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# **NSSE 2020 Topical Module Report**

## **First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions**

Purdue University Fort Wayne

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## About This Topical Module

This module includes a set of items only for first-year students and a set only for seniors, with questions adapted from the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement and the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project, respectively. The first-year items focus on academic perseverance, help-seeking behaviors, and institutional commitment, while the senior items explore post-graduation plans, links between the academic major and future plans, and confidence with skills developed during college.

## 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 'FY Exp / Sr Transiti'n' column of this report.

Group label	FY Exp / Sr Transiti'n
Date submitted	5/21/20
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution added or removed institutions from the default comparison group (all module participants)
Group description	All other current- and prior-year (if applicable) NSSE institutions who administered module "First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions"

## FY Exp / Sr Transiti'n (N=162)

Abilene Christian University (Abilene, TX)	Concordia University Chicago (River Forest, IL)
Alabama State University (Montgomery, AL)	Dalhousie University (Halifax, NS)
Alcorn State University (Alcorn State, MS)	Dean College (Franklin, MA)
Allegheny College (Meadville, PA)	DeSales University (Center Valley, PA)
Arkansas Baptist College (Little Rock, AR)	Drew University (Madison, NJ)
Ashford University (San Diego, CA)	École de technologie supérieure (Montréal, QC)
Azusa Pacific University (Azusa, CA)	Evergreen State College, The (Olympia, WA)
Barry University (Miami, FL)	Fayetteville State University (Fayetteville, NC)
Barton College (Wilson, NC)	Florida A&M University (Tallahassee, FL)
Becker College (Worcester, MA)	Florida International University (Miami, FL)
Benedictine College (Atchison, KS)	Florida Southern College (Lakeland, FL)
Bennington College (Bennington, VT)	Freed-Hardeman University (Henderson, TN)
Brandon University (Brandon, MB)	Gallaudet University (Washington, DC)
Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, VA)	Georgetown College (Georgetown, KY)
Bridgewater State University (Bridgewater, MA)	Georgia Southern University (Statesboro, GA)
Brock University (St. Catharines, ON)	Georgia Southwestern State University (Americus, GA)
California State Polytechnic University-Pomona (Pomona, CA)	Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA)
California State University-Dominguez Hills (Carson, CA)	Glenville State College (Glenville, WV)
California State University, Chico (Chico, CA)	Grand Canyon University (Phoenix, AZ)
California State University, Sacramento (Sacramento, CA)	Grinnell College (Grinnell, IA)
Campbellsville University (Campbellsville, KY)	Hendrix College (Conway, AR)
Carroll College (Helena, MT)	Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, IN (Notre Dame, IN)
Centenary College of Louisiana (Shreveport, LA)	Illinois College (Jacksonville, IL)
Clark University (Worcester, MA)	Indiana Institute of Technology (Fort Wayne, IN)
Cleveland State University (Cleveland, OH)	Judson University (Elgin, IL)
College of Coastal Georgia (Brunswick, GA)	Kenyon College (Gambier, OH)
College of Our Lady of the Elms (Chicopee, MA)	Keuka College (Keuka Park, NY)
College of Saint Elizabeth (Morristown, NJ)	La Roche University (Pittsburgh, PA)
Colorado Technical University (Colorado Springs, CO)	Laurentian University/Université Laurentienne (Sudbury, ON)
Columbus College of Art and Design (Columbus, OH)	Lenoir-Rhyne University (Hickory, NC)

