The NSSE 2013 data provides comparisons between first-year and senior students at UM. These are cross-sectional results; that is, entering students’ responses are compared to students who are already seniors, so differences between the two groups could be due to differences already present (such as level of preparation for college) or to growth during the college experience. Demographically, however, these two samples are very similar (e.g. both 37% first-generation college students; 51% and 55% female).

The following set of graphs depicts the proportion of student at each level who responded “sometimes,” “often,” or “very often” to the items posed on the NSSE that are directed at engagement both in and about of the classroom. For the 20 items, first-year and senior students were similar for about half of the items. For example, seniors report that they “asked questions or contributed to course discussions in other ways” more often than did first-year students, but the groups did not differ in their answer to whether they “prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in.”

**NSSE Information Responses**

![Graph showing asked questions or contributed to course discussion in other ways comparison between first-year and seniors students.]
Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in

- First-Year: 34 (Sometimes), 28 (Often), 22 (Very Often)
- Seniors: 33 (Sometimes), 28 (Often), 21 (Very Often)

Come to class without completing readings or assignments

- First-Year: 61 (Sometimes), 15 (Often), 6 (Very Often)
- Seniors: 60 (Sometimes), 13 (Often), 6 (Very Often)
Attended an art exhibit, play or other arts performance (dance, music, etc.)

- **First-Year**
  - Sometimes: 40
  - Often: 19
  - Very Often: 9

- **Seniors**
  - Sometimes: 42
  - Often: 14
  - Very Often: 10

**Asked another student to help you understand course material**

- **First-Year**
  - Sometimes: 42
  - Often: 38
  - Very Often: 11

- **Seniors**
  - Sometimes: 44
  - Often: 31
  - Very Often: 13
Explained course material to one or more students

- First-Year:
  - Sometimes: 13
  - Often: 40
  - Very Often: 42

- Seniors:
  - Sometimes: 34
  - Often: 42
  - Very Often: 21

Prepared for exams by discussing or working through course material with other students

- First-Year:
  - Sometimes: 41
  - Often: 28
  - Very Often: 13

- Seniors:
  - Sometimes: 34
  - Often: 29
  - Very Often: 20
First-Year Seniors

Worked with other students on course projects or assignments

- Sometimes: 54
- Often: 25
- Very Often: 8

Seniors

- Sometimes: 35
- Often: 34
- Very Often: 23

Gave a course presentation

- Sometimes: 48
- Often: 16
- Very Often: 4

Seniors

- Sometimes: 38
- Often: 31
- Very Often: 17
First-Year Seniors

Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments

- Sometimes: 36, 43
- Often: 44, 38
- Very Often: 16, 30

Connected your learning to societal problems or issues

- Sometimes: 24, 30
- Often: 35, 34
- Very Often: 37, 30
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender, etc.) in course discussions or assignments

Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue
First-Year Seniors

Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective

Sometimes

Often

Very Often

Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept

Sometimes

Often

Very Often
First-Year Seniors

Connected ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge

- Sometimes: 22
- Often: 46
- Very Often: 31

First-Year Seniors

Talked about career plans with a faculty member

- Sometimes: 46
- Often: 20
- Very Often: 6

Seniors

- Sometimes: 40
- Often: 25
- Very Often: 16
Worked with a faculty member on activities other than coursework (committees, student groups, etc.)

- First-Year:
  - Sometimes: 7
  - Often: 2
  - Very Often: 2

- Seniors:
  - Sometimes: 29
  - Often: 15
  - Very Often: 12

Discussed course topics, ideas or concepts with a faculty member outside of class

- First-Year:
  - Sometimes: 47
  - Often: 9
  - Very Often: 3

- Seniors:
  - Sometimes: 44
  - Often: 21
  - Very Often: 13
Discussed your academic performance with a faculty member

- Sometimes
- Often
- Very Often

First-Year
- Occasionally: 13
- Frequently: 4
- Very Frequently: 51

Seniors
- Occasionally: 19
- Frequently: 10
- Very Frequently: 46