

## 2018 Topical Module: Development of Transferable Skills

### Profile of Participating Institutions and Respondents and All Bachelor's-Granting U.S. Institutions and Students

Topical modules are short sets of questions on a topic related to current issues in higher education and student engagement that may be appended to the core survey. The **Development of Transferable Skills** module examines engagement in activities that develop useful and transferable skills for the workplace such as verbal and written fluency and analytic inquiry. In 2018, 41 U.S. institutions elected to append these items to the core survey. Of these, 39 belonged to one of the eight Carnegie classifications shown in the table below.<sup>a</sup>

The institutions and respondents participating in a given module are only a subset of all NSSE participating institutions and respondents. The table below displays the characteristics for module participants alongside NSSE 2018 participants as well as all bachelor's-granting U.S. institutions and students (all limited to the eight indicated Carnegie Classification categories).

	Institutions			Students		
	Trans. Skills Module  (%)	NSSE 2018  (%)	U.S. <sup>b</sup>  (%)	Trans. Skills Module  (%)	NSSE 2018  (%)	U.S. <sup>b</sup>  (%)
<b>Carnegie Basic Classification<sup>c</sup></b>						
R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest research activity	8	5	7	26	15	27
R2: Doctoral Universities - Higher research activity	8	8	6	21	16	14
R3: Doctoral Universities - Moderate research activity	5	8	7	2	14	10
M1: Master's Colleges and Universities - Larger programs	28	27	24	25	29	28
M2: Master's Colleges and Universities - Medium programs	10	17	13	6	10	7
M3: Master's Colleges and Universities - Smaller programs	10	8	8	9	4	3
Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	15	16	15	6	8	4
Baccalaureate Colleges: Diverse Fields	15	11	19	5	4	5
<b>Control</b>						
Public	46	39	35	76	57	67
Private	54	61	65	24	43	33
<b>Undergraduate enrollment</b>						
Fewer than 1,000	10	12	22	2	3	2
1,000 – 2,499	38	33	32	14	14	10
2,500 – 4,999	21	23	18	15	18	11
5,000 – 9,999	10	16	14	13	20	18
10,000 – 19,999	8	9	9	16	20	24
20,000 or more	13	6	6	40	25	35

a. All numbers are unweighted and based on U.S. postsecondary institutions that award bachelor's degrees and belong to one of the eight Carnegie Classification categories in the table. Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

b. U.S. percentages are based on the 2015 IPEDS Institutional Characteristics file.

c. For information on the Carnegie Foundation's Basic Classification, see [carnegieclassifications.iu.edu](http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu)

## NSSE 2018 Topical Modules

### U.S. Summary Frequencies by Class and Sex

### Development of Transferable Skills

#### First-Year Students

#### Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Response options	Female		Male		Total		Female		Male		Total	
			Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>1. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?</b>														
a. Discussed or debated an issue of social, political, or philosophical importance	TRN01a	Never	867	15	342	13	1,209	15	1,288	17	679	17	1,967	17
		Sometimes	2,147	38	961	36	3,108	37	2,988	37	1,526	35	4,514	36
		Often	1,694	29	849	32	2,543	31	2,236	27	1,241	27	3,477	27
		Very often	1,013	18	498	19	1,511	18	1,549	19	892	21	2,441	20
		Total	5,721	100	2,650	100	8,371	100	8,061	100	4,338	100	12,399	100
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	Never	1,755	32	762	29	2,517	31	1,838	24	866	21	2,704	23
		Sometimes	2,247	39	1,048	40	3,295	39	3,121	38	1,696	39	4,817	39
		Often	1,146	19	583	22	1,729	20	1,923	23	1,099	24	3,022	24
		Very often	563	10	261	9	824	10	1,178	14	684	16	1,862	15
		Total	5,711	100	2,654	100	8,365	100	8,060	100	4,345	100	12,405	100
c. Worked in a group with people who differed from you in terms of background, political orientation, points of view, etc.	TRN01c	Never	383	7	190	7	573	7	452	6	257	6	709	6
		Sometimes	2,023	35	955	36	2,978	36	2,377	29	1,304	29	3,681	29
		Often	2,111	37	1,010	38	3,121	37	3,055	37	1,598	37	4,653	37
		Very often	1,194	21	489	19	1,683	20	2,181	28	1,182	28	3,363	28
		Total	5,711	100	2,644	100	8,355	100	8,065	100	4,341	100	12,406	100
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	Never	859	15	341	13	1,200	14	1,000	14	578	14	1,578	14
		Sometimes	2,280	40	1,047	40	3,327	40	2,958	36	1,583	36	4,541	36
		Often	1,791	31	899	33	2,690	32	2,669	32	1,375	31	4,044	32
		Very often	780	14	356	14	1,136	14	1,437	18	802	18	2,239	18
		Total	5,710	100	2,643	100	8,353	100	8,064	100	4,338	100	12,402	100
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	Never	325	6	170	7	495	6	337	5	234	6	571	5
		Sometimes	1,866	33	908	34	2,774	33	2,156	27	1,172	27	3,328	27
		Often	2,325	40	1,064	40	3,389	40	3,305	40	1,735	39	5,040	39
		Very often	1,196	21	506	20	1,702	21	2,258	28	1,203	28	3,461	28
		Total	5,712	100	2,648	100	8,360	100	8,056	100	4,344	100	12,400	100
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	Never	325	6	144	6	469	6	334	5	215	5	549	5
		Sometimes	1,964	34	892	33	2,856	34	2,236	28	1,091	25	3,327	27
		Often	2,340	40	1,103	41	3,443	41	3,295	40	1,775	40	5,070	40
		Very often	1,082	19	511	20	1,593	20	2,183	27	1,264	30	3,447	29
		Total	5,711	100	2,650	100	8,361	100	8,048	100	4,345	100	12,393	100
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	Never	473	9	186	7	659	8	466	6	287	7	753	7
		Sometimes	2,075	36	955	36	3,030	36	2,377	30	1,207	27	3,584	29
		Often	2,172	37	1,033	38	3,205	38	3,197	39	1,681	38	4,878	38
		Very often	986	18	467	18	1,453	18	2,001	25	1,152	27	3,153	26
		Total	5,706	100	2,641	100	8,347	100	8,041	100	4,327	100	12,368	100

