



### Introduction

This Student-Level Benchmark Report compares your students' benchmark scores with those of students from schools in your selected peer groups and all NSSE 2004 schools. While your institution's benchmarks on this report are identical to the ones reported on your 2004 Institutional Benchmark Report sent in November, be aware that comparison group results (i.e., Carnegie Classification, National) will differ. Rather than take the mean of all the institution-level benchmarks to calculate a comparison group average, mean statistics in this report are generated using all individual respondents. In other words, a National score in the 2004 Institutional Benchmark Report is the mean of roughly 460 *institutional* benchmarks while the National column in this report shows the mean of approximately 40,000 first-year or senior *students* nationally who completed the NSSE survey.

By virtue of the process used to calculate student-level benchmarks, this report has some unique features: 1) an institution can determine if benchmark results are significantly (*p*-value) or meaningfully (effect size) different from its comparison groups; and 2) benchmark score variation within any given institution or comparison group can be evaluated. It is important to note, however, that the student-level benchmarks also consign more weight to schools with a greater number of respondents. As with all statistical results, comparisons based on a relatively small number of respondents should be interpreted with caution. A complete description of the report components is provided below.

### Guide to Your Student-Level Benchmark Report

#### Component 1: Mean Comparisons

Nesseville State		Nesseville State compared with:			NSSE 2004		
Class	Mean	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size
First-Year	58	52	***	.45	53	***	.35
Seniors	61	55	***	.38	57	***	.23

**Class**  
Means are reported for first-year students and seniors. Only students who were part of the random national sample or a random oversample are included in these analyses. Students in targeted oversamples were not included.

**Mean**  
The mean is the weighted arithmetic average of student level benchmark scores.

**Statistical Significance**  
Benchmarks with mean differences that are larger than would be expected by chance alone are noted with one, two, or three asterisks, referring to three significance levels ( $p < .05$ ,  $p < .01$ , and  $p < .001$ ). The smaller the significance level, the smaller the likelihood that the difference is due to chance. Please note that statistical significance does not guarantee that the result is substantive or important. Large sample sizes (like those produced by NSSE) tend to produce more statistically significant results even though the magnitude of mean differences may be inconsequential. It is recommended to start by interpreting only those items with three asterisks ( $p < .001$ ) and to consult effect sizes in order to make judgments about the practical meaning of the results.

**Effect Size**  
Effect size indicates the "practical significance" of the mean difference. It is calculated by dividing the mean difference by the standard deviation of the group with which the institution is being compared (consortium, Carnegie type, or NSSE 2004). In practice, an effect size of .2 is often considered small, .5 moderate, and .8 large. A positive sign indicates that your institution's mean was greater, thus showing an affirmative result for the institution. A negative sign indicates the institution lags behind the comparison group, suggesting that the student behavior or institutional practice represented by the item may warrant attention.

#### Component 2: Percentile Distributions

##### "Box and Whiskers"

On the lower half of each page, a "box and whiskers" chart is used to compare the distributions of your institution's student-level benchmark scores to the distributions of students attending your relevant comparison groups and all NSSE 2004 schools. This type of chart provides more information than a chart of simple point-estimates such as means or medians. One can see the range and variation of institutional scores in each category, and also where mid-range or normal scores fall. At the same time one can see what score is needed (i.e. 75th or 95th percentile) to be a top performer in the group. The specific percentiles are also listed to the right of each chart, which show the score below which a certain percentage of scores fall.

##### Whiskers

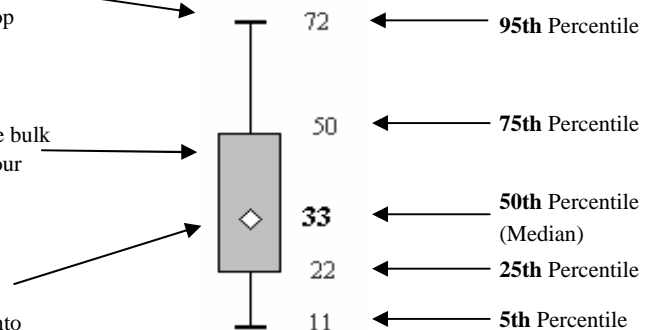
Identify typical range of scores (excluding top and bottom 5%)

##### Box

Identifies where the bulk (middle 50%) of your students score.

##### Median

Middle score that divides all scores into two equal halves



**Level of Academic Challenge**

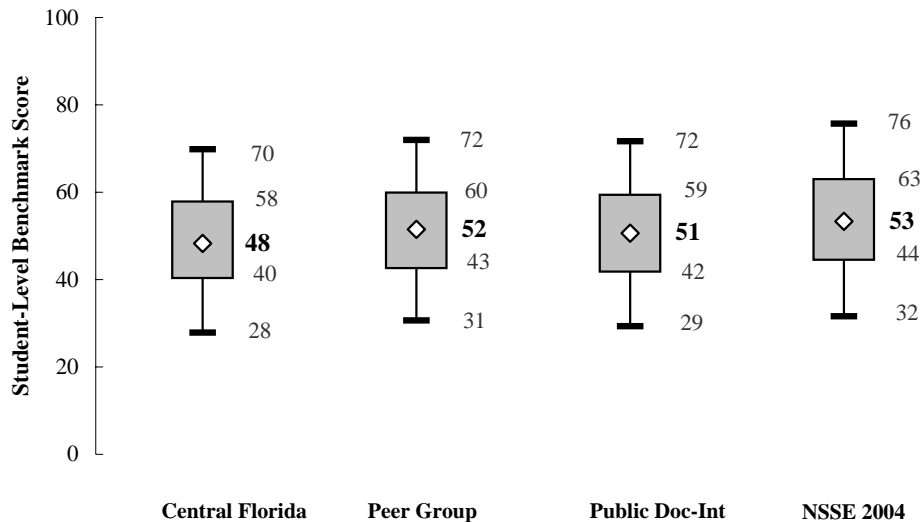
**Student-Level Benchmark Mean Comparisons**

Class	Central Florida Mean	Central Florida compared with:								
		Peer Group			Public Doc-Int			NSSE 2004		
		Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size
First-Year	49	51	**	-.19	51	*	-.13	54	***	-.36
Seniors	53	55	*	-.12	55	*	-.13	58	***	-.32

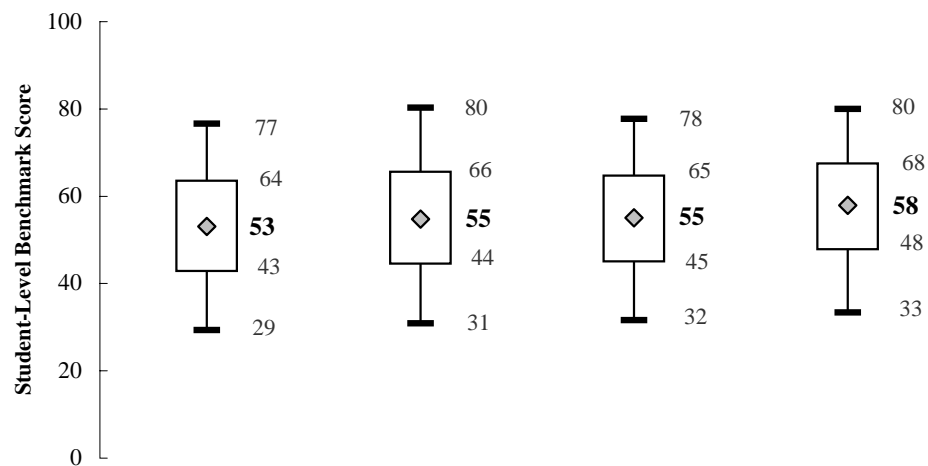
<sup>a</sup>\* p<.05 \*\* p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed)

**Student-Level Benchmark Percentile Distributions**

**First-Year**



**Seniors**



**Active and Collaborative Learning**

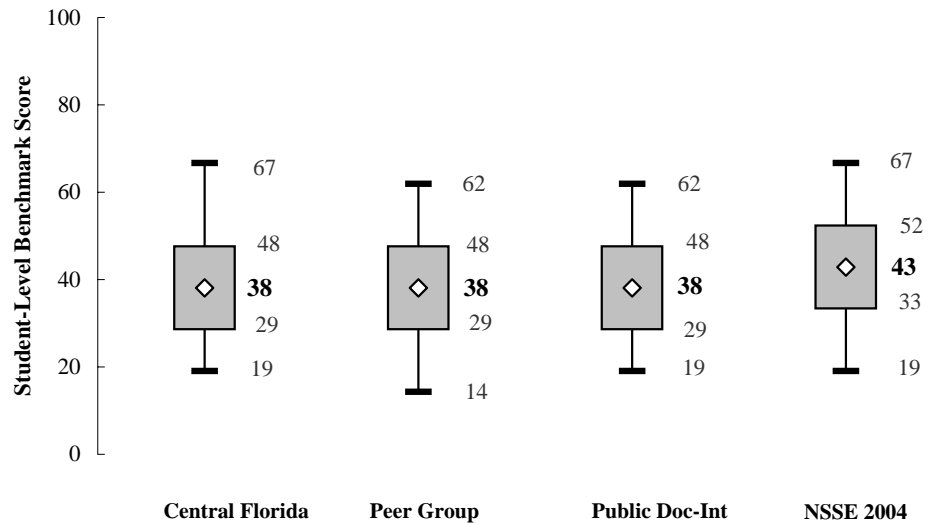
*Student-Level Benchmark Mean Comparisons*

Class	Central Florida compared with:									
	Central Florida	Peer Group			Public Doc-Int			NSSE 2004		
	Mean	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size
First-Year	39	37	*	.14	38		.05	42	**	-.19
Seniors	48	46		.07	47		.01	51	***	-.20

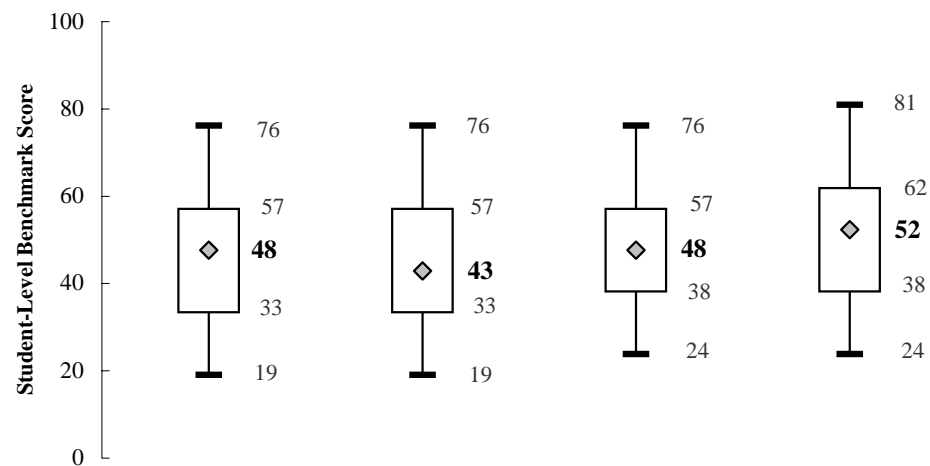
<sup>a</sup>\* p<.05 \*\* p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed)

*Student-Level Benchmark Percentile Distributions*

**First-Year**



**Seniors**



**Student-Faculty Interactions**

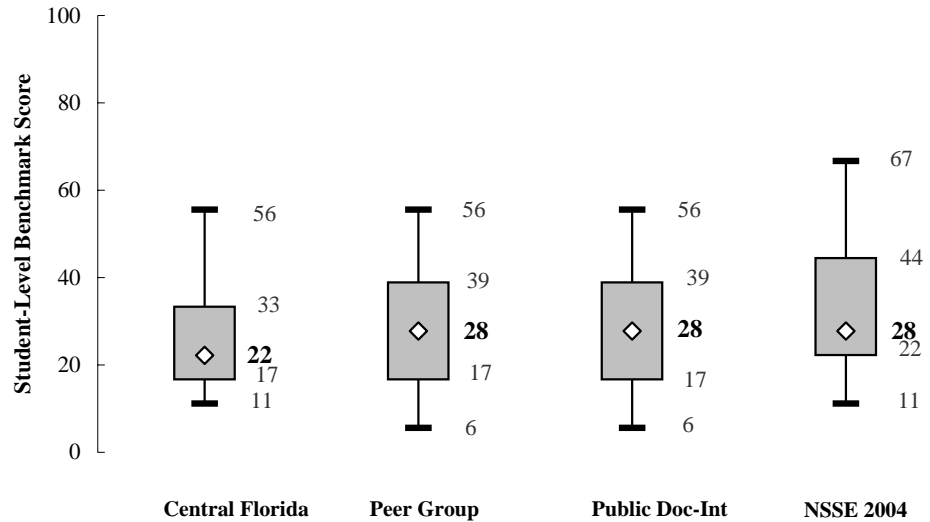
**Student-Level Benchmark Mean Comparisons**

Class	Central Florida compared with:									
	Central Florida		Peer Group		Public Doc-Int		NSSE 2004			
	Mean	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size
First-Year	27	28		-.07	28		-.07	33	***	-.32
Seniors	36	35		.07	37		-.07	43	***	-.35

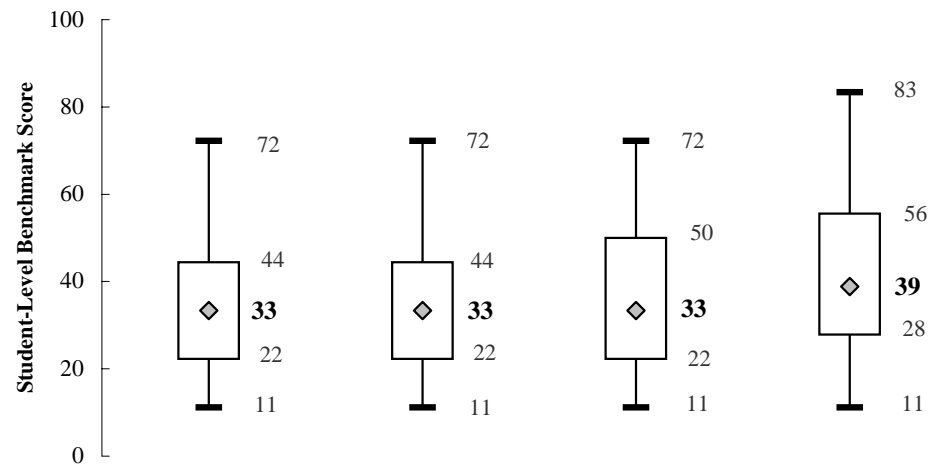
<sup>a</sup>\* p<.05 \*\* p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed)

**Student-Level Benchmark Percentile Distributions**

**First-Year**



**Seniors**



**Enriching Educational Experiences**

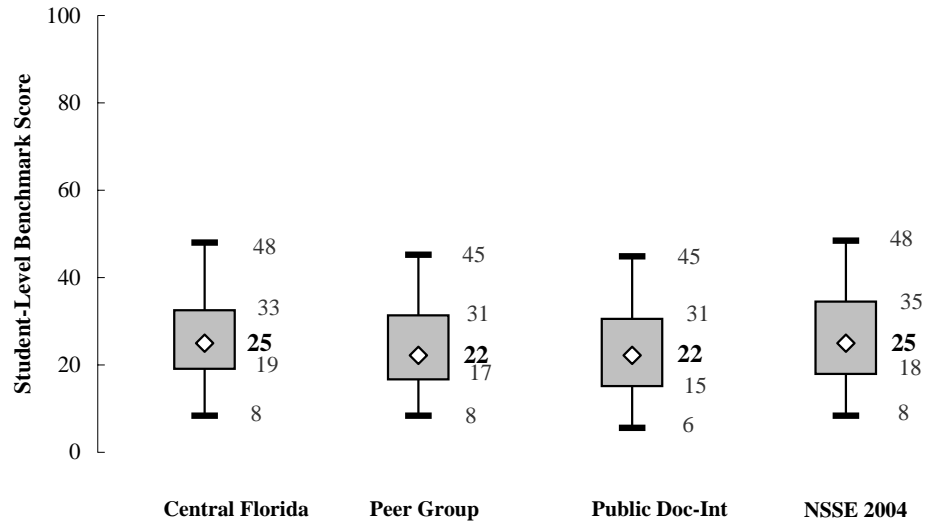
**Student-Level Benchmark Mean Comparisons**

Class	Central Florida compared with:									
	Central Florida	Peer Group			Public Doc-Int			NSSE 2004		
	Mean	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size
First-Year	26	24	*	.16	23	***	.22	27		-.05
Seniors	35	33		.07	35		.00	41	***	-.33

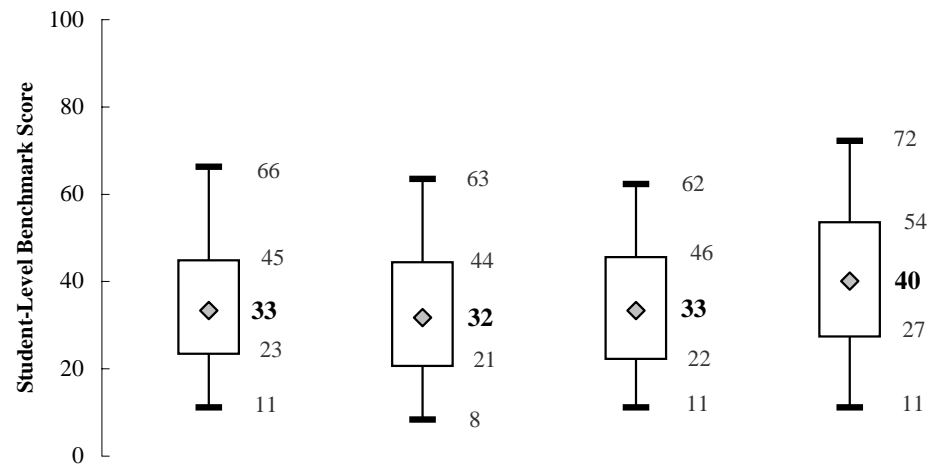
<sup>a</sup>\* p<.05 \*\* p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed)

**Student-Level Benchmark Percentile Distributions**

**First-Year**



**Seniors**



**Supportive Campus Environment**

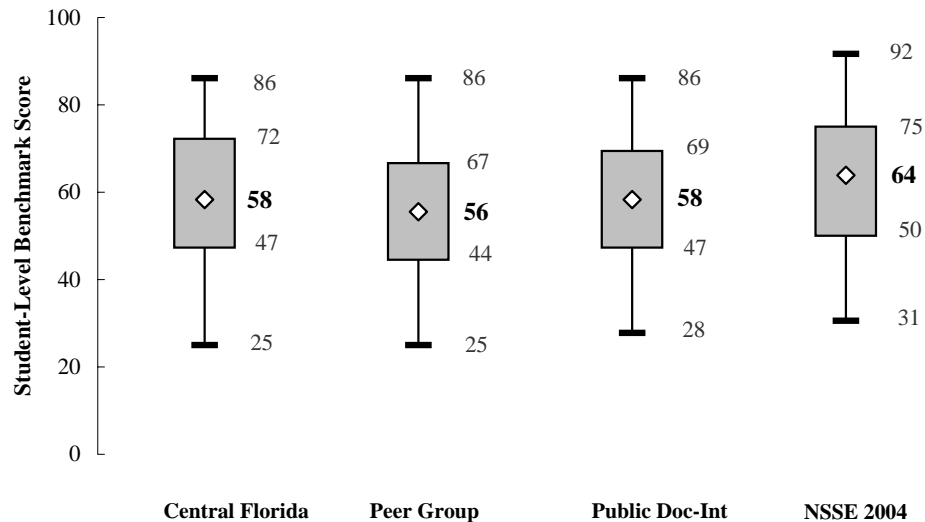
**Student-Level Benchmark Mean Comparisons**

Class	Central Florida compared with:									
	Central Florida		Peer Group			Public Doc-Int			NSSE 2004	
	Mean	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size	Mean	Sig <sup>a</sup>	Effect Size
First-Year	59	55	**	.18	58		.07	63	***	-.23
Seniors	52	51		.07	54		-.07	59	***	-.38

<sup>a</sup>\* p<.05 \*\* p<.01 \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed)

**Student-Level Benchmark Percentile Distributions**

**First-Year**



**Seniors**

