
NSSE 2016

Student Comments

American University of Beirut

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 sex. Information for these variables was provided by your institution.

NSSE 2016 Student Comments

American University of Beirut

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
First-year	Full-time	Female	Exams are somehow difficult (material, type of questions and/or time management ...). Usually the average of the course is low so they decide to give a raise. And if the average is a bit high (which happens rarely) they opt for a down curve.
First-year	Full-time	Female	My experience at AUB has been a good one up till now. However, the time it takes us students to find a place to park, the lack of cafeterias around campus and the little amount of space in the libraries are a problem. We are wasting time looking for places to study, places to park and we barely have time to eat (we can't go really far and come back). Also, the amount of work is unbelievable; professors would respon by saying : You chose AUB, this is how it is. But we are still humans, and I still need time to see my friends.
First-year	Full-time	Female	worst decision I have ever made
First-year	Full-time	Female	I just believe that the professors shouldn't leave the major assignments and exams all to just one specific period. They should be spread out throughout the semester, that way students would find it much easier to balance their work and exam revision, and at the same time it would be practice for exam. Difficulty of the courses is an issue students find, and hopefully professors find something to do about it. Exams also should be fair. Some exams have material that require more time and working out, yet we only get an hour, which is pretty short for such material, therefore exams should be revised before submitting it to students.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Quite tired of all the cheating that happens at my university too.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Quiz dates should seriously be discussed ahead of time instead of having 5 on the same week and driving the student to kill himself/herself Stop being mean while grading
First-year	Full-time	Female	there are not enough on campus events open to all for interaction. The elections are also rigged, they are secretly run by real political parties that want to control the university. They are also corrupt, using only a small fraction of funds to improve the school while the rest is unaccounted for. I know this because I was asked to run as an independent, but those that were willing to champaign for me were lobbying me into voting them and specific others into the other house of the student body. It is sickening that a secular and liberal university has this behind the scenes. I refused to run when I found this out. Also some student run groups are secretly political party groups. One group tried to trick me into joining it by telling me its open to everyone and that it is not politically affiliated when i asked out of suspicion.
First-year	Full-time	Male	Although the country suffers from sectarianism, corruption and other issues, it surprised me that an Accredited American institution like this one would so easily be absorbed by it all. A real shame seeing such a respected university, one that my family has had close ties to for more than a century, has turned into a manifestation of what is wrong with it's surrounding issues.
First-year	Full-time	Male	I have not seen a more awful and disappointing experience. I'm not talking about grades. I have a good GPA. But instructors really are a bunch of arrogant people with poor qualities to explain well. Most of them don't know what they're talking about. Always reading powerpoints and not helping students. I'm really disappointed.
First-year	Full-time	Male	AUB is over-rated
First-year	Full-time	Male	AUB is a beautiful university. I just hope that some professors should make the exams managable to all types of students and provide the students with opportunities to succeed in exams based on their understanding of the concepts rather than focusing in the little details when making the exams.
First-year	Full-time	Male	Tough but fair and ultimately helpful in the end
First-year	Full-time	Male	AUB is a great University for anyone to be in, but as a Freshman there is a lot of stress when it comes to being accepted in your major. We as students are constantly reminded of our chances of getting into our desired majors. I have 84.2 GPA and i worry about my chances of making it to mechanical due to the 85 requirement and the high competition, it would be great if they could help appease their students by offering help, or giving direct requirements. I Love AUB, and i would never consider leaving it even if i don't make it into my Major!!

