
NSSE 2016 Topical Module Report Development of Transferable Skills

Emporia State University

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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 'Transferable Skills' column of this report.

Group label	Transferable Skills
Date submitted	Not applicable; comparison group not customized.
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution did not customize this comparison group; the default group (all module participants) was used.
Group description	Default comparison group

Transferable Skills (N=75)

Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA)	Lancaster Bible College (Lancaster, PA)*
Alberta College of Art + Design (Calgary, AB)	Lane College (Jackson, TN)
Albertus Magnus College (New Haven, CT)	Lee University (Cleveland, TN)*
Averett University (Danville, VA)	Lees-McRae College (Banner Elk, NC)
Baker University (Baldwin City, KS)	Lincoln Memorial University (Harrogate, TN)
Bellevue University (Bellevue, NE)*	Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College (Baton Rouge, LA)*
Boise State University (Boise, ID)*	McDaniel College (Westminster, MD)*
Boston University (Boston, MA)	Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry, NY)
Brigham Young University-Hawaii (Laie, HI)	Metropolitan State University (Saint Paul, MN)*
Caldwell University (Caldwell, NJ)*	Mississippi University for Women (Columbus, MS)
California State University-Channel Islands (Camarillo, CA)	Missouri State University (Springfield, MO)
California State University, San Bernardino (San Bernardino, CA)*	Mount St. Mary's University (Emmitsburg, MD)
Campbell University Inc. (Buies Creek, NC)*	Murray State University (Murray, KY)
Carthage College (Kenosha, WI)*	New Jersey City University (Jersey City, NJ)*
Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH)*	Northwest University (Kirkland, WA)
Catawba College (Salisbury, NC)	Philadelphia University (Philadelphia, PA)*
Chaminade University of Honolulu (Honolulu, HI)	Quest University Canada (Squamish, BC)
Clemson University (Clemson, SC)	Reinhardt University (Waleska, GA)
Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction, CO)	Rosemont College (Rosemont, PA)
Concordia College at Moorhead (Moorhead, MN)*	Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing (Peoria, IL)
Culinary Institute of America (Hyde Park, NY)*	Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, GA)*
DeSales University (Center Valley, PA)*	Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning (Oakville, ON)
Felician College (Lodi, NJ)*	St. Gregory's University (Shawnee, OK)
Ferrum College (Ferrum, VA)*	Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville, TN)
Franklin College (Franklin, IN)*	Tennessee Wesleyan College (Athens, TN)
Greensboro College (Greensboro, NC)	Trent University (Peterborough, ON)
Indiana University Southeast (New Albany, IN)*	Trevecca Nazarene University (Nashville, TN)
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (Indianapolis, IN)*	Union College (Barbourville, KY)*
Jacksonville University (Jacksonville, FL)	University of Arkansas at Little Rock (Little Rock, AR)
Kaplan University (Davenport, IA)*	University of Central Oklahoma (Edmond, OK)*

Transferable Skills (N=75), continued

University of Denver (Denver, CO)
University of Louisiana Monroe (Monroe, LA)
University of Mississippi (University, MS)
University of Montana-Western, The (Dillon, MT)*
University of Nebraska at Kearney (Kearney, NE)
University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)
University of North Carolina Wilmington (Wilmington, NC)*
University of Pikeville (Pikeville, KY)
University of Puerto Rico-Carolina (Carolina, PR)
University of Scranton (Scranton, PA)*
University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, KY)
Utica College (Utica, NY)*
Vancouver Island University (Nanaimo, BC)
Western State Colorado University (Gunnison, CO)
Young Harris College (Young Harris, GA)

