

2019 Topical Module: Civic Engagement

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 **Civic Engagement** module asks students to assess their conflict resolution skills and examines how often they engage with local, state, national, and global issues. In 2019, 60 U.S. institutions elected to append these items to the core survey. Of these, 59 belonged to one of the eight Carnegie classifications shown in the table below.^a

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 2019 participants as well as all bachelor's-granting U.S. institutions and students (all limited to the eight indicated Carnegie Classification categories).

	Institutions			Students		
	Civic Eng. Module	NSSE 2019	U.S. ^b	Civic Eng. Module	NSSE 2019	U.S. ^b
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Carnegie Basic Classification^c						
Doctoral Universities – Very high research activity	5	6	7	18	20	27
Doctoral Universities - High research activity	5	10	6	7	18	14
Doctoral/Professional Universities	14	13	7	19	17	11
Master's Colleges and Universities - Larger programs	31	26	25	30	25	28
Master's Colleges and Universities - Medium programs	19	15	13	12	8	7
Master's Colleges and Universities - Smaller programs	5	6	9	4	3	3
Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	17	12	15	6	5	4
Baccalaureate Colleges: Diverse Fields	5	12	18	3	4	5
Control						
Public	58	42	35	79	62	67
Private	42	58	65	21	38	33
Undergraduate enrollment						
Fewer than 1,000	7	12	21	2	3	2
1,000 – 2,499	27	33	32	11	14	10
2,500 – 4,999	27	21	17	17	14	11
5,000 – 9,999	22	17	14	29	20	18
10,000 – 19,999	12	10	9	23	21	23
20,000 or more	5	7	6	18	29	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 2018 IPEDS Institutional Characteristics file.

c. For information on the Carnegie Foundation's Basic Classification, see carnegieclassifications.iu.edu

