

**NSSE Academically-Related Items
CU-Boulder Vs. AAU Publics
Seniors**

Senior averages
**CU-
Boulder AAU***

In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? 1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often

Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources	3.3	3.2
Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions	3.0	2.9
Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations	2.6	2.5

During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following mental activities?
1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much

Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components	3.3	3.2
Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships	3.0	3.0
Making judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and interpreted data and assessing the soundness of their conclusions	2.9	2.9
Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	3.2	3.1

During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?

1=none, 2=between 1 and 4, 3=between 5 and 10, 4=between 11 and 20, 5=more than 20

Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings	3.4	3.3
Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment	2.3	2.2
Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more	1.7	1.6
Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages	2.7	2.7
Number of written papers or reports of fewer than 5 pages	3.1	3.1

To what extent have your examinations during the current school year challenged you to do your best work? 1=very little to 7=very much

5.2 5.3

Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do before you graduate from your institution?

(Recoded: 0=have not decided, do not plan to do, plan to do; 1=done. Thus, the mean is the proportion responding "done" among all valid respondents.)

Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements	.3	.2
Independent study or self-designed major	.2	.2
Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam, etc.)	.4	.3

About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?

1=0 hrs/wk, 2=1-5 hrs/wk, 3=6-10 hrs/wk, 4=11-15 hrs/wk, 5=16-20 hrs/wk, 6=21-25 hrs/wk, 7=26-30 hrs/wk, 8=more than 30 hrs/wk

Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)	4.4	4.3
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To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following?

1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much

Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work	3.0	3.1
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To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much

Writing clearly and effectively	3.0	3.0
Speaking clearly and effectively	2.7	2.8
Thinking critically and analytically	3.3	3.3
Analyzing quantitative problems	3.0	3.0
Solving complex real-world problems	2.7	2.7

How would you rate the academic quality of this university in general? 1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Excellent

3.0 3.2

How would you rate the academic quality of your major program? 1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Excellent, 9=No major yet

3.3 3.3

While attending this university how often have you been challenged to do the very best you can? 1=Never, 2=Seldom, 3=Some of the time, 4=Most of the time

3.2 3.4

*In 2006 eight other AAU schools administered NSSE and used a set of 20 AAU optional questions: Arizona, Indiana, Iowa State, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, Pittsburgh, and Wisconsin.

Shaded cells denote the larger average between CU-Boulder seniors vs. the average ratings given by seniors at the other AAU schools. Average ratings are the same or within a tenth of a point on 24 of the 26 academically-related items. Averages for CU-Boulder seniors were identical or slightly higher on 21 of the 26, slightly lower on 5. In general, there is little or no meaningful difference between CU-Boulder and AAU averages.