*2015 participant

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Emporia State		Transferable Skills		Emporia State	Transferable Skills	
				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	21	13	1,886	13	2.7	2.6	.08
		2	Sometimes	53	33	5,223	36			
		3	Often	49	30	4,522	30			
		4	Very often	33	24	3,050	20			
		Total		156	100	14,681	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	24	15	3,662	26	2.5	2.2 **	.27
		2	Sometimes	60	36	5,823	39			
		3	Often	52	35	3,418	23			
		4	Very often	20	13	1,733	12			
		Total		156	100	14,636	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	8	5	1,069	8	2.8	2.7	.06
		2	Sometimes	52	32	4,966	34			
		3	Often	69	45	5,421	36			
		4	Very often	27	18	3,200	21			
		Total		156	100	14,656	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	19	12	2,142	15	2.5	2.5	.01
		2	Sometimes	71	44	5,704	39			
		3	Often	47	30	4,669	32			
		4	Very often	19	14	2,114	14			
		Total		156	100	14,629	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	7	5	821	6	2.9	2.8	.08
		2	Sometimes	49	30	4,554	31			
		3	Often	61	38	5,773	39			
		4	Very often	39	27	3,456	24			
		Total		156	100	14,604	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	9	6	894	6	2.8	2.8	.07
		2	Sometimes	48	30	4,853	33			
		3	Often	64	42	5,717	39			
		4	Very often	32	23	3,140	22			
		Total		153	100	14,604	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	8	5	1,229	9	2.8	2.7	.11
		2	Sometimes	60	36	5,166	35			
		3	Often	55	36	5,270	36			
		4	Very often	32	23	2,897	20			
		Total		155	100	14,562	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		
				Emporia State		Transferable Skills		Emporia State	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
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	2	1	436	3	3.1	3.1	.06
		2	Sometimes	31	19	3,286	23			
		3	Often	70	45	5,456	37			
		4	Very often	54	35	5,489	37			
		Total		157	100	14,667	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	17	10	1,805	13	2.7	2.6	.11
		2	Sometimes	52	33	4,966	34			
		3	Often	50	33	4,831	32			
		4	Very often	36	23	3,033	20			
		Total		155	100	14,635	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	10	6	1,433	11	2.7	2.7	.07
		2	Sometimes	54	34	4,805	33			
		3	Often	63	42	5,102	34			
		4	Very often	29	19	3,278	22			
		Total		156	100	14,618	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	8	5	1,032	8	2.8	2.7	.06
		2	Sometimes	52	32	4,858	33			
		3	Often	64	42	5,373	36			
		4	Very often	31	21	3,341	23			
		Total		155	100	14,604	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		
				Emporia State		Transferable Skills		Emporia State	Transferable Skills	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	19	15	2,272	13	2.6	2.7	-.09
		2	Sometimes	49	33	6,295	34			
		3	Often	42	32	5,429	29			
		4	Very often	22	20	4,698	25			
		Total		132	100	18,694	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	25	22	3,400	19	2.4	2.4	.02
		2	Sometimes	48	34	6,834	37			
		3	Often	29	19	5,012	26			
		4	Very often	30	24	3,377	18			
		Total		132	100	18,623	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	7	6	1,139	7	2.9	2.9	-.03
		2	Sometimes	38	29	5,295	28			
		3	Often	50	38	6,763	36			
		4	Very often	36	27	5,471	29			
		Total		131	100	18,668	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	14	11	1,978	11	2.6	2.7	-.03
		2	Sometimes	47	35	6,336	34			
		3	Often	48	35	6,268	33			
		4	Very often	22	19	4,059	22			
		Total		131	100	18,641	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	3	4	712	4	3.0	3.0	-.01
		2	Sometimes	29	21	4,302	23			
		3	Often	60	45	7,152	38			
		4	Very often	40	31	6,465	35			
		Total		132	100	18,631	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	4	3	728	4	3.0	3.0	-.04
		2	Sometimes	28	23	4,363	23			
		3	Often	63	47	7,239	38			
		4	Very often	35	28	6,311	34			
		Total		130	100	18,641	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	4	3	989	6	2.9	2.9	.01
		2	Sometimes	33	25	4,798	26			
		3	Often	61	47	6,946	37			
		4	Very often	32	25	5,791	31			
		Total		130	100	18,524	100			

