

Level of Academic Challenge (LAC)

Mean Comparisons

Ursuline College compared with:

| Class | Ursuline | Women's Colleges | | | Carnegie Class | | | NSSE 2012 | | |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| | Mean ^a | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c | Mean ^a | Sig ^b | Effect Size ^c |
| First-Year | 58.1 | 55.5 | | .19 | 54.4 | | .27 | 54.5 | | .27 |
| Senior | 65.8 | 60.9 | *** | .37 | 59.4 | *** | .46 | 58.4 | *** | .52 |

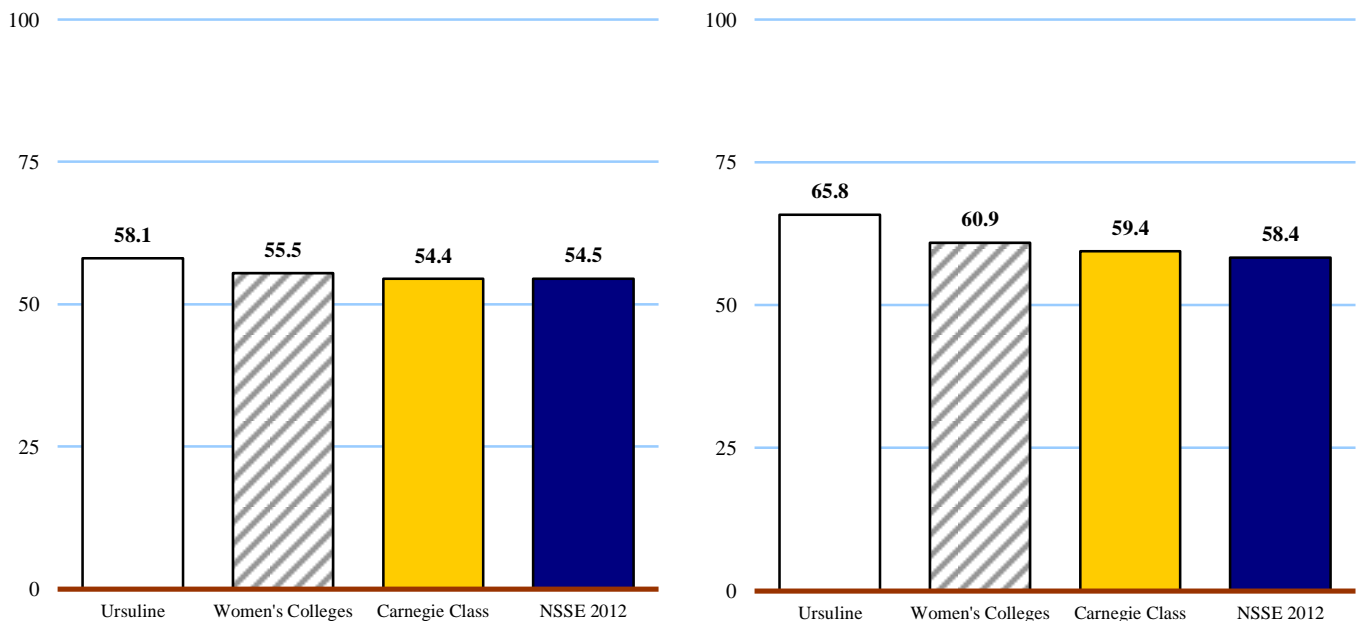
^a Weighted by gender and enrollment status (and by institution size for comparison groups)

^b * p<.05 ** p<.01 ***p<.001 (2-tailed)

^c Mean difference divided by the pooled standard deviation

First-Year

Senior



Level of Academic Challenge (LAC) Items

Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Colleges and universities promote high levels of student achievement by emphasizing the importance of academic effort and setting high expectations for student performance.

Hours spent preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, etc.)

Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings

Number of written papers or reports of 20 pages or more, between 5 and 19 pages, and fewer than 5 pages

Coursework emphasizes: **Analysis** of the basic elements of an idea, experience or theory

Coursework emphasizes: **Synthesis** and organizing of ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships

Coursework emphasizes: **Making judgments** about the value of information, arguments, or methods

Coursework emphasizes: **Applying** theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations

Working harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations

Campus environment emphasizes: Spending significant amount of time studying and on academic work