

QEP/NSSE Benchmark Analysis

This report analyzes available NSSE data from 2001, 2002, and 2003 to determine how students were engaged in educational practices related to Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Texas A&M, including Technology, Diversity, Internationalization, and Research.

Comparisons to other benchmark universities show that Texas A&M tends to lag behind comparable universities in various aspects of internationalization and research, and is roughly average on other aspects involving technology use and diversity.

NSSE and the QEP

Although the NSSE was not designed to measure QEP dimensions, the NSSE includes a wide range of items, many of which are representative of QEP dimensions. In order to facilitate intra-university and inter-university comparisons of QEP dimensions, four scales were created from the existing NSSE items. These scales are presented in Table 1 below

For each QEP scale, a scale score was obtained by standardizing each response and then averaging the standard scores to all items that make up the scale.

AAUDE Benchmarks.

The Association of American Universities Data Exchange (AAUDE) is an organization of institutions of higher education aimed at improving the quality of assessment data relevant to higher education. Besides collecting the data, the AAUDE serves as a clearinghouse for the data of member institutions, one of which is Texas A&M. The AAUDE has collected the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) from member institutions who administer the NSSE each spring since 2000. The NSSE dataset maintained by the AAUDE contains responses from students from twenty-six public institutions of higher education.

The four QEP scale scores were averaged over all years 2000 to 2004 for each of the AAUDE institutions. The scale scores are graphed below. Each figure presents the average standardized student responses for each school along with 75% confidence intervals. The full report is available from Measurement and Research Services:

- Andrew J. Slaughter, **Student Perceptions of Quality Enhancement Program Factors at Texas A&M**, Measurement and Research Services, 2006

The 26 AAUDE Institutions

Arizona, Colorado, **Florida**, **Illinois**, Indiana, Iowa, Iowa St, Kansas, Maryland, **Michigan**, Michigan St, Missouri, **N Carolina**, Nebraska, **Ohio St**, Oregon, **Penn St**, Pittsburgh, **Purdue**, SUNY-Buffalo, SUNY-Stony Brook, **Texas**, Texas A&M, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin. Institutions in bold are Vision 20/20 comparison universities.

Table 1. Select QEP-related NSSE items

Internationalization <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have you taken or plan to take any foreign language coursework?• Have you participated in or do you plan to participate in a study abroad program?
Research <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent has your institution emphasized studying and academic work?• Have you or do you expect to be involved in any sort of practicum, internship, or field experience?• Have you been involved with faculty research outside of class?• Have you or do you expect to be involved in a culminating senior experience such as a thesis or research project?• How many papers have you written?
Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent has your institution contributed to your understanding of people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds?• To what extent does your institution encourage contact among students from different economic, social, racial, or ethnic backgrounds?• How often have you had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own?• How often have you had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values?
Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent has this institution contributed to your ability to use computing and information technology?• How frequently have you used an electronic medium to complete a homework assignment?• How frequently have you used email to communicate with an instructor?

