
NSSE 2016 Topical Module Report

Development of Transferable Skills

Tennessee Technological 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 'Transferable Skills' column of this report.

Group label	Transferable Skills
Date submitted	5/5/16
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution retained the default comparison group (all module participants).
Group description	All other current- and prior-year NSSE institutions who administered module "Development of Transferable Skills "

Transferable Skills (N=75)

Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA)	Kaplan University (Davenport, IA)*
Alberta College of Art + Design (Calgary, AB)	Lancaster Bible College (Lancaster, PA)*
Albertus Magnus College (New Haven, CT)	Lane College (Jackson, TN)
Averett University (Danville, VA)	Lee University (Cleveland, TN)*
Baker University (Baldwin City, KS)	Lees-McRae College (Banner Elk, NC)
Bellevue University (Bellevue, NE)*	Lincoln Memorial University (Harrogate, TN)
Boise State University (Boise, ID)*	Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College (Baton Rouge, LA)*
Boston University (Boston, MA)	McDaniel College (Westminster, MD)*
Brigham Young University-Hawaii (Laie, HI)	Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry, NY)
Caldwell University (Caldwell, NJ)*	Metropolitan State University (Saint Paul, MN)*
California State University-Channel Islands (Camarillo, CA)	Mississippi University for Women (Columbus, MS)
California State University, San Bernardino (San Bernardino, CA)*	Missouri State University (Springfield, MO)
Campbell University Inc. (Buies Creek, NC)*	Mount St. Mary's University (Emmitsburg, MD)
Carthage College (Kenosha, WI)*	Murray State University (Murray, KY)
Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH)*	New Jersey City University (Jersey City, NJ)*
Catawba College (Salisbury, NC)	Northwest University (Kirkland, WA)
Chaminade University of Honolulu (Honolulu, HI)	Philadelphia University (Philadelphia, PA)*
Clemson University (Clemson, SC)	Quest University Canada (Squamish, BC)
Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction, CO)	Reinhardt University (Waleska, GA)
Concordia College at Moorhead (Moorhead, MN)*	Rosemont College (Rosemont, PA)
Culinary Institute of America (Hyde Park, NY)*	Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing (Peoria, IL)
DeSales University (Center Valley, PA)*	Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, GA)*
Emporia State University (Emporia, KS)	Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning (Oakville, ON)
Felician College (Lodi, NJ)*	St. Gregory's University (Shawnee, OK)
Ferrum College (Ferrum, VA)*	Tennessee Wesleyan College (Athens, TN)
Franklin College (Franklin, IN)*	Trent University (Peterborough, ON)
Greensboro College (Greensboro, NC)	Trevecca Nazarene University (Nashville, TN)
Indiana University Southeast (New Albany, IN)*	Union College (Barbourville, KY)*
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (Indianapolis, IN)*	University of Arkansas at Little Rock (Little Rock, AR)
Jacksonville University (Jacksonville, FL)	University of Central Oklahoma (Edmond, OK)*

Transferable Skills (N=75), continued

University of Denver (Denver, CO)
University of Louisiana Monroe (Monroe, LA)
University of Mississippi (University, MS)
University of Montana-Western, The (Dillon, MT)*
University of Nebraska at Kearney (Kearney, NE)
University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)
University of North Carolina Wilmington (Wilmington, NC)*
University of Pikeville (Pikeville, KY)
University of Puerto Rico-Carolina (Carolina, PR)
University of Scranton (Scranton, PA)*
University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, KY)
Utica College (Utica, NY)*
Vancouver Island University (Nanaimo, BC)
Western State Colorado University (Gunnison, CO)
Young Harris College (Young Harris, GA)

