
NSSE 2020 Topical Module Report

Development of Transferable Skills

Ferris 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 'Great Lakes Public' column of this report.

Group label	Great Lakes Public
Date submitted	6/5/20
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this group by selecting institutional characteristics as follows: Region (Gr Lakes); Sector (Pub)
Group description	All other current- and prior-year (if applicable) NSSE institutions in same geographic region and sector

Great Lakes Public (N=8)

Kent State University at Stark (Canton, OH)
 Miami University-Hamilton (Hamilton, OH)*
 Miami University-Middletown (Middletown, OH)*
 University of Illinois Springfield (Springfield, IL)
 University of Southern Indiana (Evansville, IN)*
 University of Wisconsin--Madison (Madison, WI)
 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (Stevens Point, WI)
 Wayne State University (Detroit, MI)

NSSE 2020 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

Ferris State University

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Ferris State		Great Lakes Public		Ferris State	Great Lakes Public	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
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	16	15	220	11	2.5	2.6	-.14
		2	Sometimes	37	39	625	38			
		3	Often	33	33	496	31			
		4	Very often	15	14	296	19			
		Total	101	100	1,637	100				
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	15	14	472	30	2.5	2.0 *** ▲	.54
		2	Sometimes	34	36	691	44			
		3	Often	36	35	332	19			
		4	Very often	17	16	140	8			
		Total	102	100	1,635	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	2	2	102	6	2.9	2.8	.14
		2	Sometimes	33	32	542	33			
		3	Often	41	41	649	41			
		4	Very often	26	25	344	20			
		Total	102	100	1,637	100				
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	11	10	246	14	2.5	2.4	.03
		2	Sometimes	45	46	684	42			
		3	Often	33	32	484	31			
		4	Very often	13	12	219	14			
		Total	102	100	1,633	100				
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	5	5	84	5	2.9	2.8 * △	.20
		2	Sometimes	24	24	532	32			
		3	Often	43	42	686	43			
		4	Very often	30	29	334	20			
		Total	102	100	1,636	100				
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	2	2	84	5	2.9	2.8	.09
		2	Sometimes	33	32	524	31			
		3	Often	42	41	706	44			
		4	Very often	25	24	323	20			
		Total	102	100	1,637	100				
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	5	6	112	6	2.7	2.7	-.02
		2	Sometimes	38	38	567	34			
		3	Often	38	35	645	40			
		4	Very often	21	21	308	20			
		Total	102	100	1,632	100				

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

NSSE 2020 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

Ferris State University

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Ferris State		Great Lakes Public		Ferris State	Great Lakes Public	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	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	4	3	67	5	3.0	2.9	.09
		2	Sometimes	25	25	426	29			
		3	Often	39	40	605	37			
		4	Very often	34	32	535	30			
		Total		102	100	1,633	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	13	12	213	14	2.7	2.6	.12
		2	Sometimes	31	32	557	35			
		3	Often	34	33	548	34			
		4	Very often	23	23	309	17			
		Total		101	100	1,627	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	6	5	169	11	2.7	2.6	.12
		2	Sometimes	35	37	550	34			
		3	Often	37	35	580	35			
		4	Very often	24	23	334	20			
		Total		102	100	1,633	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	5	4	136	9	2.9	2.7 **	.27 △
		2	Sometimes	27	27	527	34			
		3	Often	44	44	641	39			
		4	Very often	26	25	323	18			
		Total		102	100	1,627	100			

NSSE 2020 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

Ferris State University

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Ferris State		Great Lakes Public		Ferris State	Great Lakes Public	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	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	120	24	303	13	2.3	2.6 ***	-.29
		2	Sometimes	169	33	694	33			
		3	Often	142	28	582	29			
		4	Very often	74	15	416	24			
		Total		505	100	1,995	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	117	23	389	20	2.4	2.3	.08
		2	Sometimes	171	34	844	44			
		3	Often	136	27	498	24			
		4	Very often	81	16	263	12			
		Total		505	100	1,994	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	38	8	93	4	2.8	2.8	-.09
		2	Sometimes	159	31	608	31			
		3	Often	189	37	811	41			
		4	Very often	120	23	481	24			
		Total		506	100	1,993	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	95	19	220	10	2.4	2.6 **	-.17
		2	Sometimes	181	35	762	38			
		3	Often	155	31	679	35			
		4	Very often	75	15	333	16			
		Total		506	100	1,994	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	27	5	84	4	2.9	3.0	-.06
		2	Sometimes	134	27	515	25			
		3	Often	203	41	840	42			
		4	Very often	139	27	551	29			
		Total		503	100	1,990	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	21	4	68	3	2.9	3.0	-.09
		2	Sometimes	146	28	517	25			
		3	Often	200	40	861	43			
		4	Very often	139	27	547	29			
		Total		506	100	1,993	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	35	7	99	5	2.8	2.9 **	-.14
		2	Sometimes	156	31	572	27			
		3	Often	190	38	806	40			
		4	Very often	122	24	519	28			
		Total		503	100	1,996	100			

