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**NSSE 2015 Topical Module**  
**Development of Transferable Skills**  
Boise State University

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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 RschH / Doc / M-L' column of this report.

Group label	Public RschH / Doc / M-L
Date submitted	6/12/15
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this comparison group by selecting institutions from all module participants.
Group description	This group reflects the subset of our peer group #1 who completed this module.

### Public RschH / Doc / M-L (N=12)

California State University, San Bernardino (San Bernardino, CA)  
 East Tennessee State University (Johnson City, TN)\*  
 Eastern Washington University (Cheney, WA)\*  
 Ferris State University (Grand Rapids, MI)\*  
 Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (Indianapolis, IN)  
 Kennesaw State University (Kennesaw, GA)\*  
 Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville, TN)\*  
 University of Central Oklahoma (Edmond, OK)  
 University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)\*  
 University of North Carolina Wilmington (Wilmington, NC)  
 University of West Florida, The (Pensacola, FL)\*  
 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI)\*

## 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>		
				Boise State		Public RschH / Doc / M-L		Boise State	Public RschH / Doc / M-L	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	40	12	568	15	<b>2.6</b>	2.5 *	.11
		2	Sometimes	131	37	1,426	38			
		3	Often	104	30	1,049	29			
		4	Very often	74	21	662	18			
		Total		349	100	3,705	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	60	17	862	24	<b>2.3</b>	2.2	.02
		2	Sometimes	169	49	1,482	41			
		3	Often	88	26	889	24			
		4	Very often	30	8	452	12			
		Total		347	100	3,685	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	5	261	7	<b>2.8</b>	2.7	.09
		2	Sometimes	108	31	1,304	35			
		3	Often	154	45	1,365	37			
		4	Very often	72	19	768	21			
		Total		349	100	3,698	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	55	16	578	15	<b>2.4</b>	2.4	.02
		2	Sometimes	131	39	1,504	40			
		3	Often	109	31	1,095	30			
		4	Very often	51	15	513	14			
		Total		346	100	3,690	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	20	6	229	6	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	-.02
		2	Sometimes	114	32	1,229	33			
		3	Often	140	41	1,349	37			
		4	Very often	72	21	881	24			
		Total		346	100	3,688	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	28	8	253	7	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	-.03
		2	Sometimes	108	31	1,281	34			
		3	Often	145	42	1,375	37			
		4	Very often	65	19	773	21			
		Total		346	100	3,682	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	30	9	358	10	<b>2.7</b>	2.6	.05
		2	Sometimes	122	35	1,364	37			
		3	Often	122	36	1,252	34			
		4	Very often	69	20	706	20			
		Total		343	100	3,680	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for a key to the 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>		
				Boise State		Public RschH / Doc / M-L		Boise State	Public RschH / Doc / M-L	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	4	2	129	3	<b>3.1</b>	3.1	.06
		2	Sometimes	79	22	866	23			
		3	Often	136	39	1,365	37			
		4	Very often	131	37	1,345	36			
		Total		350	100	3,705	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	39	11	501	13	<b>2.6</b>	2.6	.03
		2	Sometimes	119	35	1,256	34			
		3	Often	115	33	1,162	32			
		4	Very often	76	21	777	21			
		Total		349	100	3,696	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	26	8	411	11	<b>2.8</b>	2.7	.09
		2	Sometimes	112	33	1,222	32			
		3	Often	119	35	1,255	35			
		4	Very often	89	25	802	22			
		Total		346	100	3,690	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	20	6	326	9	<b>2.8</b>	2.7	.04
		2	Sometimes	117	33	1,214	33			
		3	Often	126	37	1,286	35			
		4	Very often	84	23	853	23			
		Total		347	100	3,679	100			