NSSE 2016 Student Comments

American University of Beirut

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First-year	Full-time	Male	I would love it if the engineering and math courses were more conceptual and less superficial and practical. i wish they would teach us how to think rather than how to do as many mechanical exercises as possible. i feel that after completing a math course with a high grade and someone asks me to explain something to them about it i black out completely. please fix this, and filter people by their ability to use their critical skills rather than their capacity to gobble information.
First-year	Not full-time	Female	I have never thought of leaving this institution because i never give up and it is so important to me to graduate from it but i must also say that the academics are way too hard and tiring and not managable for me that causes my kind of poor academic performance :'(
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	AUB is a great college but what truly bothers me is the way we learn. Going to lectures, sitting on a chair for 50-75 minutes, memorizing the textbooks... This way does not help me learn anything it just makes me more sleepy, it honestly does not stimulate my mind. This does not happen in every single class; till now I only had one class where I feel like I actually learned something in it (MCOM 201, which is an elective) but my other major courses are draining. I really hope that you do something about this major issue because I can assure you that its not just me who is feeling this way but many students in AUB and other colleges across Lebanon. So why don't AUB take the first step and stop making its educational system draining so we can be excited to go to class for once in our life. Thank you for taking this into consideration
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	AUB is a spectacular university, however, we need more funds. as our university have approximately 10 thousand student on one campus.
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	Aub has become so difficult and pressuring it is demotivating students
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	It was a such rewarding experience to graduate from one of the best universities. Thank you
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	AUB educational system TELL us to learn and apply things to the real world, however, it PUSHES us to focus on the GPA and the competition over the grades. The exams system totally contradicts the objectives of learning, simply , when it comes to exams reality or other objectives don't seem to matter , and what matter is specific word to specific blank or specific choice to a question, plus the grading system is disabled system that only frustrates students. It is sad that such a thing destroys the whole objectives on AUB or make students hate this place. Sometimes it is too challenging and academic focused that there is no chance to seek other more practical opportunities within the university such as lectures, talks, workshops, activities and so on.
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	We need to have more knowledgeable advisors
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	i know being a pre med shouldnt be easy but it shouldnt be this hard either!
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	My university experience has been, enlightening to say the least. That is meant in both a positive and negative way. I have met a lot of different people from different backgrounds, as well as exercised and developed my networking skills. However, one of my best friends have been diagnosed with major depressive disorder (mainly due to the HUGE pressure exerted by the university) as well as OCD. Another one has been diagnosed with GAD, and I myself went to a psychologist from the university hospital who referred me to a psychiatrist (apparently, I should start taking medications). Overall, I think (and hope) that my experience so far strengthened my relationship with God, and just instilled faith in me, as well as showing me that I cannot be in control of everything. There is a MAJOR problem with teachers, who seem to be oblivious to the huge cheating problem, and to the fact that a lot of students already have their exam questions in the form of test banks and previouses. That is so unfair and unjust to the hard-working students who actually study and yet still do poorer than those lucky people who happen to have the test before hand.
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	Too stressful, bad system, unnecessarily expensive and unaffordable

