

The SENSE benchmarks are groups of conceptually related survey items that address key areas of student engagement. The six benchmarks denote areas that educational research has shown to be important to students' early college experiences and educational outcomes. Therefore, they provide colleges with a useful starting point for looking at institutional results and allow colleges to gauge and monitor their performance in areas that are central to their work. In addition, participating colleges have the opportunity to make appropriate and useful comparisons between their performance and that of groups of other colleges.

Performing as well as the national average or a peer-group average may be a reasonable initial aspiration, but it is important to recognize that these averages are sometimes unacceptably low. Aspiring to match and then exceed high-performance targets is the stronger strategy.

Therefore, provided above is a comparison of your college's standardized benchmark scores with the averaged benchmark scores from the top 10% of the current three-year cohort.

For further information about *SENSE* benchmarks and how they are computed, please visit www.cccse.org.

Note: Benchmark scores are standardized to have a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of 25 across all respondents.



