
NSSE 2019 Topical Module Report Development of Transferable Skills

Missouri State University

IPEDS: 179566

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	Not applicable; comparison group not customized.
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution did not customize this comparison group; the default group (all module participants) was used.
Group description	Default comparison group

Transferable Skills (N=64)

Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA)	Murray State University (Murray, KY)*
American InterContinental University-Online (Schaumburg, IL)	Nichols College (Dudley, MA)*
ASU Online (Scottsdale, AZ)	North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC)*
Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, TN)	Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, AZ)*
Bellevue University (Bellevue, NE)	Purdue University Global (Davenport, IA)
Bentley University (Waltham, MA)	Quest University Canada (Squamish, BC)
Brenau University (Gainesville, GA)*	Reinhardt University (Waleska, GA)
Cameron University (Lawton, OK)	Roanoke College (Salem, VA)*
Carson-Newman University (Jefferson City, TN)	Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing (Peoria, IL)
Catawba College (Salisbury, NC)	Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, GA)
Clemson University (Clemson, SC)*	Southeast Missouri State University (Cape Girardeau, MO)*
Columbia College (Columbia, MO)	Southwestern Assemblies of God University (Waxahachie, TX)*
Covenant College (Lookout Mountain, GA)*	Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville, TN)
CUNY Hunter College (New York, NY)	Truman State University (Kirksville, MO)
Drury University (Springfield, MO)*	Tyndale University College (Toronto, ON)
Eastern Connecticut State University (Willimantic, CT)	Union College (Barbourville, KY)
Emmanuel College (Boston, MA)*	Union College (NE) (Lincoln, NE)
Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI)*	Universidad Adventista de las Antillas (Mayaguez, PR)
Florida International University (Miami, FL)*	University of Houston-Clear Lake (Houston, TX)
Goucher College (Baltimore, MD)*	University of Illinois Springfield (Springfield, IL)*
Harrisburg University of Science and Technology (Harrisburg, PA)	University of Missouri-Kansas City (Kansas City, MO)
Lakehead University (Thunder Bay, ON)	University of Nebraska at Omaha (Omaha, NE)
Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA)	University of New England (Biddeford, ME)*
Lourdes University (Sylvania, OH)*	University of New Hampshire at Manchester (Manchester, NH)
Lynn University (Boca Raton, FL)*	University of Phoenix - Arizona/ONLINE (Tempe, AZ)
Lyon College (Batesville, AR)	University of Pittsburgh-Bradford (Bradford, PA)*
Miami University-Hamilton (Hamilton, OH)	University of Providence (Great Falls, MT)*
Miami University-Middletown (Middletown, OH)	University of Southern Indiana (Evansville, IN)
Monmouth University (West Long Branch, NJ)*	University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, KY)
Mount St. Mary's University (Emmitsburg, MD)	Utah Valley University (Orem, UT)*

*2018 participant

Transferable Skills (N=64), continued

Utica College (Utica, NY)*

Washington Adventist University (Takoma Park, MD)

Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia (Macon, GA)

Wilkes University (Wilkes-Barre, PA)

