

Voluntary System of Accountability

UNF sign-up March 1, 2008

[Slides from the NASULGC Opening General Session on the VSA \(edited\)](#)

For more information: <http://www.voluntarysystem.org/>

The VSA Project

is collaborative effort among the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), and the public higher education community.

AASCU and NASULGC members:

- Represent over 600 public institutions
- Enroll 7.5 million students each year
- Award 70 percent of bachelor's degrees in U.S. each year

Goals of the VSA

- Provide consistent, comparable, transparent information for higher education stakeholders
- Aid students and families in college choice process
- Demonstrate greater institutional accountability for student learning and development

State University



Washington DC 20005 • 202.478.0000

www.voluntarvsystem.org

We're glad you're interested in State U! The State University is a major public research and teaching institution that operates through a diverse, multicampus system. State U is bound together by a mission to serve as a "center for learning, research, scholarship and creative endeavor" in the district, the nation and the world. Opened In 1818, State University is a comprehensive educational and research institution with over 30,000 students and more than 2,100 faculty members. At State U, you'll find great academics, including 101 majors, honors programs, and award-winning faculty. You'll find great opportunities for undergraduate research, internships, study abroad, and more. All in a great location - in the heart of the nation's capital.

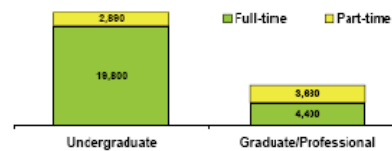
Student Characteristics Undergraduate Profile

Undergraduate Success Rate Progress Rate

Student Characteristics (Fall 2006) [More](#)

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS 30,750

Student Level and Enrollment Status



UNDERGRADUATE PROFILE

Total 22,690

Gender

Women 11,400 50%
Men 11,290 49%

Race/Ethnicity

African American / Black 2,225 10%
American Indian / Alaskan Native 425 2%
Asian / Pacific Islander 1,330 6%
Hispanic 1,520 7%
International 1,840 7%
White 10,350 46%
Race/Ethnicity Unknown 200 1%

Geographic Distribution (Degree-Seeking)

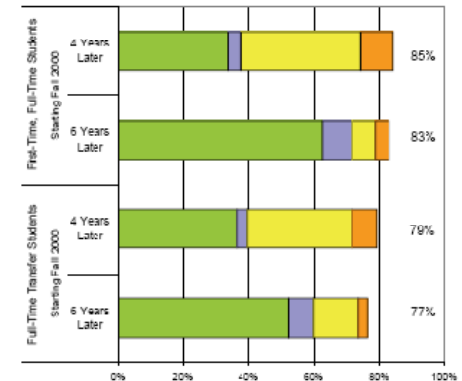
District of Columbia 39%
Other US States & Territories 53%
Other Countries 8%

Age (Degree-Seeking)

Average Age 22
Percent of Undergraduates Age 25 or Older 10%

Undergraduate Success & Progress Rate [More](#)

■ Graduated from State U ■ Graduated at Another Institution
■ Still Enrolled at State U ■ Still Enrolled at Another Institution



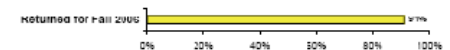
A 85% four-year success and progress rate means that 85% of students starting in Fall 2000 either graduated or are still enrolled at a higher education institution four years later.

Counts for the Fall 2000 entering class shown in the graph above.

- 4200 First-Time, Full-Time Students
- 2000 Full-Time Transfer Students

For Detailed Success & Progress Rate Tables [CLICK HERE](#)

Retention of Fall 2005 First Time, Full time Students



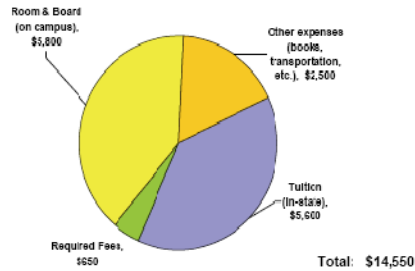
COLLEGE PORTRAIT

A Voluntary System of Accountability (VSASM)

ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION IS THE BROAD RANGE OF DIVERSE INSTITUTIONS, EACH WITH ITS OWN DISTINCTIVE MISSION. COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT THE INSTITUTION THAT IS THE BEST MATCH FOR THEIR INTERESTS, ABILITIES, AND GOALS. WE PRESENT THIS INFORMATION TO HELP STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW COLLEGES ARE ALIKE IN SOME WAYS, DIFFERENT IN OTHERS. THE ITEMS IN THE COLLEGE PORTRAIT WERE SELECTED BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MANY FOCUS GROUPS AS WELL AS EXPERTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION. WHILE THESE ITEMS WILL GIVE YOU VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO COLLEGE LIFE, THEY WILL NOT CAPTURE THE FULL RANGE AND RICHNESS OF THE EXPERIENCE. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CHECK OUT COLLEGE WEB SITES AND VISIT CAMPUSES TO GET A MORE COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO YOU.

