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# NSSE 2013

## Student Comments

### Northern Michigan University

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The final page of the NSSE survey asked students to respond to the following question in an open text box:

*"If you have any additional comments or feedback that you'd like to share on the quality of your educational experience, please type them below."*

**Important:**

- Confidential student responses to this question appear on the following pages. Because student comments are confidential, student identifiers are not given in this report but are provided in a separate SPSS data file. For this reason, please use discretion when using, storing, and disseminating the SPSS file.
- **These comments appear exactly as the students entered them and may not be suitable for distribution without prior review. Faculty members, administrators, or other students may be mentioned by name, and comments were not edited for grammar, offensive language, excessive length, or otherwise questionable content.**
- Comments are sorted by class, enrollment status, and gender. Information for these variables was provided by your institution.

Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
First-year	Full-time	Female	<p>Our culture is shaping into one where high education is required to attain any sort of decent job where you will actually make money. Unfortunately paying for college and University is becoming increasingly difficult because it costs so much. I work year round to afford books and pay a little towards tuition but I still have to take out loans to finish paying for tuition. Education costs too much and it is unfair that it is now 'normal' to have tons of debt from school. I also think financial aid departments need to be more attentive to students and help explain financial issues.</p> <p>Most students are under 24 and are independent of their families as I am. FAFSA information is based on my parents income, although my parents don't help me at all with school or bills and so it doesn't make sense even though I file as an independent on tax return I am still technically a child in this standard. Things need to change.</p>
First-year	Full-time	Female	NMU is a great school. I think the faculty members need to become a little bit more involved in their students well being in the classroom and outside of the classroom, seeing as that is what I am paying them to do. That is all.
First-year	Full-time	Female	The professors at NMU are very helpful and have usable office hours.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Everyone here at this University has been extremely helpful in any way that is possible. They all want what's best for every student
First-year	Full-time	Female	Being my first year at college I think everything is going well, all the academics, classes, coed activities, clubs, just everything.
First-year	Full-time	Female	The teachers are good, the food sucks, the teachers need a class on how to use educat; and the students are racist, high, drunk, kleptomaniac assholes who interfere with the well-being of those actually here to learn.
First-year	Full-time	Female	The only thing I'd like to say, is my Academic Advisor was very hard to get in contact with, the only time he responded to me was when I needed to for registering classes. Other than that, he would never get back to me, and I needed him to.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Having the Loss Prevention Management course online makes it possible for me to keep my full-time job and still get an education without having to commute to campus.
First-year	Full-time	Male	The college I am going to, really is a great institution.
First-year	Full-time	Male	Northern Michigan University is a wonderful college to attend!
First-year	Part-time	Female	When someone gets assaulted on campus and the Dean of Students and the campus police fail to do ANYTHING about it, or even go out of their way to keep a sports member out of trouble really reflects on my grades and feelings towards a school. Northern Michigan University and the board members who have failed to do their jobs have ruined my experiance
First-year	Part-time	Male	No
Senior	Full-time	Female	Over all my educational experience has been pretty good.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Commuters are not treated with the same respect level that Residents are. The University doesn't think about commuters who have to travel in times of heavy snow, just because they may have not gotten the same accumulative amount and the roads may be fine for travel in their area. Also, parking for commuters is very limited; it takes me 45 minutes a day to find a parking spot, and on some days, I cannot walk because of my disease/disability, which makes it even harder, for I have to wait for one to open up closer to my building. I have issues with the School of Education's requirements when repeating courses from prior majors that, still count towards their requirements, which makes no sense at all, for I didn't take them while attending the School of Education. I also felt very discriminated against for having a disease/disability that's out of my control, and based upon that, was dismissed for things that they didn't understand. There's a lot about this university that is really disheartening and I cannot wait to graduate and be done with it.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Our program goes out of the way to make you feel like the lowest scum on earth. I have been told by a prof, "Hoodrats don't belong here." This was based off knowledge of where I was from, since we had to wear uniforms to class, and were not allowed to talk unless directly spoken to.