*2015 participant

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Tennessee Tech		Transferable Skills		Tennessee Tech	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	37	13	1,870	13	2.5	2.6	-.08
		2	Sometimes	108	40	5,168	36			
		3	Often	73	30	4,498	30			
		4	Very often	44	17	3,039	20			
		Total		262	100	14,575	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	79	29	3,607	26	2.1	2.2	-.10
		2	Sometimes	102	38	5,781	39			
		3	Often	60	25	3,410	23			
		4	Very often	21	8	1,732	12			
		Total		262	100	14,530	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	16	6	1,061	8	2.6	2.7 *	-.12
		2	Sometimes	110	42	4,908	34			
		3	Often	97	38	5,393	37			
		4	Very often	37	14	3,190	21			
		Total		260	100	14,552	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	47	17	2,114	15	2.4	2.5	-.11
		2	Sometimes	110	41	5,665	39			
		3	Often	78	32	4,638	32			
		4	Very often	26	10	2,107	14			
		Total		261	100	14,524	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	20	6	808	6	2.7	2.8	-.10
		2	Sometimes	95	36	4,508	31			
		3	Often	96	38	5,738	39			
		4	Very often	49	20	3,446	24			
		Total		260	100	14,500	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	16	4	887	6	2.7	2.8	-.02
		2	Sometimes	95	36	4,806	33			
		3	Often	98	39	5,683	39			
		4	Very often	50	20	3,122	22			
		Total		259	100	14,498	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	29	10	1,208	9	2.6	2.7	-.08
		2	Sometimes	96	37	5,130	35			
		3	Often	95	37	5,230	36			
		4	Very often	41	16	2,888	20			
		Total		261	100	14,456	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		
				Tennessee Tech		Transferable Skills		Tennessee Tech	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	23	8	415	3	2.7	3.1 ***	- .41
		2	Sometimes	89	34	3,228	23			
		3	Often	91	35	5,435	37			
		4	Very often	58	23	5,485	37			
			Total	261	100	14,563	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	55	20	1,767	13	2.3	2.6 ***	- .27
		2	Sometimes	102	38	4,916	34			
		3	Often	75	30	4,806	32			
		4	Very often	29	12	3,040	20			
			Total	261	100	14,529	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	51	18	1,392	10	2.4	2.7 ***	- .32
		2	Sometimes	100	39	4,759	33			
		3	Often	72	28	5,093	35			
		4	Very often	37	15	3,270	22			
			Total	260	100	14,514	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	34	12	1,006	8	2.5	2.7 ***	- .23
		2	Sometimes	98	38	4,812	33			
		3	Often	88	34	5,349	36			
		4	Very often	39	16	3,333	23			
			Total	259	100	14,500	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			
				Tennessee Tech		Transferable Skills		Tennessee Tech	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	62	15	2,229	13	2.5	2.7 *	▽	-.13
		2	Sometimes	147	37	6,197	33				
		3	Often	106	27	5,365	29				
		4	Very often	83	21	4,637	25				
		Total		398	100	18,428	100				
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	55	14	3,370	20	2.5	2.4 *	△	.13
		2	Sometimes	141	37	6,741	37				
		3	Often	124	31	4,917	26				
		4	Very often	77	18	3,330	18				
		Total		397	100	18,358	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	20	5	1,126	7	2.8	2.9		-.08
		2	Sometimes	136	34	5,197	28				
		3	Often	149	37	6,664	36				
		4	Very often	93	24	5,414	29				
		Total		398	100	18,401	100				
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	58	14	1,934	11	2.5	2.7 *	▽	-.12
		2	Sometimes	143	36	6,240	34				
		3	Often	120	30	6,196	33				
		4	Very often	77	19	4,004	22				
		Total		398	100	18,374	100				
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	22	5	693	4	2.9	3.0 *	▽	-.11
		2	Sometimes	109	27	4,222	23				
		3	Often	146	36	7,066	38				
		4	Very often	121	31	6,384	35				
		Total		398	100	18,365	100				
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	14	3	718	4	2.9	3.0 **	▽	-.13
		2	Sometimes	125	31	4,266	23				
		3	Often	151	37	7,151	38				
		4	Very often	109	29	6,237	34				
		Total		399	100	18,372	100				
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	25	6	968	6	2.9	2.9		-.09
		2	Sometimes	123	30	4,708	26				
		3	Often	140	37	6,867	37				
		4	Very often	109	28	5,714	31				
		Total		397	100	18,257	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		
				Tennessee Tech		Transferable Skills		Tennessee Tech	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	30	8	638	4	2.8	3.2 ***	-0.51
		2	Sometimes	123	31	3,235	18			
		3	Often	137	35	5,524	29			
		4	Very often	109	26	9,050	49			
		Total		399	100	18,447	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	83	20	2,028	12	2.4	2.8 ***	-0.42
		2	Sometimes	147	37	5,109	28			
		3	Often	100	25	5,479	29			
		4	Very often	69	17	5,785	31			
		Total		399	100	18,401	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	51	13	1,458	8	2.6	2.9 ***	-0.31
		2	Sometimes	147	37	5,137	28			
		3	Often	116	29	5,782	31			
		4	Very often	84	21	6,024	33			
		Total		398	100	18,401	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	48	13	1,326	8	2.5	2.9 ***	-0.36
		2	Sometimes	160	41	5,301	29			
		3	Often	111	28	6,154	33			
		4	Very often	76	19	5,605	30			
		Total		395	100	18,386	100			

