

## VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

West Hall, 120 Phone: 245-6517 biwww.raldosts.edu/sra wesiudrgda sgitstal 1800.

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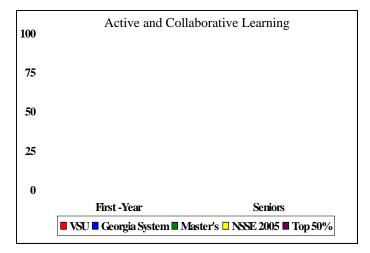
**Benchmark: Level of Academic Challenge** 

Level of Academic Challenge

48.3 51.1 51.7 42.0 40.9 42.5 42.4 50.0 42.5 42.4

• 60% of first-year students and 66% of seniors at VSU said their coursework emphasizes synthesizing and organizing ideas and information "quite a bit" or "very much." For Master's institutions, the corresponding percentages are 64% and 74%, respectively.

## **Benchmark: Active and Collaborative Learning**





- 60% of VSU seniors reported participating in community service or volunteer work, and another 17% plan to do so. Comparable percentages for Master's institutions are 62% and 13%.
- 55% of first-year students and 57% of seniors at VSU reported that they had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity "often" or "very often." This compares with 48% of first-year students and 49% of seniors at Master's institutions.
- 54% of VSU seniors responded that they have completed a practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience or clinical assignment, and another 25% said they plan to do so. This compares with 56% and 21%, respectively, at Master's institutions.

70% of first-year and 68% of senior-levelh."

## **General Education Outcomes**

- 87% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to use computing and information technology "quite a bit" or "very much."
- 85% of VSU seniors report acquiring a broad, general education "quite a bit" or "very much."
- 82% of VSU seniors report increasing their ability to work effectively with others "quite a bit" or "very much."
- 78% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to think critically and analytically "quite a bit" or "very much."
- 77% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to analyze quantitative problems "quite a bit" or "very much."
- 75% of VSU seniors report developing their ability to write clearly and effectively "quite a bit" or "very much."

Source: NSSE 2005.