## FY Exp / Sr Transiti (N=162), continued

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Limestone College (Gaffney, SC)	University of Calgary (Calgary, AB)
Lincoln College (Lincoln, IL)	University of Central Missouri (Warrensburg, MO)
Marietta College (Marietta, OH)	University of Charleston (Charleston, WV)
Mars Hill University (Mars Hill, NC)	University of Dubuque (Dubuque, IA)
Marymount California University (Rancho Palos Verdes, CA)	University of Evansville (Evansville, IN)
McGill University (Montreal, QC)	University of Georgia (Athens, GA)
Memorial University of Newfoundland (St. John's, NL)	University of Guam (Mangilao, GU)
Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry, NY)	University of Kentucky (Lexington, KY)
Mississippi State University (Mississippi State, MS)	University of Lethbridge (Lethbridge, AB)
Mount Saint Vincent University (Halifax, NS)	University of Louisiana Monroe (Monroe, LA)
Nebraska Methodist College (Omaha, NE)	University of Maine (Orono, ME)
Nebraska Wesleyan University (Lincoln, NE)	University of Maine at Augusta (Augusta, ME)
Nevada State College (Henderson, NV)	University of Maine at Fort Kent (Fort Kent, ME)
New Mexico State University (Las Cruces, NM)	University of Maine at Presque Isle (Presque Isle, ME)
New York Institute of Technology (Old Westbury, NY)	University of Manitoba, The (Winnipeg, MB)
Northern State University (Aberdeen, SD)	University of Minnesota Morris (Morris, MN)
OCAD University (Toronto, ON)	University of New Brunswick (Fredericton, NB)
Olivet College (Olivet, MI)	University of New England (Biddeford, ME)
Ottawa University (Ottawa, KS)	University of New Hampshire at Durham (Durham, NH)
Ottawa University-Surprise (Surprise, AZ)	University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)
Otterbein University (Westerville, OH)	University of Ontario Institute of Technology (Oshawa, ON)
Paul Smith's College (Paul Smiths, NY)	University of Pikeville (Pikeville, KY)
Plymouth State University (Plymouth, NH)	University of Richmond (University of Richmond, VA)
Presentation College (Aberdeen, SD)	University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon, SK)
Rogers State University (Claremore, OK)	University of South Florida (Tampa, FL)
Saint Andrews University (Laurinburg, NC)	University of South Florida-St. Petersburg (St. Petersburg, FL)
Saint Joseph's College (Standish, ME)	University of Tennessee Martin, The (Martin, TN)
Saint Mary's University (Halifax, NS)	University of Texas at Arlington, The (Arlington, TX)
Saint Xavier University (Chicago, IL)	University of Texas at El Paso, The (El Paso, TX)
Samford University (Birmingham, AL)	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, The (Edinburg, TX)
San Diego State University-Imperial Valley Campus (Calexico, CA)	University of Victoria (Victoria, BC)
Sarah Lawrence College (Bronxville, NY)	University of Virginia's College at Wise, The (Wise, VA)
Shaw University (Raleigh, NC)	University of West Georgia (Carrollton, GA)
Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning (Oakville, ON)	University of Windsor (Windsor, ON)
Southeastern Louisiana University (Hammond, LA)	University of Winnipeg, The (Winnipeg, MB)
Southern Oregon University (Ashland, OR)	University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (Oshkosh, WI)
St. Thomas University (Fredericton, NB)	University of Wisconsin-Platteville (Platteville, WI)
Stevenson University (Stevenson, MD)	Vancouver Island University (Nanaimo, BC)
SUNY College at Oswego (Oswego, NY)	Warren Wilson College (Swannanoa, NC)
SUNY College at Plattsburgh (Plattsburgh, NY)	Waynesburg University (Waynesburg, PA)
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (Syracuse, NY)	Western New England University (Springfield, MA)
SUNY-Buffalo State College (Buffalo, NY)	Western Oregon University (Monmouth, OR)
Sweet Briar College (Sweet Briar, VA)	Whitman College (Walla Walla, WA)
Tennessee Wesleyan University (Athens, TN)	Xavier University (Cincinnati, OH)
Towson University (Towson, MD)	
Trent University (Peterborough, ON)	
Université de Montréal (Montreal, QC)	
Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (Chicoutimi, QC)	
Université du Québec à Montréal (Montréal, QC)	
Université du Québec à Rimouski (Rimouski, QC)	
Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (Trois-Rivières, QC)	
Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (Rouyn-Noranda, QC)	
Université du Québec en Outaouais (Gatineau, QC)	
Université Laval (Quebec city, QC)	
University at Buffalo, State University of New York (Buffalo, NY)	
University of Alberta (Edmonton, AB)	
University of British Columbia - Vancouver campus (Vancouver, BC)	
University of British Columbia Okanagan (Kelowna, BC)	

