

# National Survey of Student Engagement Report

Spring 2024



**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN  
STATE UNIVERSITY**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM  
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# NSSE Overview

- Assesses the quality of undergraduate learning at participating institutions
- Uses participant data to develop national benchmarks of effective educational practice
- Coordinated through the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# NSSE at SFA

- SFA engages in regular assessment schedule for administration of NSSE
- Administered by the Office of Strategic Analytics and Institutional Research
- Goals:
  - Enhance student learning and personal development by identifying opportunities for improvement
  - Support accreditation objectives emphasizing “foundations for quality enhancement”

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Methodology

- Administered Spring 2024
- Survey available to all first-year and senior students registered at census for Fall 2023
- Personalized email invitations from SFA president Dr. Neal Weaver with four reminders
- First 400 students to complete the survey received \$25 Amazon gift card

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Participation and Response Rate

- Approximately 1 million students across 373 colleges (362 in US) included
- Response Rate: 187,229 student responses, including 940 from SFA
- SFA Response Rate: 28% First-Year, 27% Seniors
  - Higher than all comparison groups
  - Highest response rate in history of SFA NSSE administration

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Population Demographics

- Gender Distribution
  - First-Years: 62% female, 38% male
  - Seniors: 64% female, 36% male
- Ethnicity Distribution

Race/Ethnicity	First-Year Population %	Senior Population %
White	51	63
Hispanic	31	20
Black or African American	12	9
Other	4	6
Asian	1	1
International	1	1

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Comparison Groups

- Comparison Groups:
  - All participating Texas Public Universities
  - All Participating SFA State Peers
  - All NSSE 2023 and 2024 Institutions

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Legislation Customer Service Categories

- Texas legislation requires survey results for seven specific Customer Service Categories(\*):
  - Facilities
  - Staff
  - Internet Sites
  - Complaint-Handling
  - Service Timeliness
  - Printed Information
  - Communication

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS



# Engagement Themes & Engagement Indicators

- **Academic Challenge**
  - Higher Order Learning
  - Reflective and Integrative Learning
  - Learning Strategies
  - Quantitative Reasoning

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Engagement Themes & Engagement Indicators

- **Learning with Peers**
  - Collaborative Learning
  - Discussion with Diverse Others

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Engagement Themes & Engagement Indicators

- **Experience With Faculty\***
  - Student-Faculty Interaction
  - Effective Teaching Practices

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Engagement Themes & Engagement Indicators

- **Campus Environment\***
  - Quality of Interactions
  - Supportive Environment

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

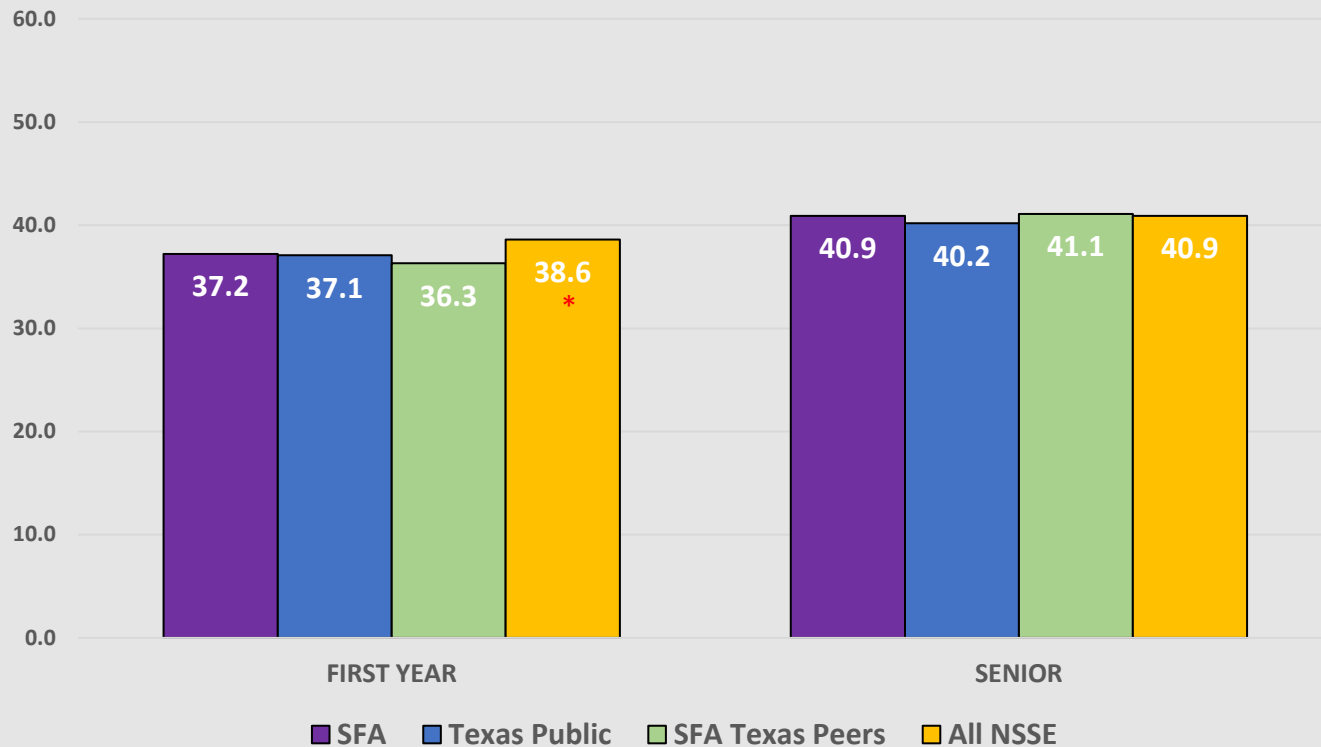
# Comparing Results

- Response means of SFA students versus response means of students from comparison institutions
- “Significance” indicates notable positive or negative differences between compared response means
  - Mathematically calculated per Engagement Indicator by NSSE Institute
- Asterisks(\*) on graphs denote significant differences between SFA and comparison institution response means
  - Red \* = significantly lower
  - White \* = significantly higher

