
NSSE 2024 Topical Module Report

Development of Transferable Skills

The University of Texas at Tyler

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.

This page intentionally left blank.

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UT Tyler		Transferable Skills		UT Tyler	Transferable Skills	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	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	TRNdebate	1	Never	57	22	2,540	19	2.3	2.3	-.09
		2	Sometimes	112	43	5,282	40			
		3	Often	60	23	3,541	27			
		4	Very often	31	12	1,858	14			
		Total		260	100	13,221	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRNspeech	1	Never	95	36	4,052	30	2.0	2.1 *	-.14
		2	Sometimes	99	39	5,192	39			
		3	Often	45	17	2,673	21			
		4	Very often	20	8	1,293	10			
		Total		259	100	13,210	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	25	10	911	7	2.7	2.7	-.03
		2	Sometimes	88	33	4,591	35			
		3	Often	92	36	5,211	39			
		4	Very often	55	21	2,490	19			
		Total		260	100	13,203	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRNethical	1	Never	55	21	2,060	16	2.3	2.4	-.10
		2	Sometimes	98	38	5,375	41			
		3	Often	79	30	4,103	31			
		4	Very often	28	11	1,667	12			
		Total		260	100	13,205	100			
e. Evaluated the credibility of information sources	TRNcred	1	Never	26	10	838	7	2.6	2.8 ***	-.21
		2	Sometimes	95	38	4,065	31			
		3	Often	94	36	5,408	41			
		4	Very often	44	17	2,883	22			
		Total		259	100	13,194	100			
f. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRNcomplex	1	Never	24	9	1,030	8	2.6	2.7	-.07
		2	Sometimes	97	38	4,557	35			
		3	Often	96	36	5,204	39			
		4	Very often	43	17	2,389	18			
		Total		260	100	13,180	100			
g. Generated multiple solutions to a problem or task	TRNsolution	1	Never	22	8	741	6	2.7	2.7	-.07
		2	Sometimes	87	34	4,495	34			
		3	Often	107	41	5,487	41			
		4	Very often	43	17	2,460	18			
		Total		259	100	13,183	100			
h. Combined dissimilar concepts to create a novel idea	TRNcreate	1	Never	60	23	2,730	21	2.2	2.3	-.03
		2	Sometimes	108	42	5,623	42			
		3	Often	64	24	3,521	27			
		4	Very often	27	11	1,285	10			
		Total		259	100	13,159	100			
i. Adapted a previously used solution to a new situation	TRNadapt	1	Never	28	11	1,320	10	2.5	2.5	-.02
		2	Sometimes	105	41	5,078	39			
		3	Often	87	33	4,936	37			
		4	Very often	40	15	1,809	14			
		Total		260	100	13,143	100			

