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# **NSSE 2020 Topical Module Report Development of Transferable Skills**

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

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## About This Topical Module

Adapted from a pilot survey that was developed by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, this module examines activities that develop useful and transferable skills for the workplace (such as verbal and written fluency and analytic inquiry). The module complements questions on the core survey about higher-order learning, reflective and integrative learning, and students' perceptions of their development in a variety of areas. Complementary FSSE set available.

## Comparison Group

This section summarizes how this module's comparison group was identified, including selection criteria and whether the default option was taken. This is followed by the resulting list of institutions represented in the 'Transferable Skills' column of this report.

Group label	Transferable Skills
Date submitted	5/28/20
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution retained the default comparison group (all module participants).
Group description	All other current- and prior-year (if applicable) NSSE institutions who administered module "Development of Transferable Skills" (n=84)

## Transferable Skills (N=83)

Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA)*	Missouri State University (Springfield, MO)*
American InterContinental University-Online (Schaumburg, IL)*	Mount St. Mary's University (Emmitsburg, MD)*
Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, TN)*	Newman University (Wichita, KS)
Babson College (Babson Park, MA)	North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC)
Bellevue University (Bellevue, NE)*	Purdue University Global (Davenport, IA)*
Bethany Lutheran College (Mankato, MN)	Quest University Canada (Squamish, BC)
California Institute of the Arts (Valencia, CA)	Reinhardt University (Waleska, GA)*
Cameron University (Lawton, OK)*	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY)
Carson-Newman University (Jefferson City, TN)*	Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing (Peoria, IL)
Catawba College (Salisbury, NC)	Saint Louis University (Saint Louis, MO)
Columbia College (Columbia, MO)*	Saint Norbert College (De Pere, WI)
Covenant College (Lookout Mountain, GA)	Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, GA)*
CUNY Hunter College (New York, NY)*	St. Catherine University (Saint Paul, MN)
Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown, PA)	St. John's University-New York (Queens, NY)
Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI)	Suffolk University (Boston, MA)
Francis Marion University (Florence, SC)	SUNY College at Plattsburgh (Plattsburgh, NY)
Harrisburg University of Science and Technology (Harrisburg, PA)*	SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill (Cobleskill, NY)
John Carroll University (University Heights, OH)	Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville, TN)
Kent State University at Stark (Canton, OH)	Texas A&M University - Texarkana (Texarkana, TX)
LaGrange College (Lagrange, GA)	Tyndale University (Toronto, ON)
Lakehead University (Thunder Bay, ON)	Union College (Barbourville, KY)*
Lane College (Jackson, TN)	Union College (NE) (Lincoln, NE)*
Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA)*	United States Military Academy (West Point, NY)
Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles, CA)	University of Guelph (Guelph, ON)
Marietta College (Marietta, OH)	University of Guelph-Humber (Toronto, ON)
Meredith College (Raleigh, NC)	University of Holy Cross (New Orleans, LA)
Messiah College (Mechanicsburg, PA)	University of Houston (Houston, TX)
Miami University-Hamilton (Hamilton, OH)*	University of Houston-Clear Lake (Houston, TX)
Miami University-Middletown (Middletown, OH)*	University of Illinois Springfield (Springfield, IL)
Midland University (Fremont, NE)	University of Maine at Farmington (Farmington, ME)

## Transferable Skills (N=83), continued

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University of Massachusetts Amherst (Amherst, MA)  
University of Minnesota Duluth (Duluth, MN)  
University of Missouri-Kansas City (Kansas City, MO)\*  
University of Nebraska at Omaha (Omaha, NE)\*  
University of New England (Biddeford, ME)  
University of New Hampshire at Manchester (Manchester, NH)  
University of Phoenix - Arizona/ONLINE (Tempe, AZ)\*  
University of Pikeville (Pikeville, KY)  
University of Providence (Great Falls, MT)  
University of Southern Indiana (Evansville, IN)\*  
University of Texas at Arlington, The (Arlington, TX)  
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, The (Houston, TX)  
University of the Arts (Philadelphia, PA)  
University of the Virgin Islands (Charlotte Amalie, VI)  
University of West Florida, The (Pensacola, FL)  
University of Wisconsin--Madison (Madison, WI)  
Wagner College (Staten Island, NY)  
Wayne State University (Detroit, MI)  
Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia (Macon, GA)\*  
Western Colorado University (Gunnison, CO)  
Western University (London, ON)  
Wilfrid Laurier University (Waterloo, ON)  
Wilkes University (Wilkes-Barre, PA)\*

