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# NSSE 2023 Topical Module Report

## Development of Transferable Skills

### Wright State University-Lake Campus

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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 and beyond (such as verbal and written fluency, critical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving, project management, and time management). 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.

Comparison group details are in the online Selected Comparison Groups report, linked in the Data & Reports table on the Institution Interface. A PDF copy is also saved in your report download folder.

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### 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>		
				Wright State-Lake		Great Lakes Public		Wright State-Lake	Great Lakes Public	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	TRNdebate	1	Never	14	29	456	17	2.1	2.4 *	-0.31
		2	Sometimes	25	42	1,081	40			
		3	Often	9	18	769	28			
		4	Very often	5	11	412	15			
		Total		53	100	2,718	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRNspeech	1	Never	23	46	862	31	1.8	2.1 *	-0.29
		2	Sometimes	20	36	1,071	40			
		3	Often	7	11	525	19			
		4	Very often	3	7	255	9			
		Total		53	100	2,713	100			
c. Worked in a group with people who differed from you in terms of background, political orientation, points of view, etc.	TRNgroup	1	Never	8	18	137	5	2.3	2.7 ***	-0.51
		2	Sometimes	22	41	944	36			
		3	Often	20	35	1,102	40			
		4	Very often	3	7	533	19			
		Total		53	100	2,716	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRNethical	1	Never	15	28	372	14	2.2	2.4 *	-0.32
		2	Sometimes	19	33	1,098	41			
		3	Often	17	34	887	33			
		4	Very often	2	5	362	13			
		Total		53	100	2,719	100			
e. Evaluated the credibility of information sources	TRNcred	1	Never	4	6	158	6	2.6	2.8	-0.20
		2	Sometimes	19	33	802	30			
		3	Often	26	51	1,138	42			
		4	Very often	4	10	617	22			
		Total		53	100	2,715	100			
f. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRNcomplex	1	Never	9	18	169	7	2.4	2.7 *	-0.33
		2	Sometimes	21	37	937	35			
		3	Often	17	32	1,117	41			
		4	Very often	6	14	492	17			
		Total		53	100	2,715	100			
g. Generated multiple solutions to a problem or task	TRNsolution	1	Never	6	12	115	4	2.5	2.7 *	-0.33
		2	Sometimes	20	38	914	35			
		3	Often	23	41	1,167	43			
		4	Very often	4	10	516	18			
		Total		53	100	2,712	100			
h. Combined dissimilar concepts to create a novel idea	TRNcreate	1	Never	13	24	579	21	2.1	2.2	-0.18
		2	Sometimes	25	48	1,203	45			
		3	Often	14	25	676	25			
		4	Very often	1	3	251	9			
		Total		53	100	2,709	100			
i. Adapted a previously used solution to a new situation	TRNadapt	1	Never	6	12	254	10	2.5	2.5	-0.06
		2	Sometimes	21	39	1,093	41			
		3	Often	21	39	1,007	37			
		4	Very often	5	10	353	13			
		Total		53	100	2,707	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>		
				Wright State-Lake		Great Lakes Public		Wright State-Lake	Great Lakes Public	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
j. Referred to online content (tutorial, forum, webpage, etc.) to solve a problem	TRNnonsolve	1	Never	1	2	90	4	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	-.04
		2	Sometimes	17	29	725	28			
		3	Often	23	47	1,088	40			
		4	Very often	12	23	808	28			
		Total		53	100	2,711	100			
k. Referred to online content (tutorial, forum, webpage, etc.) to learn a new skill or procedure	TRNnonskill	1	Never	2	3	93	3	<b>2.8</b>	2.9	-.15
		2	Sometimes	19	36	777	29			
		3	Often	21	41	1,073	40			
		4	Very often	11	20	768	27			
		Total		53	100	2,711	100			
l. Used project management tools to plan, organize, or schedule tasks	TRNproject	1	Never	3	6	285	11	<b>2.5</b>	2.6	-.05
		2	Sometimes	25	48	964	37			
		3	Often	18	33	957	35			
		4	Very often	7	13	503	17			
		Total		53	100	2,709	100			
m. Used a daily or weekly "to do" list	TRNtodo	1	Never	6	13	193	8	<b>2.8</b>	3.0	-.22
		2	Sometimes	14	25	609	24			
		3	Often	17	29	624	23			
		4	Very often	16	32	1,285	44			
		Total		53	100	2,711	100			
n. Prioritized what tasks need to be accomplished	TRNtasks	1	Never	1	2	27	1	<b>3.3</b>	3.3	.00
		2	Sometimes	7	14	416	17			
		3	Often	21	37	900	34			
		4	Very often	24	47	1,362	48			
		Total		53	100	2,705	100			
o. Worked longer hours than usual to meet deadlines (i.e., after midnight, before dawn)	TRNhours	1	Never	6	11	214	8	<b>2.7</b>	2.9	-.22
		2	Sometimes	20	37	770	29			
		3	Often	14	27	768	29			
		4	Very often	13	26	960	34			
		Total		53	100	2,712	100			
p. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that used information from a variety of sources (books, journals, Internet, databases, etc.)	TRNwrsources	1	Never	3	6	104	4	<b>2.8</b>	3.0	-.20
		2	Sometimes	15	31	691	27			
		3	Often	23	41	1,021	38			
		4	Very often	11	22	889	31			
		Total		52	100	2,705	100			
q. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRNwrassess	1	Never	4	7	312	11	<b>2.7</b>	2.6	.06
		2	Sometimes	19	38	922	35			
		3	Often	20	34	896	34			
		4	Very often	10	21	576	20			
		Total		53	100	2,706	100			