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Emporia State		Transferable Skills		Emporia State	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
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	2	1	666	4	3.1	3.2	-.15
		2	Sometimes	30	26	3,328	18			
		3	Often	50	35	5,611	29			
		4	Very often	49	38	9,110	49			
		Total		131	100	18,715	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	19	13	2,092	12	2.6	2.8 *	-.18
		2	Sometimes	43	34	5,213	28			
		3	Often	42	30	5,537	29			
		4	Very often	28	23	5,826	31			
		Total		132	100	18,668	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	9	6	1,500	8	2.8	2.9	-.12
		2	Sometimes	49	36	5,235	28			
		3	Often	42	33	5,856	31			
		4	Very often	31	25	6,077	33			
		Total		131	100	18,668	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	7	5	1,367	8	2.8	2.9	-.06
		2	Sometimes	46	35	5,415	30			
		3	Often	50	37	6,215	33			
		4	Very often	29	23	5,652	30			
		Total		132	100	18,649	100			

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

NSSE 2016 Development of Transferable Skills

Detailed Statistics^e

Emporia State University

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	Emporia State	Emporia State	Transferable Skills	Emporia State	Transferable Skills	Emporia State	Transferable Skills			
TRN01a	154	2.65	2.57	.08	.01	0.98	0.95	13,342	.315	.08
TRN01b	154	2.46	2.21	.07	.01	0.91	0.96	13,293	.001	.27
TRN01c	154	2.76	2.71	.06	.01	0.81	0.89	158	.454	.06
TRN01d	154	2.47	2.46	.07	.01	0.88	0.91	13,277	.892	.01
TRN01e	154	2.88	2.81	.07	.01	0.86	0.87	13,268	.322	.08
TRN01f	152	2.82	2.76	.07	.01	0.85	0.86	13,276	.398	.07
TRN01g	154	2.77	2.67	.07	.01	0.86	0.90	13,232	.169	.11
TRN02a	155	3.12	3.07	.06	.01	0.77	0.85	13,336	.425	.06
TRN02b	153	2.70	2.60	.08	.01	0.94	0.95	13,298	.160	.11
TRN02c	154	2.74	2.68	.07	.01	0.83	0.94	158	.363	.07
TRN02d	153	2.79	2.74	.07	.01	0.83	0.90	156	.435	.06

NSSE 2016 Development of Transferable Skills

Detailed Statistics^e

Emporia State University

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	Emporia State	Emporia State	Transferable Skills	Emporia State	Transferable Skills	Emporia State	Transferable Skills			
TRN01a	132	2.57	2.66	.08	.01	0.97	0.99	15,512	.309	-.09
TRN01b	132	2.44	2.42	.09	.01	1.09	0.99	133	.797	.02
TRN01c	132	2.86	2.88	.08	.01	0.89	0.91	15,489	.764	-.03
TRN01d	132	2.63	2.65	.08	.01	0.92	0.94	15,462	.727	-.03
TRN01e	132	3.02	3.03	.07	.01	0.82	0.86	15,458	.926	-.01
TRN01f	131	2.99	3.02	.07	.01	0.79	0.86	133	.654	-.04
TRN01g	131	2.95	2.94	.07	.01	0.78	0.90	133	.879	.01
TRN02a	132	3.10	3.23	.07	.01	0.83	0.88	15,528	.090	-.15
TRN02b	132	2.61	2.79	.09	.01	0.98	1.01	15,489	.045	-.18
TRN02c	131	2.76	2.87	.08	.01	0.90	0.96	15,487	.174	-.12
TRN02d	132	2.80	2.85	.07	.01	0.85	0.94	15,469	.487	-.06

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."
- l. This was a new item in 2016, comparison group results do not include 2015 institutions. May not apply to all modules.

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.