
NSSE 2018

Student Comments

American University of Beirut

This report displays confidential comments your students provided in response to up to three open-ended questions. Two such questions appear in Topical Modules (Civic Engagement; First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions) and the third appears at the end of the survey (after any module or consortium questions). Thus, this file contains up to three tabs containing student comments. Each tab contains the wording of the corresponding question.

Comments are sorted by class, enrollment status, and sex. Information for these variables was provided by your institution.

Identified Data Also Provided

Because student comments are confidential, student identifiers are not given in this report but are provided in a separate SPSS data file named "NSSE18 Student Comments (AUB).sav".

Important

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. For this reason, please use discretion when using, storing, and disseminating this report and the Student Comments data file.

97 seniors responded to the following question in the Senior Transitions module:

Is there anything your institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or further education?

Please describe.

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Response
Senior	Full-time	Female	As a civil engineering student, I think that it would be useful to include teaching softwares like AutoCAD and others in the curriculum.
Senior	Full-time	Female	It could provide more internships and workshops.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Some professors are extremely careless about their courses and their students thus giving them a very hard time in finding references and understanding material; I think the university should really take into consideration the ICE surveys.
Senior	Full-time	Female	They can add site investigation activities to the curriculum. Add required courses to all majors such as music,sport,... especially that we have a great gym and big green field. Role of the advisor should be clear to students and advisors.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Yes, they could have actually talked to us about future plans after graduation. Also about future career options and the courses we should take to get where we are going. Finally, our advisors are completely useless. They do not help us at all.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Focus on intelligence rather than memory. Memorizing 100 equations is useless
Senior	Full-time	Female	Yes
Senior	Full-time	Female	AUb prides itself in being a leader but the curriculums especially in engineering are sooo outdated and useless for the current market. The world is moving to practical learning and giving the students the right skills they would actually use in the work place, yet AUB insists on creating a stressful environment that feeds on competition
Senior	Full-time	Female	- More practical work (like labs and projects rather than exams), I feel I learn better whenever things had to do with projects rather than studying for exams
Senior	Full-time	Female	Better advising
Senior	Full-time	Female	teach more practical stuff ie software and skills recommended by employers not only theoretical concepts and few labs
Senior	Full-time	Female	Yes like having rechnical courses instead of theoretical an dteaching us the programs instead of expecting us to learn them on our own then comparing us with BAU students who apparently have higher technical skills.
Senior	Full-time	Female	How about you fire everyone and try to find some non-capitalist non-money driven individuals as faculty instead? It would have been great if half of the individuals "teaching" me were planning to be competent. And not brush me off like a fly half the time, or actually TELL ME my rights. Also, it would be wonderful if the midterm wasn't the only way to determine my level in a subject. Don't you dare try to contact me about this in any way shape or form I am not interested. I have spent over 100k \$ at this institution and I can't wait till I earn it back, I think I TAUGHT MYSELF half the time.
Senior	Full-time	Female	More technical experience
Senior	Full-time	Female	It has given me a unique experience, not only enhancing my education, but also enhancing my soft skills. The experiences with faculty, staff, and friends, as well as living on the campus itself, has made me a more mature and conscious person in terms of interacting with people and in terms of critical thinking.

Institutions had the option to select one of four comment prompts to be given at the end of the survey (including after all module and consortium questions). 88 first-year students and 69 seniors responded to the following:

What has been most satisfying about your experience so far at this institution, and what has been most disappointing?