NSSE 2019 Topical Modules

U.S. Summary Frequencies by Class and Sex

Civic Engagement

First-Year Students

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Response options	First-Year Students				Seniors							
			Female		Male		Total		Female		Male		Total	
			Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
1. Select the response that best represents your ability to do the following:														
a. Help people resolve their disagreements with each other	CIV01a19	1 Poor	106	1	66	2	172	2	92	1	81	2	173	1
		2	423	5	240	6	663	6	379	4	229	5	608	4
		3	2,358	30	1,104	30	3,465	30	2,479	26	1,280	26	3,761	26
		4	3,458	42	1,572	43	5,031	43	4,714	47	2,226	44	6,940	46
		5 Excellent	1,696	21	735	19	2,431	20	2,259	23	1,167	24	3,426	23
		Total	8,041	100	3,717	100	11,762	100	9,923	100	4,983	100	14,908	100
b. Resolve conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIV01b19	1 Poor	157	2	96	3	253	2	150	1	118	2	268	2
		2	773	10	414	11	1,187	10	827	8	450	9	1,277	8
		3	2,959	37	1,324	36	4,287	36	3,393	34	1,615	33	5,010	33
		4	2,793	35	1,277	34	4,070	35	3,852	39	1,874	37	5,726	38
		5 Excellent	1,363	17	608	16	1,971	16	1,692	17	936	19	2,628	18
		Total	8,045	100	3,719	100	11,768	100	9,914	100	4,993	100	14,909	100
c. Lead a group where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIV01c19	1 Poor	182	2	103	3	285	2	130	1	87	2	217	2
		2	627	8	320	9	947	8	458	5	250	5	708	5
		3	2,171	27	1,096	29	3,268	28	2,000	20	1,083	22	3,085	21
		4	2,983	37	1,320	36	4,306	36	4,132	42	1,934	38	6,066	40
		5 Excellent	2,083	26	867	23	2,950	25	3,202	33	1,636	34	4,838	33
		Total	8,046	100	3,706	100	11,756	100	9,922	100	4,990	100	14,914	100
d. Participate in a constructive dialogue with someone who disagrees with you	CIV01d19	1 Poor	160	2	65	2	225	2	99	1	69	1	168	1
		2	659	8	266	7	925	8	523	5	217	4	741	5
		3	2,530	32	1,048	29	3,580	30	2,602	26	1,098	22	3,701	25
		4	3,138	39	1,466	39	4,606	39	4,450	45	2,161	43	6,611	44
		5 Excellent	1,552	19	866	23	2,418	21	2,238	23	1,445	30	3,683	26
		Total	8,039	100	3,711	100	11,754	100	9,912	100	4,990	100	14,904	100
e. Contribute to the well-being of your community	CIV01e19	1 Poor	114	1	85	2	199	2	72	1	98	2	170	1
		2	422	5	301	9	723	7	371	4	278	6	649	5
		3	2,124	27	1,082	29	3,209	28	2,093	22	1,221	25	3,316	23
		4	3,317	41	1,423	38	4,741	40	4,187	42	2,000	39	6,187	41
		5 Excellent	2,064	25	818	21	2,882	24	3,195	32	1,397	28	4,592	30
		Total	8,041	100	3,709	100	11,754	100	9,918	100	4,994	100	14,914	100
2. How much does your institution emphasize the following?														
a. Discussing important social, economic, or political issues with others	CIV02a19	Very little	791	10	389	11	1,180	10	1,044	11	679	14	1,723	12
		Some	3,406	43	1,610	44	5,018	43	4,280	43	2,153	43	6,435	43
		Quite a bit	2,567	31	1,192	32	3,761	31	2,935	30	1,451	28	4,386	29
		Very much	1,252	15	514	14	1,766	15	1,628	17	695	14	2,323	16
		Total	8,016	100	3,705	100	11,725	100	9,887	100	4,978	100	14,867	100
b. Organizing activities focused on important social, economic, or political issues	CIV02b19	Very little	834	11	422	12	1,257	11	1,195	12	757	16	1,953	14
		Some	3,124	40	1,478	39	4,603	39	4,026	41	2,082	42	6,109	41
		Quite a bit	2,716	33	1,292	35	4,010	34	3,135	32	1,520	30	4,655	31
		Very much	1,331	16	498	14	1,829	15	1,511	15	620	13	2,131	14
		Total	8,005	100	3,690	100	11,699	100	9,867	100	4,979	100	14,848	100
c. Being an informed and active citizen	CIV02c19	Very little	601	8	315	9	916	8	901	9	573	12	1,474	11
		Some	2,699	34	1,276	34	3,976	34	3,544	36	1,837	37	5,383	36
		Quite a bit	3,017	37	1,422	38	4,442	38	3,418	35	1,670	33	5,088	34
		Very much	1,688	21	680	19	2,368	20	2,006	21	887	18	2,893	20
		Total	8,005	100	3,693	100	11,702	100	9,869	100	4,967	100	14,838	100