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Senior	Full-time	Female	as a commuter parking was an issue. The online classes were a great benefit because I work 40 hours a week and traveling was an issue. Possible an affordable housing available to commuter students that are at the university for two or three days only. That the commute from long distances would not be financial difficulty.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Disability services are not being optimally provided. Administrative staff in Registrar's office is slow working and makes mistakes. Unhappy with experiences related to staff in Hedgecock. Took me years to find out I could receive accommodations for my health problems.
Senior	Full-time	Female	A lot of the professors seemed genuinely interested in my personal well being and my personal education. Other professors could care less. Its extremely frustrating trying to learn material with ADHD, I need instant feedback and lectures that aren't read verbatim from a PowerPoint slide that are also available online. Recently I was able to be part of the new interactive learning room, this was exciting at first for me because I am also an extremely kinesthetic learner. Unfortunately, the lectures given in this "smart" room were once again read from a pre-written PowerPoint slide. I also had some of the worst experiences with Ecology professor and a CLS professor, I was struggling with the material and couldn't seem to pass an exam, when I asked for help or suggestions I wouldn't receive either. On the other hand I had some of the most caring and helpful professors I could ask for, several e-mails daily with answers to other students questions that were asked, lots of ways to get in contact with them and extremely accommodating to my learning disability. As with any higher education institution there are pro's and con's. If I had the chance to do it all over again I wouldn't have come to NMU straight away ONLY to save money and figure out what it is I want to do first. I am also about to be first generation College graduate, I came here way too unprepared when I was a 17 year old freshmen. However, I would still choose Northern Michigan University to graduate from over every other school, the experience I've had and the amazing people I've met are both too amazing to pass up. I will be graduating with severe debt but I have goals, direction, and tenacity to take my knowledge to the next level thanks to my time here at NMU, for which I will be eternally grateful.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I think that the academic advisers should have the title of just that and have it NOT be a professor at NMU. This institution just wants your money and doesn't really care about you at all. Thanks to NMU, I got screwed over and will not be graduating (and spending MORE money on a laptop I don't really need for ONE class) until December. I will not be recommending this college to any of my friends, family, or acquaintances.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Having a fellowship in a research lab my freshman year greatly influenced my college experience. Also, being in the honors program forced me to think critically about issues and express my knowledge and beliefs to classmates and professors
Senior	Full-time	Female	The education program at NMU has been a very positive experience for me. I got several hours in of field experience in a few elementary classrooms. Going into the schools has been the best part of education and made me look forward to teaching. The elementary education teachers at NMU are great and very good role models to pre-service teachers.
Senior	Full-time	Female	One thing that I struggle with is that my programs are very specific and I have no options for advisors. Both of my majors as well as my specific minor have one advisor available, so on top of having to collaborate with 3 different advisors, I have to deal with their attitudes and sometimes if they are unsupportive, I have nowhere else to turn which is frustrating.
Senior	Full-time	Female	NMU is a great school and I am glad it was from this school I will be getting my degree. Thanks so much! NMU has great programs!!
Senior	Full-time	Female	I'm glad I came to NMU. I realized that I absolutely LOVE history and research and even writing research papers.

