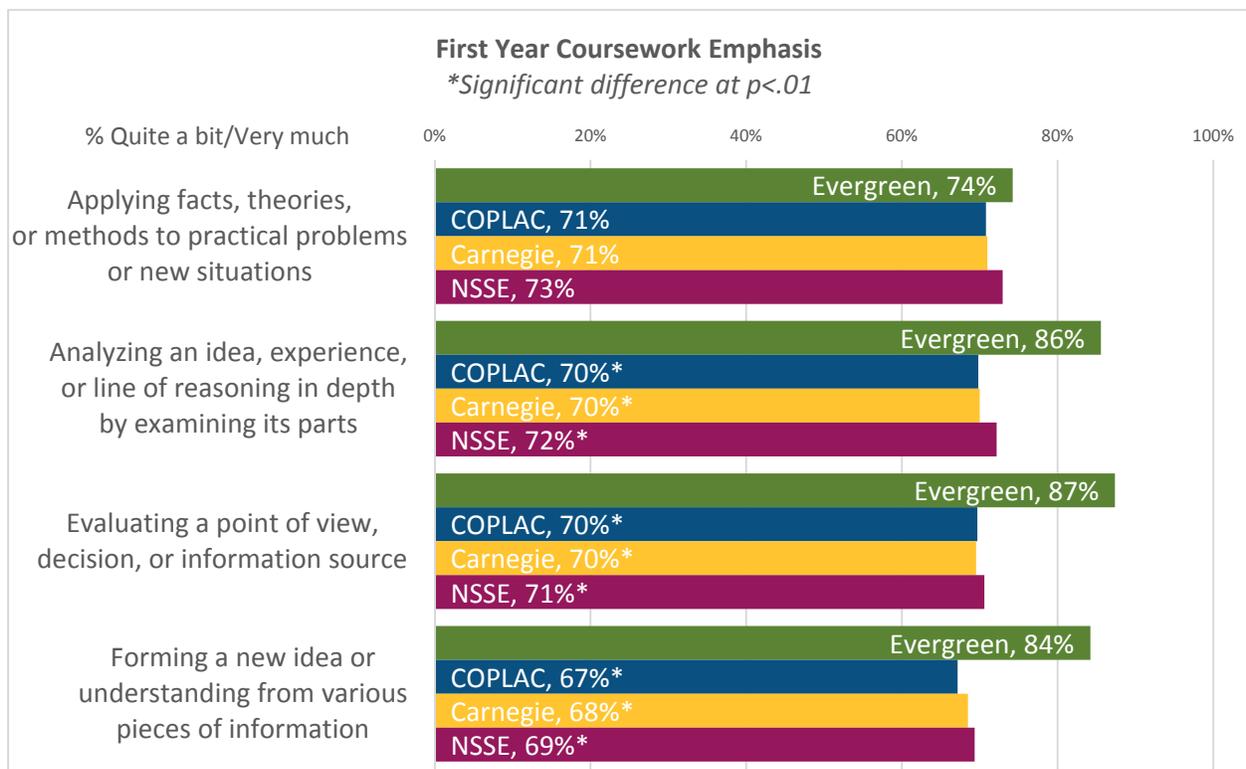


Level of Academic Challenge

The NSSE benchmark system, disbanded in 2012, had a group of items used to compare schools’ Level of Academic Challenge. We have attempted to replicate this benchmark by using similar items that remain in the NSSE survey. (NSSE was revamped in 2013 - survey changes ranged from small adjustments to entirely new content.) No calculated overall score is available for 2016. This ‘benchmark’ includes questions about time spent preparing for class, amount of work, higher-level thinking, and challenge.

Responses from 93 Evergreen First Year students and 148 Evergreen Seniors are compared to peer groups, including students from the 21 other participating Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), 55 participating institutions from our current Carnegie class, Master's Colleges-smaller programs (Carnegie), and 865 National NSSE participating institutions from 2015 and 2016 (NSSE).

How much has your coursework emphasized the following?

