



What Does NSSE Tell Us About How Much Time Boise State Students Spend on Work and other Responsibilities (2018 Results)?

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 2018. Results from the survey can be found here: <https://ir.boisestate.edu/surveys/nsse/>

In addition to asking students questions about their educational experiences, NSSE 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. It is a follow-up to a report that was written about the 2015 NSSE results, which can be found here: https://ir.boisestate.edu/research-reports-presentations/#Survey_Analysis

Significant differences between the 2018 results and 2015 results are indicated within each section.

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

For our first-year students, 57% of them reported working either on or off-campus. (Twenty-two percent of them reported working on-campus and 43% reported working off-campus.)

For our senior students, 84% of them reported working either on or off-campus. (Twenty-four percent of them reported working on-campus and 69% 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 10.9 hours a week compared to 8.1 hours for FY students at peer institutions, a 2.8 hour difference. Senior Boise State students work an estimated 19.1 hours a week compared to 17.5 hours for peers, a 1.6 hour difference.

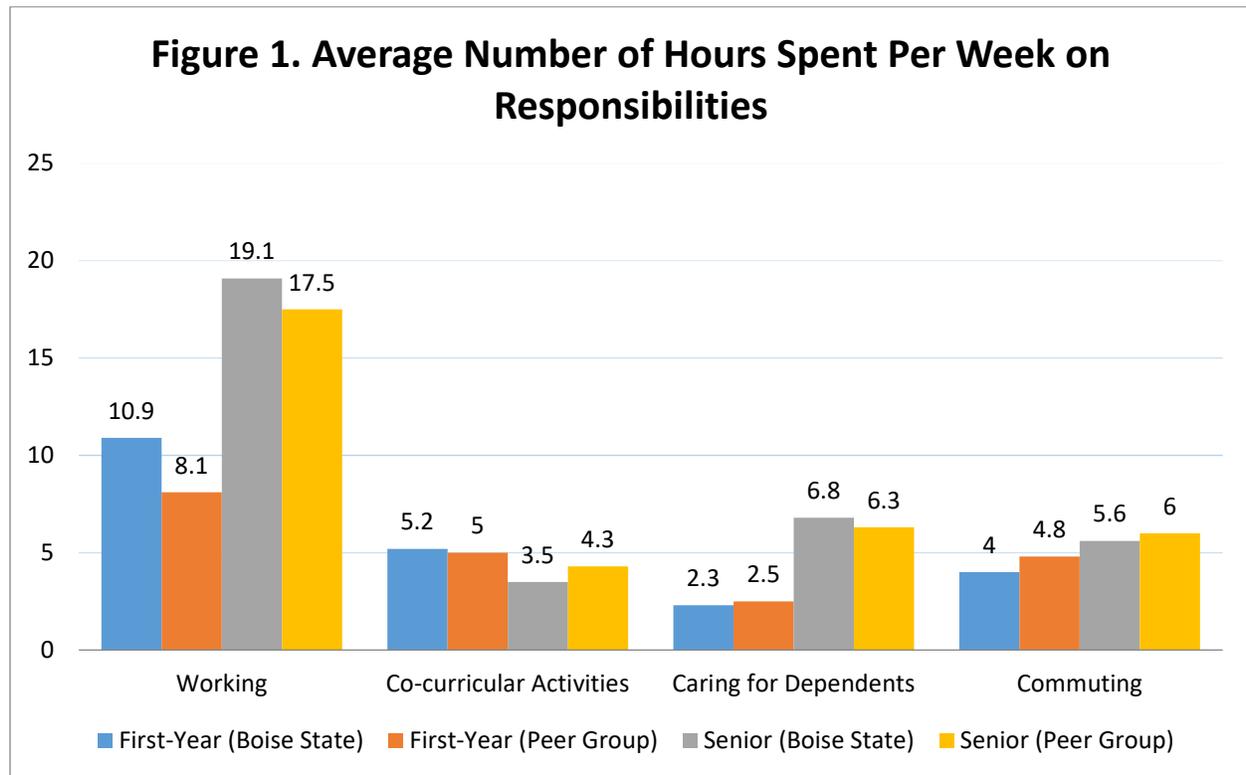
¹ There are 28 institutions in the peer group. There are public institutions with a Carnegie classification of Research-Higher (R2), Research-Moderate (R3), and Master's-Large, limited to those with UG enrollments of 10k or more and excluding Land Grant institutions, institutions who award doc degrees, have research expenditures between \$10 - 70M, and are located in areas of at least 100k population (Cities = midsize or large; Suburbs = midsize or large).

