
NSSE 2019 Topical Module Report

Development of Transferable Skills

University of Missouri-Kansas City

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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 'Public Doctoral' column of this report.

Group label	Public Doctoral
Date submitted	5/10/19
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this comparison group by selecting institutions from all module participants.
Group description	Public doctoral institutions

Public Doctoral (N=7)

Clemson University (Clemson, SC)*
 Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI)*
 Florida International University (Miami, FL)*
 Missouri State University (Springfield, MO)
 Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, AZ)*
 Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville, TN)
 University of Nebraska at Omaha (Omaha, NE)

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UMKC		Public Doctoral		UMKC	Public Doctoral	
				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	45	13	562	17	2.6	2.4 **	.16
		2	Sometimes	116	34	1,298	40			
		3	Often	128	38	871	27			
		4	Very often	53	15	466	15			
		Total		342	100	3,197	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	62	19	769	26	2.3	2.2	.07
		2	Sometimes	158	47	1,243	39			
		3	Often	89	25	811	23			
		4	Very often	33	10	371	11			
		Total		342	100	3,194	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	12	4	186	7	2.8	2.7 *	.13
		2	Sometimes	105	31	1,133	36			
		3	Often	148	43	1,223	37			
		4	Very often	75	22	648	21			
		Total		340	100	3,190	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	36	11	485	15	2.5	2.4 *	.11
		2	Sometimes	146	42	1,347	42			
		3	Often	112	33	977	30			
		4	Very often	47	14	384	13			
		Total		341	100	3,193	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	16	5	175	6	2.8	2.7	.09
		2	Sometimes	113	33	1,114	34			
		3	Often	140	41	1,288	39			
		4	Very often	73	22	616	20			
		Total		342	100	3,193	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	20	5	168	6	2.8	2.7	.02
		2	Sometimes	119	34	1,118	34			
		3	Often	135	40	1,309	40			
		4	Very often	67	20	598	20			
		Total		341	100	3,193	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	28	8	253	9	2.7	2.6	.02
		2	Sometimes	126	37	1,199	37			
		3	Often	127	37	1,210	37			
		4	Very often	59	18	529	17			
		Total		340	100	3,191	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		
				UMKC		Public Doctoral		UMKC	Public Doctoral	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
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	14	4	135	4	2.9	3.0	-.09
		2	Sometimes	96	29	836	26			
		3	Often	142	42	1,255	38			
		4	Very often	88	25	960	31			
		Total		340	100	3,186	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	47	13	432	13	2.5	2.6	-.04
		2	Sometimes	128	38	1,166	35			
		3	Often	104	31	1,026	33			
		4	Very often	60	18	556	19			
		Total		339	100	3,180	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	35	11	319	10	2.6	2.6	.00
		2	Sometimes	119	35	1,154	36			
		3	Often	118	35	1,124	36			
		4	Very often	68	20	580	19			
		Total		340	100	3,177	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	25	8	236	7	2.6	2.7	-.06
		2	Sometimes	135	39	1,156	36			
		3	Often	119	35	1,189	36			
		4	Very often	60	18	595	20			
		Total		339	100	3,176	100			

