

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:
THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (NSSE) - 2018**
University of San Francisco

About NSSE

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is a survey of first year and senior students about the characteristics and quality of their undergraduate education. While NSSE does not directly assess student learning, the survey does reflect self-reported behaviors associated with desired outcomes of an undergraduate education. As part of the overall NSSE survey, a topical module can be surveyed to provide more information on a topic of interest on campus. For the 2018 administration of NSSE, civic engagement was the selected topical module.

Civic Engagement

The NSSE civic engagement module assesses first year and senior students on their conflict resolution skills, as well as how frequently they engage in issues at the local/campus and state/national/global level. These questions complement parts of the core survey that measure service-learning, community service or volunteer work, and becoming an active citizen. Through a series of 14 questions that demonstrate civic engagement abilities and frequency among students, our analysis provides three lenses of comparison: first years vs. seniors, USF first years compared to first years from other schools, and USF seniors compared to seniors from other schools. USF's responses are measured against the average responses from the other 83 schools that completed the civic engagement module.

Items and Scoring

- 4 questions were asked to measure students' abilities regarding specific actions they have taken that reflect their level of engagement. These responses were measured on scale from 1-7, measured with a range of 1=poor to 7=excellent.
- 10 questions were asked as a way of measuring the frequency that students performed in civic engagement activities. The questions assessed student participation in civic engagement actions, measuring either at the campus/local level or the state/national/global level. These responses were measured on a scale from 1-4, measured with a range of 1=never to 4=very often.
- Students were given an opportunity to comment on their experience in their own words. At the end of the survey, they were asked: "Think about the experience you may have had with local, campus, state, national, or global issues. What about these experiences has been most meaningful?"
- We measured student comments with a number of indicator variables that stated various aspects of campus life and current events that influenced their attitudes towards these experiences.

Summary

- The group of students who responded to this study is a convenience sample and not a representative sample of the USF population. The responses and comparisons made involve only first year and senior students that participated in NSSE.
- In comparing civic engagement abilities between first years and seniors at USF, seniors reported higher ability in 3 categories: help people resolve disagreements with each other, leadership in groups of people with different backgrounds, and contributing to the well-being of your community. For the 4th question, which asked about resolving conflicts discussing bias, discrimination, and prejudice, first years and seniors at USF had the same average response.
- In comparison to average responses from students at other institutions, there were no significant differences found in how USF students responded.
- In comparing the frequency of civic engagement between first years and seniors at USF, there were no significant differences in the average responses. For 6 of 10 questions, first years and seniors had the same average responses.
- USF seniors maintained slightly higher average responses than first years on the following questions: asked others to address local or campus issues; raised awareness about state, national, or global issues; raised awareness about local or campus issues; and informed yourself about state, national, or global issues.
- In comparison to responses from students at other institutions, USF first years performed significantly better (95% confidence interval, effect size $\geq .3$) on the following questions: informed yourself about local or campus issues; discussed local or campus issues with others; raised awareness about state, national, or global issues; asked others to address local or campus issues; asked others to address state, national, or global issues; and organized others to work on state, national or global issues.
- In comparison to average response from students at other institutions, USF seniors performed significantly better (95% confidence interval, effect size $\geq .3$) on the following questions: discussed local or campus issues with others; raised awareness about local or campus issues with others; asked others to address local or campus issues; asked others to address state, national, or global issues; and organized others to work on local or campus issues.

