



**Lakehead**  
UNIVERSITY

**NSSE 2014**  
**Selected Results**

Lakehead University

Adapted from: NSSE 2014 Lakehead University Institutional Report

## *NSSE 2014: Introduction and Survey Administration*

### About NSSE

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is used to gather information about student participation in activities and programs that promote their learning and personal development. The results provide insight into: a) how undergraduates spend their time, and b) what they gain from attending university. Institutions use NSSE data to identify aspects of the undergraduate experience that can be improved through changes in policy and practice. The NSSE was launched in 2000 and has since been administered at more than 1,500 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. More than 90% of participating institutions administer the survey on a periodic basis. More information on NSSE is available at: [nsse.iub.edu](http://nsse.iub.edu)

### NSSE in Ontario

Since 2008, all of Ontario’s public universities have been participating in NSSE every three years under an arrangement with the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. In this report, Lakehead's scores on the ten Engagement Indicators and two satisfaction questions are compared to the scores of the Ontario Universities as a group. The Ontario university comparison group is comprised of 22 universities in Ontario including: Algoma, Brock, Carleton, Kings' at Western, Laurentian, McMaster, Nipissing, OCAD, Ryerson, Trent, Ottawa, Saint Paul, Guelph, Guelph-Humber, UOIT, Toronto, Waterloo, Windsor, Western, Wilfrid Laurier, and York.

### NSSE at Lakehead

NSSE 2014 was conducted in January and February of 2014 and it marks the 4th time Lakehead has participated in NSSE. All first year and senior year undergraduate students at Lakehead received up to 5 email invites to complete the online survey. The table below outlines the population size, how many students made up the sample, and how many students completed the survey.

	<i>First-year</i>	<i>Senior-Year</i>
Adjusted population <sup>a</sup>	1,800	1,622
Survey sample	1,800	1,622
Total respondents	742	663
Full completions <sup>b</sup>	612	569
Partial completions	130	94

a. Submitted population was adjusted for ineligible students and for those whom survey requests were returned as undeliverable.

b. Completed at least one demographic question after the core engagement items on the survey.

### Response Rate

There was a good response rate at Lakehead: First-Year = 41% or 742 students and Senior-Year = 41% or 663 students. The table below summarizes response rates and sampling errors for Lakehead and Ontario<sup>a</sup>. For more information, see NSSE’s Response Rate FAQ: [nsse.iub.edu/pdf/Resp\\_Rate\\_FAQ.pdf](https://nsse.iub.edu/pdf/Resp_Rate_FAQ.pdf)

	<i>First-year</i>		<i>Senior-year</i>	
	Lakehead U	Ontario	Lakehead U	Ontario
Response rate	41%	32%	41%	34%
Sampling error <sup>b</sup>	+/- 2.8%	+/- 0.5%	+/- 2.9%	+/- 0.5%

a. Comparison group response rate and sampling error were computed at the student level (i.e., they are not institution averages).

b. Also called “margin of error,” sampling error is an estimate of the amount the true score on a given item could differ from the estimate based on a sample. For example, if the sampling error is +/- 5.0% and 40% of your students reply “Very often” to a particular item, then the true population value is most likely between 35% and 45%.

### Representativeness and Weighting

Because females and full-time students are consistently overrepresented among respondents, NSSE weights results by institution-reported gender and enrollment status so institutional estimates reflect the population with respect to these characteristics. For more information, see [nsse.iub.edu/html/weighting.cfm](https://nsse.iub.edu/html/weighting.cfm). The table below lists respondent and population percentages on these key characteristics side by side to demonstrate how well Lakehead respondents reflect the actual first-year and senior-year populations.

#### Representativeness

	<i>First-year</i>		<i>Senior-year</i>	
	Respondent %	Population %	Respondent %	Population %
Female	65	59	62	56
Full-time	93	87	85	79
First-time, first-year	80	79	N/A	N/A

### Data

Upon completion of the survey administration, Lakehead receives the raw response data as well as numerous reports including reports comparing Lakehead’s results with its peers.

## NSSE 2014: Engagement Indicators

### About Engagement Indicators

Engagement Indicators (EIs) provide a useful summary of the detailed information contained in students' NSSE responses. By combining responses to related NSSE questions, each EI offers valuable information about a distinct aspect of student engagement. Ten indicators, based on three to eight survey questions each (a total of 47 survey questions), are organized into four broad themes as shown below.

### How Engagement Indicators are computed

Each EI is scored on a 60-point scale. To produce an indicator score, the response set for each item (question) is converted to a 60-point scale (e.g., Never = 0; Sometimes = 20; Often = 40; Very often = 60), and the rescaled items are averaged. Thus a score of zero means a student responded at the bottom of the scale for every item in the EI, while a score of 60 indicates responses at the top of the scale on every item. The institutional Engagement Indicator scores are the mean of the students' scores. Results are weighted by institution-reported gender and enrollment status (as well as institution size for comparison groups). For more information on EIs and their psychometric properties, refer to the NSSE Web site: [nsse.iub.edu](http://nsse.iub.edu)

### Engagement Indicators Summary: Lakehead Compared to Ontario

The table below provides a summary comparison of Lakehead's mean scores on each of the 10 Engagement Indicators to those of the Ontario University comparison group.