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

NSSE 2019 Topical Modules

U.S. Summary Frequencies by Class and Sex

Civic Engagement

First-Year Students

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Response options	First-Year Students				Seniors							
			Female		Male		Total		Female		Male		Total	
			Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
d. Being involved in an organization or group focused on important social, economic, or political issues	CIV02d19	Very little	884	12	415	12	1,299	12	1,308	13	777	17	2,086	15
		Some	2,921	37	1,413	38	4,336	38	3,859	39	2,025	40	5,885	40
		Quite a bit	2,712	33	1,316	35	4,030	34	3,107	31	1,500	29	4,607	30
		Very much	1,486	18	546	15	2,032	17	1,596	16	668	14	2,264	15
		Total	8,003	100	3,690	100	11,697	100	9,870	100	4,970	100	14,842	100
e. Voting in campus, local, state, or national elections	CIV02e19	Very little	689	9	382	10	1,071	9	1,063	11	676	13	1,739	12
		Some	2,061	25	1,059	28	3,122	27	2,899	28	1,549	31	4,449	29
		Quite a bit	2,791	35	1,323	35	4,116	35	3,299	34	1,624	33	4,924	34
		Very much	2,461	31	922	26	3,383	29	2,613	27	1,112	23	3,725	25
		Total	8,002	100	3,686	100	11,692	100	9,874	100	4,961	100	14,837	100
f. Encouraging free speech and expression	CIV02e19	Very little	458	6	289	8	747	7	690	7	548	11	1,238	9
		Some	1,999	25	942	26	2,944	25	2,720	27	1,413	28	4,134	27
		Quite a bit	3,103	39	1,436	39	4,540	39	3,813	39	1,732	34	5,546	37
		Very much	2,452	30	1,023	28	3,475	29	2,657	27	1,280	27	3,937	27
		Total	8,012	100	3,690	100	11,706	100	9,880	100	4,973	100	14,855	100
3. How much do you feel encouraged addressing important social, economic, or political issues in the following?														
a. In course assignments	CIV03a19	Very little	850	12	435	13	1,285	12	1,179	12	890	20	2,069	16
		Some	3,092	38	1,470	40	4,566	39	3,580	36	1,838	36	5,420	36
		Quite a bit	2,811	35	1,275	34	4,086	35	3,236	32	1,449	28	4,685	30
		Very much	1,240	15	510	13	1,750	14	1,888	19	795	16	2,683	18
		Total	7,993	100	3,690	100	11,687	100	9,883	100	4,972	100	14,857	100
b. In course discussions	CIV03b19	Very little	834	12	432	12	1,266	12	1,093	12	824	18	1,917	14
		Some	2,851	35	1,363	37	4,217	36	3,237	33	1,672	34	4,911	33
		Quite a bit	2,956	37	1,352	36	4,309	36	3,486	34	1,575	31	5,061	33
		Very much	1,359	16	541	14	1,900	15	2,059	21	889	18	2,948	20
		Total	8,000	100	3,688	100	11,692	100	9,875	100	4,960	100	14,837	100
c. Outside of class	CIV03c19	Very little	928	12	485	14	1,413	13	1,162	12	754	16	1,916	14
		Some	2,997	37	1,445	40	4,446	39	3,512	35	1,803	36	5,316	36
		Quite a bit	2,688	34	1,196	31	3,884	32	3,342	34	1,521	30	4,864	32
		Very much	1,393	17	567	15	1,960	16	1,850	19	889	18	2,739	19
		Total	8,006	100	3,693	100	11,703	100	9,866	100	4,967	100	14,835	100
4. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?														
a. Informed yourself about campus or local issues	CIV04a19	Never	514	7	282	9	796	8	752	8	426	9	1,179	8
		Sometimes	3,141	39	1,532	42	4,677	41	3,980	41	1,935	40	5,915	40
		Often	3,071	38	1,365	36	4,436	37	3,373	33	1,674	32	5,048	33
		Very often	1,275	16	505	13	1,780	15	1,766	18	929	19	2,695	18
		Total	8,001	100	3,684	100	11,689	100	9,871	100	4,964	100	14,837	100
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIV04b19	Never	487	6	182	5	669	6	397	4	190	4	587	4
		Sometimes	3,088	38	1,242	34	4,333	36	3,242	32	1,313	26	4,556	30
		Often	2,808	35	1,398	37	4,207	36	3,599	36	1,813	36	5,412	36
		Very often	1,600	20	863	24	2,463	22	2,635	27	1,648	34	4,284	30
		Total	7,983	100	3,685	100	11,672	100	9,873	100	4,964	100	14,839	100
c. Discussed campus or local issues with others	CIV04c19	Never	771	11	386	12	1,157	11	1,064	12	560	12	1,625	12
		Sometimes	3,263	42	1,580	44	4,847	43	4,027	42	2,031	42	6,058	42
		Often	2,634	32	1,209	31	3,843	32	3,070	30	1,471	28	4,542	29
		Very often	1,306	16	502	13	1,808	15	1,694	17	900	18	2,594	17
		Total	7,974	100	3,677	100	11,655	100	9,855	100	4,962	100	14,819	100