NSSE 2024 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

The University of Texas at Tyler

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UT Tyler		Transferable Skills		UT Tyler	Transferable Skills	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
j. Referred to online content (tutorial, forum, webpage, etc.) to solve a problem	TRNnlsolve	1	Never	11	5	529	4	3.0	3.0	-.03
		2	Sometimes	69	27	3,272	25			
		3	Often	97	37	5,162	39			
		4	Very often	81	31	4,183	31			
		Total		258	100	13,146	100			
k. Referred to online content (tutorial, forum, webpage, etc.) to learn a new skill or procedure	TRNnlskill	1	Never	11	4	564	5	2.9	2.9	-.01
		2	Sometimes	77	30	3,596	28			
		3	Often	95	36	5,089	38			
		4	Very often	76	30	3,895	29			
		Total		259	100	13,144	100			
l. Used project management tools to plan, organize, or schedule tasks	TRNproject	1	Never	27	11	1,428	12	2.5	2.6	-.06
		2	Sometimes	103	40	4,558	35			
		3	Often	86	32	4,655	35			
		4	Very often	43	16	2,497	18			
		Total		259	100	13,138	100			
m. Used a daily or weekly "to do" list	TRNtodo	1	Never	24	10	1,098	10	2.9	2.9	-.07
		2	Sometimes	72	29	3,155	25			
		3	Often	65	25	3,227	25			
		4	Very often	98	36	5,681	40			
		Total		259	100	13,161	100			
n. Prioritized what tasks need to be accomplished	TRNtasks	1	Never	5	2	209	2	3.2	3.3	-.09
		2	Sometimes	51	20	1,991	16			
		3	Often	87	33	4,587	36			
		4	Very often	116	44	6,333	46			
		Total		259	100	13,120	100			
o. Worked longer hours than usual to meet deadlines (i.e., after midnight, before dawn)	TRNhours	1	Never	20	8	951	8	2.9	2.9	.00
		2	Sometimes	68	27	3,532	27			
		3	Often	79	30	3,890	30			
		4	Very often	92	35	4,785	35			
		Total		259	100	13,158	100			
p. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that used information from a variety of sources (books, journals, Internet, databases, etc.)	TRNwrsouce	1	Never	14	6	454	4	2.9	3.0	-.09
		2	Sometimes	66	27	3,338	26			
		3	Often	94	36	4,768	36			
		4	Very often	83	31	4,576	34			
		Total		257	100	13,136	100			
q. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRNwrassess	1	Never	32	13	1,557	12	2.7	2.6	.04
		2	Sometimes	74	30	4,462	34			
		3	Often	90	34	4,159	32			
		4	Very often	64	23	2,940	22			
		Total		260	100	13,118	100			

NSSE 2024 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

The University of Texas at Tyler

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UT Tyler		Transferable Skills		UT Tyler	Transferable Skills	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
r. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRNwrideas	1	Never	40	16	1,615	13	2.5	2.6	-.03
		2	Sometimes	83	33	4,720	36			
		3	Often	84	32	4,153	31			
		4	Very often	51	19	2,626	20			
		Total		258	100	13,114	100			
s. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRNwrviews	1	Never	23	10	1,191	9	2.6	2.7	-.08
		2	Sometimes	101	39	4,760	36			
		3	Often	88	33	4,475	34			
		4	Very often	47	18	2,703	20			
		Total		259	100	13,129	100			

NSSE 2024 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

The University of Texas at Tyler

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UT Tyler		Transferable Skills		UT Tyler	Transferable Skills	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	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	TRNdebate	1	Never	190	27	2,395	19	2.2	2.4 *** ▽	-.23
		2	Sometimes	289	40	5,057	38			
		3	Often	146	20	3,544	26			
		4	Very often	97	13	2,383	18			
		Total		722	100	13,379	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRNspeech	1	Never	191	27	3,072	23	2.2	2.3 * ▽	-.08
		2	Sometimes	301	42	5,549	41			
		3	Often	143	20	3,020	22			
		4	Very often	88	12	1,742	13			
		Total		723	100	13,383	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	48	7	776	6	2.8	2.8	.05
		2	Sometimes	216	30	4,269	32			
		3	Often	257	35	5,132	38			
		4	Very often	203	28	3,192	24			
		Total		724	100	13,369	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRNethical	1	Never	114	16	1,618	12	2.5	2.5 * ▽	-.08
		2	Sometimes	271	38	4,982	37			
		3	Often	205	28	4,471	33			
		4	Very often	132	18	2,301	17			
		Total		722	100	13,372	100			
e. Evaluated the credibility of information sources	TRNcred	1	Never	47	7	754	6	2.9	2.9	-.01
		2	Sometimes	204	28	3,723	28			
		3	Often	263	37	5,176	38			
		4	Very often	209	29	3,707	28			
		Total		723	100	13,360	100			
f. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRNcomplex	1	Never	57	8	786	6	2.9	2.8	.01
		2	Sometimes	187	26	3,794	28			
		3	Often	281	39	5,411	40			
		4	Very often	197	27	3,367	25			
		Total		722	100	13,358	100			
g. Generated multiple solutions to a problem or task	TRNsolution	1	Never	39	6	612	5	2.9	2.9	.02
		2	Sometimes	206	29	3,785	29			
		3	Often	272	38	5,665	42			
		4	Very often	205	28	3,290	25			
		Total		722	100	13,352	100			
h. Combined dissimilar concepts to create a novel idea	TRNcreate	1	Never	145	20	2,268	17	2.3	2.4	-.02
		2	Sometimes	286	39	5,777	43			
		3	Often	192	27	3,602	27			
		4	Very often	99	14	1,691	13			
		Total		722	100	13,338	100			
i. Adapted a previously used solution to a new situation	TRNadapt	1	Never	73	10	1,065	8	2.7	2.7	.02
		2	Sometimes	238	33	4,751	35			
		3	Often	252	35	5,146	39			
		4	Very often	157	22	2,380	18			
		Total		720	100	13,342	100			

