

**National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
Three-years of Responses from SUU Students
Community and Campus Engagement**

NSSE Overview

Each spring since 2001, SUU has participated in a national study of college students, along with hundreds of other four-year colleges and universities. During each of the three years of participation, 700 randomly selected first-year and senior students at SUU have been invited to share their views by completing *The College Student Report*. This survey is part of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) that is administered by Indiana University at Bloomington.

The NSSE questionnaire took students less than 15 minutes to complete and participants had the choice of using paper or the Web. The survey asked students how they spend time, the nature and quality of their interactions with faculty members and peers, and what they had gained from their classes, as well as other aspects of their college experience. NSSE is not a survey of perceptions, but a survey of engagement.

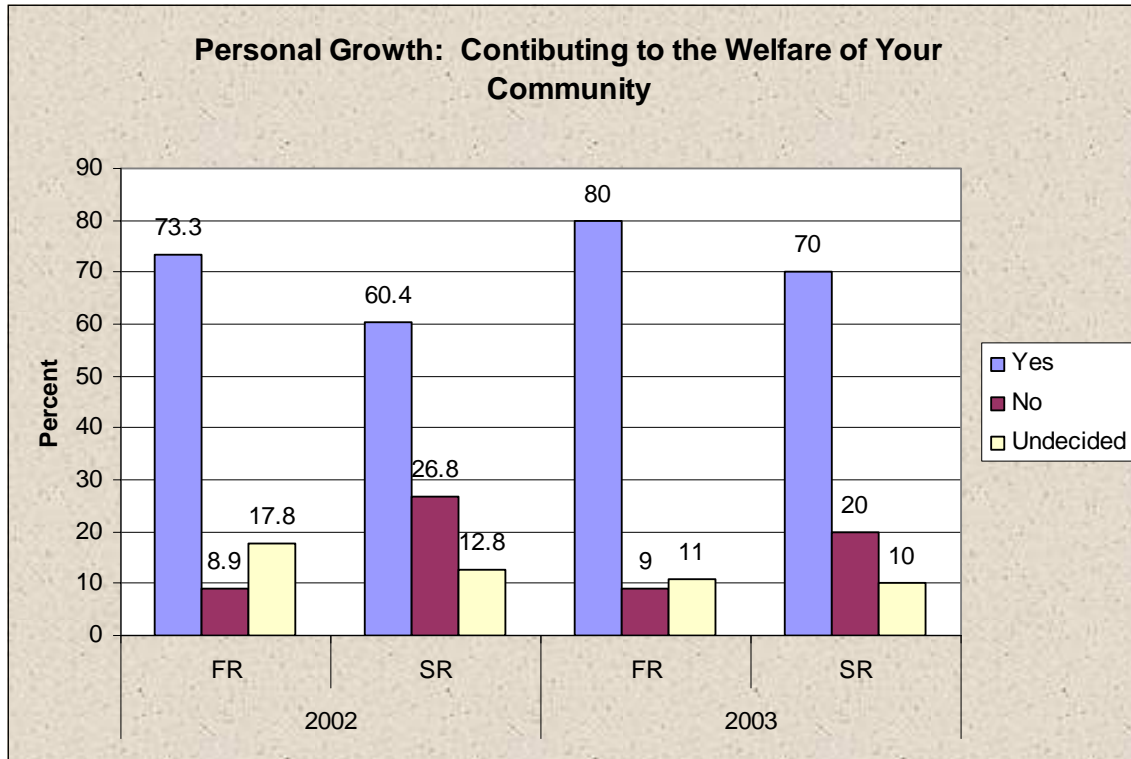
Year	2001	2002	2003
Respondents	298	301	265
Response Rate	46%	47%	41%

Each year, SUU's response rate has been higher than master's peer or national averages. In 2003 106 freshmen and 159 seniors responded to the survey.

Community and Campus Engagement

Survey findings clearly suggest that at SUU more students are engaged in the community than in campus activities. Outside employment draws students into the larger community. At the same time, this commitment and other personal obligations may be significant enough to keep students from spending more time on campus.