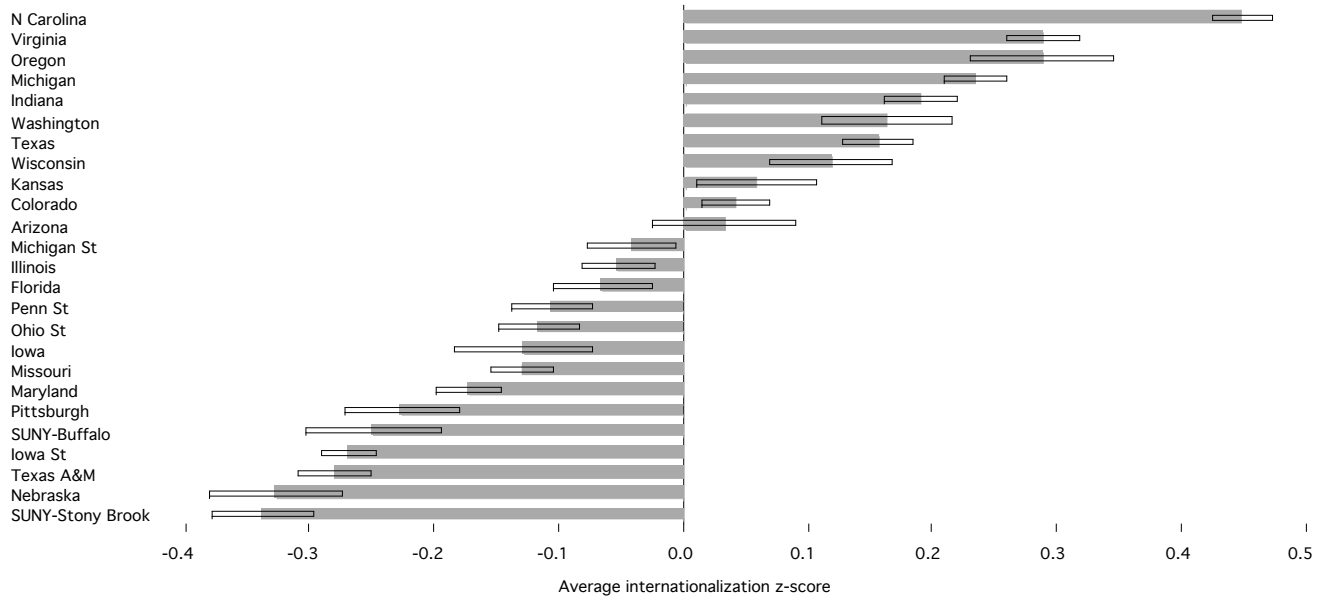


Figure 1: Internationalization

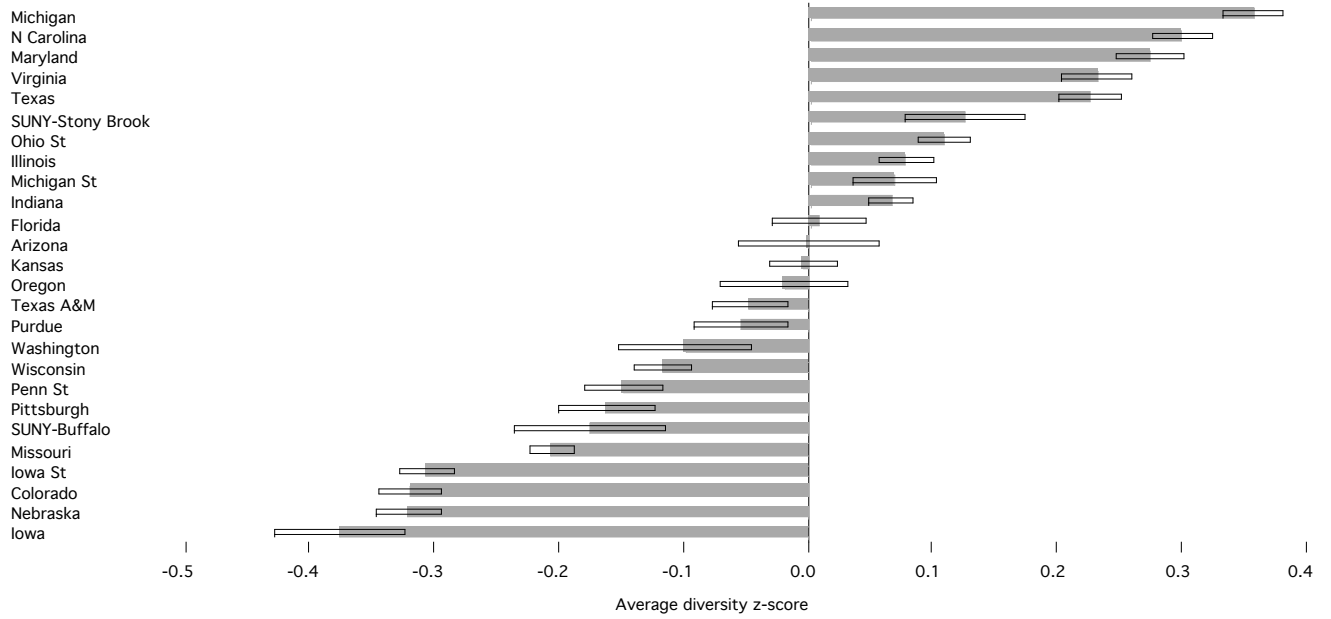


Figure 4: Diversity