Note: Results weighted by institution-reported sex, enrollment status, and institution size. Counts are not weighted.

## NSSE 2018 Topical Modules

### U.S. Summary Frequencies by Class and Sex

### Development of Transferable Skills

Item wording or description	Variable name	Response options	First-Year Students						Seniors					
			Female		Male		Total		Female		Male		Total	
			Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>2. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you written something (paper, report, article, blog, etc.) that:</b>														
a. Used information from a variety of sources (books, journals, Internet, databases, etc.)	TRN02a	Never	204	4	133	5	337	4	336	5	259	7	595	5
		Sometimes	1,300	23	775	29	2,075	26	1,620	21	1,116	26	2,736	23
		Often	2,214	38	1,051	40	3,265	39	2,636	32	1,524	35	4,160	33
		Very often	1,988	35	676	26	2,664	31	3,443	42	1,429	33	4,872	38
		Total	5,706	100	2,635	100	8,341	100	8,035	100	4,328	100	12,363	100
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	Never	716	13	329	13	1,045	13	1,032	14	630	16	1,662	15
		Sometimes	1,934	34	981	37	2,915	35	2,324	29	1,470	34	3,794	31
		Often	1,899	33	903	34	2,802	33	2,459	30	1,245	28	3,704	29
		Very often	1,139	20	420	16	1,559	19	2,201	27	976	22	3,177	25
		Total	5,688	100	2,633	100	8,321	100	8,016	100	4,321	100	12,337	100
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	Never	627	11	264	10	891	11	769	10	444	11	1,213	11
		Sometimes	1,992	35	975	37	2,967	36	2,442	31	1,448	34	3,890	32
		Often	1,970	34	974	37	2,944	36	2,676	32	1,461	33	4,137	33
		Very often	1,107	19	422	16	1,529	18	2,144	27	974	22	3,118	25
		Total	5,696	100	2,635	100	8,331	100	8,031	100	4,327	100	12,358	100
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	Never	376	7	194	7	570	7	656	9	410	10	1,066	9
		Sometimes	1,975	35	932	35	2,907	35	2,603	32	1,441	33	4,044	33
		Often	2,145	37	1,020	39	3,165	38	2,797	34	1,538	35	4,335	34
		Very often	1,196	21	489	18	1,685	20	1,975	25	940	22	2,915	23
		Total	5,692	100	2,635	100	8,327	100	8,031	100	4,329	100	12,360	100

Note: Results weighted by institution-reported sex, enrollment status, and institution size. Counts are not weighted.

# NSSE 2018 Topical Modules

## U.S. Summary Means and Standard Deviations by Class and Sex

### Development of Transferable Skills

#### First-Year Students

#### Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	First-Year Students						Seniors					
		Female		Male		Total		Female		Male		Total	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
<b>1. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?</b>													
a. Discussed or debated an issue of social, political, or philosophical importance	TRN01a	2.49	.95	2.56	.94	2.52	.95	2.47	.99	2.52	1.00	2.50	1.00
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	2.07	.94	2.12	.93	2.09	.94	2.27	.99	2.35	.98	2.31	.99
c. Worked in a group with people who differed from you in terms of background, political orientation, points of view, etc.	TRN01c	2.72	.87	2.68	.86	2.70	.87	2.87	.89	2.86	.90	2.86	.90
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	2.43	.91	2.48	.89	2.45	.90	2.54	.94	2.54	.95	2.54	.94
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	2.77	.85	2.72	.85	2.75	.85	2.92	.86	2.90	.88	2.91	.87
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	2.73	.84	2.76	.84	2.74	.84	2.90	.86	2.95	.87	2.92	.86
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	2.64	.87	2.67	.86	2.65	.87	2.82	.88	2.86	.90	2.84	.89
<b>2. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you written something (paper, report, article, blog, etc.) that:</b>													
a. Used information from a variety of sources (books, journals, Internet, databases, etc.)	TRN02a	3.04	.85	2.86	.86	2.96	.86	3.12	.90	2.94	.92	3.04	.91
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	2.60	.95	2.54	.91	2.57	.94	2.71	1.01	2.57	1.00	2.64	1.01
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	2.61	.92	2.59	.87	2.60	.90	2.75	.96	2.67	.94	2.71	.95
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	2.72	.87	2.68	.86	2.70	.87	2.75	.93	2.68	.93	2.72	.93

Notes: Results weighted by sex, enrollment status, and institution size. See codebook for variable ranges. Categorical items are not listed.

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