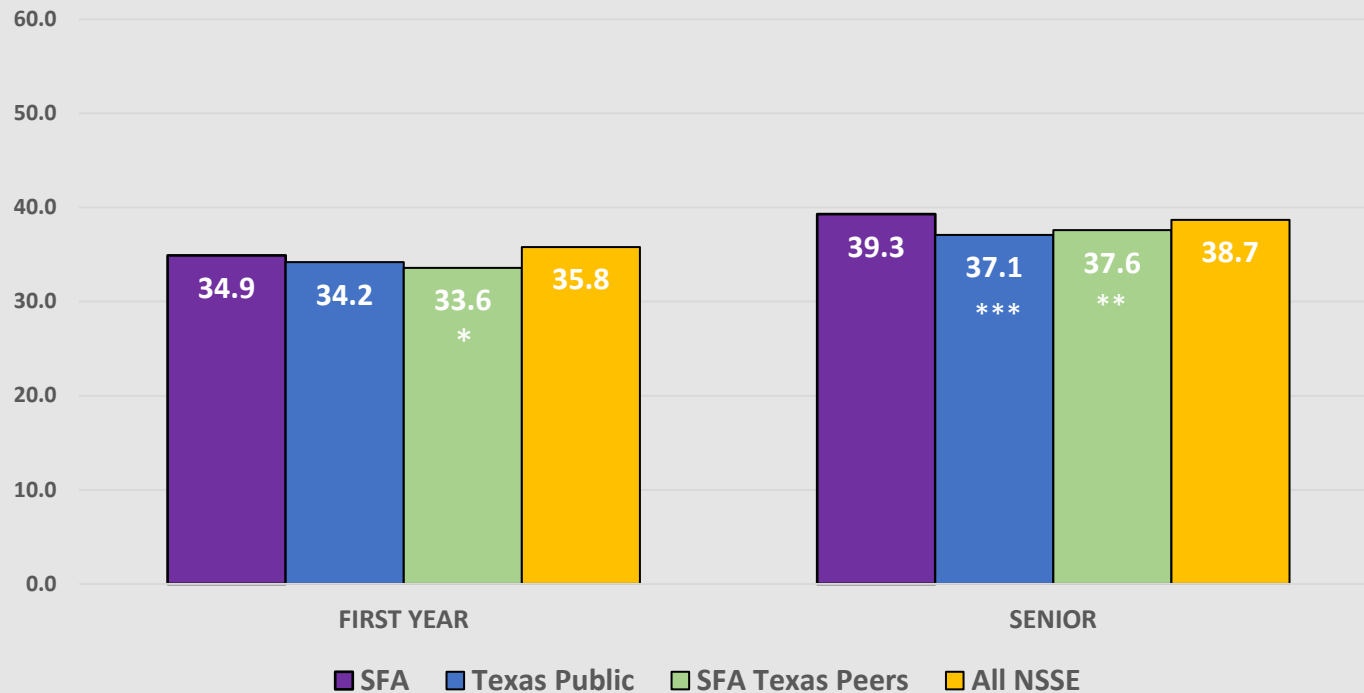
**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

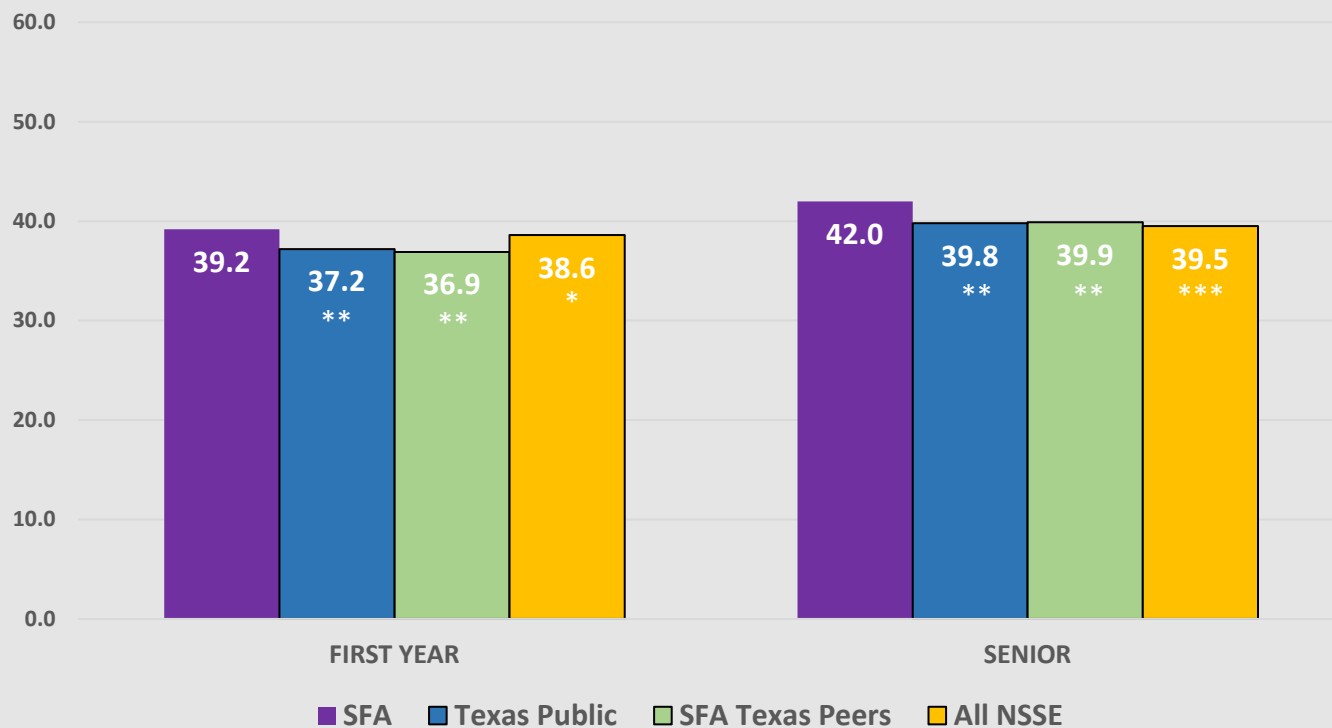
# Higher-Order Learning Opportunity for Improvement