NSSE 2016 Student Comments

American University of Beirut

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	Personally, coming from an American school, I believe that the method of teaching in AUB is very out dated. During this school year I have taken a variety of courses, however there were two courses, psychology and sociology, that I found extremely outdated. Both the courses's classes are unnecessary to attend as all you need to do to study for the course is memorize the book word for word. These courses lack any critical thinking and analysis. When discussing with my friends that have taken sociology and psychology in Columbia and UT Austin the method is totally different. For the sociology course that takes place in Columbia the students were asked to read articles that adds to their general knowledge and analyze them in a sociological manner increasing their critical thinking and analysis. According to their professor he believes that when doing so students would retain more information than just memorizing and forgetting the next day. The AUB curriculum fails to produce and accentuate the importance of well rounded students. It only concentrates on helping students get good grades by studying a lot rather than highlighting the importance of extra curricular, community service, general knowledge, analysis, and critical thinking like other universities abroad do. The only thing I can compare AUB to is the Lebanese baccalaureate. Doing IB, I feel like I switched from a curriculum that works on making you well rounded into one that solely concentrates on academics. However, AUB does also provide a lot of positivities such as making you a hard worker, helping you manage your stress, introducing you to different Lebanese societies and much more.
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	My educational experience has been the major basis for shaping my personality. It improved my critical thinking abilities towards the perception of the world and helped me grow on all levels whether it is intellectually, socially or emotionally.
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	This university does not provide a well rounded experience for their student. It is without a doubt that AUB has extremely talented individuals who are not able to show their full capabilities because of the amount and level of work given to the students. In no way does the institution focus on sports or being creative, but rather only engineering, biology, and business students seem to be given the most relevance because their career path makes them "competent" individuals. Instead of focusing on holistic as well as academic learning, professors' focus is on being able to memorize the most (at least for my major). In addition, many professors only seek to attain a certain average from the students on a test rather than evaluate whether their teaching skills are compatible with the students' needs or not. I had one professor say he wants to make an exam extremely hard so many students drop the course since they're already doing bad. Why is this mentality even present? This is unfair to students who study given material at the level we're supposed to, and after hours and hours of studying we're shocked in the exam at the information presented to us only to get bad grades. This especially affects the morale of students and as a student I have spoken to many peers who are planning on either transferring majors, transferring universities, or wished they hadn't come to AUB because of the extreme pressure on grades. Although I do not doubt the standards and qualifications of AUB faculty members, it seems obvious why AUB's international ranking and reputation is decreasing every year.
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	I want to say that really first semester in AUB was a disaster for me, but now it is good and the instructors are really good, but I have a comment on the instructor who give some thing in the exam that are not mention in the required material.
Sophomore	Full-time	Female	I think my university should place less emphasis on memorizing material and more on analytical and interdisciplinary skills, and our advisers should be more informed and concerned about us.
Sophomore	Full-time	Male	The computer science department is trying to get rid of as many students as they can to keep the best only. This is totally unfair and push students to go through depression and have suicidal thoughts like my case right now
Sophomore	Full-time	Male	The courses are great, the system is amazing, but there is very little care from the professors to the students. Some professors care greatly, but most don't even think about the student's performance- a very major issue.
Sophomore	Full-time	Male	i said all i had to say in the survey itself , i just hope its not a pointless one . Because all these surveys have not yet helped make aub a better experience since i arrived i haven't felt like it was home , its just too over rated
Sophomore	Full-time	Male	I believe my experience here at AUB did not only engrain a feeling of pride as I am allowed to reside in one of the most influential educational institutions today, but also made me a better person in terms of personality, critical thinking which are key elements that one should be fully equipped with in order to survive the real world.

NSSE 2016 Student Comments

American University of Beirut

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Sophomore	Full-time	Male	I deeply appreciate the opportunity to learn at American University of Beirut. But, I have few comments about what needs to improve. First, the main campus jafet library needs major upgrades to have the capacity to receive a lot more students than what it can now. The study space in the library is very limited in relation to the 8000 AUB student body. often times, there are no seats available. Seat reservation is quite epidemic and too much noise is very frustrating, therefore new policies, strict rules and regulations should be enforced. Second, in regards to Penrose Dormitory, it's very uncomfortable, most basic, very small, and expensive compared to the price of off-campus apartments. AUB should build new dorms, specially a new one to replace Penrose dormitory. Third, too old instructors cannot communicate very well with young students. Fourth, registration to courses is frustrating and aggravating. many courses are filled within a minute from opening of registration, this is not fair and ridiculous.
Sophomore	Full-time	Male	To be honest, I think that there should be a little more clarification of crucial points during courses and some insight on the quizzes because I personally feel as if i'm studying alot and not getting questions, on the quiz, close to what i studied.
Sophomore	Full-time	Male	A reletively unprofessional and corrupt institution.
Sophomore	Full-time	Male	Less pressure please
Junior	Full-time	Female	Advisors sometimes tend to get out of their primary role which is "Advising students". Looking at their grades and telling them that they are not good enough to graduate or to work in a good company is not their role. They have to put students and the right path by telling them how to do so.
Junior	Full-time	Female	There is a lot of competitiveness in Biology which is taken to an extreme level (calculators being stolen, presence of testbanks within certain groups which is completely unfair,etc...). I think if the Biology department opens up opportunities other than the usual "pre-med" track and more minors as well as study groups (which in the case of extreme premeds is not possible) then it will become more of a valuable and enjoyable major . After all, this university is like our second home and we deserve to have a good and supportive learning environment along with the top quality education we're paying for.
Junior	Full-time	Female	Make the courses more practical, more case solving
Junior	Full-time	Female	The campus is very nice and campus life is very nice as well. Advising is really bad, practically non-existent. Promotion of critical thinking really depends on the professor.
Junior	Full-time	Female	Courses should be more practical than theoretical in a way that helps students in their future careers. Courses should include solving real-world problems and providing practical solutions to such problems. In addition, courses should encourage more student participation and teamwork among students.
Junior	Full-time	Female	Don't down curve course grades. Don't make courses impossible to pass
Junior	Full-time	Female	AUB is one of the top universities and I am proud to be part of it. However, there's one thing that has been bothering almost all the students or at least the ones I know. Most of our friends in LAU do even less than half of our efforts and end up getting the same job that we're applying to. All the students who moved from AUB to LAU are claiming to be happier there and they mentioned that whenever they study they end up getting a good grade at a time when we keep on studying in AUB and end up not being satisfied or ever rewarded for our efforts. This should be seriously taken in consideration because it's negatively affecting the performances of the students and their motivation.
Junior	Full-time	Female	I am actually quite satisfied with my educational experience as it has helped me grow both as a scholar and as a person. However, i feel that colleges should do a better job at preparing us for our future careers.
Junior	Full-time	Female	The university's extra curricular learning outcome is very interesting and beneficial. however, courses are becoming all about examination and grades and memorization effort and learning outcomes are gradually decreasing.