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UMKC		Public Doctoral		UMKC	Public Doctoral	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
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	72	13	782	17	2.6	2.5	.04
		2	Sometimes	222	39	1,796	36			
		3	Often	165	29	1,335	26			
		4	Very often	112	19	982	21			
		Total		571	100	4,895	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	107	19	915	20	2.4	2.4	-.01
		2	Sometimes	221	38	1,901	39			
		3	Often	166	29	1,232	24			
		4	Very often	75	13	858	17			
		Total		569	100	4,906	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	24	4	247	6	2.9	2.9	.03
		2	Sometimes	159	28	1,451	29			
		3	Often	239	42	1,883	37			
		4	Very often	148	26	1,312	28			
		Total		570	100	4,893	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	57	10	567	13	2.6	2.6	.05
		2	Sometimes	202	36	1,790	36			
		3	Often	216	38	1,601	31			
		4	Very often	95	17	935	19			
		Total		570	100	4,893	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	15	3	225	5	2.9	2.9	.01
		2	Sometimes	147	26	1,273	27			
		3	Often	268	47	1,958	39			
		4	Very often	138	25	1,439	30			
		Total		568	100	4,895	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	12	2	207	5	3.0	3.0	.00
		2	Sometimes	145	25	1,263	26			
		3	Often	276	48	1,945	38			
		4	Very often	138	25	1,478	31			
		Total		571	100	4,893	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	23	4	265	6	2.9	2.9	-.03
		2	Sometimes	174	30	1,316	27			
		3	Often	233	41	1,949	39			
		4	Very often	139	25	1,355	28			
		Total		569	100	4,885	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		
				UMKC		Public Doctoral		UMKC	Public Doctoral	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
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	22	4	246	5	3.1	3.1	.00
		2	Sometimes	129	23	1,108	23			
		3	Often	208	37	1,621	32			
		4	Very often	213	37	1,913	40			
		Total		572	100	4,888	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	63	11	629	13	2.7	2.7	.01
		2	Sometimes	184	33	1,555	32			
		3	Often	183	32	1,428	28			
		4	Very often	137	24	1,255	27			
		Total		567	100	4,867	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	50	9	486	10	2.7	2.7	-.02
		2	Sometimes	177	32	1,557	32			
		3	Often	210	37	1,572	31			
		4	Very often	128	22	1,264	27			
		Total		565	100	4,879	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	48	9	434	9	2.7	2.8	-.05
		2	Sometimes	185	32	1,548	32			
		3	Often	218	38	1,756	35			
		4	Very often	118	21	1,145	25			
		Total		569	100	4,883	100			

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UMKC	UMKC	Public Doctoral	UMKC	Public Doctoral	UMKC	Public Doctoral	Comparisons with: Public Doctoral		
TRN01a	341	2.56	2.40	.049	.013	0.90	0.95	5,404	.004	.16
TRN01b	341	2.26	2.19	.047	.013	0.87	0.95	398	.160	.07
TRN01c	339	2.83	2.72	.044	.012	0.81	0.86	392	.014	.13
TRN01d	340	2.50	2.40	.047	.013	0.86	0.89	5,395	.042	.11
TRN01e	341	2.80	2.73	.045	.012	0.83	0.85	5,397	.113	.09
TRN01f	341	2.75	2.74	.045	.012	0.84	0.84	5,390	.752	.02
TRN01g	339	2.65	2.63	.047	.012	0.86	0.87	5,388	.676	.02
TRN02a	339	2.88	2.96	.045	.012	0.83	0.86	5,377	.127	-.09
TRN02b	338	2.53	2.57	.051	.013	0.93	0.94	5,369	.430	-.04
TRN02c	339	2.64	2.64	.050	.013	0.92	0.90	5,369	.966	.00
TRN02d	338	2.63	2.69	.047	.012	0.87	0.87	5,366	.269	-.06

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UMKC	UMKC	Public Doctoral	UMKC	Public Doctoral	UMKC	Public Doctoral	Comparisons with: Public Doctoral		
TRN01a	570	2.55	2.51	.040	.010	0.94	1.00	649	.312	.04
TRN01b	568	2.36	2.37	.039	.010	0.94	0.99	646	.795	-.01
TRN01c	569	2.89	2.86	.035	.009	0.84	0.89	648	.472	.03
TRN01d	569	2.61	2.56	.037	.010	0.88	0.94	649	.215	.05
TRN01e	568	2.94	2.92	.033	.009	0.78	0.88	656	.733	.01
TRN01f	570	2.95	2.96	.032	.009	0.77	0.87	663	.907	.00
TRN01g	568	2.86	2.89	.035	.009	0.84	0.88	9,902	.441	-.03
TRN02a	571	3.06	3.07	.036	.009	0.87	0.91	650	.968	.00
TRN02b	566	2.69	2.68	.040	.010	0.96	1.01	644	.876	.01
TRN02c	564	2.73	2.75	.038	.010	0.91	0.96	642	.567	-.02
TRN02d	568	2.70	2.75	.038	.010	0.89	0.93	9,919	.246	-.05

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.