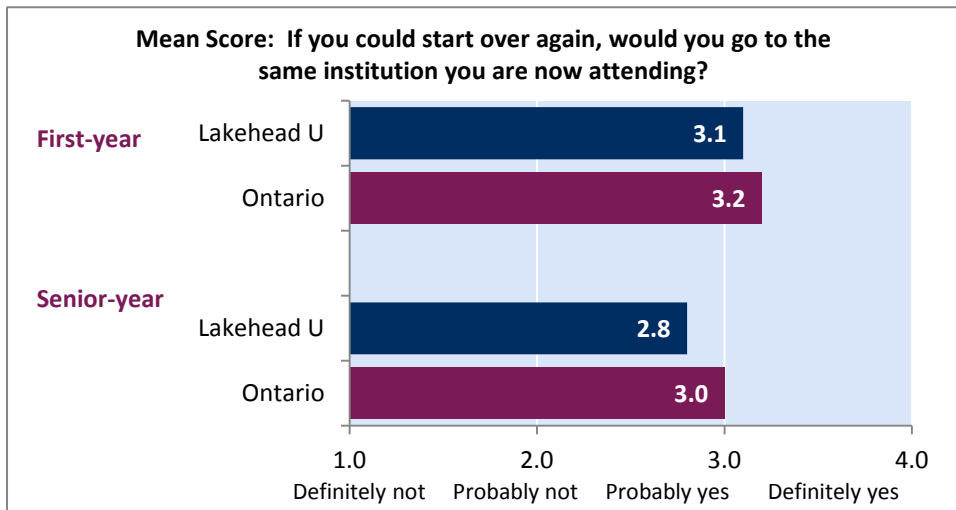
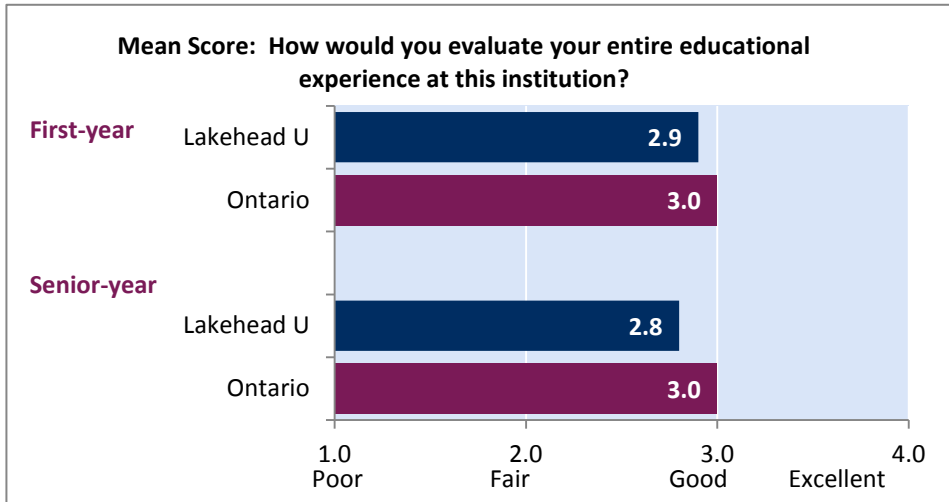
**Mean Comparisons**

	First Year		Senior Year	
	Lakehead	Ontario	Lakehead	Ontario
<b>Academic Challenge</b>				
Higher-Order Learning	35.5	37.0	37.2	38.0
Reflective & Integrative Learning	33.8	34.1	36.5	36.4
Learning Strategies	35.5	35.5	34.7	35.3
Quantitative Reasoning	22.7	24.8	25.6	26.8
<b>Learning with Peers</b>				
Collaborative Learning	32.0	32.6	35.2	32.5
Discussions with Diverse Others	37.1	40.6	36.1*	41.9
<b>Experiences with Faculty</b>				
Student-Faculty Interaction	13.6	13.5	17.6	18.7
Effective Teaching Practices	34.5	35.0	34.0	35.8
<b>Campus Environment</b>				
Quality of Interactions	38.7	38.1	38.9	39.2
Supportive Environment	29.1	32.4	26.5	28.5

*In all cases except \* there was no practical implication to any observed differences between Lakehead's scores and the Ontario Universities' scores, i.e., the cohen's D effect size was less than 0.3*

### Student Reported Satisfaction

Students rate their overall experience with the institution as well as whether or not they would choose Lakehead again given the choice.



### *NSSE and Lakehead's Strategic & Academic Plans*

NSSE results are used by Lakehead to measure progress on several initiatives within both its Strategic and Academic plans.

#### Benchmarks in 2013-18 Strategic plan:

- Nurturing Scholarship
  - ✓ Encourage students to think critically and ask questions - **80% of senior year undergraduate students reported that their experience at Lakehead contributed to their knowledge, skills, and personal development in the area of 'thinking critically and analytically'**.
- Learner Centred Student Experience
  - ✓ Perform well above the Ontario mean for Active and Collaborative Learning as measured by the 2017 National Survey for Student Engagement - **Senior year undergraduate students at Lakehead score above the Ontario provincial average on the 'Collaborative Learning' engagement indicator with a statistically significant difference.**
  - ✓ Enhance the development of experiential learning and research, both inside and outside the class - **81% of senior year undergraduate students at Lakehead participated in one or more High Impact Practices (HIPs) which is above the Ontario provincial average with a statistically significant difference.** *HIPs include participating in Service-Learning, Research with Faculty, Internship or Field Experience, Study Abroad, Culminating Senior Experience and / or a Learning Community.*

#### Benchmarks in 2012-17 Academic plan:

- ✓ Enriched student experience through the integration of research into undergraduate curricula –  
**26% of senior year undergraduate students at Lakehead have done research with a faculty member compared to 23% in Ontario.**