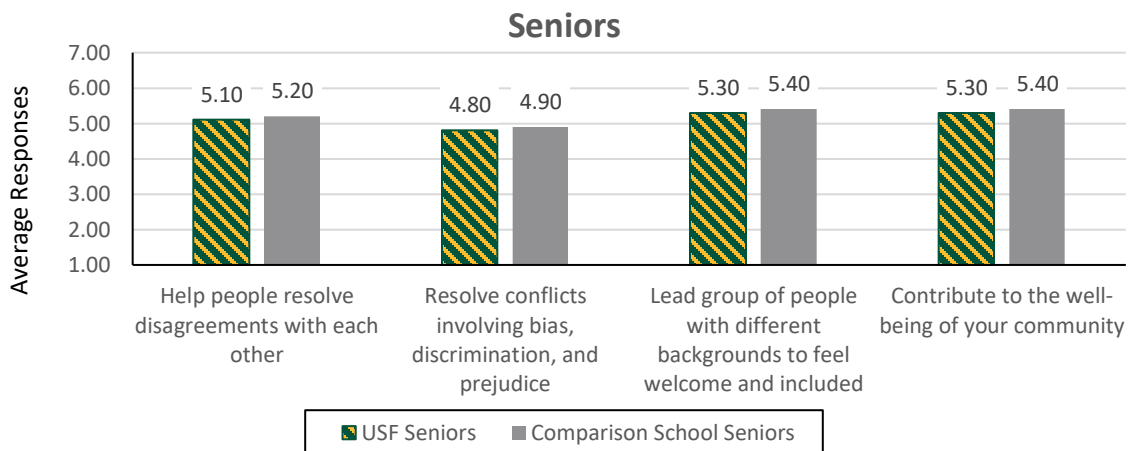
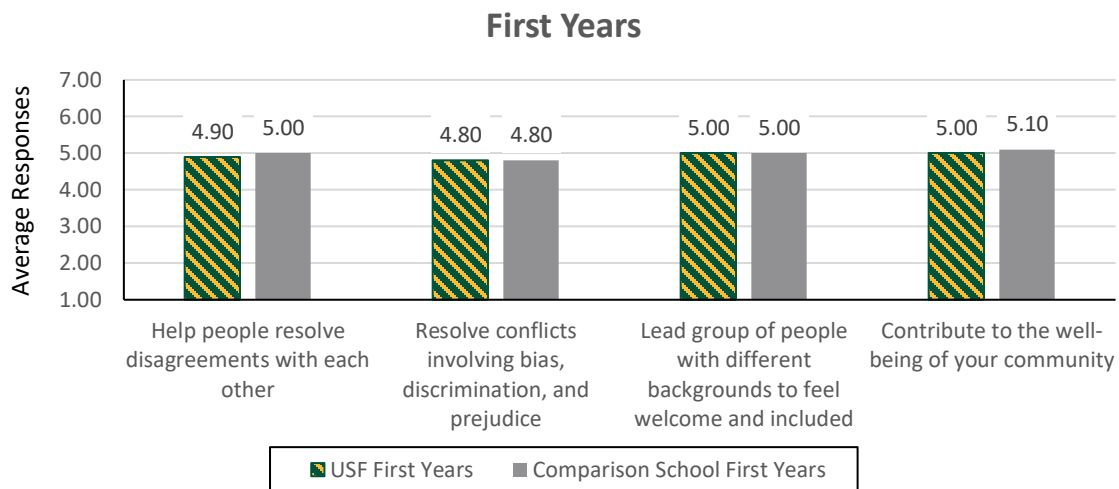
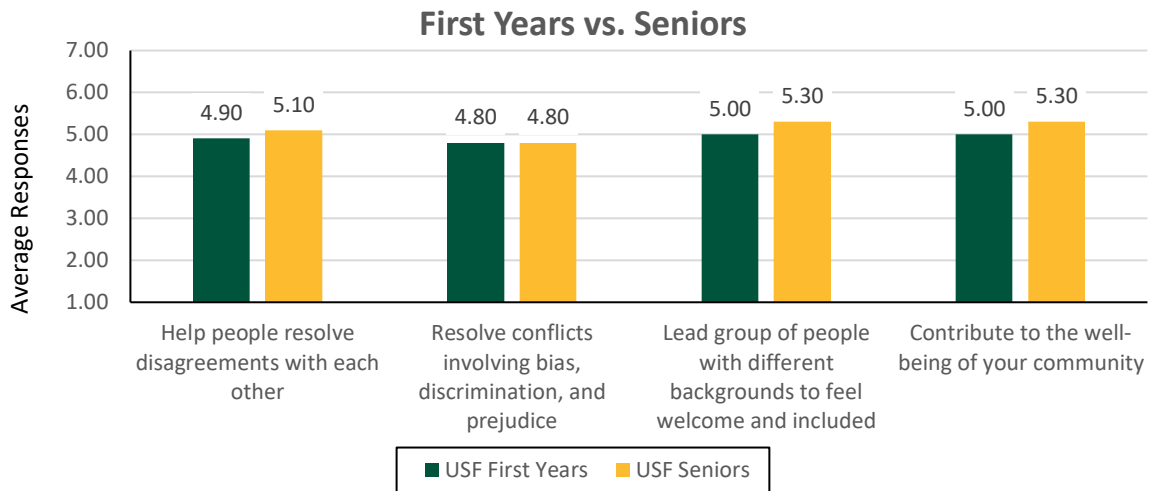
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- There is a lack of significantly higher average responses for USF first years as compared to USF seniors. While there are some areas where civic engagement certainly improves, the average responses do not indicate any strong trends of civic engagement increasing from first years to seniors.
- When comparing to students from other institutions, the significant responses for USF students are clearly indicated in areas where they are getting others involved with various areas of civic engagement. This is a good demonstration of how USF students are involving their peers in these activities, aligned with USF's social justice mission.
- Responses show that USF students are comfortable in discussing these issues, at every level, with others.
- More significance in responses for civic engagement at the local or campus level is seen among USF seniors.