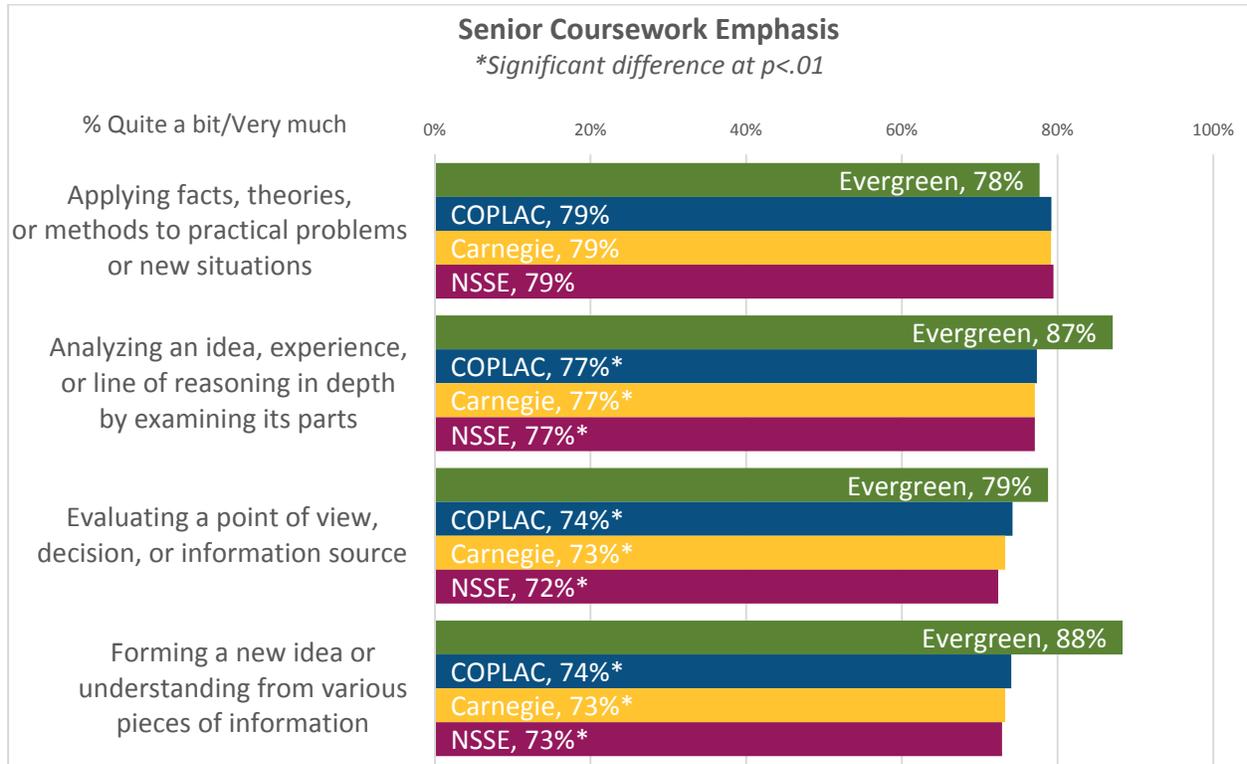


Evergreen First Years are comparable to peers in coursework that emphasized applying theory to practice. 74% of Evergreen First Years responded that coursework emphasized applying facts and theories to practical problems Quite a bit/Very much, compared to 71% of COPLAC and Carnegie, and 73% of NSSE.

Evergreen First Year coursework has significantly more emphasis on analysis than all peer groups. 86% of Evergreen First Years responded that coursework emphasized analyzing an idea in depth by examining its parts Quite a bit/Very much, compared to 70% of COPLAC and Carnegie, and 72% of NSSE.

Evergreen First Years are significantly higher than all peers at evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source. 87% of Evergreen First Years responded that coursework emphasized evaluating an information source Quite a bit/Very much, compared to 70% of COPLAC and Carnegie, and 71% of NSSE.

Evergreen First Year coursework also has significantly more emphasis on synthesis. 84% of Evergreen First Years responded that coursework emphasized forming a new idea from various pieces of information Quite a bit/Very much, compared to 67% of COPLAC, 68% of Carnegie, and 69% of NSSE.