\*2019 participant

## 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>		
				PFW		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		PFW	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?</b>										
a. Studied when there were other interesting things to do	FYSfy01a	1	Never	13	3	2,237	4	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	.01
		2	Sometimes	164	34	18,509	34			
		3	Often	194	42	20,450	37			
		4	Very often	104	22	13,689	24			
		Total		475	100	54,885	100			
b. Found additional information for course assignments when you didn't understand the material	FYSfy01b	1	Never	12	2	1,623	3	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	.01
		2	Sometimes	139	30	15,528	29			
		3	Often	210	44	24,946	45			
		4	Very often	112	24	12,695	23			
		Total		473	100	54,792	100			
c. Participated in course discussions, even when you didn't feel like it	FYSfy01c	1	Never	15	3	7,666	13	<b>2.9</b>	2.5 ***	.38
		2	Sometimes	150	32	21,629	39			
		3	Often	202	42	17,557	33			
		4	Very often	109	23	7,952	16			
		Total		476	100	54,804	100			
d. Asked instructors for help when you struggled with course assignments	FYSfy01d	1	Never	35	7	7,976	14	<b>2.7</b>	2.4 ***	.30
		2	Sometimes	177	37	23,959	43			
		3	Often	162	34	15,764	29			
		4	Very often	103	21	7,095	14			
		Total		477	100	54,794	100			
e. Finished something you have started when you encountered challenges	FYSfy01e	1	Never	0	0	711	1	<b>3.2</b>	3.1 *	.12
		2	Sometimes	77	17	10,753	20			
		3	Often	235	50	26,774	49			
		4	Very often	158	33	16,494	30			
		Total		470	100	54,732	100			
f. Stayed positive, even when you did poorly on a test or assignment	FYSfy01f	1	Never	14	3	2,627	5	<b>2.9</b>	2.8	.04
		2	Sometimes	150	32	16,943	30			
		3	Often	185	40	22,535	41			
		4	Very often	123	26	12,689	24			
		Total		472	100	54,794	100			
<b>2. During the current school year, how difficult have the following been for you?</b>										
a. Learning course material	FYSfy02a	1	Not at all difficult	27	6	2,397	5	<b>3.3</b>	3.5 **	-.13
		2	2	76	16	7,713	14			
		3	3	156	33	15,964	29			
		4	4	159	33	19,315	35			
		5	5	45	10	7,073	13			
		6	Very difficult	10	2	2,341	4			
		Total		473	100	54,803	100			
b. Managing your time	FYSfy02b	1	Not at all difficult	27	5	2,346	5	<b>3.8</b>	3.9	-.05
		2	2	49	11	5,734	11			
		3	3	111	23	11,828	22			
		4	4	136	29	15,536	28			
		5	5	91	19	11,418	20			
		6	Very difficult	61	13	7,920	14			
		Total		475	100	54,782	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 <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				PFW		FY Exp / Sr Transn		PFW	FY Exp / Sr Transn	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
c. Getting help with school work	FYSfy02c	1	Not at all difficult	87	18	7,230	14	<b>2.9</b>	3.0	-.06
		2	2	109	23	12,717	23			
		3	3	121	25	15,530	28			
		4	4	92	20	11,724	21			
		5	5	42	9	5,004	9			
		6	Very difficult	25	5	2,546	5			
		Total		476	100	54,751	100			
d. Interacting with faculty	FYSfy02d	1	Not at all difficult	113	24	9,610	19	<b>2.7</b>	2.9 ***	-.16
		2	2	111	23	13,421	24			
		3	3	128	27	13,955	25			
		4	4	80	17	10,202	18			
		5	5	29	6	4,843	9			
		6	Very difficult	15	3	2,714	5			
		Total		476	100	54,745	100			
<b>3. During the current school year, about how often have you sought help with coursework from the following sources?</b>										
a. Faculty members	FYSfy03a_16	1	Never	69	14	12,286	22	<b>2.3</b>	2.1 ***	.27