# Reflective and Integrative Learning Strength

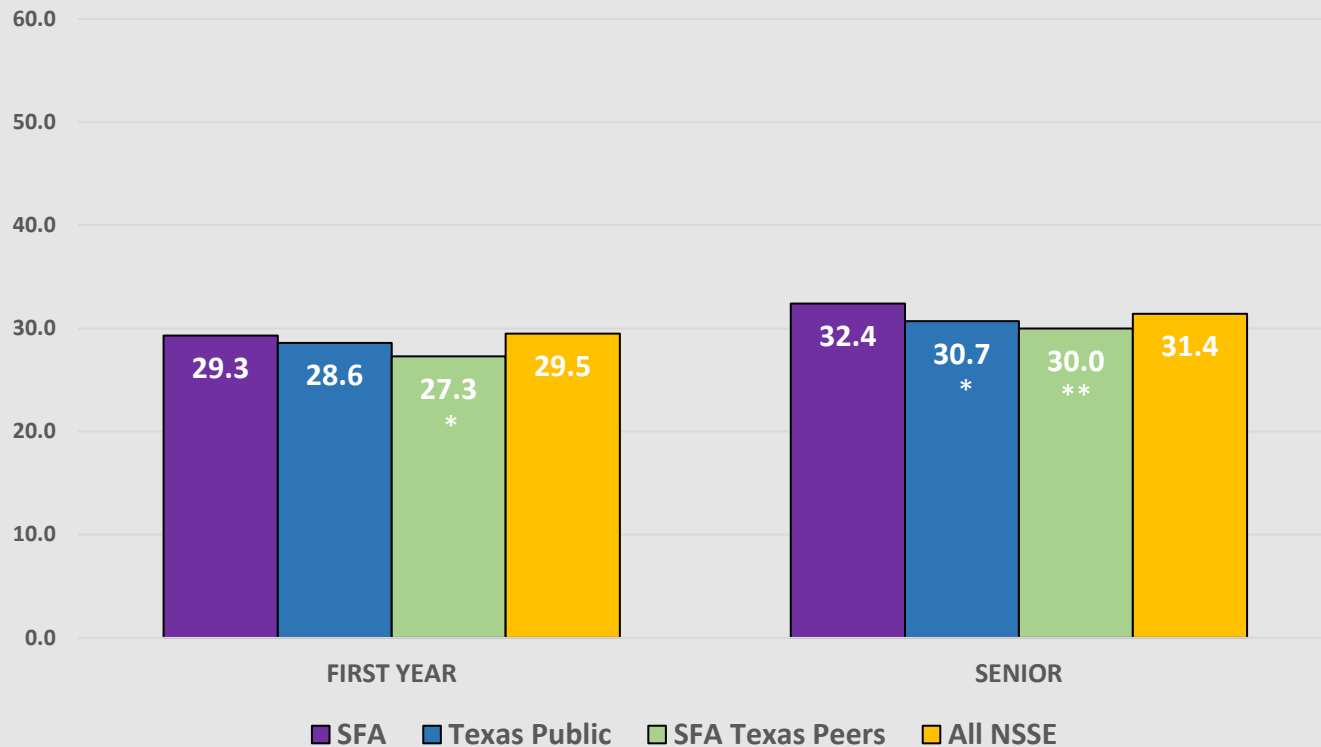


# Learning Strategies Strength





# Quantitative Reasoning Strength



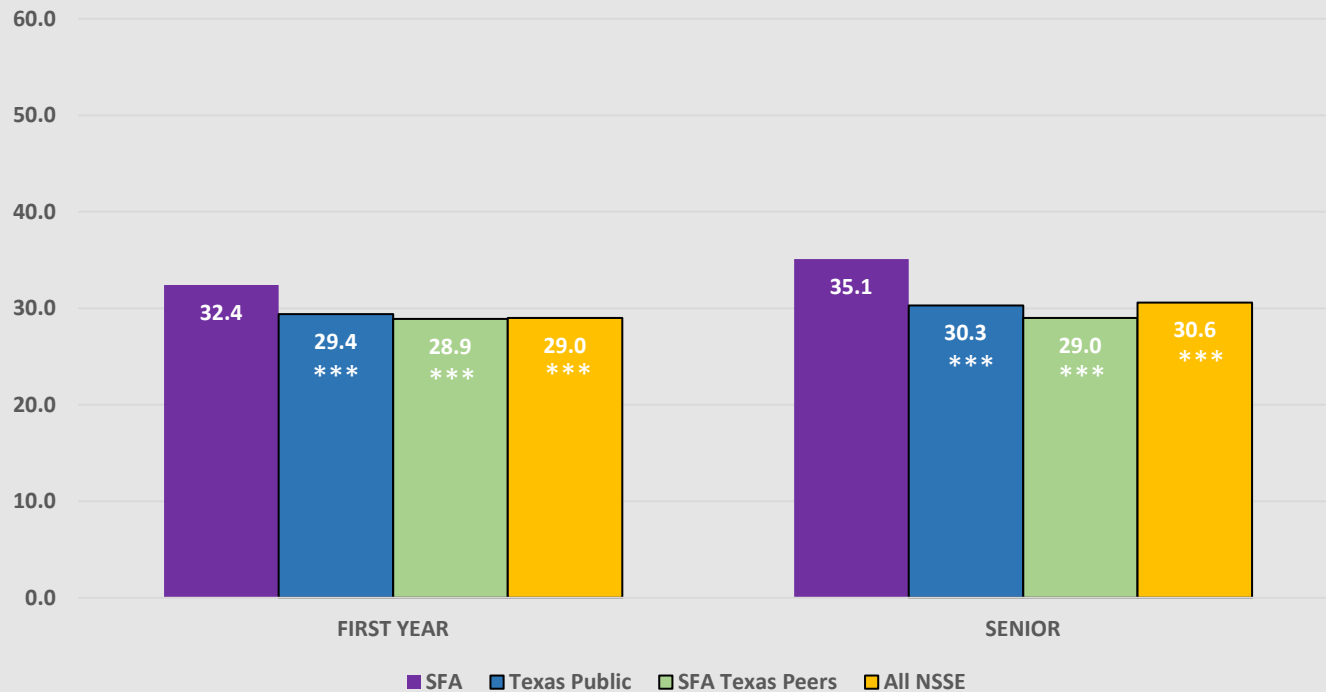
# Academic Challenge

- SFA first-year and senior students frequently reported more instances of reflective and integrative