**National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), 2011**

Available to colleges and universities since 2000, the [National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)](http://nsse.iub.edu/) is a widely adopted and respected assessment of collegiate quality. The University of Memphis scores on the NSSE survey confirm the academic excellence, superior quality of instruction, and supportive environment students find at the university.

NSSE collects information each year from samples of first-year and senior students regarding their experiences at their chosen institution. The NSSE information presented below, from the 2011 survey, reflects the high level of satisfaction in the quality of academic and collegiate life that students experience at the University of Memphis.

**Benchmark Categories**

Within the broader survey, NSSE has identified five Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice that are particularly important indicators of learning and student development. NSSE benchmark scores reflect responses of first-year and senior students to questions from the survey in the following areas:

* **The University of Memphis**
* **Carnegie Peers**
* **NSSE**
* Level of Academic Challenge
* Enriching Educational Experiences
* Student-Faculty Interaction
* Supportive Campus Environment
* Active and Collaborative Learning

The five graphs below summarize the University of Memphis scores in each benchmark area. The graph for each area indicates how the University of Memphis compared to its Carnegie Peers (other national liberal arts institutions) and to all NSSE participants (the complete pool of institutions participating in NSSE). Below each graph is a sample question from that benchmark area on which first-year and senior students ranked the University of Memphis exceptionally high.

Instances in which the University of Memphis scores were significantly higher than those for comparison groups (Carnegie Peers and NSSE participant schools) are marked as follows:
\* Statistically significant University of Memphis score relative to comparison group (p< .05 level)
\*\* Greater significance of University of Memphis score relative to comparison group (p<.01)
\*\*\* Greatest significance of University of Memphis score relative to comparison group (p<.001)

Sample LAC Question: How much has your coursework emphasized synthesizing and organizing ideas, information or experiences?

Sample EEE Question: How often have you had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions or personal values?

Sample SFI Question: How often have you discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class?

Sample SCE Question: To what extent does your institution provide the support you need to help you succeed academically?

Sample ACL Question: How often have you discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)?