



NSSE 2020 Topical Module Report Development of Transferable Skills

The University of Texas at Arlington

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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	6/3/20
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this comparison group by selecting institutions from all module participants.
Group description	All current year NSSE public institutions that have administered the module "Development of Transferable Skills" and share the same Carnegie basic classification (Doc/Very High) and sector (public).

Transferable Skills (N=5)

North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC)
 University of Houston (Houston, TX)
 University of Massachusetts Amherst (Amherst, MA)
 University of Wisconsin--Madison (Madison, WI)
 Wayne State University (Detroit, MI)

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UTA		Transferable Skills		UTA	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
1. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Discussed or debated an issue of social, political, or philosophical importance	TRN01a	1	Never	167	23	705	13	2.2	2.6 ***	-0.35
		2	Sometimes	306	43	1,811	36			
		3	Often	153	22	1,568	32			
		4	Very often	85	12	899	19			
		Total		711	100	4,983	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	307	42	2,073	39	1.9	1.9	.00
		2	Sometimes	255	36	2,003	42			
		3	Often	108	15	641	14			
		4	Very often	42	6	265	5			
		Total		712	100	4,982	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	54	7	306	5	2.7	2.8 *	-0.08
		2	Sometimes	254	36	1,657	32			
		3	Often	249	35	1,972	40			
		4	Very often	153	22	1,046	22			
		Total		710	100	4,981	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	152	21	691	13	2.3	2.5 ***	-0.19
		2	Sometimes	293	41	1,975	40			
		3	Often	180	26	1,608	32			
		4	Very often	84	13	707	14			
		Total		709	100	4,981	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	65	9	312	6	2.6	2.8 ***	-0.17
		2	Sometimes	271	38	1,594	31			
		3	Often	246	35	2,085	43			
		4	Very often	129	19	991	20			
		Total		711	100	4,982	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	54	7	283	5	2.6	2.8 ***	-0.23
		2	Sometimes	287	40	1,554	30			
		3	Often	255	36	2,112	43			
		4	Very often	112	16	1,030	22			
		Total		708	100	4,979	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	76	10	380	7	2.6	2.7 ***	-0.22
		2	Sometimes	290	41	1,632	32			
		3	Often	231	33	1,973	39			
		4	Very often	113	17	992	21			
		Total		710	100	4,977	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 ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UTA		Transferable Skills		UTA	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
2. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you written something (paper, report, article, blog, etc.) that:										
a. Used information from a variety of sources (books, journals, Internet, databases, etc.)	TRN02a	1	Never	43	6	268	6	2.8	2.8	-.05
		2	Sometimes	235	33	1,472	31			
		3	Often	253	36	1,946	38			
		4	Very often	180	25	1,296	26			
		Total		711	100	4,982	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	116	16	586	13	2.4	2.6 ***	-.15
		2	Sometimes	277	40	1,780	35			
		3	Often	215	30	1,763	35			
		4	Very often	101	14	853	17			
		Total		709	100	4,982	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	96	14	572	12	2.5	2.6 **	-.13
		2	Sometimes	281	39	1,752	35			
		3	Often	225	32	1,770	35			
		4	Very often	105	15	879	18			
		Total		707	100	4,973	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	64	9	399	9	2.6	2.7 *	-.08
		2	Sometimes	258	36	1,654	34			
		3	Often	277	39	1,941	39			
		4	Very often	107	15	978	19			
		Total		706	100	4,972	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 ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UTA		Transferable Skills		UTA	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
1. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Discussed or debated an issue of social, political, or philosophical importance	TRN01a	1	Never	447	23	845	17	2.4	2.5 ***	-0.15
		2	Sometimes	720	36	1,826	34			
		3	Often	467	23	1,463	28			
		4	Very often	366	18	1,045	21			
		Total		2,000	100	5,179	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	760	37	1,323	26	2.1	2.2 ***	-0.11
		2	Sometimes	618	31	2,134	41			
		3	Often	354	18	1,100	21			
		4	Very often	272	14	614	12			
		Total		2,004	100	5,171	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	287	14	245	5	2.8	2.9 ***	-0.11
		2	Sometimes	461	23	1,494	29			
		3	Often	617	31	1,966	38			
		4	Very often	636	32	1,471	29			
		Total		2,001	100	5,176	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	319	16	694	14	2.6	2.5 *	.06
		2	Sometimes	636	32	1,903	37			
		3	Often	604	30	1,715	33			
		4	Very often	447	22	863	16			
		Total		2,006	100	5,175	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	137	7	243	5	2.9	2.9	-0.03
		2	Sometimes	500	25	1,377	26			
		3	Often	790	40	2,089	40			
		4	Very often	575	29	1,464	29			
		Total		2,002	100	5,173	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	122	6	201	4	2.9	3.0	-0.04
		2	Sometimes	473	24	1,344	26			
		3	Often	818	41	2,115	40			
		4	Very often	586	29	1,510	30			
		Total		1,999	100	5,170	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	194	10	274	5	2.8	2.9 ***	-0.09
		2	Sometimes	522	26	1,434	28			
		3	Often	733	37	1,997	38			
		4	Very often	556	28	1,470	29			
		Total		2,005	100	5,175	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 ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UTA		Transferable Skills		UTA	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
2. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you written something (paper, report, article, blog, etc.) that:										
a. Used information from a variety of sources (books, journals, Internet, databases, etc.)	TRN02a	1	Never	76	4	264	6	3.2	3.0 ***	.23
		2	Sometimes	358	18	1,198	25			
		3	Often	633	32	1,789	34			
		4	Very often	938	46	1,924	35			
			Total	2,005	100	5,175	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	206	10	617	13	2.9	2.6 ***	.21
		2	Sometimes	522	27	1,634	33			
		3	Often	593	29	1,585	30			
		4	Very often	682	34	1,330	24			
			Total	2,003	100	5,166	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	196	10	473	10	2.8	2.7 ***	.14
		2	Sometimes	529	27	1,620	33			
		3	Often	653	33	1,807	34			
		4	Very often	624	31	1,271	23			
			Total	2,002	100	5,171	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	163	8	403	9	2.9	2.7 ***	.17
		2	Sometimes	518	26	1,662	33			
		3	Often	709	35	1,850	34			
		4	Very often	610	30	1,257	23			
			Total	2,000	100	5,172	100			

