Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

Mean Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>UNK Mean</th>
<th>Selected Peers Mean</th>
<th>Effect Size</th>
<th>Carnegie Class Mean</th>
<th>Effect Size</th>
<th>NSSE 2010 Mean</th>
<th>Effect Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First-Year</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>51.5</td>
<td>-.02</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>56.5</td>
<td>**-.17</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>57.6</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Each box and whiskers chart plots the 5th (bottom of lower bar), 25th (bottom of box), 50th (middle line), 75th (top of box), and 95th (top of upper bar) percentile scores. The dot shows the benchmark mean. See page 2 for an illustration. See pages 10 and 11 for percentile values.

NSSE 2010 Benchmark Comparisons

University of Nebraska at Kearney compared with:

Distributions of Student Benchmark Scores

First-Year

Senior

Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) Items

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote high levels of student achievement by emphasizing the importance of academic effort and setting high expectations for student performance.

- Hours spent preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, etc. related to academic program)
- Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings
- Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more, between 5 and 19 pages, and fewer than 5 pages
- Coursework emphasizes: Analysis of the basic elements of an idea, experience or theory
- Coursework emphasizes: Synthesis and organizing of ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships
- Coursework emphasizes: Making of judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods
- Coursework emphasizes: Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations
- Working harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations
- Campus environment emphasizes: Spending significant amount of time studying and on academic work