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**NSSE 2023 Data Codebooks**

**First-Year Experiences & Senior Transitions   
Topical Module**

This module includes a set of items only for first-year students and a set only for seniors (based on institution-reported class level), with questions adapted from the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement and the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (with partial support from the National Endowment for the Arts), 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.

Survey questions are listed in the order that students received them. Response options appear in italics beneath. Variable names appear in brackets (e.g., [FYSfy01a]) after each item. Items that are recoded (e.g., reversed response values) or derived (new computed values such as age category or total number of written pages) from original question(s) are shaded and prefaced by a bracket and the word "RECODED" or "DERIVED."   
  
NSSE codebooks correspond to the final data we deliver in the summer and contain information on variables (EIs, recodes, derived variables, etc.) not included in the raw data files available for download in the spring. Like NSSE data, codebooks are subject to revision until the Institutional Report is delivered in August.

First-Year Experiences Module

Note: Item set was given to first-year students as identified by institution-reported class (IRclass=1).

# 1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?

Response options: Never=1, Sometimes=2, Often=3, Very often=4

a. Studied when there were other interesting things to do [FYSfy01a]

b. Found additional information for course assignments when you didn't understand the material [FYSfy01b]

c. Participated in course discussions, even when you didn’t feel like it [FYSfy01c]

d. Asked instructors for help when you struggled with course assignments [FYSfy01d]

e. Finished something you have started when you encountered challenges [FYSfy01e]

f. Stayed positive, even when you did poorly on a test or assignment [FYSfy01f]

# 2. During the current school year, how difficult have the following been for you?

Response options: Not at all difficult=1, 2=2, 3=3, 4=4, 5=5, Very difficult=6

a. Learning course material [FYSfy02a]

b. Managing your time [FYSfy02b]

c. Getting help with school work [FYSfy02c]

d. Interacting with faculty [FYSfy02d]

# 3. During the current school year, about how often have you sought help with coursework from the following sources?

Response options: Never=1, Sometimes=2, Often=3, Very often=4

a. Faculty members [FYSfy03a\_16]

b. Academic advisors [FYSfy03b\_16]

c. Learning support services (tutoring, writing center, success coaching, etc.) [FYSfy03c\_16]

d. Friends or other students [FYSfy03d\_16]

e. Family members [FYSfy03e\_16]

f. Other persons or offices [FYSfy03f\_16]

**4. During the current school year, did you take a course intended for first-year students as described below?**

*Response options: 1=Yes, 2=No, 3=Unsure*

a. A course that introduces students to college and helps develop success skills (study skills, goal setting, time management, etc.) [FYSfycourse]

b. A first-year seminar or other course focused on a specialized topic or academic subject that emphasizes discussion and analysis [FYSfyseminar]

[RECODED] Dichotomous flag for Yes to taking a course that introduces students to college and success skills [FYSfycourseR]

Values: No or unsure=0, Yes=1

[RECODED] Dichotomous flag for Yes to taking a first-year seminar or other course focused on special topics and subjects [FYSfyseminarR]

Values: No or unsure=0, Yes=1

# 5a. During the current school year, have you seriously considered leaving this institution? [FYSfy04a]

Response options: No=0, Yes=1

# 5b. Why did you consider leaving? (Select all that apply.)

Response options: Not selected=0, Selected=1, Student did not receive this question (coded as missing)=-9

* Academics are too difficult [FYSfy04b\_1\_16]
* Academics are too easy [FYSfy04b\_2\_16]
* Other academic issues (major not offered, course availability, advising, credit transfer, etc.) [FYSfy04b\_3\_16]
* Financial concerns (costs or financial aid) [FYSfy04b\_4\_16]
* To change your career options (transfer to another school or program, military service, etc.) [FYSfy04b\_5\_16]
* Difficulty managing demands of school and work [FYSfy04b\_6\_16]
* Too much emphasis on partying [FYSfy04b\_7\_16]
* Not enough opportunities to socialize and have fun [FYSfy04b\_8\_16]
* Experiences with faculty and staff [FYSfy04b\_9\_16]
* Experiences with other students [FYSfy04b\_10\_16]
* Campus climate, location, or culture [FYSfy04b\_11\_16]
* Unsafe or hostile environment [FYSfy04b\_12\_16]
* Personal reasons (family issues, physical or mental health, homesickness, stress, etc.) [FYSfy04b\_13\_16]
* A reason not listed above, please specify: [FYSfy04b\_14\_16]

Note: item was only given if respondent selected "Yes" on item 5a.

