



## PACE REPORT INTERPRETATION INSTRUCTIONS

Tacoma Community College's (TCC) PACE report consists of nine tables and one figure. The tables are of two types: frequency distributions and mean comparisons. Figure 1 compares your institution's overall PACE mean and means for each of the four PACE climate factors (Institutional Structure, Student Focus, Supervisory Relationships, and Teamwork) with three comparison groups of TCC's choosing.

In addition to the PACE report, TCC also received a demographic report, a custom report and a qualitative report. Like the PACE report, the demographic report includes comparisons to three groups of TCC's choosing. The custom report includes comparisons to TCC's 2013 PACE results, where applicable.

### *Comparison Group Descriptions*

Every institution that participates in PACE receives comparison data in three categories of its choosing. When a comparison group is selected, your institution is compared to all other institutions in the NILIE norm base that share your institution's classification along that dimension. In determining an institution's classification, NILIE utilizes a compressed version of [The Carnegie Classification<sup>1</sup> of Institutions of Higher Education](#). Some classification groups have been compressed to facilitate comparisons. Tacoma Community College elected to use the following comparison groups for its 2016 report:

- NILIE Normbase: all institutions in the NILIE normbase between 2012-2016
- Size: Medium 2-year
- Previous Administration: 2013

A complete list of all institutions that comprise each comparison group is available on [NILIE's website<sup>2</sup>](#).

### *Interpreting Frequency Distributions Tables*

The frequency distributions tables report basic statistics for each question on the PACE survey. Questions are grouped by the four NILIE climate factors with one table for each factor. In the first (gray) column, each table presents the count (n) and percentage of respondents at your institution who answered "very satisfied," "satisfied," "neutral," "dissatisfied," and "very dissatisfied" for each PACE question corresponding to that climate factor. The other three columns provide the same statistics corresponding to TCC's selected comparison groups. Statistical significance is not reported in the frequency distribution tables, so bear in mind that any differences across columns may occur due to chance and do not have substantive meanings.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://nilie.ncsu.edu/comparison-groups/>





areas in which your institution is doing well (positive effect size) or may need to take action for change (negative effect size).

**Table 5. Institutional Structure Item Mean Comparisons**

*NILIE Tech comparison with:*

Institutional Structure	NILIE Tech		Small 2-year			City			NILIE Normbase		
	N	Mean	Mean	Sig.	Effect size	Mean	Sig.	Effect size	Mean	Sig.	Effect size
<i>The extent to which...</i>											
<b>1</b> the actions of this institution reflect its mission	243	3.679	3.893	**	-.218	3.796			3.847	**	-.170

**Effect Size**