GENERAL THEMES FROM COMMENTS

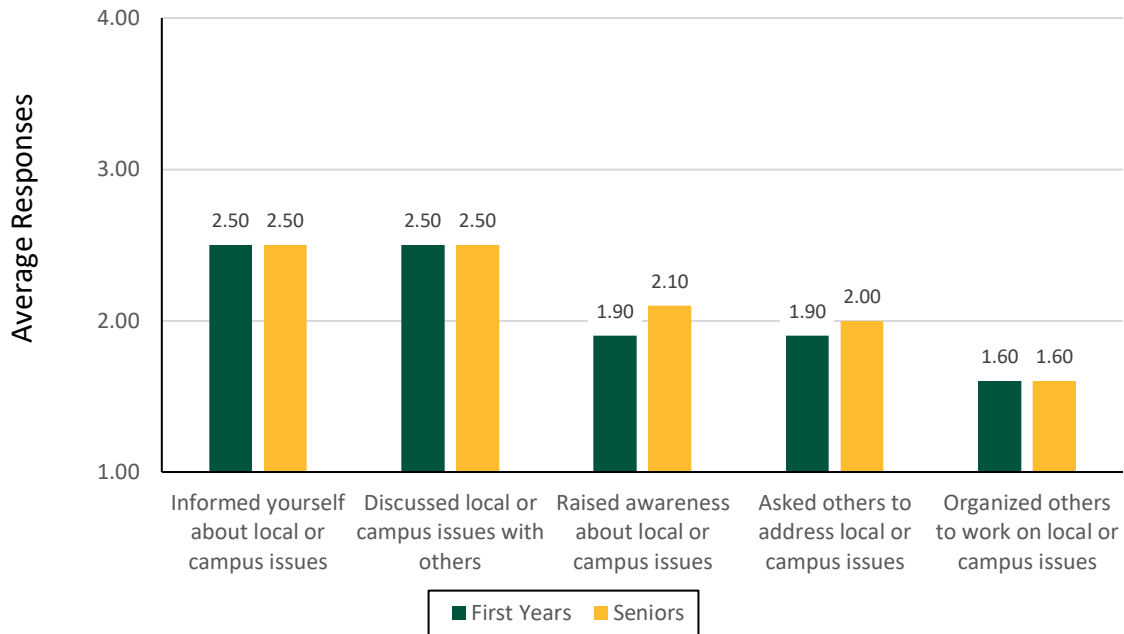
- Overall, satisfaction with the USF student community and the environment of diversity permeates the student comments. Themes of inclusion, sharing perspectives, diverse classrooms and student groups, and opportunities to learn are highly prevalent in many of the comments.
- Students report issues with specific interactions with faculty members, lack of support from on-campus services to help students, and the dining options available to students.
- Responses indicate gratitude for the opportunities in civic engagement that students have participated in, both at the campus and national level. There is a trend of students having a meaningful civic engagement experience on campus that gives them a positive view of the USF environment overall.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ABILITIES

