

CCSSE: Frequently Asked Questions

1. ***When is the survey administered?***

The survey is administered during the spring term within a March-April time period.

2. ***How is the survey administered?***

The *Community College Student Report (CCSR)* is administered as a pencil-and-paper survey in randomly selected classes.

3. ***Is it possible to administer the CCSR on the Web?***

CCSSE is very interested in online administration of the student survey and has conducted two pilot tests of a Web-based version. The survey technology worked quite well; however, response rates were extremely low, in large part because the participating colleges were unable to provide valid email addresses for students. Thus, the sample of students who responded was very probably not representative of the population. We will continue to monitor college readiness to participate in online administration, but it appears to be infeasible at present.

4. ***What is CCSSE's sampling methodology?***

CCSSE utilizes a stratified random sampling methodology whereby the sampling unit is classes, which are comprised of students. The stratification variable is class start time, which ensures that the sample is representative of morning, afternoon, and evening classes.

5. ***An instructor had three classes chosen. Can we omit one of his or her classes from the sample?***

No. Instructors have the option to decline; however, please explain to the instructor that he or she was not purposefully sampled more than once, he or she just happens to be associated with more than one group of students that was sampled.

6. ***How long does it take to complete the survey?***

Historically, the survey has taken the students approximately 35-45 minutes to complete; however, it is possible that the survey may take an entire class period—additional time will likely be needed in developmental/remedial and ESL courses.

7. ***What are the CCSSE Special Focus Questions?***

The special focus questions are a set of five items that CCSSE adds to the survey. Each year, a different topic will be selected for the special item set, based on interest among CCSSE colleges and the research community; the national results will be shared in CCSSE's annual report. This strategy will help to keep the survey fresh—addressing issues of importance to community colleges and their students—while also keeping the core survey stable, so as to facilitate comparisons across survey years.