



What Does NSSE Tell Us About How Much Time Boise State Students Spend on Work and other Responsibilities?

Boise State asks first-year and senior students to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) every three years. The most recent administration was in 2015. In addition to asking students questions about their educational experiences, the survey also asks questions about how they spend their time as students, including, but not limited to, how much time they spend working for pay.

This report examines differences in how much our students work and participate in other activities compared to their peers¹ and each other.

How much do Boise State students work? How does this compare to students at peer institutions?

For our first-year students, 32% of them reported working either on or off-campus. (Twenty-one percent of them reported working on-campus and 44% reported working off-campus.)

For our senior students, 45% of them reported working either on or off-campus. (Twenty-five percent of them reported working on-campus and 66% reported working off-campus.)

As displayed in Figure 1, Boise State students generally work **more** than those students at peer institutions. First-year Boise State students work an estimated 11.1 hours a week compared to 8.5 hours for FY students at peer institutions, a 2.6 hour difference. Senior Boise State students work an estimated 18.5 hours a week compared to 16.9 hours for peers, a 1.6 hour difference.

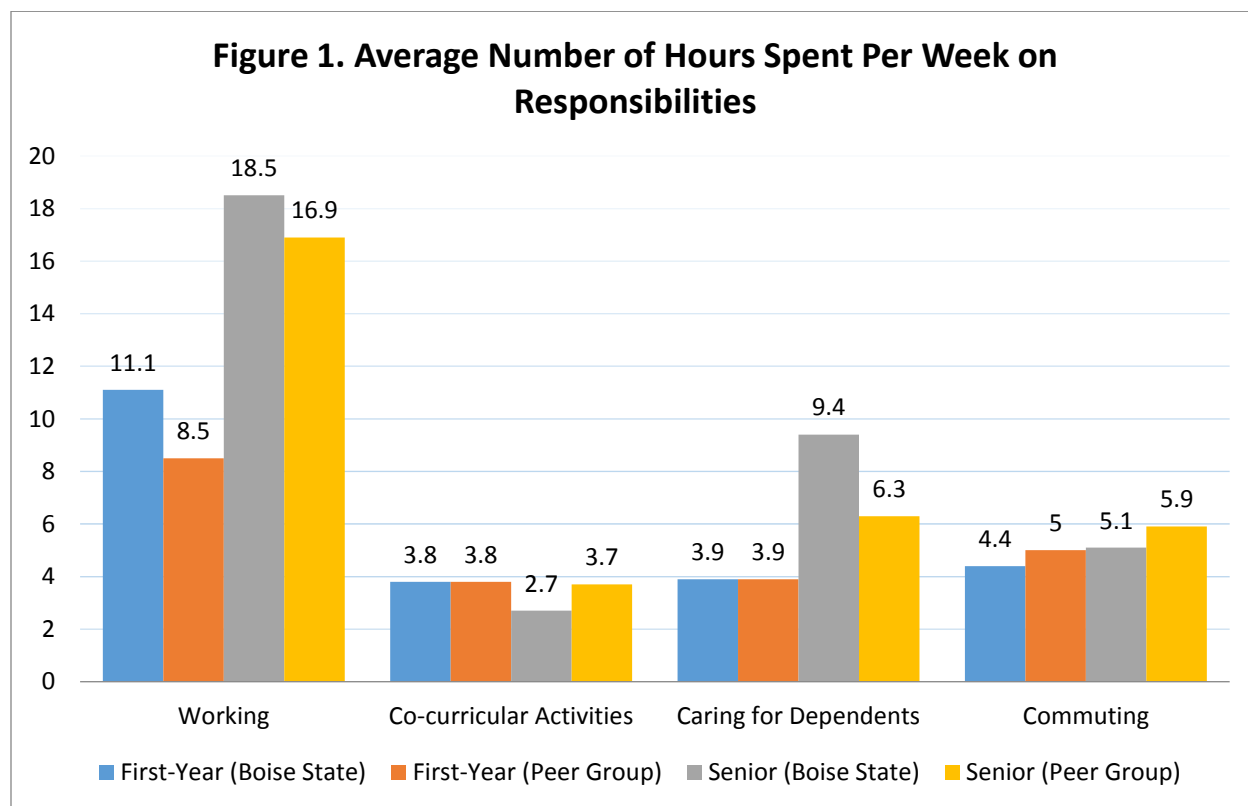
What other responsibilities do Boise State students report? How does this compare to students at peer institutions?

Regarding participation in co-curricular activities, our first-year students spend about 3.8 hours a week doing so, the same as students at peer institutions. Our seniors, however, spend about 2.7 hours a week doing so, an hour less than students at peer institutions.

First-year Boise State students spend about the same amount of time caring for dependents as students at peer institutions, 3.9 hours a week. Our seniors, however, spend **significantly more** time caring for dependents than students at peer institutions, 9.4 hours to 6.3 hours per week.

