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**NSSE 2014 Topical Module**  
**Development of Transferable Skills**  
Regent 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	5/22/14
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution retained the default comparison group (all module participants).
Group description	Default comparison group

## 'Transferable Skills' institutions (N=136)

Alice Lloyd College (Pippa Passes, KY)	Framingham State University (Framingham, MA)*
Bemidji State University (Bemidji, MN)*	Franklin Pierce University (Rindge, NH)*
Berea College (Berea, KY)	Golden Gate University-San Francisco (San Francisco, CA)*
Berry College (Mount Berry, GA)*	Grand Canyon University (Phoenix, AZ)
Blackburn College (Carlinville, IL)	Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI)*
Brenau University (Gainesville, GA)	Holy Cross College (Notre Dame, IN)
Brock University (St. Catharines, ON)	Iowa State University (Ames, IA)*
Canadian University College (Lacombe, AB)*	Jacksonville University (Jacksonville, FL)
Carleton University (Ottawa, ON)	Johnson University (Knoxville, TN)*
Carthage College (Kenosha, WI)*	Kennesaw State University (Kennesaw, GA)
Central College (Pella, IA)*	Kenyon College (Gambier, OH)
Central Penn College (Summerdale, PA)	Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Surrey, BC)
Chapman University (Orange, CA)*	La Sierra University (Riverside, CA)*
Chestnut Hill College (Philadelphia, PA)	Lawrence University (Appleton, WI)*
Coleman University (San Diego, CA)*	Lewis & Clark College (Portland, OR)*
College of Saint Elizabeth (Morristown, NJ)*	LIM College (New York, NY)*
College of the Ozarks (Point Lookout, MO)	Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College (Baton Rouge, LA)*
College of William & Mary (Williamsburg, VA)*	Lyon College (Batesville, AR)
Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction, CO)*	Marlboro College (Marlboro, VT)*
Concord University (Athens, WV)*	McMaster University (Hamilton, ON)
Concordia University (Portland, OR)	McPherson College (McPherson, KS)*
Covenant College (Lookout Mountain, GA)*	Messiah College (Grantham, PA)
Defiance College (Defiance, OH)	Metropolitan State University (Saint Paul, MN)*
DeSales University (Center Valley, PA)*	Middle Georgia State College (Macon, GA)
Dominican College of Blauvelt (Orangeburg, NY)*	Mills College (Oakland, CA)
East Tennessee State University (Johnson City, TN)	Mississippi State University (Mississippi State, MS)
Eastern University (Saint Davids, PA)	Mount Royal University (Calgary, AB)*
Eastern Washington University (Cheney, WA)	Murray State University (Murray, KY)
Ferris State University (Grand Rapids, MI)	National American University-Sioux Falls (Sioux Falls, SD)*
Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL)	New England College (Henniker, NH)

## 'Transferable Skills' institutions (N=136), continued

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New Mexico State University (Las Cruces, NM)  
Nichols College (Dudley, MA)  
Ohio Dominican University (Columbus, OH)\*  
Ohio Northern University (Ada, OH)  
Pacific Union College (Angwin, CA)\*  
Presbyterian College (Clinton, SC)  
Queen's University (Kingston, ON)  
Quest University Canada (Squamish, BC)  
Randolph-Macon College (Ashland, VA)  
Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing (Peoria, IL)  
Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame, IN)\*  
Saint Mary's College of California (Moraga, CA)\*  
Saint Xavier University (Chicago, IL)  
Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, GA)\*  
Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning (Oakville, ON)  
Sierra Nevada College (Incline Village, NV)  
Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, BC)  
Skidmore College (Saratoga Springs, NY)\*  
South Dakota State University (Brookings, SD)  
Southwestern Assemblies of God University (Waxahachie, TX)\*  
Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX)  
St. Bonaventure University (Saint Bonaventure, NY)\*  
St. Gregory's University (Shawnee, OK)  
St. Lawrence University (Canton, NY)  
St. Mary's College of Maryland (Saint Mary's City, MD)  
Sterling College (Craftsbury Common, VT)  
Stevenson University (Stevenson, MD)\*  
SUNY College at Old Westbury (Old Westbury, NY)  
SUNY College of Technology at Canton (Canton, NY)  
Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville, TN)  
Texas A&M University - Commerce (Commerce, TX)  
The College at Brockport, SUNY (Brockport, NY)  
The Evergreen State College (Olympia, WA)  
The Sage Colleges (Troy, NY)  
The University of Texas at Arlington (Arlington, TX)  
The University of Virginia's College at Wise (Wise, VA)  
The University of West Florida (Pensacola, FL)  
Thiel College (Greenville, PA)\*  
Trevecca Nazarene University (Nashville, TN)  
Union College (Barbourville, KY)\*  
University at Buffalo, State University of New York (Buffalo, NY)  
University of Akron (Akron, OH)\*  
University of Colorado Denver (Denver, CO)\*  
University of Denver (Denver, CO)  
University of Great Falls (Great Falls, MT)  
University of La Verne (La Verne, CA)\*  
University of Maine at Augusta (Augusta, ME)\*  
University of Maine at Machias (Machias, ME)  
University of Maryland (College Park, MD)  
University of Mount Union (Alliance, OH)\*  
University of Nebraska at Kearney (Kearney, NE)\*  
University of Nebraska at Lincoln (Lincoln, NE)\*  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)  
University of North Carolina Wilmington (Wilmington, NC)\*  
University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND)\*  
University of Ontario Institute of Technology (Oshawa, ON)  
University of Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown, PE)  
University of Sacred Heart (Santurce, PR)  
University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, KY)  
University of Toronto (Toronto, ON)  
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (Green Bay, WI)  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI)  
Virginia Military Institute (Lexington, VA)  
Warren Wilson College (Swannanoa, NC)  
Wartburg College (Waverly, IA)\*  
Washington State University (Pullman, WA)  
Wesleyan College (Macon, GA)  
West Virginia University Institute of Technology (Montgomery, WV)  
West Virginia Wesleyan College (Buckhannon, WV)  
Western Oregon University (Monmouth, OR)  
Western State Colorado University (Gunnison, CO)  
Whitman College (Walla Walla, WA)  
Wilfrid Laurier University (Waterloo, ON)  
Wilmington University (New Castle, DE)\*  
York College of Pennsylvania (York, PA)\*  
Youngstown State University (Youngstown, OH)\*