NSSE 2016 Student Comments

American University of Beirut

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Junior	Full-time	Female	1. AUB is very expensive and sadly they do not provide many with financial aid 2. other universities have medicine as a major and one can start as they newly enter uni (sophomore) where as AUB has it as 3 years premed thus making pre-med students always thinking if they will get accepted or not (for a total of 3 years!) 3. it has a very nice environment 4. some foreign professors that teach here always say bad things about this uni and country, why then did they come? 5. the competition set for pre med students made all premeds very unfriendly, if you help it does not mean they will help back
Junior	Full-time	Female	Simply put, there is not only a lot of room for improvement, there NEEDS to be improvement.
Junior	Full-time	Male	I am not a pessimist in the typical sense, but I have had a very bad experience with this university. The coursework is too demanding to the point where maintaining anything close to a social life is near impossible. You don't learn anything valuable. All I have learned through AUB is how to sit and study all day every day and not expect appropriate grades back. Cheating and academic dishonesty is like expected in Lebanon: a normal social behavior that has made its way into AUB. If you don't participate in this behavior, you will make up a tiny almost non-existent portion of the school and it will be severely detrimental to your grade. It is something expected of you and even teachers recognize and seem to condone it. No independent thinking is required of you. Where in the American high school system we were taught in our labs to design our experiments and understand how to draft our own procedures to ultimately obtain the results you require and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses, in AUB you come to the lab to memorize procedures and perform them without knowing what you are doing. You just copy off previouses or answer questions in reports fit for the course and not a lab. Even in the course you need not understand what you are doing if you can get a hold of previous test and solve them, because it is known that in AUB professors will rarely put the effort to make new exams. I cannot make friends I trust due to competition in all majors being unnecessarily high. The grades make no sense. The average for many classes is 70 but that translates into an extremely poor GPA on a 4.0 scale when applying abroad. There is no such thing as school spirit. I have not met one person who is happy to go to AUB. I swear on everything that is good everyone is miserable and seem to be forced into it by familial or financial situations. Today a person recommended AUB close its doors for a few years to fix or attempt to fix the vast number of flaws in its system. I agree with this wholeheartedly. AUB has taught me that you can work like a dog, but if you have no connections (with other students to get academic resources for an advantage) or capacity to be dishonest (cheating), you will not prosper in any way in AUB (from academic to social-wise). Many faculty know of the dire situation AUB is currently in. It is no secret. Hopefully with the new president Dr. Fadlo Khuri, more emphasis will be placed on holistic learning and independent thinking, academic honesty, social AND academic achievement of students, and a grading system that is better representative of the high number of academic overachievers in AUB. The school is filled with geniuses, but the grading system does not illustrate this. Averages of 70s constant among classes is ridiculous as every situation is not like the other. Such decisions should be made by professors on a case by case basis. We apply abroad for jobs and further higher education degrees. We need to be protected in this way. If the teaching staff were better monitored and systems for supervision of this were put in place, I think it would make a huge difference alone. In the end, many of my friends (no 90% of my friends), that were able to, have left AUB or did not apply altogether due to its bad reputation. These are our young years. AUB students should be able to study smarter - not harder - and get the grades they truly deserve to be more competitive for jobs (or spots in higher education institutions) against kids from poorer educational institutions who have higher academic numbers to show for purely because their institutions have this as their policy. I am very depressed in AUB (and for AUB as it has so much potential), and if I had the means to, I would leave tomorrow to a better university. Many have already done so...
Junior	Full-time	Male	My institution, the American University of Beirut, contributed well to my educational experience. Most of all, I met a few great professors whom helped me very much with career and academic issues and we had excellent discussions. The student environment is good and friendly.
Junior	Full-time	Male	AUB is overrated and too overwhelming.
Junior	Full-time	Male	No comment.

