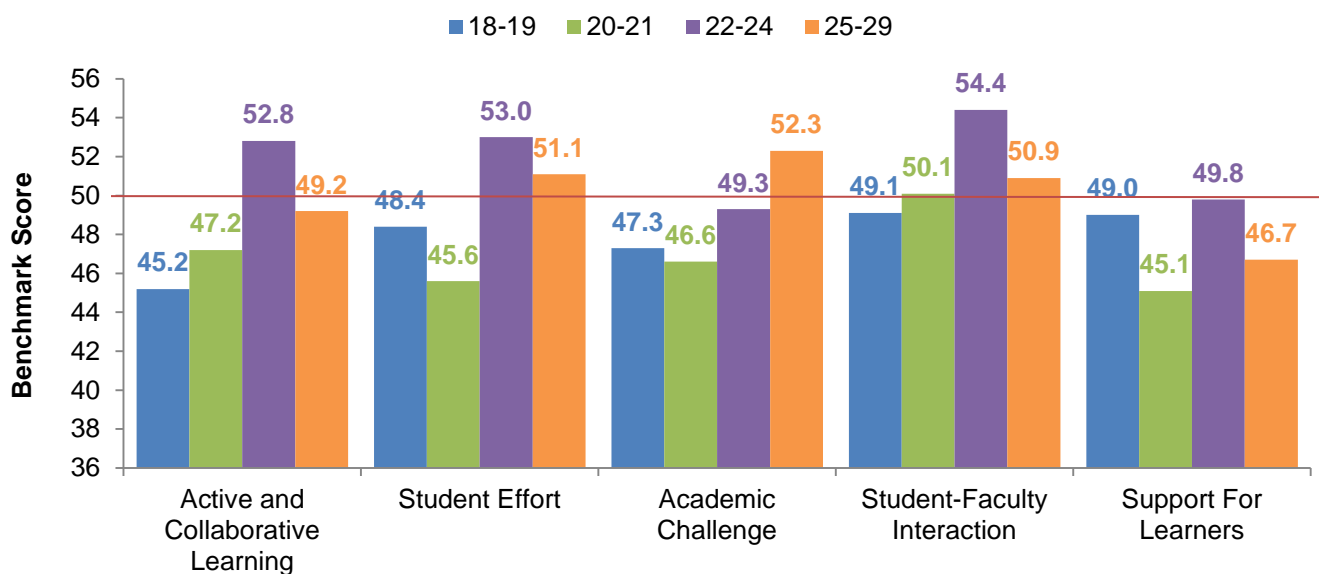
**Figure 2. CCSSE Benchmark Scores by Gender: Spring 2015**