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

NSSE 2016 Development of Transferable Skills

Detailed Statistics^e

Tennessee Technological University

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	Tennessee Tech	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Comparisons with: Transferable Skills		
TRN01a	260	2.50	2.58	.06	.01	0.92	0.96	10,552	.209	-.08
TRN01b	260	2.12	2.21	.06	.01	0.92	0.96	10,513	.111	-.10
TRN01c	258	2.61	2.71	.05	.01	0.80	0.89	273	.035	-.12
TRN01d	258	2.36	2.46	.05	.01	0.88	0.91	10,501	.074	-.11
TRN01e	258	2.73	2.81	.05	.01	0.85	0.87	10,494	.119	-.10
TRN01f	257	2.75	2.76	.05	.01	0.83	0.87	10,500	.782	-.02
TRN01g	258	2.60	2.67	.05	.01	0.87	0.90	10,465	.203	-.08
TRN02a	258	2.73	3.08	.06	.01	0.91	0.85	269	.000	-.41
TRN02b	258	2.35	2.60	.06	.01	0.93	0.95	10,517	.000	-.27
TRN02c	257	2.39	2.69	.06	.01	0.95	0.93	10,503	.000	-.32
TRN02d	256	2.53	2.74	.06	.01	0.90	0.90	10,490	.000	-.23

NSSE 2016 Development of Transferable Skills

Detailed Statistics^e

Tennessee Technological University

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	Tennessee Tech	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Comparisons with: Transferable Skills		
TRN01a	397	2.53	2.66	.05	.01	0.99	0.99	13,981	.012	-.13
TRN01b	395	2.54	2.42	.05	.01	0.94	0.99	13,933	.014	.13
TRN01c	397	2.81	2.88	.04	.01	0.86	0.91	13,961	.124	-.08
TRN01d	395	2.55	2.66	.05	.01	0.96	0.94	13,937	.021	-.12
TRN01e	397	2.94	3.03	.04	.01	0.89	0.86	13,933	.033	-.11
TRN01f	397	2.91	3.03	.04	.01	0.84	0.86	13,933	.010	-.13
TRN01g	395	2.86	2.94	.04	.01	0.89	0.89	13,852	.074	-.09
TRN02a	397	2.80	3.24	.05	.01	0.92	0.87	13,996	.000	-.51
TRN02b	397	2.38	2.80	.05	.01	0.99	1.01	13,960	.000	-.42
TRN02c	397	2.58	2.88	.05	.01	0.96	0.96	13,959	.000	-.31
TRN02d	394	2.52	2.86	.05	.01	0.94	0.94	13,942	.000	-.36

See the endnotes on the last page of this report.

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."
- l. This was a new item in 2016, comparison group results do not include 2015 institutions. May not apply to all modules.

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.