¹ There are 24 institutions in the peer group. Criteria included public Research High, Doctoral, and Master's institutions with an enrollment of 10k or more, research expenditures between \$10-70M, and located in large or medium sized cities or suburbs.

Boise State students spend somewhat less time commuting to and from the university each week than students at peer institutions. First-year students commute 4.4 hours compared to 5.0 hours a week for peers. Senior students commute 5.1 compared to 5.9 hours a week for peers.



Do full-time and part-time Boise State students differ in how much they work?

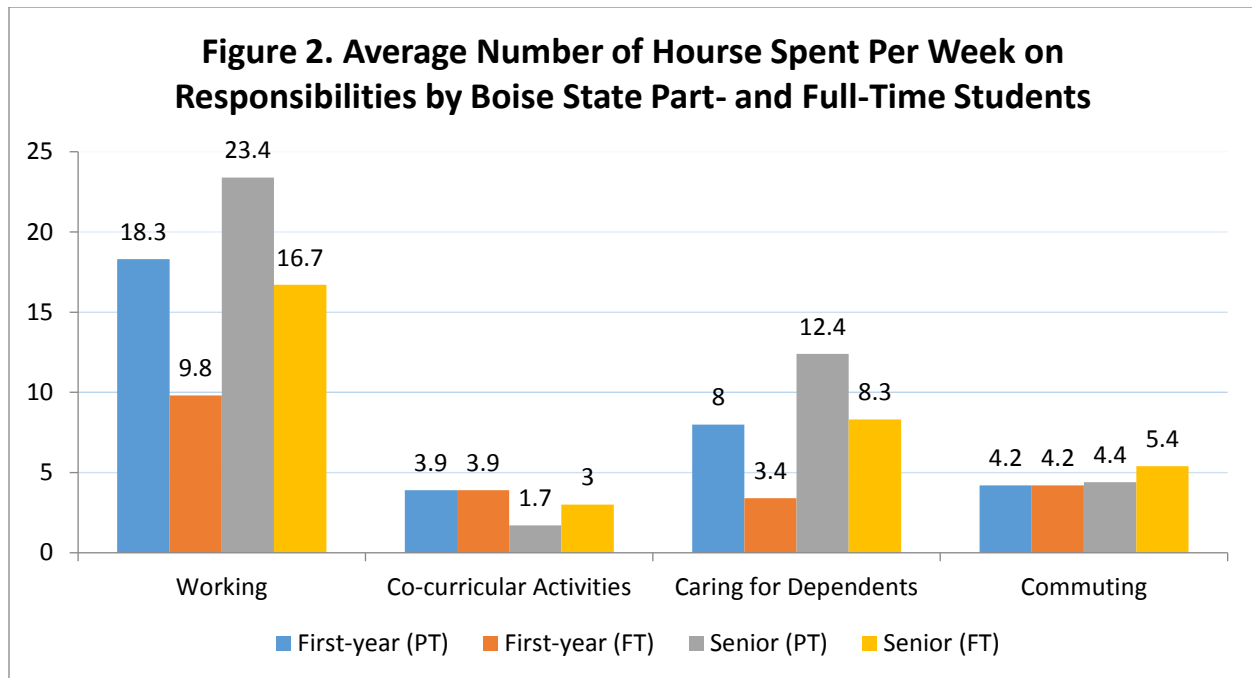
As displayed in Figure 2, part-time students reported working significantly **more** than full-time students. This was true at **both** the first-year and senior level. First-year part-time students worked 18.3 hours a week, which is 8.5 hours more than first-year full-time students. Senior part-time students worked 23.4 hours, which is 6.7 hours more than senior full-time students.²

Do full-time and part-time Boise State students differ in their other responsibilities?

Yes. For our first-year students, part-time students spend 8 hours per week caring for dependents compared to 3.4 hours for full-time students.

For seniors, part-time students spend fewer hours participating in co-curricular activities each week compared to full-time students (1.7 hours vs. 3), more time caring for dependents (12.4 hours vs. 8.3), and less time commuting (4.4 hours vs. 5.4).

² This type of breakdown is not available for peer institutions.



What are the takeaways and implications?

- One-third of first-year students work. Almost 1/2 of senior students do.
- Boise State students work more than students at peer institutions.
- Part-time students work more than full-time students and spend more time caring for dependents. They also spend less time participating in co-curricular activities.
- Given that participation in social activities and high impact practices is related to student engagement and satisfaction, initiatives that enable students to spend less time on their other responsibilities, such as work or childcare, may be beneficial.

This paper is part of a series on using Boise State's NSSE 2015 results to answer specific questions about our students. For additional survey results or to ask questions about this paper, please contact Nick Warcholak in Institutional Research at nickwarcholak@boisestate.edu.