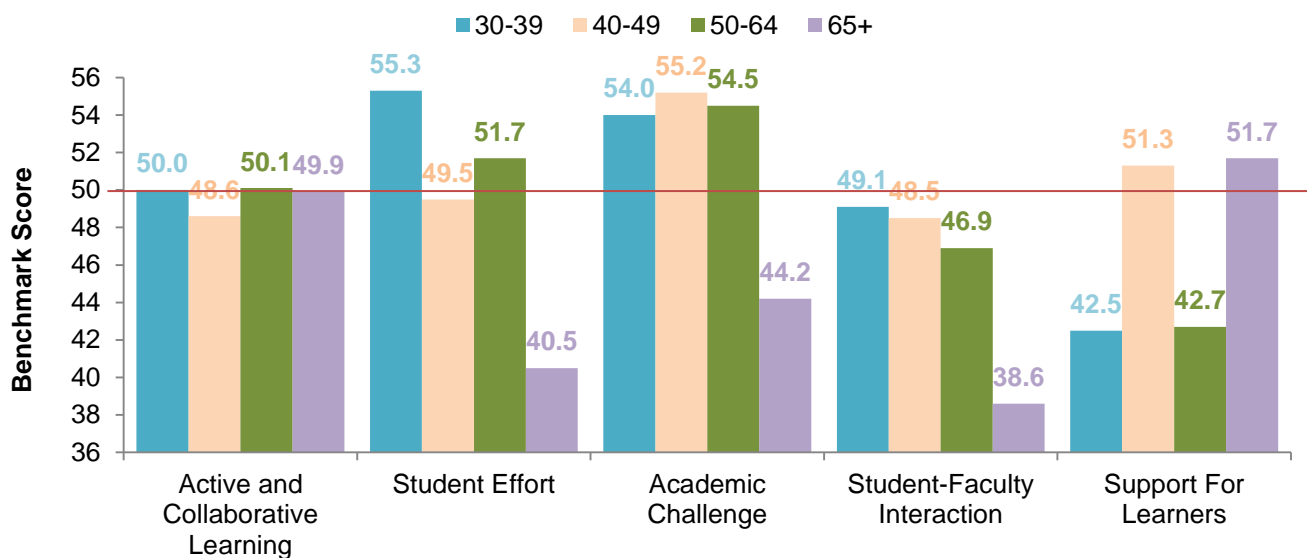
## Age Group

In general, younger students (ages 29 and under) reported higher scores on *Student-Faculty Interaction* than older students (ages 30 and older). In contrast, older students reported higher levels of engagement on *Academic Challenge* than younger students. For *Active and Collaborative Learning*, the only group to assign a score above average was those ages 22 to 24. Only two age groups (40 to 49 and 65+) gave above-average scores to the *Support for Learners* benchmark.

**Figure 3. CCSSE Benchmark Scores by Age Group (29 and Under): Spring 2015**



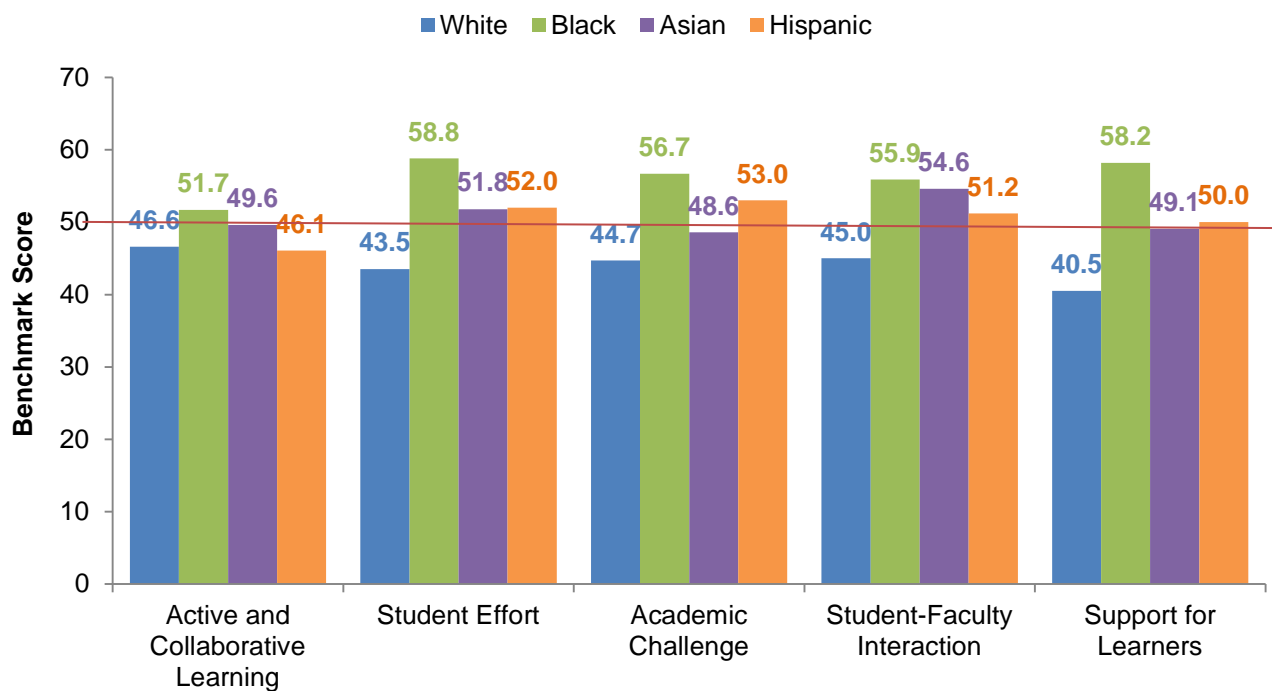
**Figure 4. CCSSE Benchmark Scores by Age Group (30 and Older): Spring 2015**



## Race/Ethnicity

**Black** students reported higher levels of student engagement than all other racial/ethnic groups on all five benchmarks. The lowest scores for four of the five benchmarks were given by **White** students. In fact, **White** students were the only racial/ethnic group to give below-average scores to the *Student Effort* and *Student-Faculty Interaction* benchmarks. **Black** and **Hispanic** students gave their lowest scores to the *Active and Collaborative Learning* benchmark. **Asian** students gave their lowest score to the *Academic Challenge* benchmark, while **Hispanic** students gave that benchmark their highest score.

**Figure 5. CCSSE Benchmark Scores by Race/Ethnicity: Spring 2015**



Note: Due to the small sample size, some racial/ethnic groups are excluded from comparisons.

Appendix: CCSSE Benchmark Scores by NOVA Student Demographics:  
Spring 2015

Enrollment Status	N* (%)	Benchmark				
		Active and Collaborative Learning	Student Effort	Academic Challenge	Student-Faculty Interaction	Support for Learners
Full-Time	1,098 (69.8%)	54.2	52.9	55.1	55.5	50.4
Part-Time	475 (30.2%)	44.9	48.0	46.0	46.8	45.4
Gender		Active and Collaborative Learning	Student Effort	Academic Challenge	Student-Faculty Interaction	Support for Learners
Male	789 (51.0%)	48.5	47.0	46.3	48.0	46.7
Female	758 (49.0%)	48.1	52.4	52.8	52.1	47.6
Age Group		Active and Collaborative Learning	Student Effort	Academic Challenge	Student-Faculty Interaction	Support For Learners
18-19	470 (30.3%)	45.2	48.4	47.3	49.1	49.0
20-21	405 (26.1%)	47.2	45.6	46.6	50.1	45.1
22-24	236 (15.2%)	52.8	53.0	49.3	54.4	49.8
25-29	193 (12.4%)	49.2	51.1	52.3	50.9	46.7
30-39	149 (9.6%)	50.0	55.3	54.0	49.1	42.5
40-49	55 (3.5%)	48.6	49.5	55.2	48.5	51.3
50-64	25 (1.6%)	50.1	51.7	54.5	46.9	42.7
65 and Older	18 (1.2%)	49.9	40.5	44.2	38.6	51.7
Race/Ethnicity		Active and Collaborative Learning	Student Effort	Academic Challenge	Student-Faculty Interaction	Support For Learners
White, Non-Hispanic	577 (37.7%)	46.6	43.5	44.7	45.0	40.5
Black or African American, Non-Hispanic	246 (16.1%)	51.7	58.8	56.7	55.9	58.2
Asian, Asian American, or Pacific Islander	246 (16.1%)	49.6	51.8	48.6	54.6	49.1
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish	310 (20.2%)	46.1	52.0	53.0	51.2	50.0
American Indian or other Native American**	14 (0.9%)	69.9	50.4	50.9	75.4	49.0

Native Hawaiian**	2 (0.1%)	114.7	48.9	42.3	114.4	29.5
Other	136 (8.9%)	51.5	50.0	48.6	47.8	45.4

Note: For Age Group and Race/Ethnicity data, lowest scores are indicated in **red** and highest scores are indicated in **green** for each benchmark.

\* Respondents did not always provide demographic information. As such, totals may not differ.

\*\* Due to the small sample size, these racial ethnic groups are excluded from comparisons.