		2	Sometimes	238	50	28,396	52			
		3	Often	120	26	10,929	20			
		4	Very often	47	10	3,082	6			
		Total		474	100	54,693	100			
b. Academic advisors	FYSfy03b_16	1	Never	197	42	27,221	48	<b>1.8</b>	1.7 ***	.16
		2	Sometimes	176	37	19,042	35			
		3	Often	73	15	6,462	12			
		4	Very often	29	6	1,888	4			
		Total		475	100	54,613	100			
c. Learning support services (tutoring, writing center, success coaching, etc.)	FYSfy03c_16	1	Never	211	44	27,300	48	<b>1.8</b>	1.8	.03
		2	Sometimes	174	37	16,849	32			
		3	Often	60	13	7,331	14			
		4	Very often	30	6	3,142	6			
		Total		475	100	54,622	100			
d. Friends or other students	FYSfy03d_16	1	Never	21	4	3,598	8	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	.01
		2	Sometimes	155	33	14,877	28			
		3	Often	174	37	20,370	37			
		4	Very often	125	26	15,797	28			
		Total		475	100	54,642	100			
e. Family members	FYSfy03e_16	1	Never	183	39	22,630	42	<b>2.0</b>	1.9 *	.10
		2	Sometimes	157	33	17,919	32			
		3	Often	76	16	9,641	17			
		4	Very often	58	12	4,456	8			
		Total		474	100	54,646	100			
f. Other persons or offices	FYSfy03f_16	1	Never	269	56	35,296	63	<b>1.6</b>	1.5 *	.13
		2	Sometimes	136	29	13,221	25			
		3	Often	48	10	4,456	9			
		4	Very often	19	4	1,631	3			
		Total		472	100	54,604	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 <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				PFW		FY Exp / Sr Transitm		PFW	FY Exp / Sr Transitm	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>4a. During the current school year, have you seriously considered leaving this institution?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSfy04a	No		347	73	39,439	72	<b>27%</b>	28%	-.01
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	Yes		124	27	15,224	28			
		Total		471	100	54,663	100			
<b>4b. [If answered "yes"] Why did you consider leaving? (Select all that apply.)</b>										
	FYSfy04b_1_16	—	Academics are too difficult	26	23	3,527	22			
	FYSfy04b_2_16	—	Academics are too easy	3	2	607	4			
	FYSfy04b_3_16	—	Other academic issues (major not offered, course availability, advising, credit transfer, etc.)	31	25	2,431	16			
	FYSfy04b_4_16	—	Financial concerns (costs or financial aid)	39	31	5,648	38			
	FYSfy04b_5_16	—	To change your career options (transfer to another school or program, military service, etc.)	28	22	3,615	23			
	FYSfy04b_6_16	—	Difficulty managing demands of school and work	34	27	3,148	21			
	FYSfy04b_7_16	—	Too much emphasis on partying	0	0	592	4			
	FYSfy04b_8_16	—	Not enough opportunities to socialize and have fun	23	18	2,665	17			
	FYSfy04b_9_16	—	Relations with faculty and staff	12	10	1,415	10			
	FYSfy04b_10_16	—	Relations with other students	16	13	2,565	16			
	FYSfy04b_11_16	—	Campus climate, location, or culture	26	19	3,467	23			
	FYSfy04b_12_16	—	Unsafe or hostile environment	2	2	767	5			
	FYSfy04b_13_16	—	Personal reasons (family issues, physical or mental health, homesickness, stress, etc.)	46	34	6,482	42			
	FYSfy04b_14_16	—	A reason not listed above, please specify:	17	14	2,094	15			
<b>5. How important is it to you that you graduate from <i>this institution</i>?</b>										
	FYSfy05	1	Not important	25	5	2,362	5	<b>4.9</b>	5.1 *	- .11
		2	2	19	4	1,741	3			
		3	3	32	7	3,209	6			
		4	4	64	14	6,643	12			
		5	5	80	17	8,531	15			
		6	Very important	254	53	31,893	59			
		Total		474	100	54,379	100			