Costs of Attendance and Financial Aid [More](#)

Typical Undergraduate Costs per Year without Financial Aid (Full-Time, In-State Students)



[CLICK HERE](#) for typical out-of-state costs and any discipline-specific tuition

The cost to attend State U varies based on the individual circumstances of students and may be reduced through grants and scholarships.

[CLICK HERE](#)
To get a cost estimate for students like you!

Financial Aid Awarded to Undergraduates

Overall Financial Aid

- 70% of Fall 2005 full-time undergraduates received financial aid of some type including need-based loans, work study, and non need-based scholarships.

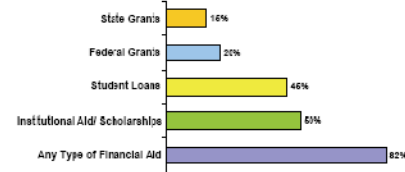
Annual Need-Based Scholarships & Grants

- 30% of Fall 2005 full-time undergraduates received need-based grants or scholarships; the average award for the year was \$3,800.

Annual Need-Based Loans

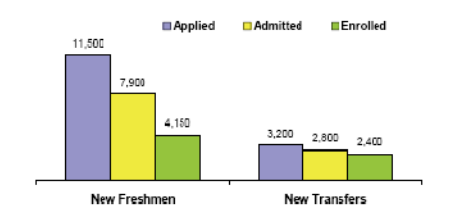
- 40% of Fall 2005 full-time undergraduates received need-based work-study and/or loans (not including parent loans); the average loan for the year was \$4,500.

Percent of Fall 2005 First-Time Students Receiving Each Type of Financial Aid



NOTE: Students may receive aid from more than one source.

Undergraduate Admissions [More](#)



Test(s) Required for Admission: ACT or SAT

Middle 50% of Test Score Range	ACT	SAT
Composite	23-28	
Math	23-28	580-690
English	21-28	
Critical Reading		540-670

50% of admitted students have test scores within the ranges listed, 25% have scores above, and 25% have scores below.

Percent in top 25% of High School Graduating Class	77%
Percent in top 50% of High School Graduating Class	97%
Average High School GPA (4-point scale)	3.54

Degrees and Areas of Study [More](#)

Degrees Awarded at State U in 2005-06

Bachelor's	3,910
Master's	1,350
Doctoral	330
Professional (e.g., Law, Medicine)	505
Total	6,295

Areas of Study with the Largest Number of Undergraduate Degrees Awarded in 2005-06

Business/Management/Marketing	15%
Psychology	13%
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	12%
Engineering	10%
Communication/Journalism	9%
All other degree areas	41%
Total	100%

[CLICK HERE](#) for a list of undergraduate and graduate programs

COLLEGE PORTRAIT A Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA™)

Cost of Attendance
Annual Tuition
Financial Aid

Undergraduate
Admissions
Degrees Granted

The Fighting Chicken Community

Student Success is not just our name, but our mission and our goal. With 25 departments and offices, over 1000 employees and an additional 1800 student employees, Student Success is a comprehensive student services organization at State University. We provide a variety of services and programs to assist students in the classroom, and out of the classroom. Because student success starts in the classroom, our offices and departments provide a variety of services and programs that enable students to excel academically. From new student orientation to registering for classes, academic advising and the writing center, programs are designed to assist you in making the most of your academic career. Student Success extends beyond the classroom, and many of our departments focus on providing you with opportunities to be active as a key member of the Fighting Chicken Community. Become involved in our residence halls, Greek organizations, student organizations and activities, and to take advantage of the many, many opportunities available to you here at State U.



Study at State U [More](#)

Classroom Environment

Students per Faculty	18 to 1
Undergraduate classes with fewer than 30 students	75%
Undergraduate classes with fewer than 50 students	90%

Full-Time Instructional Faculty

Total Faculty	1,400
% Women	45%
% from Minority Groups	35%
% with Highest Degree in Field	95%

Carnegie Classification of Institutional Characteristics

Basic Type
Research Universities (high research activity)

Size and Setting
Large four-year, primarily residential

Enrollment Profile
High undergraduate

Undergraduate Profile
Full-time four-year, selective, higher transfer-in

Undergraduate Instructional Program
Balanced arts & sciences/professions, high graduate coexistence

Graduate Instructional Program
Comprehensive doctoral (no medical/veterinary)

NOTE:
Institutional classifications based on the Carnegie 2005 edition.
[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on the Carnegie Classifications.

Student Housing [More](#)

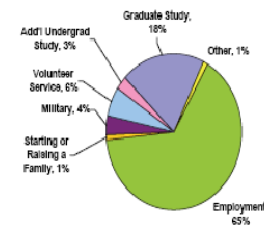
60% of new freshmen live on campus
25% of all undergraduates live on campus

Campus Safety [More](#)

The Security Monitor Program, a branch of the State University Police Department, offers free walking and biking security escorts to and from campus locations and nearby adjacent neighborhoods for all students, staff, faculty and visitors. All Security Monitors are given training in First Aid, CPR, and Body Substance Isolation are equipped with a First Aid Kit and a portable police radio in the event of an emergency.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Campus Crime Statistics Reports

Future Plans of 2005-06 Bachelor's Degree Recipients [More](#)



[CLICK HERE](#) for information on survey administration, sample, and response rate.

COLLEGE PORTRAIT

A Voluntary System of Accountability (VSASM)

The Environment

Student – Faculty Ratio
Class size
Number of Faculty

Student Housing
Campus Safety

Institutional Characteristics

Carnegie Classification
Distinctive Features

Student Experiences and Perceptions National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

Student Experiences and Perceptions

Students who are actively involved in their own learning and development are more likely to be successful in college. Colleges and universities offer students a wide variety of opportunities both inside and outside the classroom to become engaged with new ideas, people, and experiences. Institutions measure the effectiveness of these opportunities in a variety of ways to better understand what types of activities and programs students find the most helpful.

[CLICK HERE](#) for examples of how State U evaluates the experiences of its students.

In addition, institutions participating in the VSA program measure student involvement on campus using one of four national surveys. Results from the one survey are reported for a common set of questions selected as part of VSA. Following are the selected results from the 2006 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The questions have been grouped together in categories that are known to contribute to student learning and development. The results reported below are based on the responses of seniors who participated in the survey.

[CLICK HERE](#) for information on survey administration, the survey sample, and the response rate
[CLICK HERE](#) for information on the NSSE survey.

Group Learning Experiences

- 1% of seniors worked with classmates on a group project
- 2% of seniors tutored or taught other students
- 3% of seniors spent at least 6 hours per week participating in co-curricular activities such as student organizations and intramural sports

Active Learning Experiences

- 4% of seniors spent at least 6 hours per week preparing for class
- 5% of seniors worked on a research project with a faculty member
- 6% of seniors participated in an internship, practicum, or field experience
- 7% of seniors participated in community service or volunteer work
- 8% of seniors participated in study abroad
- 9% of seniors made at least one class presentation last year

Institutional Commitment to Student Learning and Success

- 16% of seniors believe this institution provides support for student success
- 17% of seniors rated the quality of academic advising at this institution as good or excellent
- 18% of seniors reported that this institution provided help in coping with work, family and other non-academic responsibilities
- 19% of seniors reported working harder than they thought they could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations

Student Satisfaction

- 13% of seniors would attend this institution if they started over again
- 14% of seniors rated their entire educational experience as good or excellent
- 15% of seniors reported that other students were friendly or supportive

Student Interaction with Campus Faculty and Staff

- 20% of seniors believed that the campus staff were helpful, considerate, or flexible
- 21% of seniors believed that faculty are available, helpful, or sympathetic
- 22% of seniors reported that faculty members provided prompt feedback on their academic performance
- 23% of seniors discussed readings or ideas with faculty members outside of class

Experiences with Diverse Groups of People and Ideas

- 10% of seniors reported that they often tried to understand someone else's point of view
- 11% of seniors reported their experience at this institution contributed to their understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds
- 12% of seniors often had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity

Student Learning Outcomes

All colleges and universities use multiple approaches to measure student learning. Many of these are specific to particular disciplines, many are coordinated with accrediting agencies, and many are based on outcomes after students have graduated. In addition, those institutions participating in the VSA measure increases in critical thinking, analytic reasoning, and written communication using one of three tests.

Student Learning Assessment at State U

State University is a major research university that emphasizes student learning and effective teaching and sustains a culture that views research and teaching as equally critical to the overall learning environment. State U uses a variety of assessment tools to guide the development and enhancement of the undergraduate learning environment. In particular, the general education assessment process has become part of the campus culture. Not only has it provided important campus-wide data on the extent to which undergraduate students meet university-wide general education goals, it has served as the basis for broad conversations about the depth and breadth of general education knowledge that a State U graduate should possess. Other examples of student success measures used as part of campus improvement initiatives include: assessment in the undergraduate major, academic program review, licensure pass rates, graduation and retention rates, and professional accreditation.

[CLICK HERE](#) for examples of student learning assessment and outcomes at State U

Pilot Project to Measure Core Learning Outcomes

As a pilot project, VSA participants measure critical thinking, analytic reasoning, and written communication using one of three tests. Following are the 2005-06 results from the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA). Such general skills are applicable and useful for both career and personal success and are important outcomes of college regardless of a student's major. The CLA measures critical thinking, analytic reasoning and written communication using two different tasks -- a performance task and an analytic writing task.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a description of the CLA test.

[CLICK HERE](#) for information on test administration, the test sample, and the response rate.

Learning Gains Between Freshman Year and Senior Year

Performance Task

The increase in learning on the performance task is above what would be expected at an institution with students of similar academic abilities.

Analytic Writing Task

The increase in learning on the performance task is what would be expected at an institution with students of similar academic abilities.

Average Institutional Scores

	<u>Freshman Score</u>	<u>Senior Score</u>
Performance Task	1100	1350
Analytic Writing Task	1150	1250

CLA Score Range: 400 to 1800

VSA participants report results from one of three learning outcomes instruments. Examples from all three instruments are shown for illustrative purposes.

Student Learning Outcomes Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA)