

## NSSE 2008 Summary of Findings

Penn College, along with 769 other colleges and universities, participated in the 2008 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) as one element of its assessment program. A random sample of 441 freshmen and senior students completed the survey. The results, tabulated by NSSE, included a comparison with 20 peer institutions as well as a comparison with all 769 institutions.

### *Summary of Findings*

In three distinct metrics of student engagement, Penn College freshmen scored significantly higher than the national benchmark:

- Supportive campus environment
- Student-faculty interaction
- Active and collaborative learning

Comparisons with the peer institutions were equally positive.

Specific measures are those items on the survey that constitute the metrics noted above. Representing the highest performance; i.e., higher than both the peers and national comparison groups are the following:

For freshmen

- Relationships with faculty members
- Writing clearly and effectively
- Thinking critically and analytically
- Entire educational experience at this institution

For seniors

- Practicum, internship, field experience, or clinical assignment
- Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills
- Number of written papers
- Speaking clearly and effectively.

The results of the survey allow the College to identify its strengths and weaknesses as perceived by the students while also providing a comparison with other institutions. The results continue to be studied so as to capitalize on the strengths and identify areas for improvement.