NSSE 2016 Student Comments

American University of Beirut

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Junior	Full-time	Male	- The American University of Beirut has also sold itself as the hub of exceptional education and innovation in the region. While this was true previously, it is no longer the case. Unfortunately, the corrupt and immoral element of the Lebanese's culture (which have increased dramatically the past decade) have infected AUB's mostly Lebanese student body and faculty. - Most courses in AUB test only your ability to memorize and not your comprehension and critical thinking. Tests are also not reflective of the material. Also, the misinterpretation of competition has created a student body that tries to obtain photographed previouses, cheats, and fabricated notes to receive a higher grade than the class. This is also because the grading system grades students in comparison to their peers, combined with the lack of student ethics, creates a 'grade-focus' unhealthy competition. -Student body government is sectarian and are for show purposes. No felt substance whatsoever. -The administration naively believes that if they cap a class average this would mean that AUB is a tough and therefore a reputable university. It has been observed many times that some instructors would use their authority to inflict harm on student's academic performance with no answerability. There is also no process to challenge a grade. A petition is the only 'solution' to resolve the issue. And even with that a student is left to the mercy of the instructor and maybe the department head (who are often to 'busy' and have 'trust' in the instructor). Different departments and administrations seem uneducated in how to deal with students with health and mental issues. Financial aid is considered to be a corrupt department where it is believed to give priority to people of a certain sect.
Junior	Full-time	Male	The quality of education at AUB is excellent. The quality of instructors of AUB is good as some professors are Excellent other Professors are Not fit for AUB. The quality of morality, dignity and respect by some instructors is SHIT. The quality of the students is SHIT. The quality of ensuring safety is SHIT. The quality of the internet is SHIT. The quality of following the handbook is SHIT. But, yes AUB's degree is the best.
Junior	Full-time	Male	I regret being accepted at this perfectionism centered constitution. Too much money paid for mediocre and overrated facilities
Senior	Full-time	Female	No
Senior	Full-time	Female	There have been several incidences of felt discrimination based on religious attire by teachers
Senior	Full-time	Female	AUB has helped me a lot, for i have changed to the better in all aspects and that is for sure. Thank you AUB!
Senior	Full-time	Female	I am disappointed with my learning experience at this university. I have not learned enough, and I know that there is more to learn. The quality of the teaching is poor in general. Unfortunately, I would not recommend anyone to pursue an Economics bachelor's degree at this university.
Senior	Full-time	Female	No
Senior	Full-time	Female	In my opinion, the economics department should be improved (curriculum, student interaction, building...). I know AUB is putting a lot of effort to achieve this, and I'm confident they will be able to fix all the issues related to this department
Senior	Full-time	Female	AUB needs to stop being unfair to students with a Syrian background
Senior	Full-time	Female	AUB gave me anxiety that I never felt before. Educationally its a very good school, but it needs to stop treating its students like robots