learning, learning strategies, and quantitative reasoning compared to other institutions.
- Significantly more SFA senior students reported use of learning strategies compared to all comparison groups.

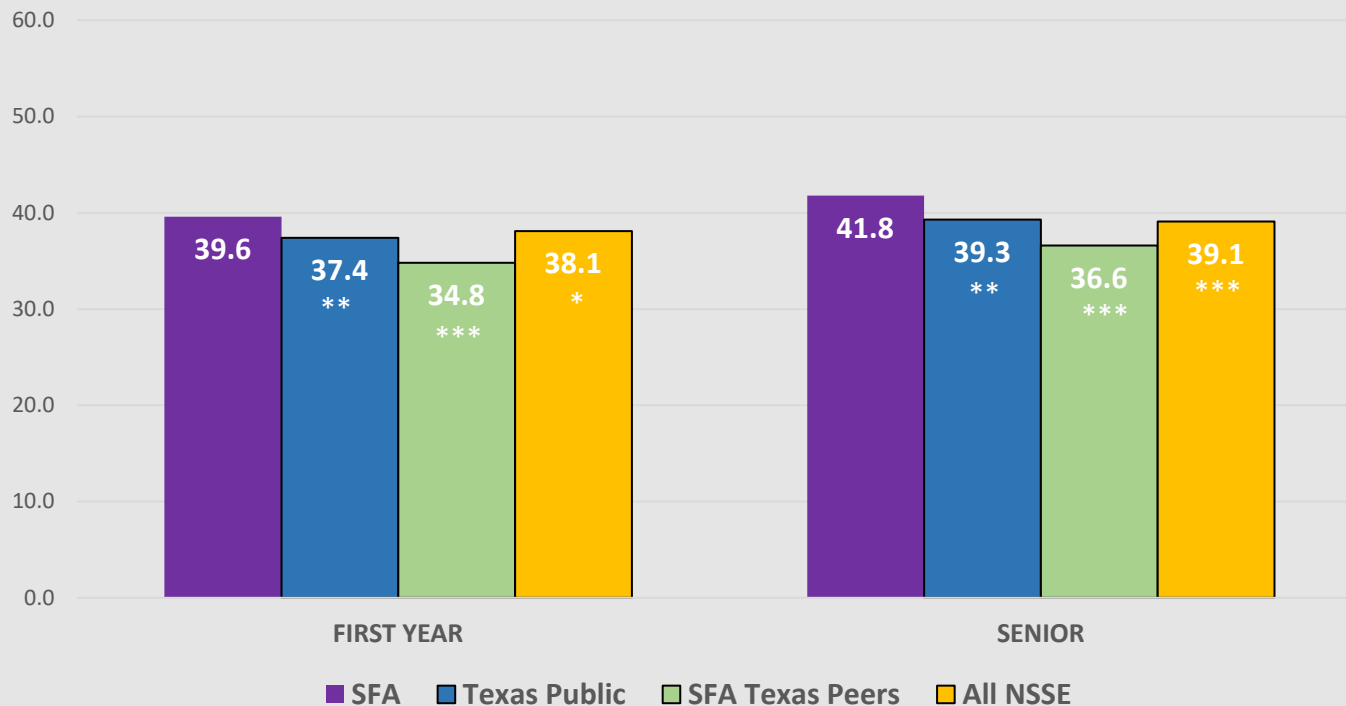
**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Collaborative Learning Strength



