NSSE At A Glance

1. NSSE (ness-ie) is the National Survey of Student Engagement.

2. NSSE (ness-ie) measures student participation in the classroom and in activities outside the classroom that lead to student success.

3. The survey will be open Feb. 28 to May 15 for freshmen and seniors -- if you are eligible you will get a university email with your unique survey link. (Survey methodology doesn’t allow other students to participate, but SDSU typically participates in this national survey every few years.)

4. NSSE survey participation is voluntary; if you complete the survey, you will be automatically entered in weekly opportunity drawings and also in a grand prize opportunity drawing at the end of the survey window.

5. The weekly opportunity drawings feature $50 Visa gift cards, while the grand prize opportunity drawing features three Aztec Shops gift cards to buy textbooks at the Bookstore (for freshmen), three sets of graduation regalia (for seniors), and one Nintendo Switch.

6. The survey is 40 questions and takes about 15 minutes.

7. You can take the survey on your cell phone, tablet or computer -- pause if you need to and return later to where you left off.

8. Participants will be helping SDSU identify how to improve the Aztec Experience. The university will analyze student responses and make changes consistent with best practices that lead to a deeper and richer education.

NSSE FAQs

1. What is NSSE?

   NSSE (ness-ie) is the National Survey of Student Engagement. It measures student engagement in the classroom and in activities outside the classroom that have been shown to lead to student success.

2. How many other schools participate?
The NSSE survey began in 1999-2000, and 6 million students at 1,600 colleges have participated. In 2018, 289,867 students at 511 colleges and universities responded to the survey. SDSU has participated previously in 2004, 2009 and 2015.

3. Are all SDSU students being asked to participate?

Only freshman and seniors are eligible to participate in the survey. The survey will be open Feb. 28 to May 15 to freshmen* and seniors.**

Eligible students will receive an invitation in their university email on Feb. 28 with a unique survey link.

4. Are freshmen and seniors required to participate in NSSE?

NSSE survey participation is voluntary.

Students who complete the survey will be automatically entered in weekly opportunity drawings and also in a grand prize opportunity drawing at the end of the survey window.

The weekly opportunity drawings feature $50 Visa gift cards, while the grand prize opportunity drawing features three Aztec Shops gift cards to buy textbooks at the Bookstore (for freshmen), three sets of graduation regalia (for seniors), and one Nintendo Switch.

5. How long does it take to complete the survey?

The NSSE survey is 40 questions and takes about 15 minutes.

Students can take the survey on their cell phones, tablets or computers -- pause as necessary and return later to where they left off.

6. How will the survey results be used?

Participants will be helping SDSU identify how to improve the Aztec Experience.

The university will analyze student responses and make changes consistent with best practices that lead to a deeper and richer education. The national nature of the survey also allows SDSU to compare its aggregate results with NSSE survey results from universities from across the country.

7. Are faculty asked about student engagement?

For the first time this year, SDSU is also participating in a related survey -- the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement. FSSE is administered to faculty, instructors and graduate students who teach.
Since 2003, more than 250,000 instructional staff from more than 800 institutions have responded to FSSE.

*First-Year Students (further defined):*  
The required first-year student population is intentionally broader than the first-time, first-year student definition used on some campuses and includes all students classified as first-year students according to cumulative credit hours earned. All must have been enrolled in the fall 2018 semester and expected to be classified as first-year students in spring 2019. Includes fall 2018 credit hours being attempted or earned but, if possible, excludes any Advanced Placement credits or other college credits earned prior to completing high school.

**Seniors (further defined):**  
Senior students must have been enrolled during fall 2018 and considered a probable graduate for spring or summer 2019. For most institutions, seniors will be within six to eight courses of graduation.