

# Means Summary

There are five reports contained in this section. The first two reports present data for **all students** and the final three present data for students by **enrollment status** (part-and full-time).

The **Means Summary Report** (pp. M1 - M9) provides item-by-item means for **all students** at your institution contrasted with a comparison group and the 2008 *CCSSE* Cohort (students who participated in *CCSSE* from 2006 through 2008). Below is a description of the layout of this report:

## Item

The items from *The Community College Student Report* appear in the left column in the same order they appear on the instrument. Because the report lists means and mean comparison information, only those items that have numerically scaled responses appear. The items measuring other educational experiences (practicum experiences, study abroad, etc.) do not appear because their response sets are categorical (yes, no, undecided). Please refer to the Frequencies Distributions for details on these items.

## Variable

The name of each variable appears in the second column for easy reference to your data file and the summary statistics reports.

## Class

The class appears in the third column and corresponds to the sample for which the data are reported (e.g., all students, part-time students, or full-time students).

## Mean

A mean is the arithmetic average of all responses on a particular item. Means are provided for your institution, a comparison group, and for the 2008 *CCSSE* Cohort.

## Sig (Statistical Significance)

A *t* test, a statistical procedure used to compare two means, is conducted between your college and comparison group as well as your college and the 2008 *CCSSE* Cohort. The statistical significance—the probability of the observed difference occurring where there are truly no differences between the means—is reported. For the comparison group and the 2008 *CCSSE* Cohort, mean differences that are significant at the  $p < .001$  level and have an effect size greater than or equal to .2 (see below) are indicated by a single asterisk (\*).

## Effect Size

The actual magnitude of some item score differences may seem trivial, even though they are highly reliable and statistically significant. For this reason, *CCSSE* also reports the effect size (only when the value is greater than or equal to .2) associated with those item comparisons that are statistically significant. **The effect size represents the magnitude of the discrepancy in the student or institutional behavior represented by the item.**

**The Summary Statistics Report** (pp. M10 - M13) presents statistics on ***all students*** at your institution contrasted with a comparison group and the 2008 *CCSSE* Cohort. A description of the layout of this report is provided below:

#### Variable Names

The name of each variable; this is the same name contained in the second column of the **Means Summary Report: All Students**.

#### # of respondents

The total number of respondents for your college, a comparison group, and the 2008 *CCSSE* Cohort are listed. As a reminder, respondents may be **excluded** from institutional reports for the following reasons: 1) the respondent did not indicate whether he or she was enrolled part- or full-time at the institution, 2) the survey is invalid, 3) the student reported his or her age as under 18, or; 4) the student indicated that he or she had taken the survey in a previous class.

#### Mean

The mean is the arithmetic average of all responses on a particular item.

#### Standard deviation

A statistic used as a measure of the dispersion or variation in a distribution, equal to the square root of the arithmetic mean of the squares of the deviations from the arithmetic mean; more generally, a measure of the extent to which numbers are spread around their average.

#### Std error of the mean

A measurement of error when a sample mean is used to estimate the mean of the population from which the sample was drawn. The standard error of the mean is computed as the standard deviation of the original population divided by the square root of the sample size.

#### Significance

The probability of the observed difference occurring where there are truly no differences between the means. For the comparison group and the 2008 *CCSSE* Cohort, mean differences that are significant at the  $p < .001$  level and have an effect size greater than or equal to .2 are indicated by a single asterisk (\*).

#### Effect size

The effect size represents the magnitude of the discrepancy in the student or institutional behavior represented by the item. For a more detailed description, see above.

The next series of reports, found on pages M14 through M30, contain the same reports described above broken down by ***enrollment status*** for your institution, a comparison group, and the 2008 *CCSSE* Cohort.