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

# NSSE 2023 Development of Transferable Skills

## Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons Wright State University-Lake Campus

### 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>		
				Wright State-Lake		Great Lakes Public		Wright State-Lake	Great Lakes Public	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
r. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRNwrideas	1	Never	7	14	344	13	<b>2.5</b>	2.5	-06
		2	Sometimes	23	43	990	38			
		3	Often	14	22	863	32			
		4	Very often	9	21	507	18			
		Total		53	100	2,704	100			
s. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRNwrviews	1	Never	6	12	213	8	<b>2.4</b>	2.7 *	-029
		2	Sometimes	24	48	991	37			
		3	Often	17	28	940	35			
		4	Very often	6	12	567	20			
		Total		53	100	2,711	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>		
				Wright State-Lake		Great Lakes Public		Wright State-Lake	Great Lakes Public	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	TRNdebate	1	Never	17	29	470	18	2.1	2.4 **	-0.40
		2	Sometimes	24	42	1,059	38			
		3	Often	14	24	745	26			
		4	Very often	3	5	517	18			
		Total		58	100	2,791	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRNspeech	1	Never	18	30	696	25	2.1	2.2	-0.12
		2	Sometimes	21	39	1,164	42			
		3	Often	13	23	587	21			
		4	Very often	5	8	348	12			
		Total		57	100	2,795	100			
c. Worked in a group with people who differed from you in terms of background, political orientation, points of view, etc.	TRNgroup	1	Never	9	15	155	6	2.4	2.8 ***	-0.49
		2	Sometimes	24	43	867	32			
		3	Often	19	32	1,121	40			
		4	Very often	6	10	651	23			
		Total		58	100	2,794	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRNethical	1	Never	12	20	345	13	2.2	2.5 **	-0.36
		2	Sometimes	26	46	1,048	38			
		3	Often	16	27	922	33			
		4	Very often	4	7	479	17			
		Total		58	100	2,794	100			
e. Evaluated the credibility of information sources	TRNcred	1	Never	8	14	157	6	2.6	2.9	-0.29
		2	Sometimes	19	33	753	28			
		3	Often	17	30	1,076	38			
		4	Very often	14	24	801	28			
		Total		58	100	2,787	100			
f. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRNcomplex	1	Never	4	7	183	7	2.7	2.8	-0.10
		2	Sometimes	19	33	796	29			
		3	Often	24	42	1,110	39			
		4	Very often	11	19	704	25			
		Total		58	100	2,793	100			
g. Generated multiple solutions to a problem or task	TRNsolution	1	Never	4	7	119	5	2.8	2.9	-0.06
		2	Sometimes	17	30	774	28			
		3	Often	22	38	1,179	42			
		4	Very often	15	25	718	25			
		Total		58	100	2,790	100			
h. Combined dissimilar concepts to create a novel idea	TRNcreate	1	Never	11	18	499	18	2.2	2.3	-0.11
		2	Sometimes	29	52	1,210	44			
		3	Often	12	20	751	27			
		4	Very often	6	10	330	12			
		Total		58	100	2,790	100			
i. Adapted a previously used solution to a new situation	TRNadapt	1	Never	7	11	217	8	2.6	2.7	-0.08
		2	Sometimes	21	36	1,007	36			
		3	Often	19	34	1,053	38			
		4	Very often	11	18	513	18			
		Total		58	100	2,790	100			