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

NSSE 2019 Topical Modules

U.S. Summary Frequencies by Class and Sex

Civic Engagement

Item wording or description	Variable name	Response options	First-Year Students						Seniors					
			Female		Male		Total		Female		Male		Total	
			Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIV04d19	Never	755	10	295	9	1,050	9	604	6	299	6	904	6
		Sometimes	3,322	41	1,450	39	4,776	40	3,807	38	1,691	35	5,498	37
		Often	2,516	32	1,259	34	3,775	32	3,287	33	1,694	33	4,981	33
		Very often	1,399	18	677	18	2,076	18	2,166	22	1,281	26	3,448	24
		Total	7,992	100	3,681	100	11,677	100	9,864	100	4,965	100	14,831	100
e. Raised awareness about campus or local issues	CIV04e19	Never	3,032	39	1,357	39	4,392	39	3,465	36	1,739	37	5,205	36
		Sometimes	2,939	36	1,421	38	4,361	37	3,802	38	1,895	38	5,698	38
		Often	1,355	17	647	16	2,002	17	1,673	16	843	16	2,516	16
		Very often	649	8	254	6	903	7	921	9	480	10	1,401	9
		Total	7,975	100	3,679	100	11,658	100	9,861	100	4,957	100	14,820	100
f. Raised awareness about state, national, or global issues	CIV04f19	Never	2,899	37	1,253	36	4,154	36	2,990	30	1,466	31	4,457	30
		Sometimes	3,033	38	1,349	35	4,384	37	3,936	40	1,866	37	5,803	39
		Often	1,339	17	746	20	2,085	18	1,867	19	1,017	20	2,884	19
		Very often	709	9	328	9	1,037	9	1,067	11	609	12	1,676	12
		Total	7,980	100	3,676	100	11,660	100	9,860	100	4,958	100	14,820	100
g. Asked others to address campus or local issues	CIV04g19	Never	3,632	47	1,637	47	5,272	47	4,482	47	2,192	46	6,675	46
		Sometimes	2,610	32	1,235	32	3,846	32	3,341	33	1,639	32	4,981	33
		Often	1,181	14	576	15	1,757	15	1,324	13	758	14	2,082	14
		Very often	543	7	224	6	767	6	703	7	373	8	1,076	7
		Total	7,966	100	3,672	100	11,642	100	9,850	100	4,962	100	14,814	100
h. Asked others to address state, national, or global issues	CIV04h19	Never	3,698	47	1,605	45	5,305	46	4,313	44	2,050	43	6,364	44
		Sometimes	2,567	32	1,208	33	3,777	32	3,366	34	1,662	33	5,029	33
		Often	1,144	14	605	15	1,749	15	1,408	14	818	16	2,226	15
		Very often	558	7	257	7	815	7	770	8	415	9	1,185	8
		Total	7,967	100	3,675	100	11,646	100	9,857	100	4,945	100	14,804	100
i. Organized others to work on campus or local issues	CIV04i19	Never	4,876	62	2,077	58	6,956	60	5,988	63	2,852	60	8,841	61
		Sometimes	1,855	23	945	25	2,801	24	2,342	23	1,201	23	3,544	23
		Often	835	10	458	12	1,293	11	960	9	609	12	1,569	10
		Very often	385	5	188	5	573	5	532	5	286	6	818	6
		Total	7,951	100	3,668	100	11,623	100	9,822	100	4,948	100	14,772	100
j. Organized others to work on state, national, or global issues	CIV04j19	Never	5,015	64	2,117	60	7,135	62	6,108	64	2,888	61	8,998	62
		Sometimes	1,756	22	909	24	2,665	23	2,323	23	1,182	23	3,505	23
		Often	767	9	431	11	1,198	10	839	9	550	11	1,389	10
		Very often	365	4	181	5	546	5	490	5	276	6	766	5
		Total	7,903	100	3,638	100	11,544	100	9,760	100	4,896	100	14,658	100