# Discussion with Diverse Others Strength



# Learning with Peers

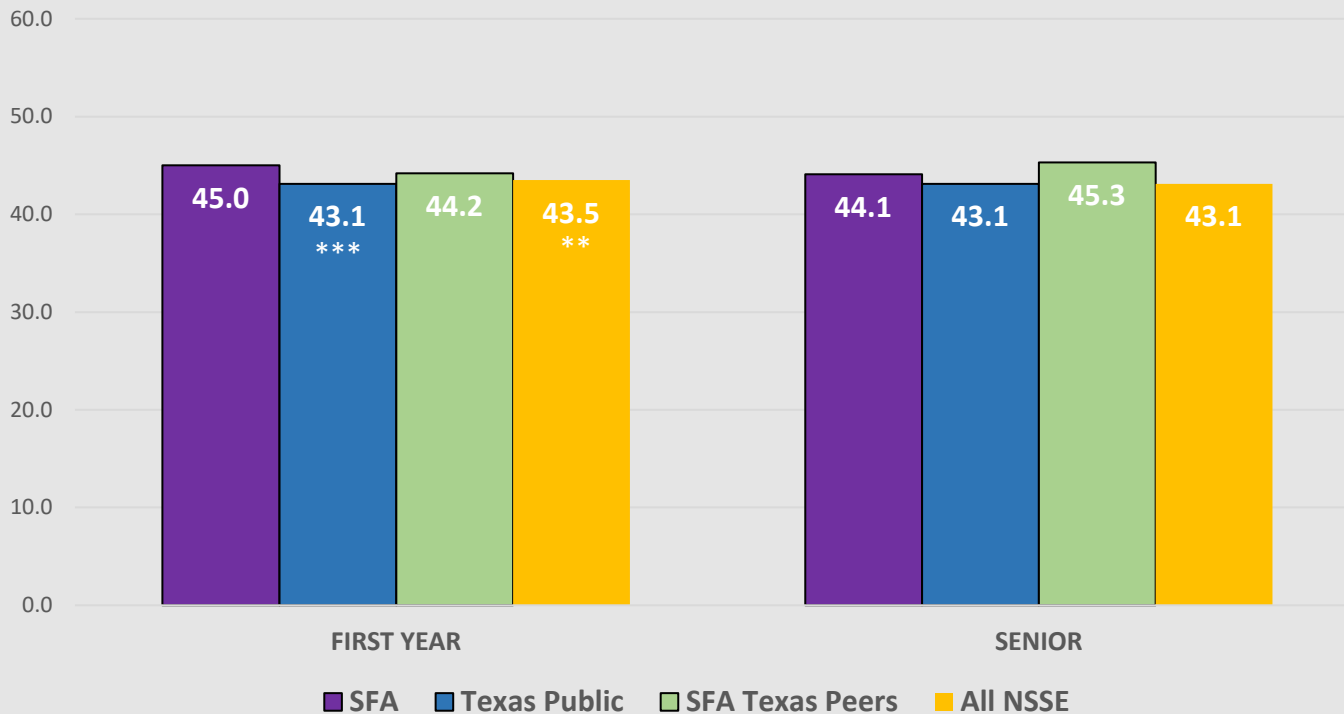
- Reported means for collaborative learning and discussions with diverse others are significantly higher for both first-year and senior students at SFA compared to all comparison groups
- Engagement indicators associated with learning with peers consistently present as a strength at SFA

