
NSSE 2019 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	5/6/19
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution retained the default comparison group (all module participants).
Group description	All other current- and prior-year (if applicable) NSSE institutions who administered module "Development of Transferable Skills"

Transferable Skills (N=64)

Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA)	Mount St. Mary's University (Emmitsburg, MD)
American InterContinental University-Online (Schaumburg, IL)	Murray State University (Murray, KY)*
ASU Online (Scottsdale, AZ)	Nichols College (Dudley, MA)*
Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, TN)	North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC)*
Bellevue University (Bellevue, NE)	Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, AZ)*
Bentley University (Waltham, MA)	Purdue University Global (Davenport, IA)
Brenau University (Gainesville, GA)*	Quest University Canada (Squamish, BC)
Cameron University (Lawton, OK)	Reinhardt University (Waleska, GA)
Carson-Newman University (Jefferson City, TN)	Roanoke College (Salem, VA)*
Catawba College (Salisbury, NC)	Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing (Peoria, IL)
Clemson University (Clemson, SC)*	Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, GA)
Columbia College (Columbia, MO)	Southeast Missouri State University (Cape Girardeau, MO)*
Covenant College (Lookout Mountain, GA)*	Southwestern Assemblies of God University (Waxahachie, TX)*
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)
Missouri State University (Springfield, MO)	University of the Cumberland (Williamsburg, KY)
Monmouth University (West Long Branch, NJ)*	Utah Valley University (Orem, UT)*

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)

*2018 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	92	19	1,889	16	2.4	2.5 **	-0.12
		2	Sometimes	193	42	4,579	39			
		3	Often	117	25	3,451	28			
		4	Very often	68	15	2,148	18			
		Total		470	100	12,067	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	97	21	3,704	35	2.3	2.1 ***	.22
		2	Sometimes	211	44	4,493	35			
		3	Often	104	23	2,600	20			
		4	Very often	59	12	1,275	10			
		Total		471	100	12,072	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	3	1,122	11	2.7	2.7	.07
		2	Sometimes	185	40	4,122	34			
		3	Often	173	38	4,353	34			
		4	Very often	95	19	2,473	22			
		Total		469	100	12,070	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	73	15	1,795	15	2.4	2.4	-.07
		2	Sometimes	208	45	4,806	40			
		3	Often	128	28	3,752	30			
		4	Very often	62	12	1,704	15			
		Total		471	100	12,057	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	20	4	647	6	2.7	2.8	-.08
		2	Sometimes	168	37	3,889	32			
		3	Often	189	41	4,790	38			
		4	Very often	91	19	2,743	24			
		Total		468	100	12,069	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	27	5	641	5	2.8	2.8	-.06
		2	Sometimes	157	34	3,974	32			
		3	Often	192	41	4,897	39			
		4	Very often	94	20	2,549	23			
		Total		470	100	12,061	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	40	8	978	8	2.7	2.7	.01
		2	Sometimes	160	35	4,367	36			
		3	Often	182	38	4,463	36			
		4	Very often	89	19	2,247	20			
		Total		471	100	12,055	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	30	6	394	3	2.7	3.1 ***	-0.40
		2	Sometimes	165	36	2,819	23			
		3	Often	173	37	4,685	38			
		4	Very often	101	21	4,152	36			
			Total	469	100	12,050	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	92	19	1,467	13	2.4	2.6 ***	-.24
		2	Sometimes	173	37	4,225	34			
		3	Often	142	31	3,975	32			
		4	Very often	63	13	2,344	21			
			Total	470	100	12,011	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	63	12	1,123	9	2.5	2.7 ***	-.19
		2	Sometimes	179	38	4,217	35			
		3	Often	158	35	4,257	35			
		4	Very often	66	14	2,425	21			
			Total	466	100	12,022	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	50	9	776	6	2.5	2.7 ***	-.22
		2	Sometimes	185	41	4,287	36			
		3	Often	160	34	4,463	35			
		4	Very often	71	15	2,495	23			
			Total	466	100	12,021	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	107	21	3,181	15	2.3	2.6 ***	-0.26 ▽
		2	Sometimes	201	41	7,794	35			
		3	Often	119	24	6,555	28			
		4	Very often	74	14	4,760	21			
		Total		501	100	22,290	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	87	19	6,344	31	2.4	2.2 ***	.21 △
		2	Sometimes	202	40	8,099	36			
		3	Often	123	24	4,740	20			
		4	Very often	89	16	3,133	14			
		Total		501	100	22,316	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	28	6	1,845	8	2.8	2.8	-.01
		2	Sometimes	159	33	6,891	30			
		3	Often	185	36	7,828	35			
		4	Very often	127	25	5,737	27			
		Total		499	100	22,301	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	60	12	2,535	12	2.5	2.6 ***	-.15 ▽
		2	Sometimes	214	44	7,546	34			
		3	Often	143	28	7,578	33			
		4	Very often	85	16	4,644	21			
		Total		502	100	22,303	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	20	4	885	5	2.9	3.0	-.09
		2	Sometimes	138	29	5,316	24			
		3	Often	194	39	9,215	40			
		4	Very often	150	28	6,871	31			
		Total		502	100	22,287	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	23	5	823	4	2.9	3.0 *	-.10 ▽
		2	Sometimes	145	29	5,308	24			
		3	Often	179	36	9,278	41			
		4	Very often	154	30	6,887	31			
		Total		501	100	22,296	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	24	5	1,400	7	2.9	2.9	-.01
		2	Sometimes	149	31	5,990	27			
		3	Often	179	36	8,683	38			
		4	Very often	146	29	6,202	28			
		Total		498	100	22,275	100			