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

NSSE 2020 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

Ferris State University

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Ferris State		Great Lakes Public		Ferris State	Great Lakes Public	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	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	24	5	91	5	3.0	3.1	-.07
		2	Sometimes	112	23	424	23			
		3	Often	201	40	689	34			
		4	Very often	166	32	794	38			
		Total		503	100	1,998	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	74	15	223	11	2.6	2.7 **	-.13
		2	Sometimes	147	30	604	32			
		3	Often	183	36	616	30			
		4	Very often	97	19	552	27			
		Total		501	100	1,995	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	48	10	164	9	2.7	2.8	-.07
		2	Sometimes	154	31	629	32			
		3	Often	197	39	675	34			
		4	Very often	104	20	528	25			
		Total		503	100	1,996	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	55	11	166	9	2.7	2.7	-.04
		2	Sometimes	155	31	661	34			
		3	Often	181	36	689	34			
		4	Very often	113	22	480	23			
		Total		504	100	1,996	100			

NSSE 2020 Development of Transferable Skills

Detailed Statistics^e Ferris State University

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	Ferris State	Ferris State	Great Lakes Public	Ferris State	Great Lakes Public	Ferris State	Great Lakes Public	Comparisons with:		
								Great Lakes Public		
TRN01a	100	2.46	2.58	.091	.021	0.91	0.93	2,112	.183	-.14
TRN01b	102	2.52	2.04	.091	.020	0.92	0.89	110	.000	.54
TRN01c	102	2.88	2.76	.080	.019	0.81	0.84	2,112	.178	.14
TRN01d	102	2.47	2.44	.083	.020	0.83	0.89	2,107	.775	.03
TRN01e	102	2.94	2.78	.085	.018	0.86	0.82	2,112	.049	.20
TRN01f	102	2.88	2.80	.080	.018	0.80	0.81	2,113	.365	.09
TRN01g	102	2.72	2.73	.086	.019	0.86	0.85	2,107	.848	-.02
TRN02a	102	3.00	2.92	.083	.019	0.84	0.87	2,109	.365	.09
TRN02b	100	2.67	2.55	.097	.021	0.97	0.93	2,101	.239	.12
TRN02c	102	2.75	2.64	.086	.021	0.87	0.92	2,109	.235	.12
TRN02d	102	2.90	2.67	.082	.020	0.83	0.88	113	.007	.27

NSSE 2020 Development of Transferable Skills

Detailed Statistics^e Ferris State University

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	Ferris State	Ferris State	Great Lakes Public	Ferris State	Great Lakes Public	Ferris State	Great Lakes Public	Comparisons with: Great Lakes Public		
TRN01a	507	2.35	2.64	.044	.022	1.00	0.99	2,606	.000	-.29
TRN01b	506	2.36	2.29	.045	.020	1.01	0.92	722	.115	.08
TRN01c	508	2.76	2.84	.040	.018	0.90	0.83	732	.083	-.09
TRN01d	508	2.42	2.58	.042	.019	0.96	0.88	729	.001	-.17
TRN01e	505	2.90	2.95	.038	.018	0.86	0.84	2,597	.212	-.06
TRN01f	508	2.91	2.98	.038	.018	0.85	0.81	749	.074	-.09
TRN01g	505	2.79	2.91	.040	.019	0.89	0.86	744	.007	-.14
TRN02a	505	2.99	3.05	.039	.020	0.87	0.90	780	.168	-.07
TRN02b	503	2.59	2.72	.043	.021	0.96	0.98	2,603	.007	-.13
TRN02c	505	2.69	2.76	.040	.020	0.90	0.93	2,606	.153	-.07
TRN02d	506	2.68	2.72	.042	.020	0.94	0.92	2,606	.446	-.04

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.