NSSE 2016 Student Comments

American University of Beirut

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Senior	Full-time	Male	AUB is overrated. It's not the institution it used to be. Students have lost faith and trust. Facilities are archaic. The only reason why students rush to apply to AUB is because of the false advertisement this university does to promote itself as a leader, whereas really it's so far from being that. Admissions to medical school for example, which is not accredited by the way, are based on a quota of religious sects. As a matter of fact, the admission committee never discloses accurate requirements, giving way to corrupt people to do their thing and prefer one student over the other, not based on his academic performance, rather on his religion and connections.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Again: better student societies and platforms of student interaction. Fix its broken bureaucracy, where you have only one maned booth to serve several hundred students at once. Have the administration that has to interact with students actually care, rather than give them looks of "what the [expletive] are you doing in my office, I wish I had security so I could throw you out."
Senior	Full-time	Male	Too many average/unexceptional students. Education is more than just studying, it is interacting with bright minds over the course of few years. Too many average, students who may or may not have come to AUB by means of financial or political influence. Increase in tuition fees not only threatens to exclude people of lower economic background, but it commercializes education. More students are willing to cheat and pay other people to do their work because it is too expensive to repeat a course or even receive an average grade for said. Presence of party politics during elections not dealt with properly by administration. Not enough outreach for students struggling with mental health or even social issues. HIP only covers 6-8 visits from a psychiatrist/counselor. I had to pay for mine for all the sessions.
Senior	Full-time	Male	thank you
Senior	Full-time	Male	NA
Other	Full-time	Female	i want to mention that the lifestyle ive been living the past year suggests some of my answers like for example minimal number of hours of work/reading for classes. I involve myself with many things on and off campus and i try to be everywhere. I also am not very interested in my major. My educational experience couldve been better if i allocated more time to study, however AUB and Beirut taught me that there is more to life than what u study in class and in books. Education is infinite and everywhere and i have learned in lebanon what i couldnt have learned anywhere else and that is what it means and how it feels to be a human and one that is diverse, colorful, beautiful. Education is an infinite quest. That is what AUB taught me.
Other	Full-time	Female	AUB is overrated I was so disappointed to join this university Such a waste ...
Other	Full-time	Female	Although it is an excellent educational institution i feel that i lack the right advise regarding my academic achievement or my future plans from the academic advisor due to her full time. Also, regarding our registration advisor, she is always angry and harsh with me with no apparent reason. She do not present any kind of help and she do not try to. I think that in this university we should respect and accept others as they are and i know that we are here in order to learn and to be models in our communities and to be a change in it. However, having such instructor /advisor is totally a controversial example of people representing our university. I feel sorry for knowing such person and it really affected my psychological and academic performance regarding the choice of course, number of credits needed, etc during years spent at AUB. Thank you
Other	Full-time	Female	None
Other	Full-time	Female	To me, most of the knowledge and reading I aquired in my educational experience did not come from courses but from student clubs that encourage external reading and critical thinking.
Other	Full-time	Female	This university makes you obsessed with your grades and not your education. You study greatly for an exam and enter it with confidence only to leave it shattered because the university has a policy of failing students and then raising the average for its standards.