NSSE 2024 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

The University of Texas at Tyler

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UT Tyler		Transferable Skills		UT Tyler	Transferable Skills	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
j. Referred to online content (tutorial, forum, webpage, etc.) to solve a problem	TRNnlsolve	1	Never	31	4	466	4	3.1	3.1	-.01
		2	Sometimes	168	23	2,909	22			
		3	Often	231	32	4,874	36			
		4	Very often	293	41	5,104	38			
		Total		723	100	13,353	100			
k. Referred to online content (tutorial, forum, webpage, etc.) to learn a new skill or procedure	TRNnlskill	1	Never	29	4	535	4	3.1	3.0	.07
		2	Sometimes	163	22	3,227	24			
		3	Often	242	34	4,912	37			
		4	Very often	288	40	4,662	35			
		Total		722	100	13,336	100			
l. Used project management tools to plan, organize, or schedule tasks	TRNproject	1	Never	71	10	1,384	11	2.8	2.7	.06
		2	Sometimes	214	30	4,087	31			
		3	Often	250	34	4,690	35			
		4	Very often	188	26	3,161	23			
		Total		723	100	13,322	100			
m. Used a daily or weekly "to do" list	TRNtodo	1	Never	63	9	992	8	3.0	3.1 *	-.08 ▽
		2	Sometimes	166	24	2,671	21			
		3	Often	173	24	3,234	25			
		4	Very often	321	43	6,450	46			
		Total		723	100	13,347	100			
n. Prioritized what tasks need to be accomplished	TRNtasks	1	Never	15	2	183	2	3.4	3.4	.00
		2	Sometimes	73	10	1,553	12			
		3	Often	240	34	4,183	32			
		4	Very often	396	54	7,419	54			
		Total		724	100	13,338	100			
o. Worked longer hours than usual to meet deadlines (i.e., after midnight, before dawn)	TRNhours	1	Never	47	7	871	7	3.1	3.0	.06
		2	Sometimes	155	22	3,422	26			
		3	Often	200	28	3,535	27			
		4	Very often	319	43	5,518	41			
		Total		721	100	13,346	100			
p. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that used information from a variety of sources (books, journals, Internet, databases, etc.)	TRNwrsouce	1	Never	34	5	435	4	3.1	3.1 **	-.11 ▽
		2	Sometimes	168	24	2,659	21			
		3	Often	230	32	4,295	32			
		4	Very often	288	39	5,936	43			
		Total		720	100	13,325	100			
q. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRNwrassess	1	Never	108	16	1,423	11	2.6	2.7 **	-.10 ▽
		2	Sometimes	217	30	4,079	31			
		3	Often	204	28	3,909	29			
		4	Very often	193	26	3,903	28			
		Total		722	100	13,314	100			

NSSE 2024 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

The University of Texas at Tyler

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UT Tyler		Transferable Skills		UT Tyler	Transferable Skills	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
r. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRNwrideas	1	Never	97	14	1,314	11	2.6	2.7 ***	-.15
		2	Sometimes	260	36	4,215	32			
		3	Often	200	28	4,128	31			
		4	Very often	165	22	3,678	27			
		Total		722	100	13,335	100			
s. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRNwrviews	1	Never	91	13	1,239	10	2.6	2.7 ***	-.15
		2	Sometimes	279	39	4,541	34			
		3	Often	199	28	4,228	32			
		4	Very often	154	21	3,319	24			
		Total		723	100	13,327	100			