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				Boise State		Public RschH / Doc / M-L		Boise State	Public RschH / Doc / M-L	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	118	15	974	14	<b>2.6</b>	2.6	.03
		2	Sometimes	278	33	2,358	35			
		3	Often	244	29	1,839	28			
		4	Very often	200	24	1,472	23			
		Total		840	100	6,643	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	127	16	1,146	18	<b>2.4</b>	2.4	-.04
		2	Sometimes	356	43	2,546	38			
		3	Often	215	25	1,714	26			
		4	Very often	134	16	1,214	18			
		Total		832	100	6,620	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	39	5	399	6	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	-.02
		2	Sometimes	252	30	1,825	28			
		3	Often	298	36	2,410	36			
		4	Very often	250	29	1,994	30			
		Total		839	100	6,628	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	103	13	824	12	<b>2.6</b>	2.6	-.03
		2	Sometimes	322	38	2,435	37			
		3	Often	242	29	2,043	31			
		4	Very often	169	20	1,321	20			
		Total		836	100	6,623	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	40	5	299	4	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	-.03
		2	Sometimes	197	24	1,577	24			
		3	Often	312	37	2,449	37			
		4	Very often	284	34	2,292	35			
		Total		833	100	6,617	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	40	5	309	5	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	-.05
		2	Sometimes	213	26	1,569	24			
		3	Often	306	36	2,521	38			
		4	Very often	275	33	2,218	34			
		Total		834	100	6,617	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	49	7	419	6	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	-.03
		2	Sometimes	235	28	1,751	27			
		3	Often	301	36	2,386	36			
		4	Very often	249	30	2,030	31			
		Total		834	100	6,586	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for a key to the 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>		
				Boise State		Public RschH / Doc / M-L		Boise State	Public RschH / Doc / M-L	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	22	3	256	4	<b>3.3</b>	3.2	.04
		2	Sometimes	138	17	1,235	19			
		3	Often	266	33	1,965	29			
		4	Very often	414	48	3,186	48			
		Total		840	100	6,642	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	98	12	932	14	<b>2.8</b>	2.7	.05
		2	Sometimes	225	27	1,862	28			
		3	Often	254	30	1,924	29			
		4	Very often	261	30	1,911	29			
		Total		838	100	6,629	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	81	10	637	9	<b>2.9</b>	2.8	.02
		2	Sometimes	225	27	1,915	29			
		3	Often	257	31	2,048	31			
		4	Very often	273	32	2,025	31			
		Total		836	100	6,625	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	82	10	575	9	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	.01
		2	Sometimes	231	28	2,075	31			
		3	Often	275	33	2,061	31			
		4	Very often	248	29	1,893	29			
		Total		836	100	6,604	100			

### 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>
	Boise State	Boise State	Public RschH / Doc / M-L	Boise State	Public RschH / Doc / M-L	Boise State	Public RschH / Doc / M-L	Comparisons with: Public RschH / Doc / M-L		
TRN01a	345	2.61	2.50	.05	.01	0.95	0.96	4,619	.048	.11
TRN01b	343	2.25	2.23	.04	.01	0.83	0.94	416	.729	.02
TRN01c	345	2.79	2.71	.04	.01	0.81	0.87	412	.101	.09
TRN01d	341	2.45	2.43	.05	.01	0.93	0.91	4,599	.746	.02
TRN01e	342	2.76	2.78	.05	.01	0.85	0.88	4,600	.731	-.02
TRN01f	342	2.71	2.73	.05	.01	0.86	0.87	4,591	.632	-.03
TRN01g	337	2.68	2.63	.05	.01	0.89	0.91	4,583	.334	.05
TRN02a	345	3.11	3.07	.04	.01	0.80	0.85	4,620	.323	.06
TRN02b	345	2.64	2.61	.05	.01	0.94	0.96	4,607	.589	.03
TRN02c	340	2.77	2.68	.05	.01	0.91	0.93	4,594	.092	.09
TRN02d	343	2.77	2.73	.05	.01	0.88	0.91	4,589	.432	.04

### 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>
	Boise State	Boise State	Public RschH / Doc / M-L	Boise State	Public RschH / Doc / M-L	Boise State	Public RschH / Doc / M-L	Comparisons with: Public RschH / Doc / M-L		
TRN01a	838	2.62	2.58	.03	.01	1.00	0.99	9,260	.387	.03
TRN01b	830	2.41	2.45	.03	.01	0.93	0.98	1,019	.298	-.04
TRN01c	837	2.89	2.90	.03	.01	0.89	0.90	9,237	.641	-.02
TRN01d	834	2.55	2.58	.03	.01	0.95	0.94	9,230	.378	-.03
TRN01e	831	2.99	3.02	.03	.01	0.89	0.87	9,220	.425	-.03
TRN01f	832	2.97	3.01	.03	.01	0.89	0.87	9,214	.192	-.05
TRN01g	832	2.88	2.91	.03	.01	0.91	0.91	9,176	.377	-.03
TRN02a	838	3.26	3.22	.03	.01	0.83	0.88	1,031	.228	.04
TRN02b	836	2.79	2.74	.03	.01	1.01	1.03	9,237	.142	.05
TRN02c	833	2.85	2.83	.03	.01	0.99	0.97	9,226	.537	.02
TRN02d	834	2.81	2.80	.03	.01	0.97	0.95	9,203	.815	.01



## 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  $d$ .
- 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. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the comparison group is due to chance.

### **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.