



NSSE 2020 Topical Module Report

Development of Transferable Skills

North Carolina State University

This page intentionally left blank.

About This Topical Module

Adapted from a pilot survey that was developed by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, this module examines activities that develop useful and transferable skills for the workplace (such as verbal and written fluency and analytic inquiry). The module complements questions on the core survey about higher-order learning, reflective and integrative learning, and students' perceptions of their development in a variety of areas. Complementary FSSE set available.

Comparison Group

This section summarizes how this module's comparison group was identified, including selection criteria and whether the default option was taken. This is followed by the resulting list of institutions represented in the 'Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc' column of this report.

Group label	Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc
Date submitted	5/22/20
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this group by selecting institutional characteristics as follows: Basic Classification (All Doc, All Master's); Sector (Pub); UG Enrollment (> 10K)
Group description	Public institutions with 10,000+ enrollment, and Carnegie classification of Masters or Doctoral, participating in NSSE module in AY19-20 or AY18-19 (n=11).

Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc (N=11)

CUNY Hunter College (New York, NY)*
 Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI)
 Missouri State University (Springfield, MO)*
 Purdue University Global (Davenport, IA)*
 University of Houston (Houston, TX)
 University of Massachusetts Amherst (Amherst, MA)
 University of Missouri-Kansas City (Kansas City, MO)*
 University of Nebraska at Omaha (Omaha, NE)*
 University of Texas at Arlington, The (Arlington, TX)
 University of Wisconsin--Madison (Madison, WI)
 Wayne State University (Detroit, MI)

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				NC State		Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc		NC State	Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
1. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Discussed or debated an issue of social, political, or philosophical importance	TRN01a	1	Never	51	12	1,301	16	2.5	2.5	.06
		2	Sometimes	153	37	2,995	37			
		3	Often	143	33	2,341	30			
		4	Very often	72	17	1,309	17			
		Total		419	100	7,946	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	149	35	3,125	39	1.9	1.9	.00
		2	Sometimes	184	45	2,965	38			
		3	Often	60	15	1,311	16			
		4	Very often	25	6	549	7			
		Total		418	100	7,950	100			
c. Worked in a group with people who differed from you in terms of background, political orientation, points of view, etc.	TRN01c	1	Never	9	2	676	9	2.9	2.7 ***	.17
		2	Sometimes	124	31	2,647	33			
		3	Often	190	45	2,991	37			
		4	Very often	93	22	1,637	21			
		Total		416	100	7,951	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	41	10	1,219	15	2.5	2.4	.06
		2	Sometimes	188	45	3,143	40			
		3	Often	132	32	2,501	31			
		4	Very often	57	14	1,082	14			
		Total		418	100	7,945	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	18	4	500	6	2.8	2.8	.06
		2	Sometimes	129	31	2,615	33			
		3	Often	187	45	3,229	41			
		4	Very often	84	19	1,605	20			
		Total		418	100	7,949	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	14	3	458	6	2.8	2.8	.03
		2	Sometimes	136	33	2,578	32			
		3	Often	181	43	3,289	42			
		4	Very often	85	20	1,617	21			
		Total		416	100	7,942	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	25	6	658	8	2.7	2.7	.07
		2	Sometimes	145	35	2,737	34			
		3	Often	154	37	3,058	38			
		4	Very often	91	22	1,489	20			
		Total		415	100	7,942	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				NC State		Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc		NC State	Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
2. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you written something (paper, report, article, blog, etc.) that:										
a. Used information from a variety of sources (books, journals, Internet, databases, etc.)	TRN02a	1	Never	26	7	373	5	2.7	2.9 ***	-.27
		2	Sometimes	152	38	2,146	27			
		3	Often	146	35	3,104	38			
		4	Very often	95	21	2,321	30			
		Total		419	100	7,944	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	61	15	949	12	2.5	2.6 **	-.14
		2	Sometimes	157	38	2,821	35			
		3	Often	137	33	2,724	35			
		4	Very often	64	14	1,441	18			
		Total		419	100	7,935	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	42	11	850	11	2.6	2.6	-.05
		2	Sometimes	144	35	2,788	35			
		3	Often	161	38	2,774	35			
		4	Very often	71	16	1,514	20			
		Total		418	100	7,926	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	35	8	577	8	2.6	2.7 **	-.15
		2	Sometimes	157	40	2,675	34			
		3	Often	159	37	3,060	38			
		4	Very often	65	15	1,614	20			
		Total		416	100	7,926	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				NC State		Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc		NC State	Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
1. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Discussed or debated an issue of social, political, or philosophical importance	TRN01a	1	Never	49	12	2,147	18	2.6	2.5 **	.16
		2	Sometimes	138	34	4,378	35			
		3	Often	118	31	3,447	27			
		4	Very often	91	23	2,397	20			
		Total		396	100	12,369	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	101	25	3,809	29	2.2	2.2	.03
		2	Sometimes	168	43	4,476	37			
		3	Often	72	18	2,521	21			
		4	Very often	55	14	1,576	13			
		Total		396	100	12,382	100			
c. Worked in a group with people who differed from you in terms of background, political orientation, points of view, etc.	TRN01c	1	Never	12	3	985	8	3.0	2.8 ***	.18
		2	Sometimes	103	26	3,579	29			
		3	Often	151	39	4,402	36			
		4	Very often	131	32	3,409	28			
		Total		397	100	12,375	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	41	10	1,582	14	2.5	2.6	-.03
		2	Sometimes	158	40	4,203	35			
		3	Often	133	34	4,117	33			
		4	Very often	65	15	2,479	19			
		Total		397	100	12,381	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	10	2	592	5	3.0	2.9 *	.12
		2	Sometimes	97	25	3,093	26			
		3	Often	157	40	5,092	41			
		4	Very often	133	33	3,589	29			
		Total		397	100	12,366	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	8	2	502	4	3.1	3.0 **	.16
		2	Sometimes	88	22	3,061	25			
		3	Often	161	41	5,123	41			
		4	Very often	140	35	3,681	29			
		Total		397	100	12,367	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	7	2	807	7	3.0	2.9 ***	.18
		2	Sometimes	106	27	3,324	27			
		3	Often	151	38	4,780	38			
		4	Very often	133	33	3,466	28			
		Total		397	100	12,377	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				NC State		Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc		NC State	Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
2. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you written something (paper, report, article, blog, etc.) that:										
a. Used information from a variety of sources (books, journals, Internet, databases, etc.)	TRN02a	1	Never	35	9	487	4	2.9	3.1 ***	-.27
		2	Sometimes	99	26	2,387	21			
		3	Often	132	34	4,067	33			
		4	Very often	129	31	5,439	41			
		Total		395	100	12,380	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	79	20	1,351	12	2.4	2.7 ***	-.30
		2	Sometimes	129	34	3,606	30			
		3	Often	107	27	3,843	31			
		4	Very often	78	19	3,551	27			
		Total		393	100	12,351	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	48	12	1,055	9	2.6	2.8 ***	-.19
		2	Sometimes	133	34	3,466	30			
		3	Often	130	33	4,232	34			
		4	Very often	86	20	3,593	27			
		Total		397	100	12,346	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	47	12	884	8	2.6	2.8 ***	-.26
		2	Sometimes	147	37	3,553	30			
		3	Often	130	34	4,523	36			
		4	Very often	73	17	3,390	26			
		Total		397	100	12,350	100			

NSSE 2020 Development of Transferable Skills

Detailed Statistics^e

North Carolina State University

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	NC State	NC State	Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc	NC State	Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc	NC State	Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc	Comparisons with: Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc		
TRN01a	418	2.54	2.48	.045	.016	0.91	0.95	4,176	.208	.06
TRN01b	417	1.91	1.91	.042	.015	0.85	0.90	525	.922	.00
TRN01c	414	2.86	2.71	.038	.015	0.78	0.89	541	.000	.17
TRN01d	417	2.48	2.43	.042	.015	0.85	0.91	4,172	.271	.06
TRN01e	417	2.80	2.75	.039	.014	0.80	0.85	527	.261	.06
TRN01f	415	2.81	2.78	.039	.014	0.79	0.84	4,171	.564	.03
TRN01g	413	2.74	2.69	.042	.014	0.86	0.88	4,168	.209	.07
TRN02a	418	2.69	2.93	.043	.014	0.88	0.87	512	.000	-.27
TRN02b	418	2.46	2.59	.045	.015	0.91	0.92	4,170	.006	-.14
TRN02c	417	2.59	2.63	.043	.015	0.88	0.92	4,164	.350	-.05
TRN02d	414	2.59	2.71	.041	.014	0.84	0.88	4,160	.005	-.15

See the endnotes on the last page of this report.

NSSE 2020 Development of Transferable Skills

Detailed Statistics^e

North Carolina State University

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	NC State	NC State	Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc	NC State	Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc	NC State	Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc	Comparisons with: Lrg Pub Mstrs/Doc		
TRN01a	395	2.64	2.48	.049	.013	0.97	1.00	6,626	.003	.16
TRN01b	395	2.20	2.17	.049	.013	0.97	0.99	6,630	.529	.03
TRN01c	396	3.00	2.83	.042	.012	0.84	0.92	458	.000	.18
TRN01d	396	2.54	2.57	.044	.012	0.88	0.95	456	.524	-.03
TRN01e	396	3.03	2.93	.041	.011	0.82	0.86	6,623	.019	.12
TRN01f	396	3.09	2.96	.040	.011	0.80	0.85	6,622	.003	.16
TRN01g	396	3.03	2.87	.041	.011	0.82	0.90	458	.000	.18
TRN02a	394	2.87	3.12	.048	.011	0.96	0.89	437	.000	-.27
TRN02b	392	2.44	2.74	.051	.012	1.01	0.99	6,616	.000	-.30
TRN02c	396	2.62	2.80	.047	.012	0.94	0.94	6,618	.000	-.19
TRN02d	396	2.56	2.80	.046	.012	0.91	0.92	6,618	.000	-.26

Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Counts are unweighted; column percentages cannot be replicated from counts.
- b. All statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Unless otherwise noted, statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent t -tests. Items with categorical response sets are left blank.
- c. These are the values used to calculate means. For the majority of items, these values match the codes in the data file and codebook.
- d. Effect size for independent t -tests uses Cohen's d ; z -tests use Cohen's h .
- e. Statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Categorical items are not listed.
- f. The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus or minus 1.96 times the standard error of the mean.
- g. A measure of the amount individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.
- h. Degrees of freedom used to compute the t -tests. Values differ from N s due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.
- i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent t -tests or z -tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the students in the comparison group is due to chance.
- j. Statistical comparison uses z -test to compare the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes" with all who responded otherwise.
- k. Mean represents the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes."

Key to symbols:

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- △ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ($p < .05$) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

Note: It is important to interpret the direction of differences relative to item wording and your institutional context.