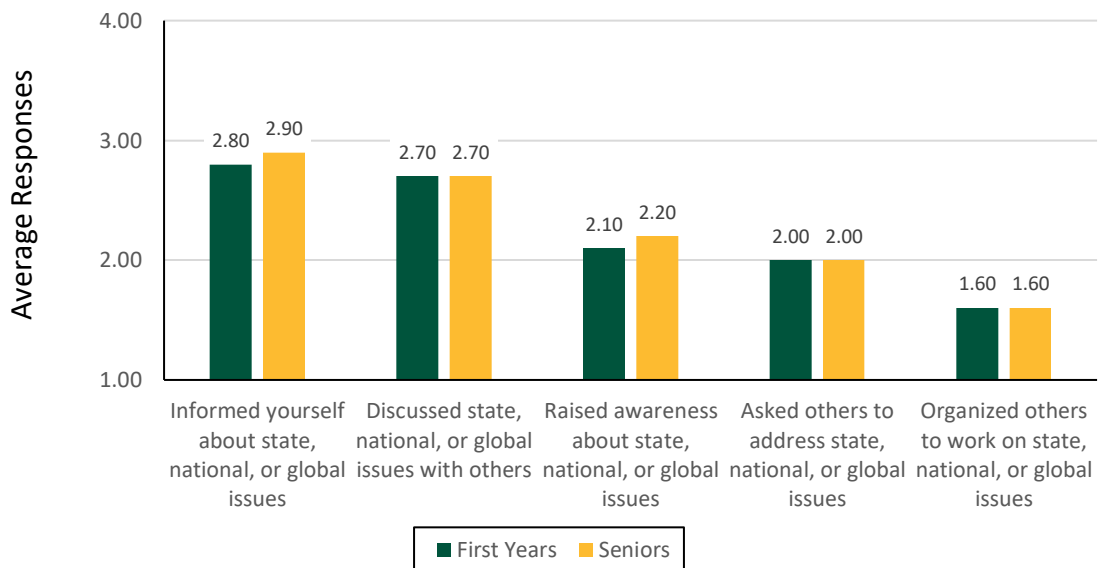


CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FREQUENCY

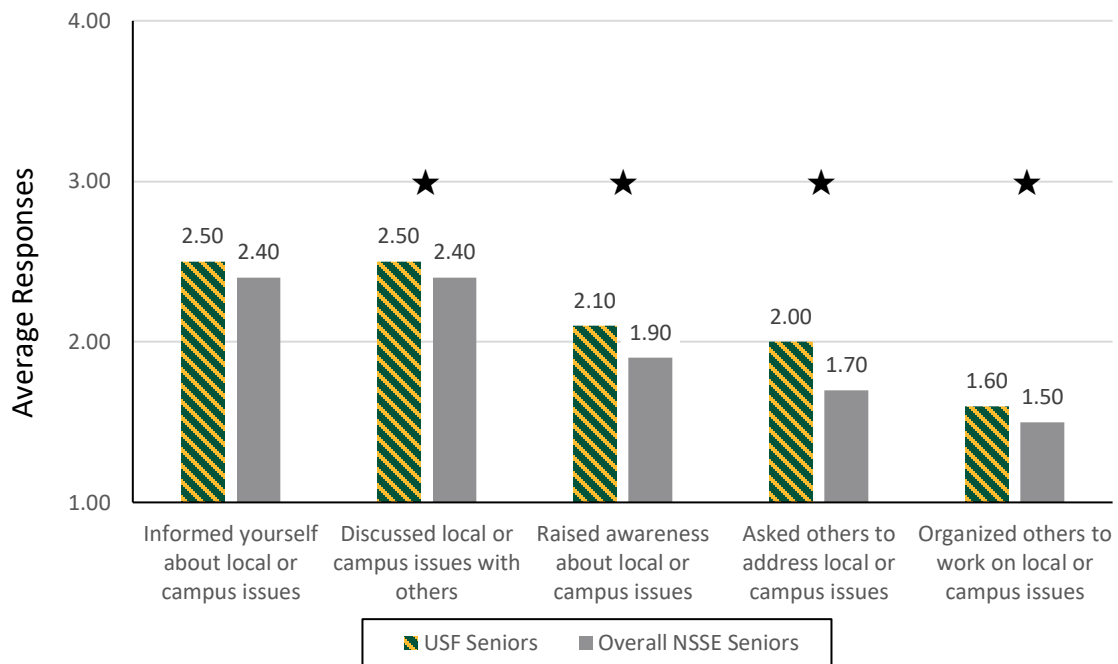
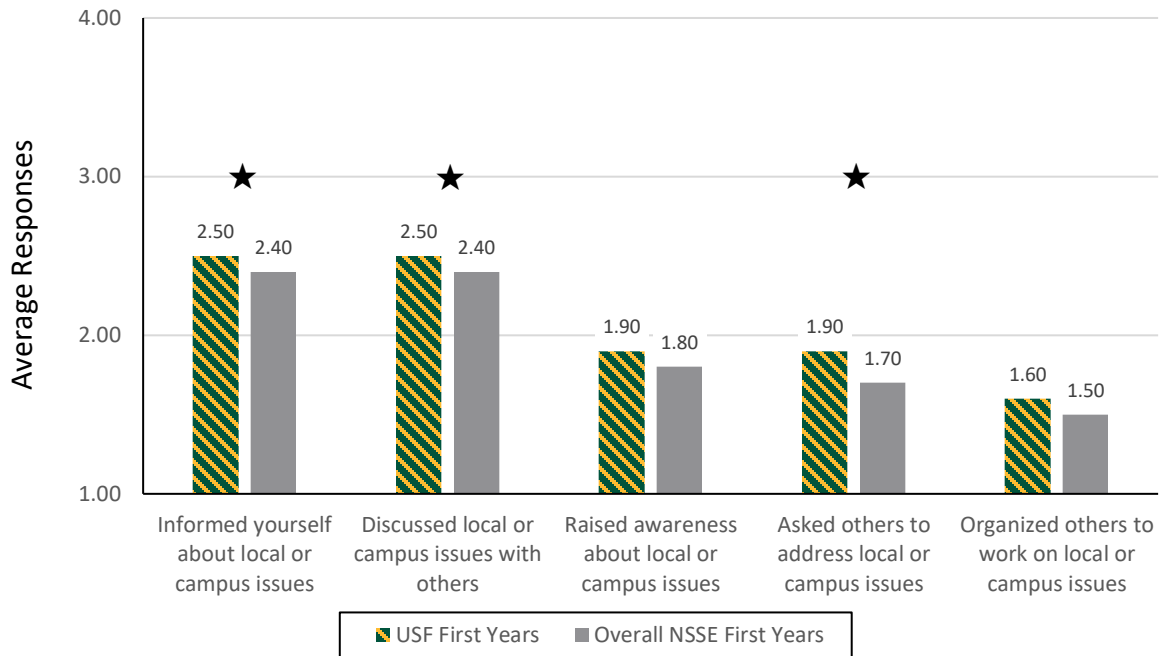
First Years and Seniors at USF: Local and Campus Issues



First Years and Seniors at USF: State, National, and Global Issues



Local and Campus Issues



State, National and Global Issues