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Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>I've had an absolutely AWFUL experience in terms of Academic Advising. I've had 2 awful advisers, one of which skipped 4 separate meetings with me. It was awful and completely discouraged me from attempting to get help from someone else. You really need to talk to your advisers and help them learn how to do a better job. I felt as if I fumbled my way through my entire college career and had no idea what classes would benefit me. I frequently asked this question to the one adviser I managed to meet with and he had no opinion at all. If a professor has no interest in helping a student reach their goals, and has no opinion on how to best do that, then they SHOULD NOT BE AN ADVISER. Overall, I would not come back here for an undergraduate if I would have to experience the same ambivalence from a professional that was supposed to be helping me.</p> <p>However, I love the town and have enjoyed many professors I've had. I've made some of the best friends of my life, and that was thanks to NMU as an institution.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>Having appropriate snow days when unable to drive to class due to inclement weather would aid in our ability to attend classes furthering our knowledge</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>I have had a very enriched experience attending Northern Michigan University. I feel as though I have thus far received a very respectful education in comparison with other universities. The education program at Northern not only strives to be one of the most professional programs on campus (and throughout the state and nation) but they also exhibit that in every facet of what they teach. My only feedback would be that the school be more tolerant of those of us who have jobs outside of the classroom. I consider the need to hold a job in order to attend school not only a necessity but it is also part of who I am. The most trouble I have run into at Northern is the disrespect and un-accepting attitude towards students who need jobs in order to afford their schooling. I have almost felt discriminated against on many occasions because I do chose to hold a job and not take out tens of thousands of dollars in student loans per year. I understand that my schooling comes first, but I would also like to stress that in order for there to be school and have the business of education running, there are still those of us out there that need to have money coming in on a regular basis. The fact that I will be almost debt free when I graduate and have paid for school on my own should be a celebrated accomplishment and not something that I had to fight my program through for 4+ years. As nice as it would be for all students to be on a loan or have no bills coming in thus having any time out side of class to dedicate to their schooling, this is just simply not the reality and professional teachers(professors) need to be more sensitive about those who they are teaching.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>I have to work 30+ hours a week to pay rent, tuition, food, gas, etc. and I am a full time student so I cannot be involved in a lot of campus events.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>I think this school needs to take into consideration that not everyone lives on or near campus when planning activities and other aspects of scheduling and planning.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>The nursing program at NMU is amazing. The faculty is brilliant and truly inspiring. I have gained so much from my time at Northern.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>I'm really happy at Northern. I feel that the faculty, courses, and environment have greatly affected me, and have given me an overall positive college experience. The size of the school, expertise of the faculty in my fields, and social life were the perfect fit for me!</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>The Biology and Earth, Environmental and Geographical Sciences departments have done an excellent job of providing me field experience with high-tech equipment these past four years as well as teaching me how to interpret previous studies and thinking critically on important geographical and biological management issues.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>A lot of the questions seem geared towards science majors and excluding liberal-arts majors; non-science students do not often get a large focus on designing and implementing experiments.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>I have loved my experience here. I feel that I am adequately prepared to have a successful career in nursing.</p>
Senior	Full-time	Female	<p>I had some amazing professors here at Northern, and they are really the ones who made my experience great. The student body is not very diverse, and that's a bummer. Additionally, Northern does not seem to be a campus that is particularly sensitive to gender issues, and this is also a bummer.</p>

Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Female	Overall, I had a great undergraduate experience at NMU. Of course, there are always things that can be improved on. As a psychology major, I learned early on that it was almost necessary to go to grad school in order to do anything psych-related. However, I feel as though the department as a whole did not prepare me well for this process. I had to explore careers, colleges, programs, and other various options on my own. I had many questions about this process, but when I did, my faculty adviser was often unresponsive. Also, the faculty members that I have had interactions with tended to push their own ideals onto me, rather than help me decide what is best for me to do. So in the future, I think it would be helpful to future psych majors, especially those in the grad prep track, to get more support in looking at possible career and education choices. This would be a great way to ensure the success of NMU psychology graduates.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I have been able to finish college because of the Senior Citizen Scholarship offered by Northern Michigan University. I am deeply grateful to have this opportunity to finish college. I never had the money to do this. Because I always tried to take care of myself financially by having become a landlady, I owned too much [in debt didn't matter] to be able to use the Pell Grant. I never had food stamps or received any help although I lived below poverty level after expenses of my rental property.  I wish that other women could have the opportunity to receive an education rather than be victims of abuse and poverty.
Senior	Full-time	Female	As far as faculty, I have had many good experiences but there are some rotten eggs as far as professors go at Northern and they are bad enough that if my friends were going into majors where they would need to take these professors, i would tell them not to come. Quinnel and Stunkard
Senior	Full-time	Female	Great school, good classes, great community. My only complaint is my unhelpful and inaccessible academic advisor, and administrative staff who 'dropped the ball' or 'forgot' about me.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The majority of the answers that I have submitted reflect my experience within the elementary education program here at NMU, of which I have many positive things to say. Had I been submitting answers based solely on my general education (liberal arts) credits, these rankings would have been very different. I find it ironic that a university with such a successful and knowledgeable education department concurrently has so many general education professors with little to no pedagogical knowledge. My experience with professors outside of the education department has been largely unsatisfactory, there are simply too many professors that have ineffective teaching practices. I would not recommend Northern to prospective students outside of certain specific departments such as nursing or education.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The teachers in the Construction Management program at Northern Michigan are fantastic teachers. I have really learned a lot from them.
Senior	Full-time	Female	None
Senior	Full-time	Female	There should be sharps containers in the bathrooms on campus for those students who need them. It is unsafe to have signs warning against throwing sharps away and not having any designated place to put them.
Senior	Full-time	Male	"Active Learning" should be explained better to the student before being thrust into such an unorthodox and highly dysfunctional style of learning. This style is not conducive to learning as one may think or perhaps have been told through so-called extensive study. It is one thing to learn from a peer who may know a little of the subject matter but it is entirely different when that same student is passing his/her knowledge along to others that is not entirely correct and having to "unlearn" those ideas and "relearn" the correct ones. In that aspect, "active learning" is very illogical, in my opinion. To put it another way, money well wasted on such a class, very disappointing.
Senior	Full-time	Male	The advisor program at NMU needs work to say the least, Professor Legg contributed very little, in general every student I have talked to expressed the same about the NMU advising program.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I feel like a lot of your questions were handled while I was in high school so college added on some, but my base was already there.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I feel I gained more useful experience from my on campus job than many of the classes I took throughout my college career. Northern's a great school and I love it, but I'm glad to be done.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Given the location of Northern Michigan University and the culture of the surrounding area there is little difference in race and ethnicity. I point this out because of the low scores that I have made on this survey.

Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Male	none
Senior	Full-time	Male	The education I received at this institution has set me up for a bright future. If you put an effort in, you'll get a lot out. Unfortunately, in this school its easy to skate by. If you don't want to do the work or put in an effort you can still get your degree with a fair amount of ease, and I think that is why Northern Michigan University isn't exactly known for its quality education.
Senior	Full-time	Male	The atmosphere at NMU is a warm and welcoming campus. The size is perfect if you want to be known but are able to stay under the radar if you wish. I found you have to push yourself to go out and do activities to enjoy your time up here, if you let the weather get you down it can spoil your time. NMU offers a great class help with their on-campus tutoring, I utilized when I was over my head in some of my classes.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Let students opt out of the laptop program. They are severely overcharging us for low-end laptops.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Again, a lot of the teachers...well, I don't know if they would be hired on as teachers at other schools.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I just really enjoy this University and all of the staff and students.
Senior	Full-time	Male	N/A
Senior	Part-time	Female	For non-traditional students returning back to a university, it would be a good idea to have an orientation to the computer programs used, expectations specific to the program they are entering, and an opportunity to talk with others already in the program.
Senior	Part-time	Female	this institution needs to do a better job advising and helping students select an appropriate major/minor. It needs to offer higher level tutoring services such as Accounting and EN211--it needs to strive to help students succeed.
Senior	Part-time	Female	There was not enough about the art department. Mostly all questions about the science department and diversity and NMU. I could not even find my proper major in the according section. Not the best survey done by Northern.
Senior	Part-time	Female	I love the area. I love most of my professors. Northern has an intimate atmosphere great for learning. My academic advisor is horrible. Did not help me one bit. Somehow there are a couple of professor still holding their jobs here at Northern. Not only did a couple of these people not teach me anything they actually hindered my learning and passion for a subject. I changed my major because of one professor (which I regret a bit now). The good teachers are great... masters at their craft. The bad professors are detrimental.
Senior	Part-time	Female	I believe the school was not forthcoming when I discussed the possibility of attending the school. I provided my previous transcripts from 4 years of college and was informed that most classes would transfer and cover the general requirements and some of the degree requirements. After attending a summer session I was informed that instead of needing about 24 credits to graduate, I would need over 40 credits. I felt lied to just so I would attend the school. I had to continue to provide class descriptions to the registrars who wouldn't take the time to research the transferred classes themselves. I was lied to when one person stated she reviewed the class description but the class did not have a lab. I contacted the previous college I attended and obtained a copy of the class description that clearly stated lab.
Senior	Part-time	Male	Double standards, profits over quality education, administrative complacency
Senior	Part-time	Male	The Sociology department at Northern Michigan University at the Professors in the department are terrible. They are liars and they cheat there students out of success in the courses. I will never return to the school because of that department. I had to go through a grade appeal process which was very stressful but necessary. The dean of students was not helpful to me in any way possible regarding the grade appeal process. What a terrible and rotten learning experience I had at that school. I am so happy I made the decision to transfer to another college. NMU is a joke.