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

#### 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>
	PFW	PFW	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	PFW	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	PFW	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	Comparisons with: FY Exp / Sr Transiti		
FYSfy01a	475	2.82	2.81	.037	.003	0.80	0.85	481	.835	.01
FYSfy01b	473	2.90	2.89	.036	.003	0.79	0.79	69,756	.776	.01
FYSfy01c	476	2.85	2.51	.037	.003	0.80	0.90	484	.000	.38
FYSfy01d	478	2.70	2.42	.040	.003	0.88	0.89	69,756	.000	.30
FYSfy01e	471	3.16	3.08	.032	.003	0.69	0.74	69,643	.012	.12
FYSfy01f	473	2.88	2.85	.038	.003	0.82	0.84	69,755	.432	.04
FYSfy02a	474	3.33	3.48	.050	.004	1.10	1.16	69,757	.004	-.13
FYSfy02b	475	3.84	3.91	.062	.005	1.35	1.36	69,726	.236	-.05
FYSfy02c	477	2.94	3.01	.064	.005	1.40	1.33	482	.249	-.06
FYSfy02d	477	2.67	2.89	.061	.005	1.33	1.39	69,684	.001	-.16
FYSfy03a_16	475	2.32	2.10	.038	.003	0.84	0.81	480	.000	.27
FYSfy03b_16	475	1.85	1.72	.040	.003	0.88	0.82	69,504	.001	.16
FYSfy03c_16	476	1.81	1.78	.040	.003	0.88	0.91	69,523	.535	.03
FYSfy03d_16	476	2.85	2.84	.039	.003	0.86	0.92	69,556	.882	.01
FYSfy03e_16	475	2.01	1.92	.046	.004	1.01	0.96	69,535	.031	.10
FYSfy03f_16	473	1.62	1.52	.038	.003	0.83	0.79	478	.010	.13
FYSfy04a <sup>k</sup>	471	.272	.276	.0205	.0017	--	--	--	.856	-.01
FYSfy05	475	4.91	5.06	.067	.005	1.47	1.40	480	.027	-.11

See the endnotes on the last page of this report.



## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				PFW		FY Exp / Sr		PFW	FY Exp / Sr	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>1. Do you expect to graduate this spring or summer?</b>										
	FYSsr01_16	No		178	46	16,798	32			
		Yes		218	54	39,636	68			
		Total		396	100	56,434	100			
<b>1a. [Excludes those who answered "No," not expecting spring/summer graduation] After graduation, what best describes your immediate plans?</b>										
	FYSsr01a	—	Full-time employment	164	74	22,840	58			
		—	Part-time employment	10	4	2,134	5			
		—	Graduate or professional school	20	9	9,456	23			
		—	Military service	1	0	322	1			
		—	Service or volunteer activity (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.)	1	0	232	1			
		—	Internship (paid or unpaid)	4	2	1,320	3			
		—	Travel or gap year	7	3	1,505	3			
		—	No plans at this time	7	3	1,310	3			
		—	Other, please specify:	8	4	1,005	2			
		Total		222	100	40,124	100			
<b>1b. [If immediate plans included full- or part-time employment] Do you already have a job for after graduation?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSsr01b	No		87	49	12,972	51	<b>51%</b>	49%	.04
		(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	Yes, I will start a new job	36	21	5,350	21			
			Yes, I will continue in my current job	51	30	6,534	28			
			Total	174	100	24,856	100			
<b>2. [Excludes those who answered "No," not expecting spring/summer graduation] To what extent have courses in your major(s) prepared you for your post-graduation plans?</b>										
	FYSsr02	1	Very little	18	8	3,103	8	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	-.04
		2	Some	49	23	9,624	24			
		3	Quite a bit	92	41	15,003	37			
		4	Very much	61	27	12,322	32			
		Total		220	100	40,052	100			
<b>3. Do you intend to work eventually in a field related to your major(s)?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSsr03	Yes		340	86	48,271	85	<b>86%</b>	85%	.01
		(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	No	16	4	2,599	5			
			Unsure	39	10	5,853	10			
			Total	395	100	56,723	100			
<b>4. Do you plan to be self-employed, an independent contractor, or a freelance worker someday?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSsr04	Yes		69	18	12,316	23	<b>18%</b>	23% *	-.11
		(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	No	222	55	28,738	49			
			Unsure	106	27	15,685	28			
			Total	397	100	56,739	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 <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>			
				PFW		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		PFW	FY Exp / Sr Transitn		
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>	
<b>5. Do you plan to start your own business (nonprofit or for-profit) someday?<sup>j</sup></b>											
	FYSsr05		Yes	73	19	13,747	26	<b>19%</b>	26% **	- .15	
			No	206	51	26,419	45				
			Unsure	117	30	16,617	29				
			Total	396	100	56,783	100				
<b>6. How much confidence do you have in your ability to complete tasks requiring the following skills and abilities?</b>											
a. Critical thinking and analysis of arguments and information	FYSsr06a		1	Very little	6	2	442	1	<b>3.4</b>	3.4	- .10
			2	Some	48	12	5,034	8			
			3	Quite a bit	143	35	22,491	38			
			4	Very much	202	51	28,682	52			
				Total	399	100	56,649	100			
b. Creative thinking and problem solving	FYSsr06b		1	Very little	3	1	411	1	<b>3.4</b>	3.4	.00
			2	Some	34	9	4,915	8			
			3	Quite a bit	150	37	22,288	38			
			4	Very much	211	53	28,979	53			
				Total	398	100	56,593	100			
c. Research skills	FYSsr06c		1	Very little	6	2	1,448	2	<b>3.2</b>	3.2	- .02
			2	Some	74	18	10,289	17			
			3	Quite a bit	162	41	22,864	40			
			4	Very much	156	39	22,011	41			
				Total	398	100	56,612	100			
d. Clear writing	FYSsr06d		1	Very little	5	1	837	2	<b>3.3</b>	3.3	.03
			2	Some	57	15	7,726	13			
			3	Quite a bit	142	36	23,571	41			
			4	Very much	195	48	24,486	44			
				Total	399	100	56,620	100			
e. Persuasive speaking	FYSsr06e		1	Very little	28	7	2,277	4	<b>2.9</b>	3.0 *	- .12
			2	Some	101	25	13,441	23			
			3	Quite a bit	136	34	22,496	39			
			4	Very much	134	33	18,395	34			
				Total	399	100	56,609	100			
f. Technological skills	FYSsr06f		1	Very little	9	2	2,319	4	<b>3.1</b>	3.0	.05
			2	Some	89	22	13,785	23			
			3	Quite a bit	163	41	22,765	40			
			4	Very much	135	35	17,732	34			
				Total	396	100	56,601	100			
g. Financial and business management skills	FYSsr06g		1	Very little	44	11	11,086	18	<b>2.6</b>	2.5 *	.10
			2	Some	160	39	20,407	35			
			3	Quite a bit	115	30	15,307	28			
			4	Very much	79	20	9,779	19			
				Total	398	100	56,579	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 <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				PFW		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		PFW	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
h. Entrepreneurial skills	FYSsr06h	1	Very little	80	20	14,728	24	<b>2.3</b>	2.3	.03
		2	Some	165	41	21,071	37			
		3	Quite a bit	90	23	12,737	23			
		4	Very much	61	16	8,049	16			
		Total		396	100	56,585	100			
i. Leadership skills	FYSsr06i	1	Very little	13	3	2,312	4	<b>3.1</b>	3.1	-.04
		2	Some	76	19	10,945	19			
		3	Quite a bit	162	40	20,892	36			
		4	Very much	147	37	22,447	41			
		Total		398	100	56,596	100			
j. Networking and relationship building	FYSsr06j	1	Very little	23	6	3,783	7	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	-.06
		2	Some	109	27	14,307	25			
		3	Quite a bit	147	37	20,834	36			
		4	Very much	119	29	17,704	33			
		Total		398	100	56,628	100			
<b>7. To what extent has your coursework in your major(s) emphasized the following?</b>										
a. Generating new ideas or brainstorming	FYSsr07a	1	Very little	10	3	2,395	4	<b>3.0</b>	3.1	-.03
		2	Some	89	23	12,116	21			
		3	Quite a bit	168	42	22,853	40			
		4	Very much	129	32	19,150	35			
		Total		396	100	56,514	100			
b. Taking risks in your coursework without fear of penalty	FYSsr07b	1	Very little	90	23	13,224	23	<b>2.4</b>	2.5	-.01
		2	Some	114	29	17,041	30			
		3	Quite a bit	119	29	15,079	27			
		4	Very much	76	19	11,131	21			
		Total		399	100	56,475	100			
c. Evaluating multiple approaches to a problem	FYSsr07c	1	Very little	19	5	2,642	5	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	-.08
		2	Some	93	23	12,029	21			
		3	Quite a bit	158	40	23,043	40			
		4	Very much	127	32	18,717	34			
		Total		397	100	56,431	100			
d. Inventing new methods to arrive at unconventional solutions	FYSsr07d	1	Very little	42	11	7,409	13	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	-.03
		2	Some	131	33	17,490	30			
		3	Quite a bit	137	34	18,095	32			
		4	Very much	88	22	13,252	25			
		Total		398	100	56,246	100			

