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**NSSE 2025 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). Questions were originally 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, and then updated for 2025. The first-year questions ask students to report on academic support, goals, and institutional commitment. The senior items explore confidence in skill development, post-graduation plans, and student loan debt.

Survey questions are listed in the order that students received them. Response options appear in italics beneath. Variable names appear in brackets (e.g., [FYsuccesslearn]) 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, how often were you successful:

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

a. Learning course material [FYsuccesslearn]

b. Managing your time [FYsuccesstime]

c. Getting help with school work [FYsuccesshelp]

d. Interacting with faculty [FYsuccessfac]

e. Interacting with peers [FYsuccesspeer]

# 2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Response options: Strongly agree=4, Agree=3, Disagree=2, Strongly disagree=1

a. I am clear in what I want to major in. [FYclearmaj]

b. I am clear about my career goals. [FYcleargoals]

c. I am clear about who I want to become. [FYclearbecome]

d. At least one instructor or staff member is genuinely interested in me as a person. [FYinstperson]

e. At least one of my peers or classmates is genuinely interested in me as a person. [FYpeerperson]

f. My instructors support my learning. [FYinstlearn]

 g. Other students support my learning. [FYstudlearn]

 h. My instructors are open to my ideas and contributions to class discussions. [FYinstopen]

 i. Other students are open to my ideas and contributions to class discussions. [FYstudopen]

 j. There are students at my institution with backgrounds, identities, and cultures similar to mine. [FYsimculture]

 k. There are students at my institution with interests similar to mine. [FYsiminterest]

**3. During the current school year, how often have you sought support from the following?**

*Response options: Very often=4, Often=3, Sometimes=2, Rarely=1, Never=0, Not available/Not applicable (coded as missing)=9*

a. Faculty members, academic advisors, or learning support services (tutoring, writing center, etc.) [FYsupfac]

b. Student support services (residence life staff, success coaches, peer mentors, etc.) [FYsupserv]

 c. Counseling/health center [FYsupcounsel]

 d. Career services office [FYsupcareer]

 e. Financial Aid office [FYsupfinaid]

 f. Your cultural community (identity-based, faith-based, hometown group, etc.) [FYsupcomm]

[RECODED] To accommodate SAS users, recodes of question 3 are included in the data file to include “Not available/ Not applicable” as a valid response.

Values: Very often=4, Often=3, Sometimes=2, Rarely=1, Never=0, Not available/Not applicable=9

- Faculty members, academic advisors, or learning support services (tutoring, writing center, etc.) [FYsupfacR]

- Student support services (residence life staff, success coaches, peer mentors, etc.) [FYsupservR]

- Counseling/health center [FYsupcounselR]

- Career services office [FYsupcareerR]

- Financial Aid office [FYsupfinaidR]

- Your cultural community (identity-based, faith-based, hometown group, etc.) [FYsupcommR]

# 4a. During the current school year did you take a course or seminar for first-year students? [FYseminar]

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

[RECODED] Dichotomous flag for Yes to taking a course or seminar for first-year students [FYseminarR]

Values: Yes=1, No or unsure=0

# 4b. What topics did this course cover? (Select all that apply.)

Response options: Not selected=0, Selected=1

* Additional orientation information relevant to your campus [FYsem\_oreint]
* College success skills (study skills, time management, communication skills, reading skills, goal setting, etc.) [FYsem\_skills]
* Specialized academic content related to your major [FYsem\_specmajor]
* A specialized theme or academic content that emphasizes discussion [FYsem\_theme]

Note: item was only given if respondent selected "Yes" or “Unsure” on item 4a.

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

Response options: No=0, Yes=1

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

Response options: Not selected=0, Selected=1

* Personal reasons (family issues, physical or mental health, homesickness, stress, etc.) [FYleave\_pers]
* Academics (major not offered, academic difficulty, course availability, advising, etc.) [FYleave\_acad]
* Financial concerns [FYleave\_finan]
* Job or military service [FYleave\_job]
* Difficulty managing demands of school and other personal obligations [FYleave\_manage]
* Not enough opportunities to socialize and have fun [FYleave\_social]
* Experiences with faculty and staff [FYleave\_expfac]
* Experiences with other students [FYleave\_expstud]
* Experiences with discrimination [FYleave\_expdisc]
* Campus climate or culture [FYleave\_climate]
* Institution’s location [FYleave\_instloc]
* Personal safety [FYleave\_safety]
* Feeling that you don’t fit in or belong at your institution [FYleave\_belong]
* Educational materials or campus space are inaccessible [FYleave\_inaccess]
* College just doesn’t seem worth it [FYleave\_worth]
* A reason not listed above, please specify: [FYleave\_oth]

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

- A reason not listed above, please specify: [FYleave\_oth\_txt]

Response options: Text box

Note: Item was only given if the student selected 'A reason not listed above, please specify' in item 5b

# 6. What has most helped you succeed at this institution? [FYhelpsucceed\_txt]

Response option: Text box

Note: Responses to item 6 (FYhelpsucceed\_txt) are provided in the SPSS data file and the "Student Comments" report.

