

# News Releases

## Online University Earns High Ratings for Student Engagement News Brief - 1/7/15

*Students rate competency-based WGU higher than national average in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)*

SALT LAKE CITY — Students earning a degree online can feel just as connected and engaged—or even more—than those studying in more traditional environments, according to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). In fact, Western Governors University (WGU), [www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu), students rated the online, competency-based university higher in several key areas than other institutions in the U.S. and Canada. The survey, conducted annually, polled more than 350,000 students from more than 600 institutions, both bricks and mortar and online, asking them to rate their experiences. Students gave WGU the highest scores possible at levels significantly higher than the national average in a number of important areas:

- Quality of interactions with faculty—20 percent higher
- Quality of academic support—23 percent higher
- Would attend the same institution again—25 percent higher
- Overall rating of entire educational experience—16 percent higher

In addition, WGU students believe that their degree programs and coursework are rigorous and challenging, preparing them well for career advancement. WGU students:

- Rated the challenge presented by their coursework as “very much” 19 percentage points higher
- Reported spending 13 percent more time per week on their studies
- Gave top ratings to their acquisition of job-related knowledge and skills 13 percentage points higher

“These ratings by our students tell us that WGU is providing a great learning experience as well as high-quality, relevant degree programs,” said WGU’s Vice President for Institutional Research Jason Levin. “Although our students complete their programs in an online, self-paced environment, they rate the quality of their interactions with faculty higher than students at many traditional institutions. This is because WGU faculty members, called mentors, work with students individually, guiding their learning and providing coaching and support tailored to each student’s needs.”

Nonprofit and fully online, WGU is the leader and pioneer in competency-based education, offering more than 50 bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in business, K-12 teacher education, information technology, and health professions, including nursing. Ideal for busy adults, this innovative learning model allows students to study and learn at a pace that meets their needs, moving quickly through material they already know so they can focus on what they still need to learn. Students work through course materials on their schedules, with consistent, one-on-one faculty support. Because they are not tied to traditional semesters and course schedules, many students can accelerate and finish their degrees faster—the average time to a bachelor’s degree at WGU is less than three years.

[View the survey results \(PDF\)](#)

Joan Mitchell, VP of Public Relations  
Phone: 801-428-5463  
Email: [jmitchell@wgu.edu](mailto:jmitchell@wgu.edu)  
More Information: 866-225-5948

### RSS FEED

Looking for a way to get the latest WGU news directly to you as it becomes available? Subscribe to the WGU news feed!

[Subscribe](#)

### SOCIAL MEDIA



[CHAT ONLINE](#)



[APPLY NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

866.225.5948

#### INFORMATION & RESOURCES

- [Admissions](#)
- [Tuition and Financial Aid](#)
- [Academic Experience](#)
- [Catalog](#)
- [About WGU](#)
- [Accreditation](#)
- [Newsroom](#)
- [Employment at WGU](#)
- [Student Portal](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

#### DEGREES & PROGRAMS

WGU is an accredited online university offering online bachelor’s and master’s degree programs.

TEACHERS	COLLEGE OF BUSINESS	COLLEGE OF I.T.	COLLEGE OF HEALTH
COLLEGE	Bachelor's Programs	Bachelor's Degrees	Bachelor's Degrees
Licensure Programs	Degrees	Master's Programs	Degrees
Graduate Programs	Master's Degrees		Master's Degrees

- [WGU Indiana](#)
- [WGU Missouri](#)
- [WGU Nevada](#)
- [WGU Tennessee](#)
- [WGU Texas](#)
- [WGU Washington](#)