### 8. Is there anything your institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or further education? Please describe.

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 116 seniors. Responses are provided in your "NSSE20 Student Comments" report and in a separate SPSS data file.

*These open-ended responses appear exactly as respondents entered them and may not be suitable for distribution without prior review.*

### 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>
		PFW	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	PFW	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	PFW	FY Exp / Sr Transiti			
FYSsr01b <sup>k</sup>	171	.511	.490	.0384	.0028	--	--	--	.597	.04
FYSsr02	217	2.88	2.92	.062	.004	0.91	0.93	50,772	.517	-.04
FYSsr03 <sup>k</sup>	396	.856	.852	.0177	.0013	--	--	--	.835	.01
FYSsr04 <sup>k</sup>	398	.184	.228	.0195	.0015	--	--	--	.036	-.11
FYSsr05 <sup>k</sup>	397	.195	.260	.0199	.0016	--	--	--	.003	-.15
FYSsr06a	400	3.36	3.42	.038	.002	0.76	0.68	402	.073	-.10
FYSsr06b	398	3.43	3.43	.034	.002	0.68	0.68	74,222	.926	.00
FYSsr06c	399	3.17	3.19	.039	.003	0.78	0.80	74,266	.721	-.02
FYSsr06d	400	3.30	3.28	.039	.003	0.77	0.75	74,265	.548	.03
FYSsr06e	400	2.93	3.03	.047	.003	0.93	0.85	402	.028	-.12
FYSsr06f	396	3.08	3.04	.041	.003	0.81	0.85	74,253	.294	.05
FYSsr06g	399	2.59	2.49	.046	.004	0.92	0.99	403	.039	.10
FYSsr06h	397	2.34	2.31	.049	.004	0.97	1.01	74,220	.556	.03
FYSsr06i	399	3.11	3.15	.041	.003	0.83	0.86	74,232	.372	-.04
FYSsr06j	399	2.89	2.95	.045	.003	0.90	0.91	74,276	.234	-.06
FYSsr07a	397	3.03	3.06	.041	.003	0.82	0.85	74,129	.510	-.03
FYSsr07b	400	2.44	2.45	.052	.004	1.05	1.06	74,070	.807	-.01
FYSsr07c	398	2.98	3.04	.044	.003	0.87	0.86	74,034	.135	-.08
FYSsr07d	399	2.66	2.69	.047	.004	0.94	0.98	73,785	.593	-.03

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."

### 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.