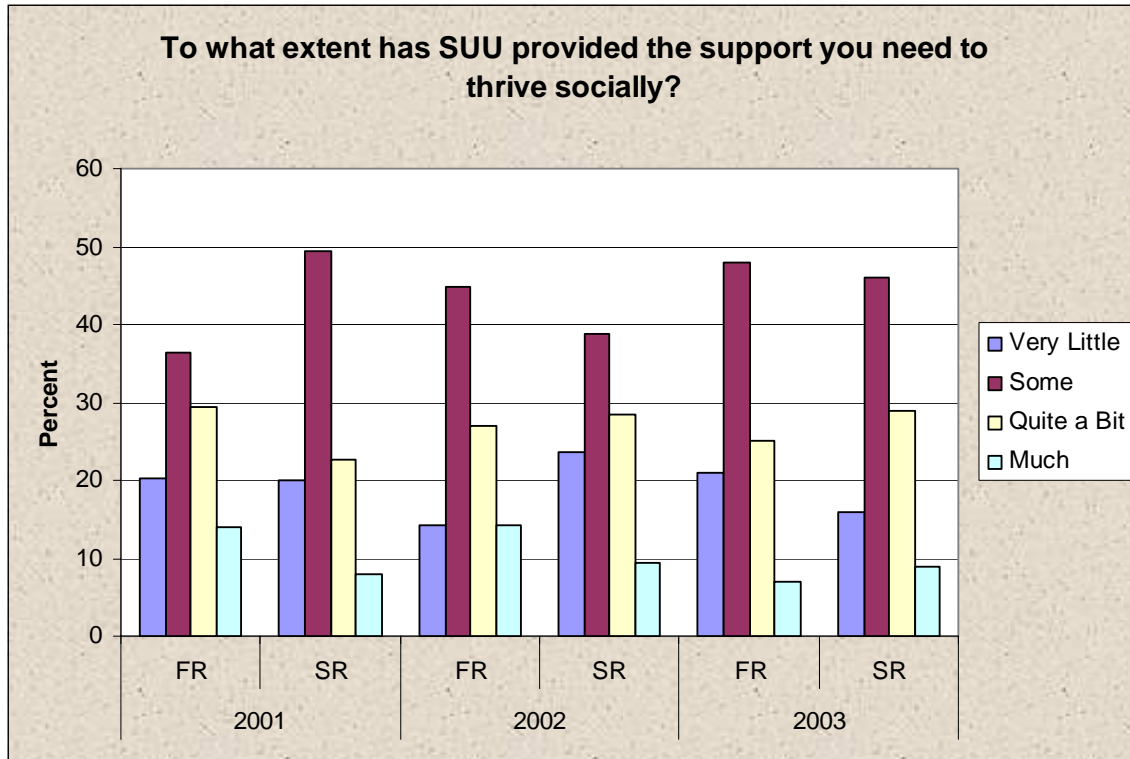
Beginning in 2002, NSSE added a question on the extent to which students are contributing to the welfare of the community. Both SUU Freshmen and Seniors rated this item higher than their master's peer counterparts, illustrating that SUU students are broadly engaged in the community. The following chart shows the frequency of SUU student responses.



In 2003, 46% of SUU’s freshmen and 45% of seniors did not spend any time per week participating in co-curricular activities (such as, organizations, campus publications, and student government).

When asked in 2003 whether SUU was providing the support they need to thrive socially, 69% of freshmen (60% of master’s peer counterparts) and 62% of seniors (72% of master’s counterparts) indicated “very little or some.”

Frequency distributions from the past three years are summarized in the following chart:



SUU seniors spend significantly more time providing care for dependents living with them than other seniors, even those at other national institutions. When asked whether the institution was helping them cope with their non-academic responsibilities (work, family), the majority of freshmen and seniors responded at similar rates at their master's peer counterparts.