Senior Transitions Module

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

# 1. 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 [SRskillcritical]

b. Creative thinking and problem solving [SRskillcreative]

c. Research skills [SRskillres]

d. Clear writing [SRskillwrite]

e. Communication for specific audiences or purposes [SRskillcomm]

f. Leadership skills [SRskilllead]

g. Technological skills [SRskilltech]

h. Financial, business management, and entrepreneurial skills [SRskillfinan]

i. Networking and relationship building [SRskillnetwork]

# 2. 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 [SRcrsideas]

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

c. Evaluating multiple approaches to a problem [SRcrsproblem]

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

**3. Which of the following types of honors have you achieved or are you currently participating in at your institution? (Select all that apply.)**

*Response options: Not selected=0, Selected=1*

* Dean’s List or other recognition for high GPA [SRhon\_deans]
* Honors program with a special honors curriculum or honors program/college completion requirements [SRhon\_curr]
* Honors track in your major or department [SRhon\_dept]
* Collegiate honor society specific to your major or discipline [SRhon\_disc]
* Collegiate honor society for leadership or general academic achievement outside of your major or discipline (Mortar Board, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, etc.) [SRhon\_gen]
* Other, please specify: [SRhon\_oth]
* You have not been involved in or received any of these [SRhon\_none]

- Other, please specify: [SRhon\_oth\_txt]

Response options: Text box

Note: Item was only given if the student selected 'Other, please specify' in item 3

# 4. Do you expect to graduate this spring or summer? [SRexpectgrad]

Response options: No=0, Yes=1

# 5. After graduation, what best describes your immediate plans? (Select all that apply.)

*Response options: Not selected=0, Selected=1*

* Full-time employment [SRplan\_fulltime]
* Part-time employment [SRplan\_parttime]
* Graduate or professional school (Master’s degree, J.D., Ph.D., M.D., veterinary school, nursing, post-baccalaureate program, etc.) [SRplan\_grad]
* Continuing undergraduate education (second major, minor, pre-requisites, etc.) [SRplan\_uged]
* Pursue a vocational degree/AA (trade school, certification exam, certificate, etc.) [SRplan\_vocdeg]
* Internship (paid or unpaid) [SRplan\_intern]
* Start my own business or self-employment [SRplan\_selfemp]
* Military service [SRplan\_military]
* Service or volunteer activity (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.) [SRplan\_service]
* Caregiver for family and/or others [SRplan\_care]
* Travel [SRplan\_travel]
* Unsure [SRplan\_unsure]
* Other, please specify: [SRplan\_oth]

- Other, please specify: [SRplan\_oth\_txt]

Response options: Text box

Note: Item was only given if the student selected 'Other, please specify' in item 5

# 6. Do you already have a job for after graduation? [SRjobafter]

Response options: No, I am still searching =1; Yes, I will start a new job=2; Yes, I will continue in my current job=3

Note: item was only given if respondent selected "Full-time employment" or "Part-time employment" on item 5.

[RECODED] Dichotomous flag for Yes to 'Do you already have a job for after graduation?' [SRjobafterR]

 Values: Yes, I will start a new job or Yes, I will continue in my current job=1, No, I am still searching=0

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

Response options: Not at all=0, Very little=1, Some=2, Quite a bit=3, Very much=4

# 8. How closely related are your post-graduation plans to your major(s)? [SRmajorclose]

Response options: Not at all=0, Very little=1, Some=2, Quite a bit=3, Very much=4

# 9. Do you plan to be self-employed, an independent contractor, a freelance worker, or start your own business someday? [SRownbus]

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

[RECODED] Dichotomous flag for Yes to 'Do you plan to be self-employed, an independent contractor, a freelance worker, or start your own business someday?' [SRownbusR]

 Values: Yes=1, No or Unsure=0

# 10. How much loan debt will you graduate with after completing your undergraduate degree(s)? [SRloandebt]

*Response options: None=0, $10,000 or less=1, $10,001 to $20,000=2, $20,001 to $30,000=3, $30,001 to $40,000=4, $40,001 to $50,000=5, $50,001 to $60,000=6, More than $60,000=7, I have loan debt but don’t know the amount=8, I prefer not to respond=9*

[RECODED] SRloandebt was recoded using the midpoints of response ranges and an estimate for the unbounded option, and removing the non-numeric options. Recoded values represent the amount of student loan debt [SRloannum]

 Values: None=0, $10,000 or less=5,000, $10,001 to $20,000=15,000, $20,001 to $30,000=25,000, $30,001 to $40,000=35,000, $40,001 to $50,000=45,000, $50,001 to $60,000=65,000, More than $60,000=70,000

#  11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Response options: Strongly agree=4, Agree=3, Disagree=2, Strongly disagree=1

a. Considering the *total cost* of my undergraduate education, attending my institution was a good investment. [SRinvestment]

b. My post-graduation plans and decisions have been impacted by student loan debt. [SRimpactdebt]

c. I worry about making enough money to cover my cost of living (including any student loan payments) after graduation. [SRcostliving]

d. I have experienced difficulty in paying for my college or university expenses. [SRdiffpaying]

# 12. If you could start over again, would you:

Response options: Definitely yes=4, Probably yes=3, Probably no=2, Definitely no=1

a. Choose a different major (or field)? [SRagainmajor]

b. Pursue a bachelor’s degree? [SRagainbach]

c. Pursue *any* postsecondary education (including community college, associates degrees, certificate programs)? [SRagainpostsec]