

Using Student Portal & Learning Management Systems for NSE 2016

NSSE primarily recruits students to participate by way of email messages containing survey links. An increasing number of campuses, however, experience difficulty reaching their students using this method. To pilot test an alternative method for students to access the survey, NSSE collaborated over the past two years with 26 colleges and universities that posted unique survey links to their student portal and learning management systems (SP/LMS), such as Blackboard and Moodle. Students at these institutions also received up to five email recruitment messages.

Results from the pilot test

Institutions that participated in the pilot test overwhelmingly reported an interest with posting links again in the future. Though results appeared mixed in terms of response rates, 42% of all survey respondents used the SP/LMS links to access and complete the survey. Some institutions doubled or tripled their response rate, while others did not see any improvement compared with past administrations.

Efforts are underway to better understand the impact of SP/LMS links on outcomes and the influence of other factors such as incentives and campus promotions.

Interested in linking from your system?

While experience with posting survey links on your SP/LMS is helpful, it is not a prerequisite. Many pilot schools had no experience but had skilled IT staff who believed it was feasible. If your campus has never posted individualized links before, the first step is to consult with your IT staff to see what may be possible. If you already have experience doing this with other surveys, try it with NSSE!

Since NSSE provides a unique link for each student, it is critical that they are posted correctly. Although NSSE Project Services teams are able to answer general questions about this process, NSSE staff are not in a position to advise campus IT staff.

How will it work?

Institutions must <u>indicate interest</u> by **October 15, 2015**. While we will do our best to accommodate all institutions that express interest, it may be necessary to limit the number that can participate. We will notify all institutions of their status by October 30, 2015. A \$150 non-refundable participation fee will be charged to cover additional costs associated with this service.

In early January participating institutions will be able to download the unique student survey links from the Institution Interface. Ten test links will also be provided for testing prior to administration launch.

Important: Institutions must incorporate similar IRB-approved invitation message text within their SP/LMS so that students can review important information (campus contact names, participation incentives, etc.).

Institutional Examples

Because campuses use many different types of systems, often with extensive customization, it is difficult for NSSE staff to provide specific instructions about where and how to post links. Schools are encouraged to think about how students interact with their systems and to plan accordingly. Below are SP/LMS screenshots from two NSSE 2015 institutions that provide a glimpse of different implementation approaches.

The University of Texas at San Antonio



Wofford University