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Missouri State		Transferable Skills		Missouri State	Transferable Skills	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	161	16	1,820	16	2.4	2.5	-.05
		2	Sometimes	403	40	4,369	39			
		3	Often	291	29	3,277	28			
		4	Very often	139	15	2,077	18			
		Total		994	100	11,543	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	135	13	3,666	36	2.5	2.0 ***	.46
		2	Sometimes	378	39	4,326	35			
		3	Often	349	35	2,355	19			
		4	Very often	131	13	1,203	10			
		Total		993	100	11,550	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	52	6	1,086	11	2.7	2.7 *	.07
		2	Sometimes	342	35	3,965	34			
		3	Often	417	41	4,109	34			
		4	Very often	183	19	2,385	22			
		Total		994	100	11,545	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	127	13	1,741	16	2.4	2.4	.02
		2	Sometimes	415	42	4,599	40			
		3	Often	337	34	3,543	29			
		4	Very often	114	12	1,652	15			
		Total		993	100	11,535	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	41	4	626	6	2.8	2.8 *	-.07
		2	Sometimes	347	35	3,710	32			
		3	Often	434	44	4,545	38			
		4	Very often	173	18	2,661	24			
		Total		995	100	11,542	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	37	3	631	6	2.7	2.8 *	-.07
		2	Sometimes	364	36	3,767	32			
		3	Often	426	43	4,663	39			
		4	Very often	167	17	2,476	24			
		Total		994	100	11,537	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	60	6	958	9	2.6	2.7	-.03
		2	Sometimes	386	38	4,141	36			
		3	Often	403	41	4,242	35			
		4	Very often	144	15	2,192	20			
		Total		993	100	11,533	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		
				Missouri State		Transferable Skills		Missouri State	Transferable Skills	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	31	3	393	3	3.0	3.1 ***	-0.12
		2	Sometimes	251	26	2,733	23			
		3	Often	434	44	4,424	37			
		4	Very often	276	27	3,977	36			
			Total	992	100	11,527	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	126	12	1,433	13	2.5	2.6 ***	-0.10
		2	Sometimes	390	40	4,008	34			
		3	Often	327	33	3,790	32			
		4	Very often	146	15	2,261	21			
			Total	989	100	11,492	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	87	8	1,099	9	2.6	2.7	-0.05
		2	Sometimes	369	37	4,027	35			
		3	Often	370	37	4,045	35			
		4	Very often	165	17	2,326	21			
			Total	991	100	11,497	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	60	6	766	7	2.7	2.7	-0.05
		2	Sometimes	362	37	4,110	36			
		3	Often	400	40	4,223	35			
		4	Very often	168	18	2,398	23			
			Total	990	100	11,497	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		
				Missouri State		Transferable Skills		Missouri State	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	215	12	3,073	16	2.6	2.6 *	.06
		2	Sometimes	618	36	7,377	35			
		3	Often	527	31	6,147	28			
		4	Very often	355	21	4,479	21			
		Total		1,715	100	21,076	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	273	16	6,158	31	2.5	2.2 ***	.32
		2	Sometimes	648	38	7,653	36			
		3	Often	478	27	4,385	20			
		4	Very often	323	18	2,899	13			
		Total		1,722	100	21,095	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	64	4	1,809	8	2.9	2.8 ***	.07
		2	Sometimes	499	29	6,551	30			
		3	Often	712	42	7,301	34			
		4	Very often	443	25	5,421	28			
		Total		1,718	100	21,082	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	134	8	2,461	13	2.7	2.6 **	.07
		2	Sometimes	597	35	7,163	34			
		3	Often	647	38	7,074	32			
		4	Very often	338	19	4,391	21			
		Total		1,716	100	21,089	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	58	4	847	5	3.0	3.0	-.02
		2	Sometimes	411	24	5,043	24			
		3	Often	748	44	8,661	40			
		4	Very often	504	28	6,517	31			
		Total		1,721	100	21,068	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	58	4	788	4	3.0	3.0	-.02
		2	Sometimes	402	23	5,051	24			
		3	Often	762	45	8,695	40			
		4	Very often	495	28	6,546	32			
		Total		1,717	100	21,080	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	74	4	1,350	7	2.9	2.9 *	.05
		2	Sometimes	425	25	5,714	27			
		3	Often	748	44	8,114	38			
		4	Very often	473	27	5,875	29			
		Total		1,720	100	21,053	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		
				Missouri State		Transferable Skills		Missouri State	Transferable Skills	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	86	5	664	4	3.0	3.2 ***	-0.28
		2	Sometimes	395	24	3,414	17			
		3	Often	621	37	6,562	31			
		4	Very often	616	35	10,410	49			
		Total		1,718	100	21,050	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	204	12	2,250	12	2.7	2.8 ***	-0.12
		2	Sometimes	556	33	5,923	29			
		3	Often	550	32	6,451	30			
		4	Very often	399	23	6,378	30			
		Total		1,709	100	21,002	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	178	11	1,501	8	2.7	2.9 ***	-0.17
		2	Sometimes	529	31	5,802	28			
		3	Often	594	35	7,029	33			
		4	Very often	412	23	6,669	31			
		Total		1,713	100	21,001	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	141	8	1,289	7	2.7	2.9 ***	-0.14
		2	Sometimes	528	31	6,174	29			
		3	Often	667	39	7,603	35			
		4	Very often	374	21	5,967	29			
		Total		1,710	100	21,033	100			

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

NSSE 2019 Development of Transferable Skills

Detailed Statistics^e

Missouri State University

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	Missouri State	Missouri State	Transferable Skills	Missouri State	Transferable Skills	Missouri State	Transferable Skills			
TRN01a	987	2.42	2.47	.029	.007	0.93	0.96	1,094	.129	-.05
TRN01b	986	2.48	2.04	.028	.007	0.89	0.98	20,837	.000	.46
TRN01c	986	2.73	2.67	.026	.007	0.83	0.93	1,114	.019	.07
TRN01d	986	2.45	2.43	.027	.007	0.86	0.92	1,101	.621	.02
TRN01e	988	2.75	2.81	.025	.006	0.79	0.87	1,110	.017	-.07
TRN01f	987	2.75	2.81	.025	.006	0.78	0.86	1,109	.020	-.07
TRN01g	987	2.65	2.67	.026	.006	0.80	0.89	1,111	.322	-.03
TRN02a	985	2.95	3.06	.026	.006	0.81	0.85	1,096	.000	-.12
TRN02b	982	2.52	2.61	.028	.007	0.89	0.96	1,096	.001	-.10
TRN02c	985	2.63	2.68	.027	.006	0.86	0.91	1,096	.098	-.05
TRN02d	983	2.69	2.74	.026	.006	0.83	0.88	1,096	.106	-.05

See the endnotes on the last page of this report.

NSSE 2019 Development of Transferable Skills

Detailed Statistics^e

Missouri State University





Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	Missouri State	Missouri State	Transferable Skills	Missouri State	Transferable Skills	Missouri State	Transferable Skills			
TRN01a	1,711	2.61	2.55	.023	.006	0.95	0.99	1,927	.013	.06
TRN01b	1,719	2.48	2.16	.023	.006	0.97	1.01	32,106	.000	.32
TRN01c	1,714	2.88	2.81	.020	.005	0.83	0.93	1,966	.001	.07
TRN01d	1,712	2.68	2.61	.021	.005	0.87	0.95	1,951	.001	.07
TRN01e	1,718	2.97	2.98	.020	.005	0.82	0.86	1,936	.490	-.02
TRN01f	1,714	2.98	2.99	.020	.005	0.81	0.85	1,930	.437	-.02
TRN01g	1,716	2.92	2.88	.020	.005	0.83	0.90	1,949	.043	.05
TRN02a	1,715	3.01	3.25	.021	.005	0.89	0.86	1,900	.000	-.28
TRN02b	1,706	2.66	2.78	.023	.006	0.96	1.00	1,920	.000	-.12
TRN02c	1,710	2.71	2.88	.023	.005	0.94	0.94	31,969	.000	-.17
TRN02d	1,707	2.74	2.86	.021	.005	0.89	0.91	32,010	.000	-.14

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.