\*2019 participant

## First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UW-Stevens Point		Transferable Skills		UW-Stevens Point	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<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	1	Never	32	14	3,605	16	<b>2.5</b>	2.5	.00
		2	Sometimes	99	41	8,438	38			
		3	Often	65	31	6,553	29			
		4	Very often	33	15	3,771	17			
		Total		229	100	22,367	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	42	19	7,637	36	<b>2.3</b>	2.0 ***	.33
		2	Sometimes	96	42	8,643	37			
		3	Often	64	29	4,228	18			
		4	Very often	24	10	1,876	9			
		Total		226	100	22,384	100			
c. Worked in a group with people who differed from you in terms of background, political orientation, points of view, etc.	TRN01c	1	Never	15	7	1,741	8	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	-.07
		2	Sometimes	88	38	7,493	33			
		3	Often	86	38	8,491	37			
		4	Very often	39	17	4,642	22			
		Total		228	100	22,367	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	36	16	3,404	15	<b>2.4</b>	2.4	-.05
		2	Sometimes	94	40	8,895	40			
		3	Often	73	34	6,999	30			
		4	Very often	24	10	3,054	14			
		Total		227	100	22,352	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	11	5	1,262	6	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	.00
		2	Sometimes	72	32	7,245	32			
		3	Often	95	41	9,132	40			
		4	Very often	50	22	4,723	22			
		Total		228	100	22,362	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	9	5	1,216	5	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	-.02
		2	Sometimes	77	32	7,236	32			
		3	Often	96	43	9,354	41			
		4	Very often	46	20	4,545	22			
		Total		228	100	22,351	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	18	8	1,741	8	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	-.05
		2	Sometimes	82	36	7,742	35			
		3	Often	86	39	8,624	37			
		4	Very often	40	17	4,252	20			
		Total		226	100	22,359	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

## First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UW-Stevens Point		Transferable Skills		UW-Stevens Point	Transferable Skills	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<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	1	Never	6	3	947	4	<b>2.9</b>	3.0	-.12
		2	Sometimes	71	33	5,550	25			
		3	Often	89	38	8,774	38			
		4	Very often	60	26	7,093	32			
		Total		226	100	22,364	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	31	13	2,681	13	<b>2.4</b>	2.6 **	-.20
		2	Sometimes	102	44	7,747	35			
		3	Often	64	29	7,619	33			
		4	Very often	29	13	4,266	20			
		Total		226	100	22,313	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	36	17	2,180	10	<b>2.4</b>	2.7 ***	-.24
		2	Sometimes	81	35	7,563	34			
		3	Often	78	35	8,124	35			
		4	Very often	31	13	4,439	21			
		Total		226	100	22,306	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	19	8	1,682	8	<b>2.6</b>	2.7 *	-.13
		2	Sometimes	83	37	7,630	35			
		3	Often	94	42	8,482	36			
		4	Very often	30	13	4,523	21			
		Total		226	100	22,317	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UW-Stevens Point		Transferable Skills		UW-Stevens Point	Transferable Skills	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<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	1	Never	48	14	4,821	16	<b>2.5</b>	2.5	-.01
		2	Sometimes	132	38	10,941	35			
		3	Often	102	29	8,926	28			
		4	Very often	63	18	6,397	21			
		Total		345	100	31,085	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	42	12	8,649	29	<b>2.4</b>	2.2 ***	.26 △
		2	Sometimes	158	46	11,568	37			
		3	Often	90	26	6,676	21			
		4	Very often	54	15	4,200	13			
		Total		344	100	31,093	100			
c. Worked in a group with people who differed from you in terms of background, political orientation, points of view, etc.	TRN01c	1	Never	15	4	2,408	7	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	-.05
		2	Sometimes	110	32	9,298	29			
		3	Often	149	43	11,108	36			
		4	Very often	70	20	8,269	28			
		Total		344	100	31,083	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	31	9	3,637	12	<b>2.6</b>	2.6	.01
		2	Sometimes	130	38	10,760	35			
		3	Often	123	36	10,427	33			
		4	Very often	60	17	6,264	20			
		Total		344	100	31,088	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	11	3	1,330	5	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	.04
		2	Sometimes	76	23	7,590	25			
		3	Often	150	44	12,728	41			
		4	Very often	106	30	9,416	30			
		Total		343	100	31,064	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	5	2	1,181	4	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	.04
		2	Sometimes	78	23	7,456	24			
		3	Often	162	47	12,992	42			
		4	Very often	99	28	9,440	31			
		Total		344	100	31,069	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	9	3	1,876	6	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	.04
		2	Sometimes	97	28	8,321	27			
		3	Often	147	43	12,187	39			
		4	Very often	92	27	8,707	28			
		Total		345	100	31,091	100			