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

# NSSE 2023 Development of Transferable Skills

## Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons Wright State University-Lake Campus

### Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				Wright State-Lake		Great Lakes Public		Wright State-Lake	Great Lakes Public	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
j. Referred to online content (tutorial, forum, webpage, etc.) to solve a problem	TRNnonsolve	1	Never	6	10	81	3	<b>2.8</b>	3.1 *	-0.35
		2	Sometimes	17	29	614	22			
		3	Often	18	32	1,030	37			
		4	Very often	17	29	1,063	38			
		Total		58	100	2,788	100			
k. Referred to online content (tutorial, forum, webpage, etc.) to learn a new skill or procedure	TRNnonskill	1	Never	3	5	106	4	<b>2.8</b>	3.0	-0.24
		2	Sometimes	21	36	675	24			
		3	Often	18	32	1,017	36			
		4	Very often	16	27	985	35			
		Total		58	100	2,783	100			
l. Used project management tools to plan, organize, or schedule tasks	TRNproject	1	Never	6	11	271	10	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	-0.07
		2	Sometimes	19	33	861	31			
		3	Often	21	36	978	35			
		4	Very often	12	20	674	24			
		Total		58	100	2,784	100			
m. Used a daily or weekly "to do" list	TRNtodo	1	Never	5	9	210	9	<b>3.0</b>	3.1	-0.09
		2	Sometimes	12	22	525	20			
		3	Often	15	25	580	22			
		4	Very often	26	44	1,469	50			
		Total		58	100	2,784	100			
n. Prioritized what tasks need to be accomplished	TRNtasks	1	Never	0	0	30	1	<b>3.3</b>	3.4	-0.14
		2	Sometimes	8	15	286	11			
		3	Often	22	38	830	31			
		4	Very often	28	48	1,641	57			
		Total		58	100	2,787	100			
o. Worked longer hours than usual to meet deadlines (i.e., after midnight, before dawn)	TRNhours	1	Never	5	8	198	7	<b>2.9</b>	3.0	-0.06
		2	Sometimes	16	28	743	27			
		3	Often	14	24	684	25			
		4	Very often	23	39	1,157	41			
		Total		58	100	2,782	100			
p. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that used information from a variety of sources (books, journals, Internet, databases, etc.)	TRNwrsources	1	Never	2	3	92	3	<b>2.8</b>	3.1 *	-0.34
		2	Sometimes	25	44	609	22			
		3	Often	12	21	958	35			
		4	Very often	19	32	1,129	39			
		Total		58	100	2,788	100			
q. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRNwrassess	1	Never	11	20	328	12	<b>2.4</b>	2.7 *	-0.27
		2	Sometimes	24	42	919	34			
		3	Often	8	14	780	28			
		4	Very often	14	24	752	26			
		Total		57	100	2,779	100			

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

# NSSE 2023 Development of Transferable Skills

## Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons Wright State University-Lake Campus

### Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				Wright State-Lake		Great Lakes Public		Wright State-Lake	Great Lakes Public	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
r. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRNwrideas	1	Never	9	16	302	11	<b>2.4</b>	2.7 *	-0.28 ▽
		2	Sometimes	26	45	913	33			
		3	Often	11	19	834	31			
		4	Very often	12	20	731	25			
		Total		58	100	2,780	100			
s. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRNwrviews	1	Never	6	11	251	9	<b>2.4</b>	2.7	-0.26
		2	Sometimes	28	49	1,016	37			
		3	Often	15	25	850	31			
		4	Very often	9	15	667	23			
		Total		58	100	2,784	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>
		Wright State-Lake	Great Lakes Public	Wright State-Lake	Great Lakes Public	Wright State-Lake	Great Lakes Public			
TRNdebate	53	2.11	2.41	.132	.016	0.96	0.93	3,620	.023	-.31
TRNspeech	53	1.80	2.07	.125	.016	0.91	0.93	3,610	.034	-.29
TRNgroup	53	2.31	2.73	.116	.014	0.85	0.83	3,615	.000	-.51
TRNethical	53	2.17	2.45	.124	.015	0.90	0.88	3,626	.022	-.32
TRNcred	53	2.64	2.81	.103	.014	0.75	0.85	3,621	.158	-.20
TRNcomplex	53	2.42	2.69	.130	.014	0.95	0.83	3,619	.019	-.33
TRNsolution	53	2.49	2.75	.114	.013	0.83	0.80	3,615	.018	-.33
TRNcreate	53	2.06	2.22	.107	.015	0.78	0.88	54	.152	-.18
TRNadapt	53	2.48	2.53	.115	.014	0.84	0.83	3,606	.638	-.06
TRNnonsolve	53	2.90	2.94	.105	.014	0.76	0.84	3,614	.768	-.04
TRNnonskill	53	2.78	2.91	.110	.014	0.80	0.84	3,609	.263	-.15
TRNproject	53	2.54	2.59	.110	.015	0.80	0.90	3,611	.700	-.05
TRNtodo	53	2.81	3.03	.143	.017	1.04	1.01	3,614	.116	-.22
TRNtasks	53	3.29	3.29	.106	.013	0.77	0.78	3,607	.995	.00
TRNhours	53	2.68	2.89	.135	.016	0.98	0.97	3,615	.115	-.22
TRNwresource	52	2.79	2.96	.120	.014	0.86	0.86	3,599	.146	-.20
TRNwrsassess	53	2.68	2.63	.123	.016	0.89	0.93	3,605	.657	.06
TRNwrideas	53	2.49	2.55	.135	.016	0.98	0.93	3,604	.643	-.06
TRNwrviews	53	2.41	2.67	.118	.015	0.86	0.88	3,612	.035	-.29

## 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>
		Wright State-Lake	Great Lakes Public	Wright State-Lake	Great Lakes Public	Wright State-Lake	Great Lakes Public			
TRNdebate	58	2.05	2.45	.113	.015	0.86	0.98	59	.001	-.40
TRNspeech	57	2.09	2.20	.124	.015	0.94	0.95	4,330	.380	-.12
TRNgroup	58	2.37	2.79	.113	.013	0.86	0.86	4,332	.000	-.49
TRNethical	58	2.20	2.53	.111	.014	0.84	0.92	59	.005	-.36
TRNcred	58	2.64	2.89	.132	.014	1.00	0.88	58	.061	-.29
TRNcomplex	58	2.73	2.82	.111	.013	0.85	0.88	4,329	.437	-.10
TRNsolution	58	2.83	2.88	.117	.013	0.89	0.84	4,327	.642	-.06
TRNcreate	58	2.22	2.32	.113	.014	0.86	0.90	4,325	.398	-.11
TRNadapt	58	2.59	2.66	.121	.013	0.92	0.86	4,326	.546	-.08
TRNnonsolve	58	2.80	3.10	.128	.013	0.98	0.84	58	.027	-.35
TRNnonskill	58	2.82	3.03	.118	.013	0.90	0.87	4,313	.067	-.24
TRNproject	58	2.65	2.72	.122	.014	0.93	0.94	4,315	.573	-.07
TRNtodo	58	3.03	3.12	.135	.016	1.02	1.01	4,315	.477	-.09
TRNtasks	58	3.33	3.43	.095	.011	0.72	0.74	4,320	.277	-.14
TRNhours	58	2.94	3.00	.133	.015	1.01	0.98	4,314	.669	-.06
TRNwresource	58	2.81	3.10	.122	.013	0.93	0.86	4,321	.011	-.34
TRNwresource	57	2.42	2.68	.141	.015	1.06	0.99	4,307	.043	-.27
TRNwideas	58	2.43	2.71	.130	.015	0.99	0.97	4,310	.032	-.28
TRNwviews	58	2.44	2.68	.116	.014	0.88	0.93	4,315	.051	-.26

## 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. Comparison group details are in the Selected Comparison Groups report, linked in the Data & Reports table on the Institution Interface.
- 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 Ns 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. You may not see all of these symbols in your report.