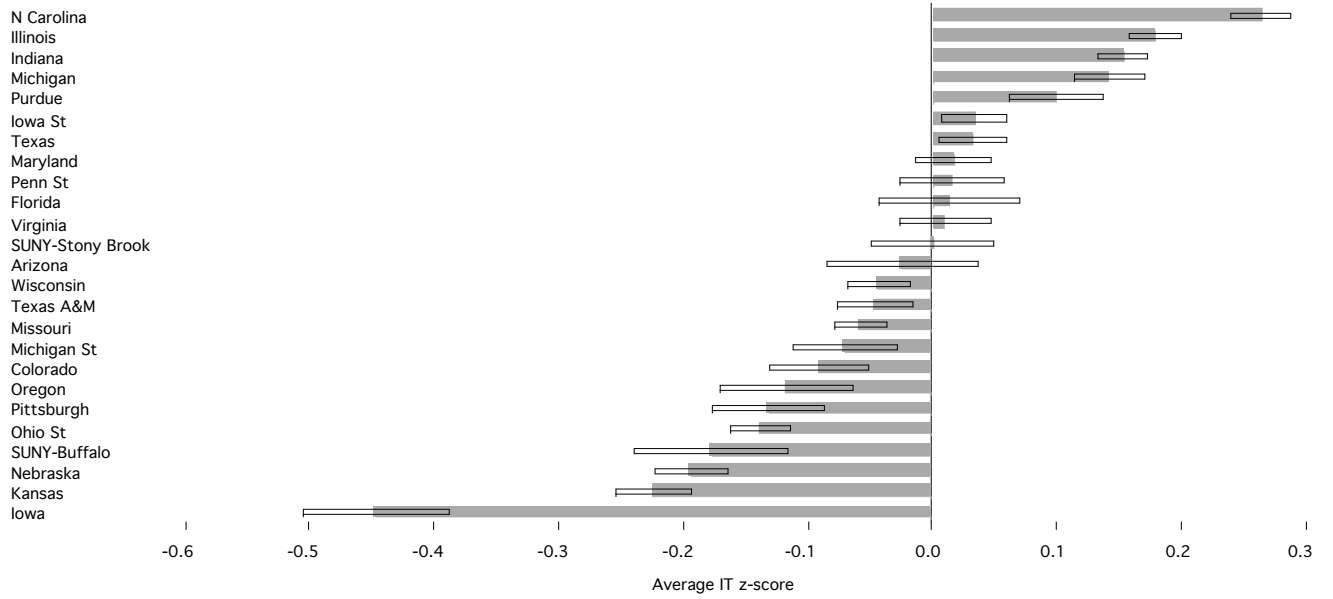


Figure 9: Technology

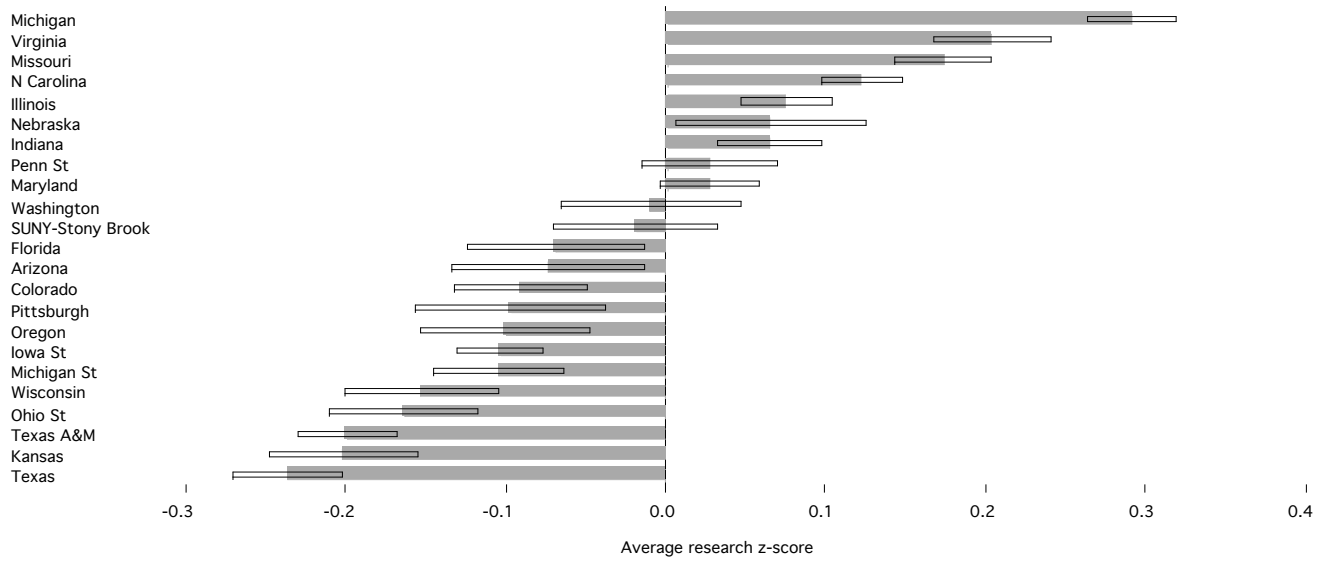


Figure 13: Research