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

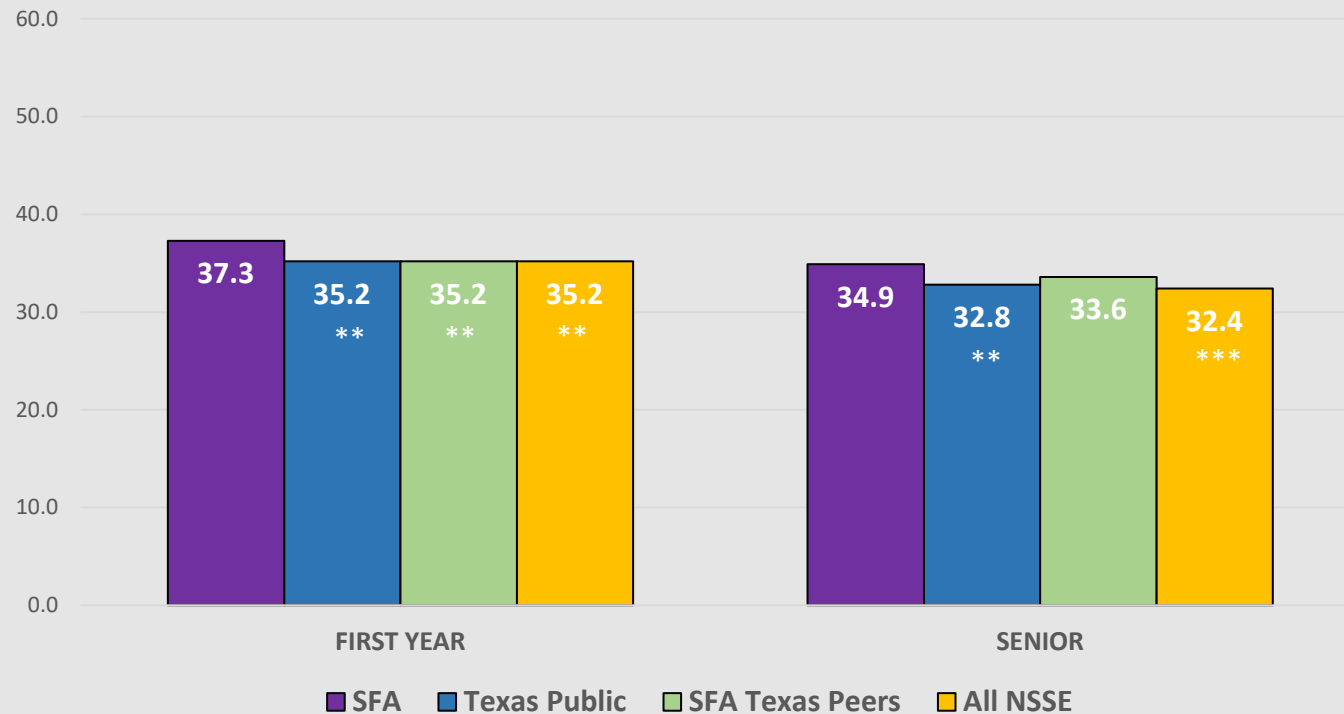
# Quality of Interactions

## Strength CSC: Staff



# Supportive Environment

## Strength CSC: Staff



# Campus Environment\*

- More SFA first-year students enjoy the quality of interactions on campus than those in most comparison groups.
- Compared to most comparison groups, more SFA students enjoyed a campus environment that provided them with the support needed to succeed.

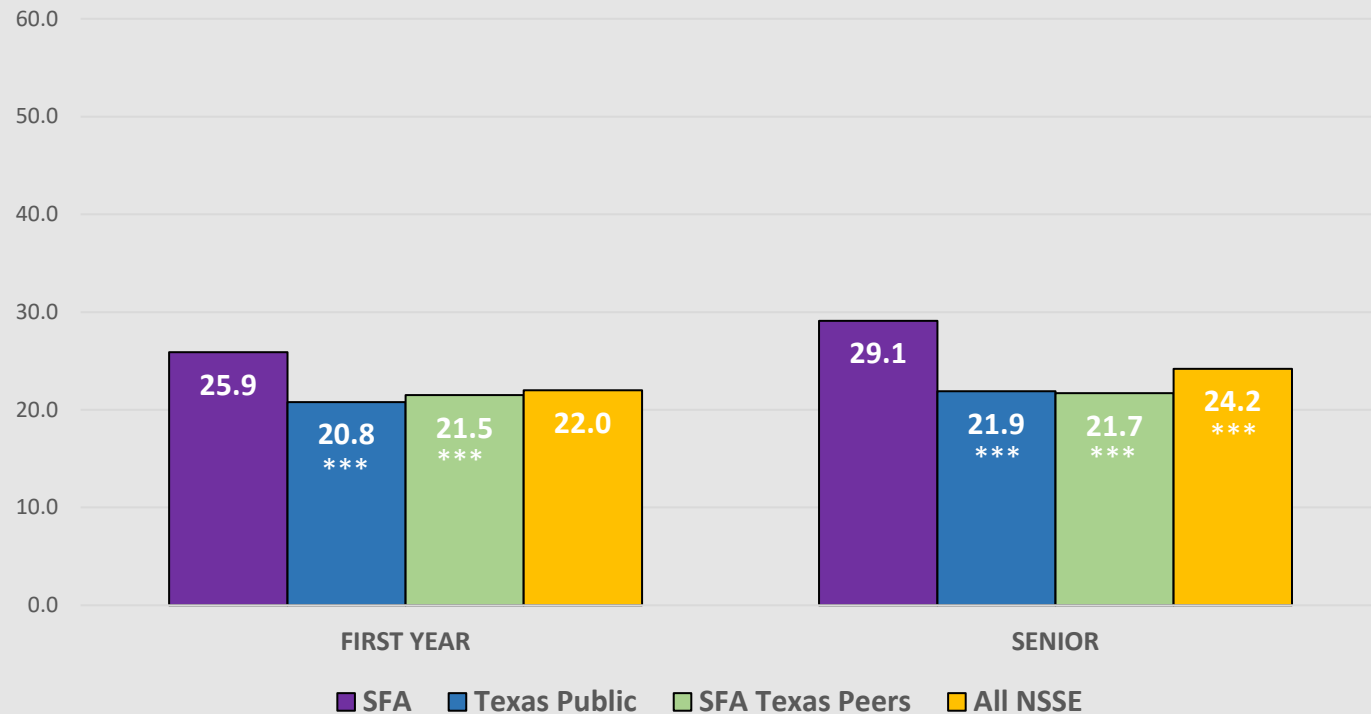
**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS



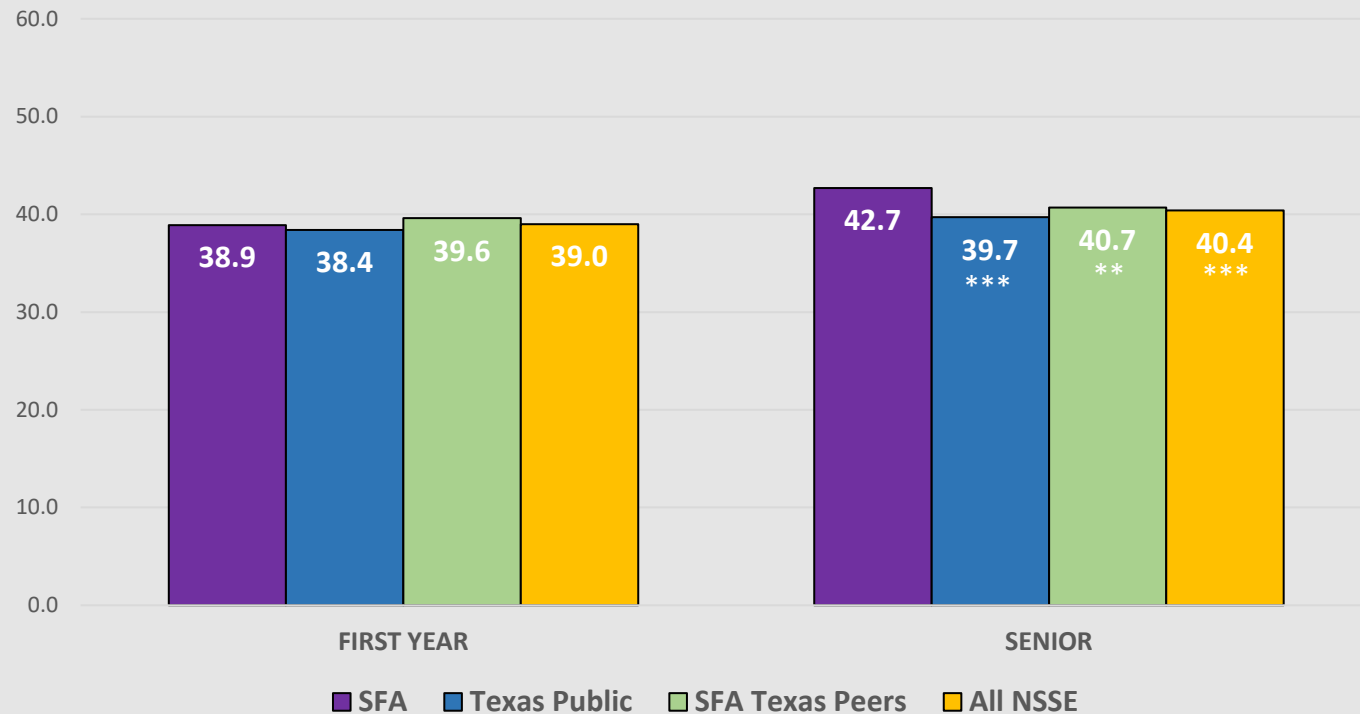
# Student-Faculty Interaction

## Strength CSC: Staff



# Effective Teaching Practices

Strength CSC: Staff, Service Timeliness, Communication



**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Experiences with Faculty\*

- SFA faculty seem to excel in student engagement (student-faculty interactions) compared to faculty at other institutions.
- Significantly more SFA senior students reported positive experiences associated with effective teaching practices compared to other institutions.
- Student perceptions of experiences with faculty seem to improve as students progress to the senior year

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# NSSE Engagement Highlights - Strengths

- SFA first-year and senior students are more engaged in learning with peers compared to students at other institutions
- SFA faculty excel in connecting with both first-year and senior students compared to faculty at other institutions
- Overall, student engagement at SFA appears to be strong, and engagement appears to strengthen as students progress to the senior year

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# NSSE Engagement Highlights - Opportunities

- SFA first-year and senior students reported significantly lower occurrences of higher-order learning compared to students at other institutions

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# NSSE Topical Modules

- **Mental Health and Well-Being\***
- **Academic Advising\***

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# NSSE Topical Modules – Mental Health & Well-Being

- Assesses students' experiences related to a range of dimensions for mental health and well-being
- Examines sources of support and explores students' perceptions about campus resources
- Compares results to all other current- and prior-year (if applicable) NSSE institutions who administered the module

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Difficulties Faced by Students

(Responses with most significant deviations from comparison means)

## First-Year Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Employment	3.7	3.3	***
Homesickness	3.0	2.6	***
Discrimination or harassment	1.7	1.5	**
Finances	4.0	3.9	*

## Senior Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Homesickness	2.3	2.1	**
Finances	4.3	4.1	**
Academics	4.1	4.1	
Physical Health	3.6	3.6	



# Student Support Systems

(Responses with most significant deviations from comparison means)

CSC: Staff

## First-Year Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Your academic advisor	2.1	1.6	***
Communities that matter to you	2.3	2.0	***
Your instructors	2.0	1.8	***
Student Services Staff	4.0	3.9	**

## Senior Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Your instructors	2.1	1.9	***
Your academic advisor	1.7	1.5	***
Communities that matter to you	4.1	4.1	**
Your friends	3.6	3.6	**

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Awareness of Resources

(Responses with most significant deviations from comparison means)

CSC: Communication, Facilities

## First-Year Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Sleep difficulty	50%	39%	***
Substance abuse	64%	56%	***
Housing insecurity	59%	52%	**
Lack of care for dependents	48%	41%	**

## Senior Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Substance abuse	55%	48%	**
Emergency financial situation	48%	42%	*
Sleep difficulty	37%	33%	
Food insecurity	62%	59%	

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Adequacy of Campus Resources

(Responses with most significant deviations from comparison means)

CSC: Facilities, Communication

## First-Year Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Affordable housing for students	2.2	2.0	***
Mental health counseling	2.9	2.8	
Dining options for diet needs	2.6	2.6	
Access to reliable internet	2.7	2.7	

## Senior Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Affordable housing for students	2.1	1.8	***
Mental health counseling	2.8	2.6	**
Dining options for diet needs	2.6	2.5	**
Access to reliable internet	2.7	2.9	***

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# General Well-Being

CSC: Facilities, Staff, Communication

No significant deviations from comparison means were recorded for the following statements:

- I have access to affordable, healthy food.
- I am satisfied with the amount of exercise that I get.
- I am satisfied with the amount of time I spend on recreational and leisure activities.
- I get an adequate amount of support for my well-being from my institution.