NSSE 2016 Student Comments

American University of Beirut

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Other	Full-time	Female	I love AUB . Thank you so much for allowing us to be the best and to have the best education. AUB did not only gave me the best education, but the best years of my life, most memorable experiences and all that I've been through to be the person I am today. i love AUB so much !
Other	Full-time	Female	It took me to fill this survey more than any homework i have done before
Other	Full-time	Female	I have had a very mixed experience at AUB. As a student who strives for an academic profession, I was obliged to take courses that have completely wasted my time and money and primarily entailed memorizing slides upon slides and practicing the "art" of becoming a flawless calculator (I'm taking a course as we speak in which I'm evaluated on my capacity to XOR 64 bit vectors). These courses were mandatory, formed 2 out of 4 years of my engineering formation and in no way helped me achieve my academic ambitions of becoming a Computer engineer. I was obliged to take more circuit courses than software courses and deem myself unworthy of the computer engineering degree I will be receiving in a month. I was also very disappointed to see that most of the people with the highest GPAs in engineering had avoided taking courses with the more challenging professors and could not effectively be compared to me in terms of either their record or knowledge. As a female engineers I have also had a very tough time being taken seriously during some of my courses and labs: I was not easily deemed as capable as my fellow male friends (which constituted the crushing majority of students in all my classes) and was alienated due to my academic ambitions. As a student with secular and non religious views, my friends and I have been harassed, reported and threatened at various moments in my educational experience sometimes for reasons such as defending my syrian friends, my homosexual friends etc. When my friends and I would even attempt to report these incident that have been life threatening on some occasions, no action was taken. Taking courses at AUB has not always been easy: the chair of another department than my own has given me a hard time taking courses in his department: he has made it sound on numerous occasion as though I had to return the favor of being given a course. However, I have been among the lucky few like who has found a small community of people with whom I could talk freely and develop as a person and academic. These people relied mostly on learning things on their own and teaching one another, a trait that few AUB professors appreciate. I was also very lucky to meet a couple of overly qualified professors with whom I chose to take all my free electives in my 3rd and 4th years at AUB. These professors were my real advisor and were the reason I was able to move forward and learn anything at all at AUB. I'm very happy that I was given the free choice of taking electives as I please. However, AUB does not appreciate these professors properly and I have had the impression on several occasions that certain departments have taken extra care to either keep them away from students, or assign them to areas that are far from their areas of expertise.
Other	Full-time	Female	There's inequality between majors and faculties that needs to be adressed
Other	Full-time	Female	The graphic design department needs major improvements! The quality of teaching is horrible and our facilities are just as bad. Teachers are unprofessional and i dont feel i am getting my moneys worth. Other than tuition we pay a lot for materials and printing- both of which are things that could be offered by the department. We spend so many hours in the same building and the toilets are always broken, we have no cafeteria let alone functioning vending machines. Its a shame..
Other	Full-time	Female	I transferred from architecture to civil engineering; that's why i don't resort to my advisor (he's an architect and isn't willing to help)
Other	Full-time	Female	The questions that I personally think the survey missed were: are you a dyslexic person? Have you ever been obliged to drop a course because of difficulties that you're facing? and ON A SCALE Of one to ten how much are you satisfied with the grade that you're getting? because what AUB still misses and what our actual instructors don't take into considerations is that we're students and not experts. It's so sad to see an average of a class below 60 and then raises are being done. We are actually losing the sense that we can be productive as persons. I personally am losing the trust in myself because of such methods that we are being treated with. We've being just and not helped enough and lack of guidance cannot be described. I came to this university to improve my talents and not to be destroyed. Plus, I'm pretty sure that more than 60% of the students are suffering from such a thing. We are being swamped with work that requires more than 20 hours a day. Thank you.