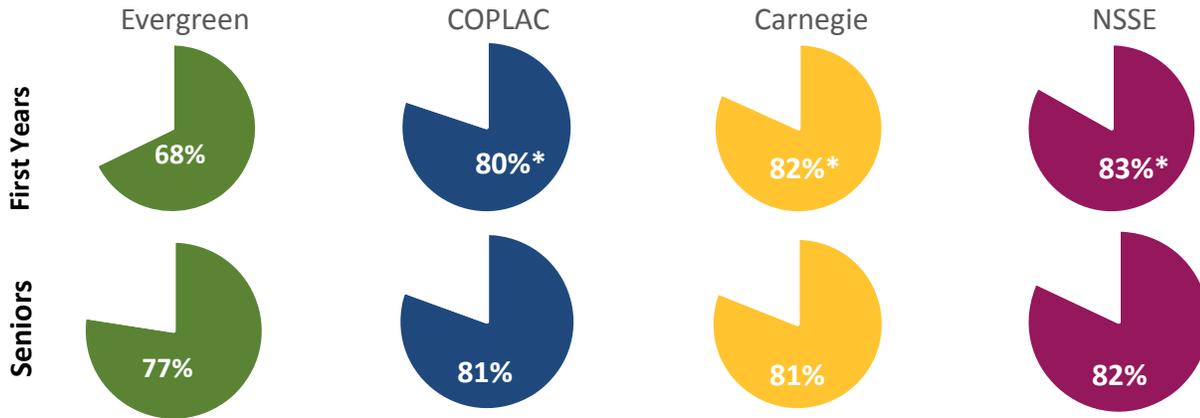
Evergreen Seniors are comparable to all peers at applying theory to practice. 78% of Evergreen Seniors responded that coursework emphasized applying facts and theories to practical problems Quite a bit/Very much, compared to 79% of COPLAC, Carnegie, and NSSE.

Evergreen Seniors coursework has significantly more emphasis on analysis than all peer groups. 87% of Evergreen Seniors responded that coursework emphasized analysis Quite a bit/Very much, compared to 77% of COPLAC, Carnegie, and NSSE.

Evergreen Seniors are significantly higher than all peers at evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source. 79% of Evergreen Seniors responded that coursework emphasized evaluation Quite a bit/Very much, compared to 74% of COPLAC, 73% of Carnegie, and 72% of NSSE.

Evergreen Senior coursework also has significantly more emphasis on synthesis. 88% of Evergreen Seniors responded that coursework emphasized sythesis Quite a bit/Very much, compared to 74% of COPLAC, and 73% of Carnegie and NSSE.

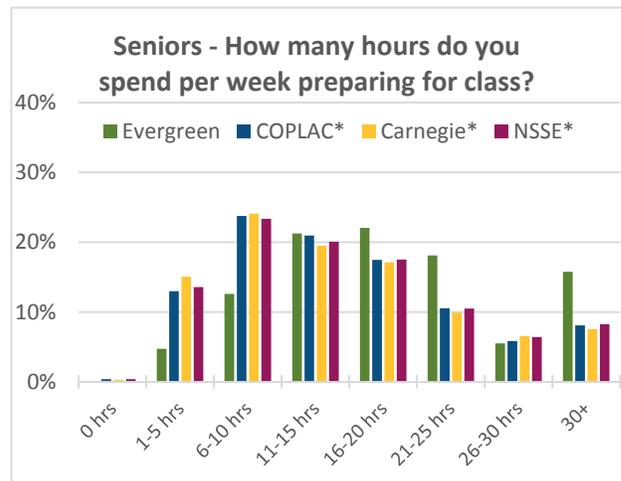
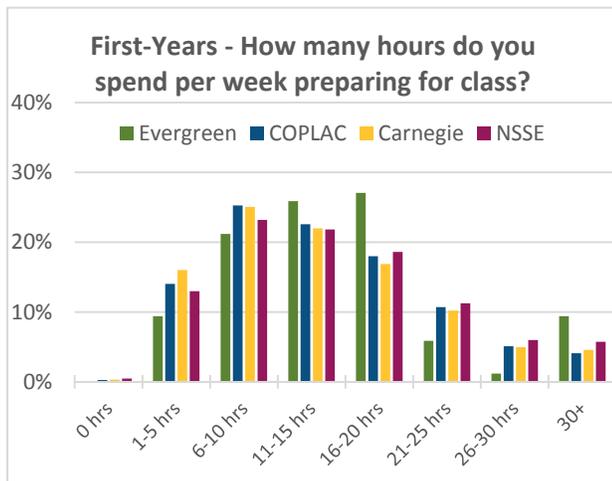
How much does your institution emphasize spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work? (% Quite a bit/Very much)



68% of Evergreen First Years responded that Evergreen emphasizes spending significant amounts of time studying Quite a bit/Very much, significantly lower than all peers. 80% COPLAC First Years responded Quite a bit/Very much for their institutions, 82% of Carnegie, and 83% of NSSE.