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

NSSE 2020 Development of Transferable Skills

Detailed Statistics^e

The University of Texas at Arlington

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UTA	UTA	Transferable Skills	UTA	Transferable Skills	UTA	Transferable Skills	Comparisons with: Transferable Skills		
TRN01a	710	2.23	2.56	.035	.014	0.94	0.94	930	.000	-.35
TRN01b	711	1.85	1.86	.034	.012	0.90	0.85	906	.967	.00
TRN01c	708	2.72	2.79	.033	.012	0.89	0.85	905	.049	-.08
TRN01d	708	2.30	2.47	.035	.013	0.94	0.90	5,539	.000	-.19
TRN01e	710	2.63	2.77	.033	.012	0.89	0.84	903	.000	-.17
TRN01f	707	2.62	2.81	.032	.012	0.84	0.83	918	.000	-.23
TRN01g	709	2.55	2.75	.033	.013	0.89	0.87	919	.000	-.22
TRN02a	710	2.79	2.83	.033	.013	0.89	0.88	5,547	.260	-.05
TRN02b	708	2.42	2.56	.035	.013	0.92	0.92	5,544	.000	-.15
TRN02c	705	2.48	2.60	.034	.013	0.91	0.92	5,535	.002	-.13
TRN02d	705	2.60	2.67	.032	.013	0.85	0.88	5,526	.049	-.08

See the endnotes on the last page of this report.

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UTA	UTA	Transferable Skills	UTA	Transferable Skills	UTA	Transferable Skills	Comparisons with: Transferable Skills		
TRN01a	2,004	2.37	2.52	.023	.013	1.03	1.00	8,401	.000	-.15
TRN01b	2,009	2.09	2.19	.023	.012	1.05	0.95	3,122	.000	-.11
TRN01c	2,005	2.80	2.90	.023	.011	1.04	0.87	2,941	.000	-.11
TRN01d	2,010	2.58	2.52	.022	.012	1.00	0.92	3,148	.016	.06
TRN01e	2,006	2.90	2.93	.020	.011	0.90	0.86	3,260	.220	-.03
TRN01f	2,003	2.93	2.97	.020	.011	0.88	0.84	3,244	.144	-.04
TRN01g	2,009	2.82	2.91	.021	.011	0.95	0.88	3,177	.000	-.09
TRN02a	2,009	3.20	2.99	.019	.011	0.87	0.91	8,403	.000	.23
TRN02b	2,006	2.86	2.65	.022	.012	1.00	0.99	8,393	.000	.21
TRN02c	2,005	2.84	2.71	.022	.012	0.97	0.94	8,397	.000	.14
TRN02d	2,003	2.88	2.72	.021	.012	0.94	0.92	8,394	.000	.17

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.