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	42	10	708	4	2.8	3.2 ***	-0.49
		2	Sometimes	150	30	3,659	17			
		3	Often	143	28	7,040	31			
		4	Very often	166	32	10,860	48			
		Total		501	100	22,267	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	92	19	2,362	12	2.4	2.8 ***	-0.33
		2	Sometimes	184	37	6,295	29			
		3	Often	117	24	6,884	30			
		4	Very often	105	20	6,672	30			
		Total		498	100	22,213	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	76	17	1,603	8	2.5	2.9 ***	-0.39
		2	Sometimes	177	36	6,154	28			
		3	Often	135	26	7,488	33			
		4	Very often	107	21	6,974	31			
		Total		495	100	22,219	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	78	17	1,352	6	2.5	2.9 ***	-0.40
		2	Sometimes	168	34	6,534	29			
		3	Often	159	31	8,111	36			
		4	Very often	96	18	6,245	29			
		Total		501	100	22,242	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 ^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	468	2.35	2.47	.044	.008	0.95	0.96	13,986	.010	-.12
TRN01b	468	2.26	2.05	.042	.008	0.92	0.98	13,996	.000	.22
TRN01c	467	2.73	2.67	.037	.008	0.80	0.93	510	.107	.07
TRN01d	469	2.37	2.44	.041	.008	0.89	0.92	13,963	.137	-.07
TRN01e	467	2.74	2.81	.037	.007	0.80	0.87	13,996	.073	-.08
TRN01f	468	2.76	2.81	.038	.007	0.83	0.86	13,988	.224	-.06
TRN01g	469	2.68	2.67	.041	.008	0.88	0.89	13,976	.908	.01
TRN02a	467	2.73	3.06	.040	.007	0.86	0.85	498	.000	-.40
TRN02b	467	2.38	2.62	.043	.008	0.94	0.96	13,936	.000	-.24
TRN02c	464	2.51	2.68	.041	.008	0.89	0.91	13,939	.000	-.19
TRN02d	465	2.55	2.74	.040	.008	0.86	0.88	13,940	.000	-.22

NSSE 2019 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	Transferable Skills	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills			
TRN01a	492	2.30	2.56	.043	.007	0.96	0.99	516	.000	-.26
TRN01b	492	2.38	2.17	.044	.007	0.97	1.01	21,857	.000	.21
TRN01c	491	2.80	2.81	.040	.006	0.88	0.93	21,848	.743	-.01
TRN01d	493	2.48	2.62	.041	.006	0.90	0.95	518	.001	-.15
TRN01e	493	2.91	2.98	.039	.006	0.86	0.86	21,839	.055	-.09
TRN01f	492	2.91	3.00	.040	.006	0.88	0.85	512	.034	-.10
TRN01g	489	2.88	2.89	.040	.006	0.89	0.90	21,814	.884	-.01
TRN02a	492	2.82	3.24	.045	.006	0.99	0.86	508	.000	-.49
TRN02b	490	2.45	2.78	.046	.007	1.02	1.00	21,747	.000	-.33
TRN02c	487	2.51	2.88	.045	.006	1.00	0.94	506	.000	-.39
TRN02d	493	2.50	2.86	.044	.006	0.97	0.91	512	.000	-.40

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.