# Mental Health & Well-Being Highlights – Strengths

- Students at SFA feel that their academic advisors, instructors, and respective communities support their mental health and well-being significantly more than students at comparison institutions.
- Significantly more students at SFA know how to get help for substance abuse than students at other institutions, and first-year students seem particularly aware of campus resources that are available to them.
- Students at SFA feel that the university provides significantly more adequate affordable student housing resources than other institutions.

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Mental Health & Well-Being Highlights – Opportunities

- Students at SFA seem to have significantly more difficulty with homesickness and finances than comparison institutions.
- While first year students' perception that SFA provides adequate access to reliable internet is not significantly different than students' perceptions at comparison institutions, it is slightly lower; whereas senior students' perception regarding SFA's provision of reliable internet is significantly lower than students' perceptions at comparison institutions.

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# NSSE Topical Modules – Academic Advising

- Examines students' experiences with academic advising, including frequency of interaction with advisors and advising practices
- Asks students to identify who has been most helpful
- Compares results to all other current- and prior-year (if applicable) NSSE institutions who administered the module

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS



# Participants in Academics Conversations

(Responses with most significant deviations from comparison means)

CSC: Staff, Communication

## First-Year Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Student's assigned advisor	2.6	2.3	***
Non-advisory faculty/instructor	1.4	1.2	**
Success/academic coach	1.0	0.8	**
Peer advisor or mentor	1.4	1.1	**

## Senior Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Student's assigned advisor	2.6	2.2	***
Non-advisory faculty/instructor	1.6	1.4	*
General advisor	1.5	1.4	
Peer advisor or mentor	0.9	0.8	

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS



# Academic Advising Services

(Responses with most significant deviations from comparison means)

CSC: Staff, Service Timeliness, Internet Sites, Communication

## First-Year Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Reached out about progress/performance	2.6	2.3	***
Asked about background and needs	2.5	2.3	***
Followed up about recommendations	2.5	2.4	**
Provided prompt/accurate information	3.0	2.9	**

## Senior Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Reached out about progress/performance	2.4	2.2	**
Followed up about recommendations	2.4	2.3	**
Cared about your overall well-being	2.9	2.8	**
Notified you about policies or deadlines	2.9	2.7	**

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Topics of Academic Advising Discussions

(Responses with most significant deviations from comparison means)

CSC: Staff, Communication

## First-Year Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
How your major relates to goals/plans	3.8	3.4	***
Academic goals and future plans	3.7	3.4	***
Participation in cocurricular activities	3.2	2.9	***
Resources for your well-being	3.3	3.1	**

## Senior Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
How your major relates to goals/plans	3.7	3.3	***
Participation in cocurricular activities	3.0	2.7	***
Academic goals and future plans	3.6	3.3	***
Resources for your well-being	3.1	2.8	***

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Helpful Individuals and Tools

(Responses with most significant deviations from comparison means)

CSC: Staff, Internet Sites, Communication

## First-Year Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Student's assigned advisor	2.8	2.6	***
Non-advisory faculty/instructor	2.6	2.2	***
Success/academic coach	2.3	2.1	**
Peer advisor or mentor	2.3	2.2	*

## Senior Students

Item	SFA	Comparison	Significance
Student's assigned advisor	2.7	2.5	***
General advisor	2.3	2.2	**
Non-advisory faculty/instructor	2.4	2.3	
Online advising system	2.2	2.4	***

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Academic Advising Highlights – Strengths

- Students at SFA are significantly more engaged with their academic advisors than students at comparison institutions.
- Students at SFA feel that academic advising staff reached out about academic progress or performance and followed up regarding something they recommended significantly more than students at comparison institutions.
- Senior students at SFA reported significantly more instances of all included academic advising discussion topics compared to other institutions; first year students at SFA reported significantly more instances of all but one of the included academic advising discussion topics.
- SFA students report that their assigned academic advisors are significantly more helpful in developing academic goals and future plans.

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Academic Advising Highlights – Opportunities

- While first year students' perception that SFA's online advising system is helpful is not significantly different than students' perceptions at comparison institutions, it is slightly lower; whereas senior students' perception regarding the helpfulness of SFA's online advising system is significantly lower than students' perceptions at comparison institutions.

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Context and Updates

- Improvement since 2013 administration of NSSE
- Operational and Technological changes since 2024 administration
  - Curricular changes
  - Degree map refinements
  - Technical infrastructure and software applications
  - Student support reorganization
  - Student Experience Project launch

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# Recommendations

- Engage campus focus groups with particular emphasis on student-based populations to:
  - Further study the opportunities identified and create actions plans effective in 2025-26.
  - Leverage strengths noted and consider additional enhancement or ways to support known opportunities
- Re-evaluate and monitor the strengths and opportunities during the 2026 NSSE Administration as well as through institutionally-determined practices

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

Office of Strategic Analytics and Institutional Research

[SAIR@sfasu.edu](mailto:SAIR@sfasu.edu)

SFASU.edu/SAIR

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS