Higher-Order and Reflective Learning

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote student learning by challenging and supporting them to engage in various forms of deep learning (NSSE, 2020). This infographic of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) series explores student perceptions of Higher-Order Learning and Reflective and Integrative Learning.

The NSSE infographic series features selected results from the NSSE administered to Xavier first-years and seniors in spring 2020; data collection ended just before the switch to remote learning. Response rates were 43% (n=533) for first-years and 32% (n=352) for seniors. For more information about Xavier’s NSSE results, visit the Office of Institutional Research’s Nexus site.

**Higher-Order Learning (HOL)**

The HOL engagement indicator measures how much students’ coursework emphasizes complex cognitive tasks such as application, analysis, judgement, and synthesis.

**Reflective & Integrative Learning (RIL)**

The RIL engagement indicator measures how much instructors motivate students to make connections between their learning and the world around them, reexamining their own beliefs, and considering issues and ideas from others’ perspectives.

### Results

**First-years**

- Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new situations: 77%
- Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts: 71%
- Examining the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue: 63%
- Telling someone else’s story by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective: 70%
- Forming a new idea or understanding from various pieces of information: 68%
- Connecting ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge: 79%

**Seniors**

- Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new situations: 83%
- Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts: 77%
- Examining the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue: 68%
- Telling someone else’s story by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective: 72%
- Forming a new idea or understanding from various pieces of information: 80%
- Connecting ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge: 87%

### Competitor Group

- Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new situations: 76%
- Analysing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts: 78%
- Examining the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue: 65%
- Telling someone else’s story by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective: 72%
- Forming a new idea or understanding from various pieces of information: 83%
- Connecting ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge: 83%

*Source: NSSE 2020 XU Engagement Indicators report*