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

NSSE 2019 Topical Modules

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

Civic Engagement

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
1. Select the response that best represents your ability to do the following:													
a. Help people resolve their disagreements with each other	CIV01a19	3.76	.89	3.71	.92	3.74	.91	3.87	.84	3.84	.90	3.86	.86
b. Resolve conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIV01b19	3.54	.95	3.50	.98	3.52	.96	3.62	.91	3.62	.97	3.62	.94
c. Lead a group in which people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIV01c19	3.77	1.00	3.68	1.02	3.73	1.01	3.99	.91	3.97	.96	3.99	.93
d. Participate in a constructive dialogue with someone who disagrees with you	CIV01d19	3.65	.95	3.75	.96	3.69	.95	3.83	.87	3.95	.90	3.88	.89
e. Contribute to the well-being of your community	CIV01e19	3.83	.92	3.67	.99	3.76	.95	4.01	.87	3.85	.96	3.94	.91
2. How much does your institution emphasize the following?													
a. Discussing important social, economic, or political issues with others	CIV02a19	2.52	.88	2.49	.86	2.50	.87	2.52	.89	2.42	.90	2.48	.90
b. Organizing activities focused on important social, economic, or political issues	CIV02b19	2.55	.89	2.51	.87	2.53	.88	2.50	.90	2.39	.90	2.45	.90
c. Being an informed and active citizen	CIV02c19	2.71	.88	2.67	.88	2.69	.88	2.66	.90	2.57	.93	2.62	.92
d. Being involved in an organization or group focused on important social, economic, or political issues	CIV02d19	2.58	.92	2.53	.89	2.56	.90	2.50	.92	2.40	.92	2.46	.92
e. Voting in campus, local, state, or national elections	CIV02e19	2.88	.95	2.78	.95	2.84	.95	2.77	.96	2.67	.97	2.73	.97
f. Encouraging free speech and expression	CIV02f19	2.93	.89	2.87	.91	2.90	.90	2.86	.89	2.78	.97	2.82	.93
3. How much do you feel encouraged addressing important social, economic, or political issues in the following?													
a. In course assignments	CIV03a19	2.54	.89	2.48	.88	2.51	.88	2.59	.93	2.41	.98	2.51	.96
b. In course discussions	CIV03b19	2.58	.90	2.52	.88	2.55	.89	2.64	.94	2.49	.98	2.58	.96
c. Outside of class	CIV03c19	2.56	.91	2.48	.91	2.52	.91	2.60	.92	2.50	.96	2.56	.94

NSSE 2019 Topical Modules

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

Civic Engagement

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
4. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?													
a. Informed yourself about campus or local issues	CIV04a19	2.62	.83	2.54	.83	2.58	.83	2.61	.87	2.62	.89	2.61	.88
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIV04b19	2.70	.86	2.79	.86	2.74	.86	2.87	.86	3.00	.87	2.93	.87
c. Discussed campus or local issues with others	CIV04c19	2.53	.88	2.44	.87	2.49	.88	2.52	.90	2.52	.91	2.52	.91
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIV04d19	2.57	.89	2.61	.88	2.59	.89	2.71	.88	2.79	.90	2.75	.89
e. Raised awareness about campus or local issues	CIV04e19	1.93	.93	1.90	.90	1.92	.92	1.99	.95	1.99	.96	1.99	.95
f. Raised awareness about state, national, or global issues	CIV04f19	1.97	.94	2.01	.95	1.99	.95	2.10	.96	2.14	.99	2.12	.97
g. Asked others to address campus or local issues	CIV04g19	1.80	.91	1.79	.90	1.80	.91	1.80	.91	1.84	.94	1.82	.92
h. Asked others to address state, national, or global issues	CIV04h19	1.81	.92	1.85	.93	1.82	.93	1.85	.93	1.90	.96	1.87	.94
i. Organized others to work on campus or local issues	CIV04i19	1.58	.85	1.63	.87	1.60	.86	1.58	.87	1.64	.91	1.60	.89
j. Organized others to work on state, national, or global issues	CIV04j19	1.54	.84	1.61	.86	1.57	.85	1.55	.85	1.62	.89	1.58	.87

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

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