NSSE Lessons from the Field: University of Minnesota, Morris

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The hallmarks of the liberal arts in a public setting.

• Rigorous integrated student experience
• ‘Not so big’ human-scaled campus \(\approx 1700\) students
• Nationally distinctive niche
  • Baccalaureate Colleges - Arts and Sciences Carnegie Classification
  • 274 institutions • 37 are public colleges
• High portion of first generation students, PELL eligible students, American Indian students.
NSSE - A Collaboration: Student Affairs & Academic Affairs

• Focus on student learning and engagement.
• Bringing the Morris experience to life.
  • Board of Regents, and others
• Strategic positioning: advancing core engagement areas for transformational student learning.
  • Baseline information
  • A strong vision for the future
• Organizational change efforts.
• Accreditation – NSSE mapping.
University of Minnesota, Morris

**UM Strategic Positioning:**

*Exceptional Students*

Recruit, educate, challenge, and graduate outstanding students who become highly motivated lifelong learners, leaders, and global citizens.

A renewable, sustainable education.
Morris Student Experience
Exceptional Students: Engaged Learning

UM Board of Regents - Faculty, Staff & Student Affairs Committee

- Morris is recognized as a leader among public liberal arts colleges.
- NSSE shows that UMM seniors rate their 'entire educational experience' significantly higher than seniors across the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) consortium.
- Morris seniors engagement levels significantly exceed COPLAC seniors in key engagement areas.

NSSE 2006

A renewable, sustainable education.
Morris Seniors: Key Engagement Areas

Morris seniors significantly exceed COPLAC seniors in:

- Attending art exhibits, galleries, music, dance, or theatre performances.
- Working with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, etc.)
- Completing foreign language coursework.
- Studying abroad.
- Voting in local, state, or national elections.
- Tutoring or teaching other students.
- Working with a faculty member on a research project outside course/program requirements.
- Participating in co-curricular activities.  

NSSE 2006
## Accreditation: Peer Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engagement Area</th>
<th>Morris 2008 Seniors</th>
<th>COPLAC 2008 Seniors</th>
<th>Morris To COPLAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Service Volunteering</td>
<td>69% Done 8% Plan to Do 77%</td>
<td>63% Done 12% Plan to Do 75%</td>
<td>+ 6% - 4% + 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Learning</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>+ 7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research with a faculty member</td>
<td>43% Done 7% Plan to Do 50%</td>
<td>23% Done 11% Plan to Do 34%</td>
<td>+20% - 4% +16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Abroad</td>
<td>42% Done 6% Plan to do 48%</td>
<td>17% Done 7% Plan to Do 24%</td>
<td>+25% - 1% +24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Accreditation: Broader Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engagement Area</th>
<th>Morris 2008 Seniors</th>
<th>Morris To Bac LA</th>
<th>Morris To NSSE All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Service Volunteering</strong></td>
<td>69% Done 8% Plan to Do 77%</td>
<td>+ 1% - 2% + 1%</td>
<td>+ 9% - 7% + 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service Learning</strong></td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>+ 8%</td>
<td>+ 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research with a faculty member</strong></td>
<td>43% Done 7% Plan to Do 50%</td>
<td>+14% - 2% +12%</td>
<td>+23% - 5% +17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study Abroad</strong></td>
<td>42% Done 6% Plan to do 48%</td>
<td>+ 9% 0% + 9%</td>
<td>+27% - 3% + 24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Morris: Growing Student Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engagement Area</th>
<th>2004 Seniors</th>
<th>2008 Seniors</th>
<th>Change 04 - 08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Service Volunteering</td>
<td>66% Done 8% Plan to 74%</td>
<td>69% Done 8% Plan to 77%</td>
<td>+ 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Learning</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>+ 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research with a faculty member</td>
<td>33% Done 11% Plan to 44%</td>
<td>43% Done 7% Plan to 50%</td>
<td>+10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Abroad</td>
<td>34% Done 6% Plan to 40%</td>
<td>42% Done 6% Plan to 48%</td>
<td>+ 8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Collaboration: Student Affairs & Academic Affairs

- VC for Student Affairs, VC for Academic Affairs, and Institutional Research lead presentations
- Governance Committees: Assessment of Student Learning, Curriculum, Student Services, Student Government; open meeting for faculty and staff.
  - Benchmarks, strengths, concerns, opportunities for growth
- Strong results for Seniors historically; First Year Students not at desired levels.
  - Disappearing Task Force on the First Year

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