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UT Tyler	UT Tyler	Transferable Skills	UT Tyler	Transferable Skills	UT Tyler	Transferable Skills	Comparisons with: Transferable Skills		
TRNdebate	258	2.26	2.35	.058	.006	.94	.94	22,985	.146	-.09
TRNspeech	257	1.97	2.10	.057	.006	.92	.95	22,967	.028	-.14
TRNgroup	258	2.67	2.69	.057	.006	.92	.85	262	.699	-.03
TRNethical	258	2.30	2.39	.058	.006	.93	.90	22,971	.115	-.10
TRNcred	257	2.59	2.77	.055	.006	.88	.86	22,942	.001	-.21
TRNcomplex	258	2.60	2.66	.054	.006	.87	.86	22,916	.286	-.07
TRNsolution	257	2.66	2.72	.053	.005	.85	.83	22,929	.256	-.07
TRNcreate	257	2.23	2.26	.058	.006	.92	.90	22,858	.649	-.03
TRNadapt	258	2.52	2.54	.055	.006	.88	.85	22,840	.690	-.02
TRNnonsolve	257	2.95	2.97	.055	.006	.88	.86	22,854	.672	-.03
TRNnonskill	257	2.91	2.92	.054	.006	.87	.86	22,843	.919	-.01
TRNproject	257	2.53	2.59	.056	.006	.90	.92	22,841	.324	-.06
TRNtodo	257	2.87	2.94	.064	.007	1.02	1.03	22,875	.277	-.07
TRNtasks	257	3.19	3.26	.052	.005	.84	.79	22,814	.143	-.09
TRNhours	257	2.92	2.92	.060	.006	.96	.96	22,871	.970	.00
TRNwrsource	255	2.93	3.00	.056	.006	.90	.86	22,827	.175	-.09
TRNwrassess	258	2.67	2.63	.061	.006	.98	.95	22,815	.495	.04
TRNwrideas	256	2.55	2.58	.061	.006	.97	.94	22,793	.606	-.03
TRNwrviews	257	2.58	2.65	.056	.006	.89	.90	22,835	.203	-.08

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UT Tyler	UT Tyler	Transferable Skills	UT Tyler	Transferable Skills	UT Tyler	Transferable Skills	Comparisons with: Transferable Skills		
TRNdebate	719	2.20	2.42	.037	.006	.98	.98	756	.000	-.23
TRNspeech	720	2.18	2.25	.036	.006	.96	.96	28,517	.043	-.08
TRNgroup	721	2.84	2.80	.034	.005	.91	.87	28,476	.232	.05
TRNethical	719	2.48	2.55	.036	.006	.97	.92	752	.049	-.08
TRNcred	720	2.87	2.88	.034	.005	.91	.88	28,473	.783	-.01
TRNcomplex	719	2.85	2.85	.034	.005	.91	.87	28,459	.781	.01
TRNsolution	719	2.88	2.87	.033	.005	.88	.84	28,444	.582	.02
TRNcreate	719	2.34	2.36	.035	.005	.95	.91	753	.637	-.02
TRNadapt	717	2.69	2.67	.035	.005	.93	.86	749	.591	.02
TRNnonsolve	720	3.09	3.10	.033	.005	.90	.86	753	.844	-.01
TRNnonskill	719	3.09	3.04	.033	.005	.88	.87	754	.081	.07
TRNproject	720	2.76	2.71	.035	.006	.95	.94	28,383	.143	.06
TRNtodo	720	3.01	3.08	.038	.006	1.02	1.00	28,444	.046	-.08
TRNtasks	721	3.39	3.39	.028	.005	.76	.76	28,432	.997	.00
TRNhours	718	3.08	3.02	.036	.006	.96	.96	28,441	.106	.06
TRNwrsources	717	3.05	3.15	.034	.005	.91	.87	28,388	.004	-.11
TRNwrassess	719	2.64	2.75	.038	.006	1.03	.99	753	.009	-.10
TRNwrideas	719	2.59	2.73	.037	.006	.98	.97	28,413	.000	-.15
TRNwrviews	720	2.56	2.70	.036	.006	.96	.94	28,393	.000	-.15

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.