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 5.2 hours a week doing so, the same as students at peer institutions. Our seniors, however, spend about 3.5 hours a week doing so, an hour less than students at peer institutions. Compared to the 2015 NSSE results, these numbers are up from 3.8 and 2.7 hours respectively.

First-year Boise State students spend about the same amount of time caring for dependents as students at peer institutions, 2.3 hours a week. Our senior students also spend about the same time as their peers caring for dependents, about 6.8 hours a week. In the 2015 results, seniors reported spending 9.4 hours a week caring for dependents, so this may represent a drop.

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 hours compared to 4.8 hours a week for peers. Senior students commute 5.6 compared to 6 hours a week for peers.



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

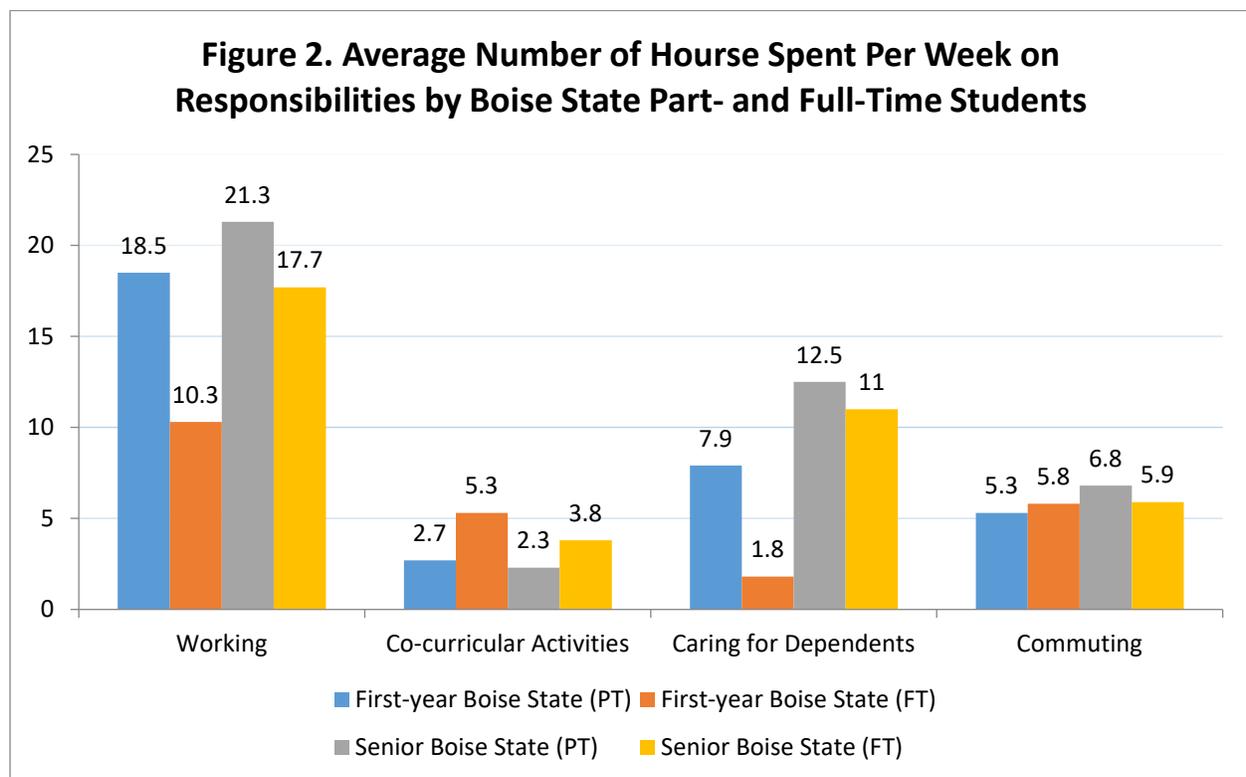
As displayed in Figure 2, part-time students reported working significantly **more** than full-time students. This was true at **both** the first-year and senior level. First-year part-time students worked 18.5 hours a

week, which is 8.2 hours more than first-year full-time students. Senior part-time students worked 21.3 hours, which is 3.6 hours more than senior full-time students.²

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

Yes. For seniors, part-time students spend fewer hours participating in co-curricular activities each week compared to full-time students, 2.7 vs. 5.3 hours. (The total time is up however from the 2015 NSSE results of 1.7 and 3 hours respectively.)

For our first-year students, part-time students spend 7.9 hours per week caring for dependents compared to 1.8 hours for full-time students.



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.
- These results are very consistent with the 2015 results.

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

- 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 2018 results to answer specific questions about our students. If you have questions about this paper, please contact Nick Warcholak in Institutional Research at nickwarcholak@boisestate.edu.