Topical Module:  
First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions  

This module includes a set of items only for first-year students and a set only for seniors, with questions adapted from the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement and the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project, respectively. The first-year items focus on academic perseverance, help-seeking behaviors, and institutional commitment, while the senior items explore post-graduation plans, links between the academic major and future plans, and confidence in skill development.

**FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCES**

1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very often</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Studied when there were other interesting things to do</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Found additional information for course assignments when you didn’t understand the material</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Participated in course discussions, even when you didn’t feel like it</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Asked instructors for help when you struggled with course assignments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Finished something you had started when you encountered challenges</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Stayed positive, even when you did poorly on a test or assignment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. During the current school year, how difficult have the following been for you?
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not at all difficult</th>
<th>Very difficult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Learning course material</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Managing your time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Getting help with school work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Interacting with faculty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. During the current school year, about how often have you sought help with coursework from the following sources?
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very often</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Faculty members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Academic advisors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Learning support services (tutoring, writing center, success coaching, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Friends or other students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Family members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Other persons or offices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4a. During the current school year, have you seriously considered leaving this institution?
   
   o Yes
   o No

   [Only if “Yes”]

   4b. Why did you consider leaving? (Select all that apply.)
   
   - Academics are too difficult
   - Academics are too easy
   - Other academic issues (major not offered, course availability, advising, credit transfer, etc.)
   - Financial concerns (costs or financial aid)
   - To change your career options (transfer to another school or program, military service, etc.)
   - Difficulty managing demands of school and work
   - Too much emphasis on partying
   - Not enough opportunities to socialize and have fun
   - Relations with faculty and staff
   - Relations with other students
   - Campus climate, location, or culture
   - Unsafe or hostile environment
   - Personal reasons (family issues, physical or mental health, homesickness, stress, etc.)
   - Another reason, please specify: __________________

5. How important is it to you that you graduate from this institution?
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SENIOR TRANSITIONS

1. Do you expect to graduate this spring or summer?
   - Yes
   - No

   1a. After graduation, what best describes your immediate plans?
       - Full-time employment
       - Part-time employment
       - Graduate or professional school
       - Military service
       - Service or volunteer activity (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.)
       - Internship (paid or unpaid)
       - Travel or gap year
       - No plans at this time
       - Other, please specify: ____________________________

   [Only if “Full-time employment” or “Part-time employment” are selected:]
   1b. Do you already have a job for after graduation?
       - No
       - Yes, I will start a new job
       - Yes, I will continue in my current job

2. To what extent have courses in your major(s) prepared you for your post-graduation plans?
   - Very much
   - Quite a bit
   - Some
   - Very little

3. Do you intend to work eventually in a field related to your major(s)?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Unsure

4. Do you plan to be self-employed, an independent contractor, or a freelance worker someday?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Unsure

5. Do you plan to start your own business (nonprofit or for-profit) someday?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Unsure

6. How much confidence do you have in your ability to complete tasks requiring the following skills and abilities?

   a. Critical thinking and analysis of arguments and information
      - Very much
      - Quite a bit
      - Some
      - Very little
   b. Creative thinking and problem solving
      - Very much
      - Quite a bit
      - Some
      - Very little
   c. Research skills
      - Very much
      - Quite a bit
      - Some
      - Very little
   d. Clear writing
      - Very much
      - Quite a bit
      - Some
      - Very little
   e. Persuasive speaking
      - Very much
      - Quite a bit
      - Some
      - Very little
   f. Technological skills
      - Very much
      - Quite a bit
      - Some
      - Very little
   g. Financial and business management skills
      - Very much
      - Quite a bit
      - Some
      - Very little
   h. Entrepreneurial skills
      - Very much
      - Quite a bit
      - Some
      - Very little
   i. Leadership skills
      - Very much
      - Quite a bit
      - Some
      - Very little
   j. Networking and relationship building
      - Very much
      - Quite a bit
      - Some
      - Very little
7. To what extent has your coursework in your major(s) emphasized the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very much</th>
<th>Quite a bit</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Very little</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Generating new ideas or brainstorming</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Taking risks in your coursework without fear of penalty</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Evaluating multiple approaches to a problem</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Inventing new methods to arrive at unconventional solutions</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Is there anything your institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or further education? Please describe. (5,000 character limit)