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Response
First-year	Full-time	Female	Can be improved. Definitely need younger teachers and stop being treated like we're in high school
First-year	Full-time	Female	There are some courses that I regret paying a penny for (the teacher forces you to self study the course).
First-year	Full-time	Female	The advisors are not qualified
First-year	Full-time	Female	The quality of education is great, and the college experience too. However, the costs are very high and unbarable.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Some academic advisors available to students are not very knowledgeable about deadlines and transfer within same faculties and criteria of courses and which courses are important based on what the person is planning to do.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Everything is okay so far!
First-year	Full-time	Female	Based on the quality of education we are receiving, the least expectation would be a good registration system. I shouldn't worry about the availability of classes I am "supposed" to register each semester. Capacity should be available throughout all semesters and not one student should worry about the capacity of required classes. I honestly stress a lot during registration period and that shouldn't be a problem! I and most students would appreciate it if AUB could improve its registration process.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Lots of theories but not a lot of practical work in my major. The class options are limited to very interesting classes thus registrations are stressful. However, intrsuctors are very helpful and want the best for us.
First-year	Full-time	Female	I've heard this from a few faculty members in this school, despite the manageably bulky material for the exam, exams are sometimes made very difficult to test the students and see who stands out, and to maintain the high reputation. This throws many students off and demotivates them, putting high amounts of stress on us.
First-year	Full-time	Female	AUB is an AMAZING institution with a really good faculty team, speaking from personal experience and especially in my department (department of education) the kind of autonomy and freedom we have in our major courses is really very encouraging for our future as educators.
First-year	Full-time	Female	:)
First-year	Full-time	Female	Personally, I am a very dedicated person when it comes to getting grades. I personally feel like it's the minimum that I should do as I am paying a lot of money to get this degree. However, ever since enrolling in AUB, I feel like I am no longer willing nor capable of being motivated and productive in my courses. Universities seem to demand waayyy too much from their students on things that are so irrelevant and so time-consuming that the students are no longer capable of catching up!
First-year	Full-time	Female	Actually, i don't know if my comment fits this place or not but i need to say this. First, i am very proud that i am a student at such a well-known, respectful and amazing university. Unfortunately, my financial status wouldn't have allowed me to complete my studies in this college; however, because of my high grades since school, a donor awarded me a full scholarship and thanks to him i had the pleasure to be here. The donor of my scholarship is passing through difficult situations and he might stop the scholarship due to that. I am very satisfied with this educational experience and i wish that i can continue my studies and even have my phd degree at this university. In fact, I'm working hard on keeping my gpa as high as i can so that i will find a new donor in case my donor couldn't afford anymore. I don't know whom i should seek help from and i don't know if you are concerned with cases as mine but i wanted to inform you about my case so that if you can help it would be great. Thank you for your concern.
First-year	Full-time	Female	This year was an amazing experience however students can't find time to enjoy all the opportunities available in aub specially people like me who don't know how to manage their time.
First-year	Full-time	Female	My institution, along with many others, tests how much we can memorize information, and not how we analyze it and can apply it in real life. Also, the exams are made to fail us, and they are then followed by a raise. Why not make them reasonable and actually beneficial (we can learn something from them) without going through the trouble of a raise? Some courses also aim to "lower the class average" via the second exam if the class has done well on the first one, which i think is stupid.

Institutions had the option to select one of four comment prompts to be given at the end of the survey (including after all module and consortium questions). 88 first-year students and 69 seniors responded to the following:

What has been most satisfying about your experience so far at this institution, and what has been most disappointing?

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Response
First-year	Full-time	Female	This institution limits critical thinking and analysis. Their testing and grading system is unfair (especially in sciences departments such as bio, chem, physics, pre-med, nutrition, etc) as they only test you based on one aspect which is multiple choice. Exams should be more varied and include several aspects to test ur knowledge on different things rather than just including multiple choiced. One person can excel in oral presentations and short answers exam but not multiple choice and vice versa. Many professors are lazy and demotivated and usually take the easy way out with grading and give too little to their students.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Faculty members should be more flexible and should listen completely to students. They do not listen till the end, they want to talk because they think students are young and do not know what they talk about. Also, they should watch out their ATTITUDES when talking to students in a superior way. Moreover, the HIP put restrictions ending up with having danger on patients health for the sake of "HIP regulations". The time a student needs 2 referrals, the Dr. asks the patient to take one now, and leave for a month WITH PAINS to get another one the next month, and not 2 referrals in 1 month! Faculty members should help students that had medical problems in the best way possible and give them hopes and better chances or opportunities. Toilets should have spray guns because all Muslims struggle with using the toilets and i end up filling an empty bottle of water from the recycle bin to clean with it (i might get an infection from strange people that have drunk from this bottle!) Moreover, to motivate students to play sports, the gym activities should be for free, i would like to play games for free. Financial aid should be more generous to cases like mine(my dad has Parkinson and we can barely pay for our expenses) not only 15%. I really find problems upon recording a lecture from my phone, there should be cameras that record the lectures and get uploaded to moodle, it is a very good way to study for the material by replaying the lecture that we attended! Recording from a phone is not effective as seeing and hearing at the same time. It is really helpful because in lectures i will listen carefully and participate more(not busy taking notes) and at home i can simply replay the lecture and understand it better.