

SASSE Project team

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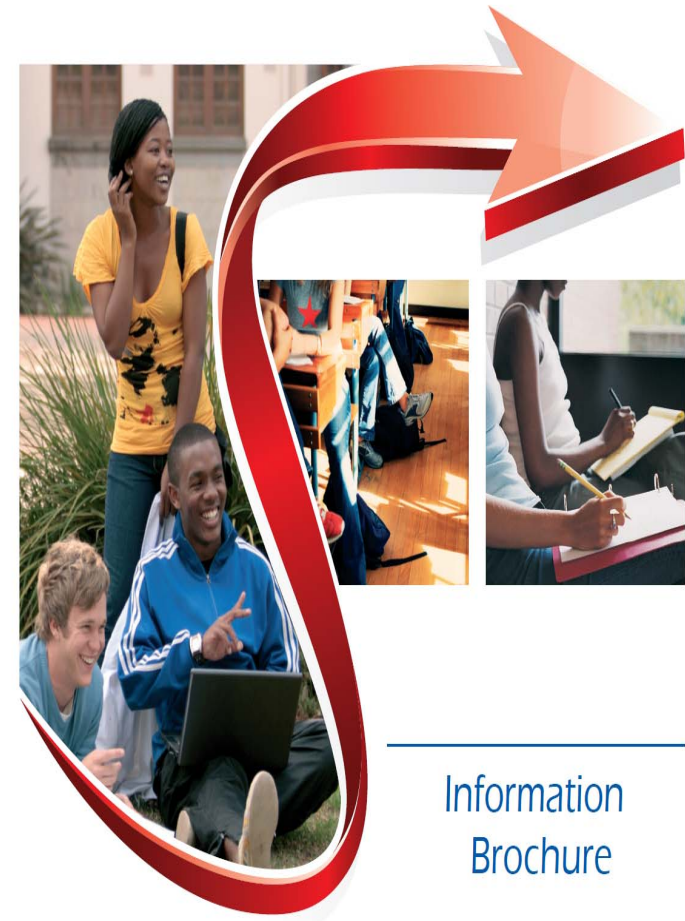
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Contact Melody with questions related to institutional data files, sampling and data collection on your campus.

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Contact Natasha with questions regarding any logistical arrangements.



Information
Brochure



South African Survey of Student Engagement

What is Student Engagement?

Student engagement can be defined by two key components, first, what students do (the time and energy they devote to educationally purposive activities) and second, what institutions do (the extent to which they employ effective educational practices to induce students to do the right thing). The South African Survey of Student Engagement (SASSE) is based on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) developed in the USA. The survey instrument measures FIVE BENCHMARKS FOR EFFECTIVE EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES namely:

- * Level of Academic Challenge
- * Active and Collaborative Learning
- * Student-Staff Interaction
- * Enriching Educational Experiences
- * Supportive Campus Environment

Data on these benchmarks can support an increased focus on improving teaching and learning practices in South African higher education.

What is SASSE?

The South African Survey of Student Engagement (SASSE) is being piloted in South Africa on a national level by the division of Student Development and Success at the University of the Free State in collaboration with the Council on Higher Education (CHE). The study is part of the investigation into the development of a 4 -year undergraduate curriculum and undergraduate education in general.

The study will investigate students on 7 campuses in South Africa encompassing the full spectrum of institutional types and a wide geographic area.

Within the context of this investigation, research on student engagement has the potential to help identify the conditions and drivers of success that would lead to the identification of high impact activities that contribute to the improvement of throughput and success rates in the South African context. The study will further contribute to systematic and institutional capacity development by providing generic, comparative and institution specific perspectives on student engagement.

Why should institutions participate in SASSE?

Institutions can use SASSE data to measure aspects of the undergraduate experience inside and outside the classroom that are consistent with good practice in undergraduate education. Assessing student engagement is a central component of evaluating overall educational effectiveness.

Participating institutions can use their SASSE results in many ways, including:

- Assessment and improvement
- Accountability
- Improving success and throughput
- Curricular reform
- Assessment of student satisfaction
- Staff development
- National system comparisons
- Benchmarking
- Institutional research
- Retention
- Alumni outreach
- Recruitment
- Performance indicators
- Proposal writing

What does a participating institution receive?

Institutions receive detailed analyses and information tools, including:

- **Customized institutional report**

Presents your students' responses by class year and provides statistical comparisons with these two groups.

This will include: **Frequency distribution report**
Means comparison report

- **Benchmark report**

Compares your students' scores with those of peer institutions and the overall SASSE sample.

- **Institutional data file**

Includes raw student responses to all survey items, including

How does SASSE help institutions understand and use their results?

The SASSE research team intends to assist institutions in using student engagement data to support institutional improvement and accountability efforts in the following ways:

- Facilitating workshops to stimulate discussions about ways to use SASSE data.
- Working with campuses, systems, and others in innovative planning and design of success initiatives.
- Conducting research to better understand student success and educational effectiveness.
- Developing institutional capacity.

Want to learn more?

Visit the SASSE website at

<http://sasse.ufs.ac.za>

Navigate your way around to learn more about:

- Student engagement in South Africa
- Student engagement in other countries
- Project roll-out for 2009, and much more

Why does student engagement matter?

“What students do during college (university) counts more for what they learn and whether they will persist in college (university) than who they are. Voluminous research on college (university) students' development shows that the time and energy students devote to educationally purposeful activities is the single best predictor of their learning and personal development.”

(G.D. Kuh, J.Kinzie, J.H. Schuh, E.J. Whitt & Associates, 2005)