



### NSSE Respondent Profile

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is a program that annually collects and analyzes information from a number of four-year colleges and universities. The program gathers information about first-year (freshmen or transfers) and senior participation in learning, as well as personal development events, and programs provided by the institution.

The Respondent Profile is a section of the NSSE survey that asks the randomly selected or census-administered group of students about demographic information, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, gender identity, majors, enrollment status, and level of education. Students also have the choice to select “I prefer not to respond” to questions that they would not want to answer. The purpose is to provide institutions with tools to examine similarities and differences among students on campus and compare results to comparison institutions.

### WTAMU Mental Health Trends

For this data collection, we pulled Question 37b. (NSSE Report: Respondent Profile, 2016-2020, ~Pg. 7) and Question 38a. (NSSE Report: Respondent Profile, 2021-2022, ~Pg. 7) from the Respondent Profile. The aforementioned questions ask, “Which of the following disabilities has been diagnosed?” The answer choices allow students to select physical, sensory, mental, and developmental health disabilities.

The percentage of seniors who expressed having developed and/or who had been diagnosed with a mental health disorder while enrolled in higher education in the graph above increased 4 times over 6 observations or 66.7% of the time. There has been an upward trend in the percentage of WTAMU’s students, in both first-year and senior populations, who reported developing or being diagnosed with mental health disorder or disorders since the 2020 NSSE administration.

### Data Bite #35 – NSSE Respondent Profile: Mental Health

From 2016 to 2020, NSSE’s Question 37b. was a simple list of disabilities students could choose from, including sensory disabilities, physical disabilities, mental disabilities, learning disabilities, and other. In 2021, NSSE introduced an extended list of answer choices for students to choose from in Question 38a. This new question disaggregates mental health disabilities into more specific categories such as anxiety, depression, ADHD, and more.

2016-2020: Question 37b. “Which of the following disabilities has been diagnosed?”

2021-2022: Question 38a. “Do you have a disability or condition that impacts your learning, working, or living activities?”

Population answered affirmatively to mental health diagnosis or disability. (NSSE Report: Respondent Profile, 2016-2020, ~Pg. 7)

More information about the number (n=) of students responding is outlined in the table below.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
First Year	0%	38%	35%	30%	38%	60%	68%
n=	0/6	11/26	4/10	3/9	9/22	14/23	26/38
Seniors	39%	29%	36%	40%	42%	60%	58%
n=	12/28	13/44	9/25	8/20	20/44	34/57	31/53