
NSSE 2015 Topical Module

Development of Transferable Skills

Case Western Reserve University

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 'Comp Res Univs' column of this report.

Group label	Comp Res Univs
Date submitted	6/10/15
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this comparison group by selecting institutions from all module participants.
Group description	Non-religious research universities (RU/VH or RU/H) with competitive admissions

Comp Res Univs (N=11)

Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
 Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL)*
 Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (Indianapolis, IN)
 Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College (Baton Rouge, LA)
 Mississippi State University (Mississippi State, MS)*
 South Dakota State University (Brookings, SD)*
 University at Buffalo, State University of New York (Buffalo, NY)*
 University of Denver (Denver, CO)*
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Urbana, IL)
 University of Maryland (College Park, MD)*
 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI)*

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 .
- 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. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the comparison group is due to chance.

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.

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CWRU		Comp Res Univ		CWRU	Comp Res Univ	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	15	6	670	13	2.8	2.5 ***	.28
		2	Sometimes	82	32	1,936	39			
		3	Often	91	37	1,446	29			
		4	Very often	60	24	881	18			
		Total		248	100	4,933	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	36	15	1,339	27	2.1	2.1	-.01
		2	Sometimes	147	60	2,044	42			
		3	Often	51	21	1,024	21			
		4	Very often	10	4	497	10			
		Total		244	100	4,904	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	6	3	317	7	2.9	2.7 *	.15
		2	Sometimes	87	35	1,723	35			
		3	Often	88	36	1,870	38			
		4	Very often	67	26	1,008	20			
		Total		248	100	4,918	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	22	10	723	15	2.5	2.4	.10
		2	Sometimes	106	42	2,071	42			
		3	Often	88	36	1,472	30			
		4	Very often	31	12	650	14			
		Total		247	100	4,916	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	9	4	293	6	2.8	2.8	.07
		2	Sometimes	76	31	1,659	33			
		3	Often	107	43	1,856	38			
		4	Very often	56	22	1,108	23			
		Total		248	100	4,916	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	10	4	288	6	2.9	2.8	.11
		2	Sometimes	71	28	1,667	34			
		3	Often	108	44	1,893	38			
		4	Very often	57	24	1,069	22			
		Total		246	100	4,917	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	16	7	422	9	2.7	2.7	.05
		2	Sometimes	83	34	1,751	35			
		3	Often	94	38	1,733	35			
		4	Very often	51	21	987	21			
		Total		244	100	4,893	100			

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

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CWRU		Comp Res Univ		CWRU	Comp Res Univ	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	5	2	226	5	3.0	2.9 *	.12
		2	Sometimes	56	23	1,331	28			
		3	Often	110	44	1,819	36			
		4	Very often	77	31	1,562	31			
			Total	248	100	4,938	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	22	9	778	16	2.6	2.5 *	.15
		2	Sometimes	90	36	1,719	36			
		3	Often	90	37	1,559	31			
		4	Very often	46	18	873	17			
			Total	248	100	4,929	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	22	9	642	13	2.6	2.6	.05
		2	Sometimes	88	35	1,687	35			
		3	Often	96	39	1,631	33			
		4	Very often	42	16	965	19			
			Total	248	100	4,925	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	14	6	469	10	2.7	2.7	.08
		2	Sometimes	85	35	1,710	35			
		3	Often	97	39	1,729	35			
		4	Very often	50	20	1,002	20			
			Total	246	100	4,910	100			

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CWRU		Comp Res Univ		CWRU	Comp Res Univ	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	9	5	1,094	13	2.9	2.6 ***	.29
		2	Sometimes	57	30	2,809	35			
		3	Often	71	37	2,259	29			
		4	Very often	53	28	1,734	22			
		Total		190	100	7,896	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	20	11	1,293	16	2.7	2.4 ***	.33
		2	Sometimes	55	29	3,266	42			
		3	Often	67	36	2,001	25			
		4	Very often	46	25	1,303	17			
		Total		188	100	7,863	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	3	2	412	5	3.1	2.9 ***	.25
		2	Sometimes	40	21	2,323	29			
		3	Often	80	42	2,876	37			
		4	Very often	67	35	2,267	29			
		Total		190	100	7,878	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	12	6	976	12	2.8	2.5 **	.23
		2	Sometimes	62	33	3,030	39			
		3	Often	74	39	2,440	31			
		4	Very often	40	21	1,423	18			
		Total		188	100	7,869	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	2	1	307	4	3.2	3.0 **	.21
		2	Sometimes	31	16	1,934	24			
		3	Often	84	44	2,978	38			
		4	Very often	72	38	2,641	34			
		Total		189	100	7,860	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	4	2	295	4	3.2	3.0 **	.23
		2	Sometimes	31	16	1,937	24			
		3	Often	73	39	3,025	38			
		4	Very often	80	43	2,610	34			
		Total		188	100	7,867	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	5	3	421	5	3.2	2.9 ***	.30
		2	Sometimes	26	14	2,124	27			
		3	Often	82	44	2,837	36			
		4	Very often	74	40	2,441	32			
		Total		187	100	7,823	100			

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

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CWRU		Comp Res Univ		CWRU	Comp Res Univ	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	8	4	408	5	3.1	3.0	.09
		2	Sometimes	39	21	1,939	25			
		3	Often	65	34	2,459	31			
		4	Very often	78	41	3,077	39			
		Total		190	100	7,883	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	18	10	1,131	14	2.8	2.6 *	.17
		2	Sometimes	53	28	2,581	33			
		3	Often	65	34	2,189	28			
		4	Very often	53	28	1,968	25			
		Total		189	100	7,869	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	22	12	898	11	2.7	2.7	-.01
		2	Sometimes	57	30	2,531	32			
		3	Often	67	35	2,363	30			
		4	Very often	44	23	2,071	26			
		Total		190	100	7,863	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	19	10	806	10	2.7	2.7	.02
		2	Sometimes	59	31	2,698	34			
		3	Often	70	37	2,418	31			
		4	Very often	41	22	1,927	24			
		Total		189	100	7,849	100			