NSSE 2016 Student Comments

American University of Beirut

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Other	Full-time	Female	Although AUB offers many events, contents and oppurtunties , the academic load doesnt allow for involvment
Other	Full-time	Female	It does not seem that the AUB takes the ICE into consideration, I along with almost all of the students in my current major who have graduated for the past 8 years or so have had issues with the same instructor and even with voicing our concerns on ICE nothing has changed.
Other	Full-time	Female	1.food science curriculum need to be more oraganized and structured, especially when it comes to having repetitive learning outcomes in more than one course. 2. Also some courses doesn't allow students to be active in constructing their knowledge as they are based on rote memorization with poor assessment criteria. 3. Some professors-in general- need to have better teaching stratgey.
Other	Full-time	Female	I was an architecture student. Very scarful experience. Karim najjar destroyed me and others that he didnt like. He failed us twice on purpose though other instructors liked our work. He said extremely hurtful stuff. I was rejected at lau because i got a 68 in design and not a 70. He prevented me from persuing my dream in other universities. I was in a confusion anxiety fase. I still have no seld esteem . I was an A student but after he did what he did i have a constant fear of not being able to pass any exam and not succeeding in life. Very bad experience in this department. Many faculty members left becuz of him. Even in my other major in aub, no student aporeciation no motivation. Teachers let GAs correct amd refuse to look at ur exams and say refer to the corrector which is not even elligible for doing such things. Math exams are extremely long and hard whether 201 or 202. The teacher doesnt know where each student stands.moodle based examsare not fair at all. Sometimes we solve all the question correctly except the last step so we lose the whole grade and get extremely low grades and stay unmotivated. If u go back in timei will never chose aub. Zero appreciation zero motivation and infinite unfairness.
Other	Full-time	Female	Aub is very good institution that provide a good quality of learning but in the same time a gery thought one ! It causes me a lot of stresses and the professors dont really care if they overwhelmed us with deadlines and projects . I wish if this issue can be solved. In addition it is a very competing environment that can push you down if you are not at the same wavelenght like the others.
Other	Full-time	Male	It seems like grades are useless, how much you know is useless. The students who have previouses are always the ones to do well, and these students dont circulate previouses. I prefer taking an exam with no previouses. Also the grading system and examination is not that great. I have had 4 exams so far. In every single exam there were multi-complains of the exams being to long and students being unable to finish. In some exams no one finished. I don't know if it is an order or something but I interpret it in the following way: Lower the grades of students since there's 'no sufficient work' for all students and majors, at the same time maintain the prestige of the university high. ('Well not many of the students deserve this kind of work cz obviously their grades don't qualify them, however there are x% of students whose grades are very impressive) However, in reality grades don't matter much. What matters is work experience and the interview. That's why Im already participating in an internship and taking as much experience as possible.
Other	Full-time	Male	AUB offers great education, and brings together people of varying religions in a region gripped by social instability, in the aftermath of a huge religious war. This makes it essential for bridge building between different sects in this country. However, it is far from perfect: the AUB system is far worse than inadequate, full of errors and bugs, such as disregarding multiple dorm applications, displaying false grades, and lagging during registration times. Also, the advisor I was provided when I first joined has so far been little help at all.
Other	Full-time	Male	In one sentence, I summarize my experience in this institution as: During my four engineering years at AUB, I acquired low self esteem, health issues and no friends ... In simple words, I hate it ...

NSSE 2016 Student Comments

American University of Beirut

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Other	Full-time	Male	Many of the teachers are not very experienced in teaching and often dont care for it. This translates to a lack of motivation and progress in the students. In some courses, teachers apply a raise to the grades which when combined with favoritism creates a lot of inaccuracy and unfairness in the grades. Instead of making the students learning there primary interest its more about how to meet the recommended average that a class must get. Maximizing student understanding isn't the goal , which is disappointing. Informing students about various cultures and respecting them is almost never encouraged. One can claim that they do but when it comes to real life experience that isnt neccesarily the case. Teachers are not cognizant of or more accurately do not recognize different cultures and often teach the course with a limited and myopic mindset.
Other	Full-time	Male	My AUB experience was positive overall. I got to develop knowledge and skills in various fields. However I found some courses I took, not adding any value to my knowledge and personality, instead I honestly think that I should have had other courses which i think would be more important and more beneficial in the workplace.
Other	Full-time	Male	I believe my time at AUB has been of infinite value to me. In fact, AUB is a melting pot for students of all backgrounds, ethnicities and religions, and a platform for them to share ideas and contribute to the University Life. Apart from receiving the rigorous and excellent AUB education, I believe the university has provided me with key skills and values that I would carry with me everyday, through any path I chose in the future.
Other	Full-time	Male	Providing parkings for students will be very helpful to save their time and money. Ameliorate the services at the cashier because students are treated well. Advisors should know more about the courses and the prerequisites. More studying rooms should be available for students at night during normal days.
Other	Full-time	Male	No thx
Other	Full-time	Male	Extremely content with the overall quality of education that was offered to me. I leave AUB, a lot smarter, open minded, and more driven than when I got here.