



**National Survey
of Student Engagement**

Western Carolina University

BCSSE 2008-NSSE 2009 Respondent Characteristics
August 2009

The *BCSSE 2008-NSSE 2009 Combined Report* contains two sections, cross-sectional results and longitudinal results. The *cross-sectional* results include frequencies from *all* your BCSSE and NSSE respondents. For comparison purposes, only similar items on both instruments are included in this section (i.e., there were 23 items in the BCSSE survey identical or similar to items in the NSSE survey). Using all your BCSSE and NSSE data provides your institution with the best estimates of your incoming first-year student characteristics and their end-of-year engagement.

The *longitudinal* results portray the matched data from those first-year students who completed both BCSSE in the summer/fall of 2008 and NSSE in the spring of 2009. Though not all students complete both surveys, examining available matched results allows you to focus on environmental factors that may influence the nature and frequency of student engagement in various areas in the first year. Because the number of respondents varies for the cross-sectional and longitudinal results, background characteristics for both are summarized below.

BCSSE 2008 - NSSE 2009 Samples

	Count
BCSSE 2008 respondents (cross-sectional data)	477
First-year students included in NSSE population file	1,189
BCSSE respondents identified in the NSSE population file	430
BCSSE 2008 respondents invited to participate in NSSE 2009	430
NSSE 2009 first-year respondents	252
BCSSE 2008 - NSSE 2009 matched respondents (longitudinal data)	102

Respondent Characteristics	Cross-Sectional		Longitudinal
	BCSSE¹	NSSE²	BCSSE-NSSE³
Gender			
Female	57%	60%	73%
Male	43%	40%	27%
Ethnicity			
Am. Indian/Native American	0%	1%	0%
Asian/Asian Am./Pacific Isl.	0%	0%	0%
Black/African American	4%	4%	2%
White (non-Hispanic)	88%	89%	93%
Mexican/Mexican American	0%	1%	0%
Puerto Rican	0%	0%	0%
Other Hispanic/Latino	1%	0%	0%
Multiracial	2%	1%	1%
Other	0%	0%	0%
I prefer not to respond	3%	3%	4%
Enrollment Status			
Full-time	100%	97%	99%
Less than full-time	0%	3%	1%

¹ Student reported characteristics for all BCSSE 2008 respondents.

² Student reported ethnicity and institution reported gender and enrollment status for all NSSE 2009 respondents.

³ Student reported characteristics for matched students who completed *both* BCSSE 2008 and NSSE 2009.