- A reason not listed above, please specify: [FYSfy04b\_14\_16\_txt]

Response options: Text box; Student did not receive this question=-9

Note: Item was only given if the student selected 'A reason not listed above, please specify' in item 5b (FYSfy04b\_14\_16)

# 6. How important is it to you that you graduate from this institution? [FYSfy05]

Response options: Not important=1, 2=2, 3=3, 4=4, 5=5, Very important=6

Senior Transitions Module

Note: Item set was given to seniors as identified by institution-reported class (IRclass=4).

# Do you expect to graduate this spring or summer? [FYSsr01\_16]

Response options: No=0, Yes=1

# 1a. After graduation, what best describes your immediate plans? [FYSsr01a]

Response options: Full-time employment=1, Part-time employment=2, Graduate or professional school=3, Military service=4, Service or volunteer activity (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.)=5, Internship (paid or unpaid)=6, Travel or gap year=7, No plans at this time=8, Other, please specify:=9

# - Immediate plans: Other, please specify: [FYSsr01a\_txt]

Response option: Text box

# 1b. Do you already have a job for after graduation? [FYSsr01b]

Response options: No=1; Yes, I will start a new job=2; Yes, I will continue in my current job=3; Student did not receive this question (coded as missing) =-9

Note: item was only given if respondent selected "Full-time employment" or "Part-time employment" on item 1a.

# 2. To what extent have courses in your major(s) prepared you for your post-graduation plans? [FYSsr02]

Response options: Very little=1, Some=2, Quite a bit=3, Very much=4

# 3. Do you intend to work eventually in a field related to your major(s)? [FYSsr03]

Response options: Yes=1, No=2, Unsure=3

[RECODED] Flag for 'Do you intend to work eventually in a field related to your major(s)?' Yes response [FYSsr03R]

Values: No or Unsure=0, Yes=1

# 4. Do you plan to be self-employed, an independent contractor, or a freelance worker someday? [FYSsr04]

Response options: Yes=1, No=2, Unsure=3

[RECODED] Flag for 'Do you plan to be self-employed, an independent contractor, or a freelance worker someday?' Yes response [FYSsr04R]

Values: No or Unsure=0, Yes=1

# 5. Do you plan to start your own business (nonprofit or for-profit) someday? [FYSsr05]

Response options: Yes=1, No=2, Unsure=3

[RECODED] Flag for 'Do you plan to start your own business (nonprofit or for-profit) someday? [FYSsr05R]

Values: No or Unsure=0, Yes=1

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

Response options: Very little=1, Some=2, Quite a bit=3, Very much=4

a. Critical thinking and analysis of arguments and information [FYSsr06a]

b. Creative thinking and problem solving [FYSsr06b]

c. Research skills [FYSsr06c]

d. Clear writing [FYSsr06d]

e. Persuasive speaking [FYSsr06e]

f. Technological skills [FYSsr06f]

g. Financial and business management skills [FYSsr06g]

h. Entrepreneurial skills [FYSsr06h]

i. Leadership skills [FYSsr06i]

j. Networking and relationship building [FYSsr06j]

# 7. To what extent has your coursework in your major(s) emphasized the following?

Response options: Very little=1, Some=2, Quite a bit=3, Very much=4

a. Generating new ideas or brainstorming [FYSsr07a]

b. Taking risks in your coursework without fear of penalty [FYSsr07b]

c. Evaluating multiple approaches to a problem [FYSsr07c]

d. Inventing new methods to arrive at unconventional solutions [FYSsr07d]

8. Have you been creating an ePortfolio or other collection that includes samples of your work over time, shows your progress, and helps you reflect on the knowledge and skills you have gained? [FYSsr09\_21]

*Response options: 1=Yes, 2=No, 3=Unsure*

[RECODED] Flag for 'Have you been creating an ePortfolio or other collection that includes samples of your work over time, shows your progress, and helps you reflect on the knowledge and skills you have gained?' Yes response [FYSsr09\_21R]

Values: No or Unsure=0, Yes=1

# 9. Is there anything your institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or further education? Please describe. (5,000 character limit; At the end of the survey, you will have an opportunity to comment on your overall experience at this institution.) [FYSsr08\_txt]

Response option: Text box

Note: Responses to item 9 (FYSsr08\_txt) are provided in the SPSS data file and the "Student Comments" report.

[DERIVED] Respondent wrote in a comment for *FYSsr08\_txt* [FYSsr08comment]

Values: Did not comment=0, Did leave comment=1

Note: Item found in the Student Comments data file