77% of Seniors responded that Evergreen emphasizes spending significant amounts of time studying Quite a bit/Very much, similar to the 81% of COPLAC and Carnegie, and 82% of NSSE.

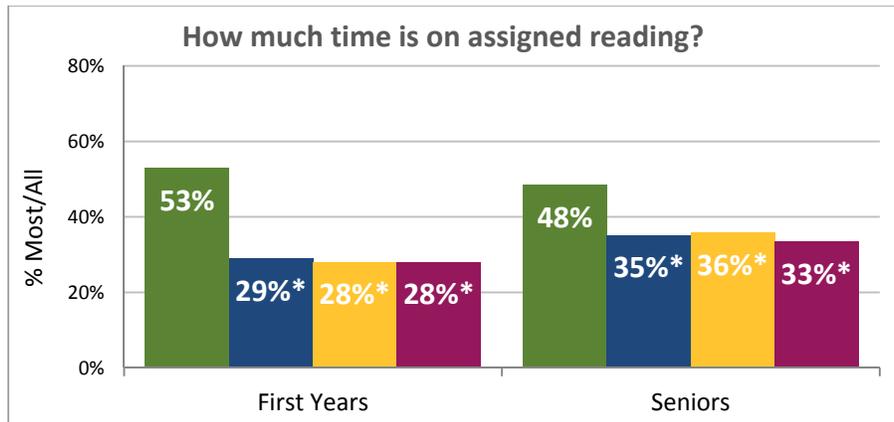
How many hours do you spend per week preparing for class?



Evergreen First Years spend an average of 15 hours a week preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities). This is similar to 14 hours a week for COPLAC, 13 hours a week for Carnegie, and 14 hours a week for NSSE.

Evergreen Seniors spend an average of 19 hours a week preparing for class, significantly higher than COPLAC (15 hours), Carnegie (14 hours), and NSSE (15 hours).

Of the time you spend preparing for class in a typical 7-day week, about how much is on assigned reading?



Evergreen First Years and Seniors spend a significantly higher percentage of their time on assigned reading than peers. 53% of First Years spend Most or All of their time preparing for class on assigned reading, compared to 29% of COPLAC, 28% of Carnegie, and 28% of NSSE. 48% of Evergreen Seniors spend Most or All of their time preparing for class on assigned reading, compared to 35% of COPLAC, 36% of Carnegie, and 33% of NSSE.

During the current school year, about how many papers, reports, or other writing tasks of the following length have you been assigned? (Include those not yet completed)

Average number of papers assigned this school year								
	First Years				Seniors			
	Evergreen	COPLAC	Carnegie	NSSE	Evergreen	COPLAC	Carnegie	NSSE
Up to 5 pages	11.2	7*	7*	6.8*	10.4	7.8*	7.9*	7.9*
6 to 10 pages	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.7
11+ pages	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.9	2.2	1.9	1.9	2

Evergreen First Years and Seniors write significantly more papers that are up to 5 pages than peers. Evergreen First Years write an average of 11 five-page papers per year, compared to 7 five-page papers for COPLAC, Carnegie, and NSSE. Evergreen Seniors write an average of 10 five-page papers, compared to 8 five-page papers for COPLAC, Carnegie, and NSSE.

There is no significant difference between the number of six-to-ten page papers or eleven-or-more-page papers written by Evergreen respondents and peers.

To what extent do courses challenge you to do your best work?

There is no significant difference between Evergreen First Years and Seniors and peers for the extent to which courses challenge students to do their best work.

Challenge	Evergreen	COPLAC	Carnegie	NSSE
<i>Mean of responses on a scale of 1-Not at all to 7-Very much</i>				
First Years	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.5
Seniors	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7

Evergreen First Years had a mean score of 5.3 on a scale from 1 (Not at all) to 7 (Very much), compared to means of 5.4 for COPLAC, 5.5 Carnegie, and 5.5 NSSE. Evergreen Seniors had a mean score of 5.7 on a scale from 1 (Not at all) to 7 (Very much), compared to means of 5.6 for COPLAC, 5.7 Carnegie and NSSE.