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UW-Stevens Point		Transferable Skills		UW-Stevens Point	Transferable Skills	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<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	1	Never	12	3	1,032	4	<b>3.1</b>	3.2 *	-0.14 ▽
		2	Sometimes	71	21	5,479	19			
		3	Often	138	39	10,094	32			
		4	Very often	124	36	14,479	45			
		Total		345	100	31,084	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	36	10	3,138	11	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	-0.01
		2	Sometimes	97	29	8,799	29			
		3	Often	124	36	9,805	31			
		4	Very often	87	25	9,273	29			
		Total		344	100	31,015	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	24	7	2,292	8	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	-0.02
		2	Sometimes	101	29	8,725	29			
		3	Often	133	39	10,594	34			
		4	Very often	86	25	9,405	29			
		Total		344	100	31,016	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	24	7	1,950	7	<b>2.7</b>	2.8 *	-0.12 ▽
		2	Sometimes	118	35	9,224	30			
		3	Often	131	38	11,310	36			
		4	Very often	70	20	8,553	27			
		Total		343	100	31,037	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.



## First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
		UW-Stevens Point	Transferable Skills	UW-Stevens Point	Transferable Skills	UW-Stevens Point	Transferable Skills			
TRN01a	224	2.47	2.47	.060	.007	0.90	0.95	18,542	.956	.00
TRN01b	221	2.31	1.99	.060	.007	0.90	0.94	18,550	.000	.33
TRN01c	224	2.66	2.72	.056	.007	0.84	0.90	18,542	.319	-.07
TRN01d	222	2.39	2.43	.059	.007	0.87	0.91	18,505	.499	-.05
TRN01e	224	2.80	2.79	.057	.006	0.85	0.85	18,543	.970	.00
TRN01f	224	2.78	2.80	.055	.006	0.82	0.84	18,533	.730	-.02
TRN01g	221	2.66	2.70	.058	.006	0.86	0.88	18,533	.490	-.05
TRN02a	221	2.88	2.98	.056	.006	0.84	0.87	18,540	.071	-.12
TRN02b	221	2.41	2.60	.059	.007	0.88	0.94	227	.002	-.20
TRN02c	221	2.45	2.67	.062	.007	0.93	0.91	18,489	.000	-.24
TRN02d	221	2.59	2.71	.055	.007	0.82	0.89	18,493	.050	-.13

# NSSE 2020 Development of Transferable Skills

## Detailed Statistics<sup>e</sup>

### University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

## Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
	UW-Stevens Point	UW-Stevens Point	Transferable Skills	UW-Stevens Point	Transferable Skills	UW-Stevens Point	Transferable Skills	Comparisons with: Transferable Skills		
TRN01a	343	2.52	2.53	.051	.006	0.95	0.99	29,405	.835	-.01
TRN01b	342	2.44	2.18	.048	.006	0.89	1.00	29,410	.000	.26
TRN01c	342	2.79	2.84	.044	.005	0.81	0.92	352	.279	-.05
TRN01d	342	2.61	2.61	.047	.006	0.87	0.94	351	.915	.01
TRN01e	341	3.00	2.97	.044	.005	0.82	0.85	349	.406	.04
TRN01f	342	3.02	2.99	.041	.005	0.76	0.84	351	.392	.04
TRN01g	343	2.93	2.90	.044	.005	0.81	0.88	352	.438	.04
TRN02a	343	3.08	3.20	.045	.005	0.84	0.86	351	.010	-.14
TRN02b	342	2.77	2.78	.051	.006	0.94	0.98	29,339	.828	-.01
TRN02c	342	2.83	2.85	.048	.005	0.88	0.93	351	.718	-.02
TRN02d	342	2.73	2.84	.047	.005	0.86	0.90	29,363	.024	-.12

See the endnotes on the last page of this report.

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## Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Counts are unweighted; column percentages cannot be replicated from counts.
- b. All statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Unless otherwise noted, statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent  $t$ -tests. Items with categorical response sets are left blank.
- c. These are the values used to calculate means. For the majority of items, these values match the codes in the data file and codebook.
- d. Effect size for independent  $t$ -tests uses Cohen's  $d$ ;  $z$ -tests use Cohen's  $h$ .
- e. Statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Categorical items are not listed.
- f. The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus or minus 1.96 times the standard error of the mean.
- g. A measure of the amount individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.
- h. Degrees of freedom used to compute the  $t$ -tests. Values differ from  $N$ s due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.
- i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent  $t$ -tests or  $z$ -tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the students in the comparison group is due to chance.
- j. Statistical comparison uses  $z$ -test to compare the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes" with all who responded otherwise.
- k. Mean represents the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes."

### **Key to symbols:**

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- △ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

Note: It is important to interpret the direction of differences relative to item wording and your institutional context.