\* 2013 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>		
				Regent		Transferable Skills		Regent	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<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	2	3	5,810	15	<b>3.0</b>	2.5 *** ▲	.53
		2	Sometimes	18	24	14,074	36			
		3	Often	29	40	11,262	30			
		4	Very often	24	33	7,408	19			
		Total		73	100	38,554	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	17	24	11,501	29	<b>2.5</b>	2.1 *** ▲	.46
		2	Sometimes	13	18	16,152	42			
		3	Often	32	43	7,479	20			
		4	Very often	11	15	3,243	9			
		Total		73	100	38,375	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	4	6	3,149	8	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	.04
		2	Sometimes	30	41	13,825	36			
		3	Often	22	30	13,878	36			
		4	Very often	17	24	7,595	20			
		Total		73	100	38,447	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	9	12	6,416	17	<b>2.6</b>	2.4 * ▲	.24
		2	Sometimes	22	30	15,493	40			
		3	Often	30	41	11,406	30			
		4	Very often	12	16	5,078	13			
		Total		73	100	38,393	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	2	3	2,516	7	<b>2.9</b>	2.8	.17
		2	Sometimes	23	32	12,492	32			
		3	Often	26	37	14,654	38			
		4	Very often	21	29	8,721	23			
		Total		72	100	38,383	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	5	7	2,505	7	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	.04
		2	Sometimes	24	34	12,788	33			
		3	Often	23	33	14,954	39			
		4	Very often	19	26	8,083	21			
		Total		71	100	38,330	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	8	12	3,533	9	<b>2.7</b>	2.6	.08
		2	Sometimes	20	27	13,657	36			
		3	Often	28	39	13,629	35			
		4	Very often	16	22	7,395	19			
		Total		72	100	38,214	100			

### 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>		
				Regent		Transferable Skills		Regent	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<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	0	0	1,361	4	<b>3.7</b>	3.0 ***	.75
		2	Sometimes	3	4	8,895	24			
		3	Often	17	23	14,021	36			
		4	Very often	53	73	14,280	36			
			Total	73	100	38,557	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	6	9	5,338	14	<b>2.8</b>	2.6 *	.30
		2	Sometimes	18	25	13,322	35			
		3	Often	29	40	12,039	31			
		4	Very often	19	26	7,759	19			
			Total	72	100	38,458	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	5	7	4,153	11	<b>3.1</b>	2.6 ***	.49
		2	Sometimes	12	17	12,834	34			
		3	Often	25	33	13,052	34			
		4	Very often	31	42	8,380	21			
			Total	73	100	38,419	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	2	3	3,434	9	<b>3.0</b>	2.7 ***	.41
		2	Sometimes	18	25	13,272	35			
		3	Often	27	36	13,421	35			
		4	Very often	26	36	8,226	21			
			Total	73	100	38,353	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>			
				Regent		Transferable Skills		Regent	Transferable Skills		
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>	
<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	24	10	6,119	13	<b>2.9</b>	2.6 ***	▲	.31
		2	Sometimes	59	24	16,732	34				
		3	Often	72	29	14,088	29				
		4	Very often	93	37	11,641	24				
		Total		248	100	48,580	100				
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	76	32	8,775	18	<b>2.1</b>	2.4 ***	▼	-.30
		2	Sometimes	91	37	18,920	39				
		3	Often	48	19	12,725	26				
		4	Very often	29	12	7,934	16				
		Total		244	100	48,354	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	30	13	2,730	6	<b>2.7</b>	2.9 **	▼	-.19
		2	Sometimes	77	31	14,433	30				
		3	Often	77	31	17,856	37				
		4	Very often	63	26	13,438	28				
		Total		247	100	48,457	100				
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	39	16	5,622	12	<b>2.7</b>	2.6 *	▲	.18
		2	Sometimes	56	23	17,656	37				
		3	Often	78	31	15,745	32				
		4	Very often	74	30	9,384	19				
		Total		247	100	48,407	100				
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	10	4	1,923	4	<b>3.1</b>	3.0		.08
		2	Sometimes	53	21	11,530	24				
		3	Often	92	37	18,891	39				
		4	Very often	93	37	16,032	33				
		Total		248	100	48,376	100				
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	9	4	1,883	4	<b>3.0</b>	3.0		.04
		2	Sometimes	60	25	11,686	24				
		3	Often	84	34	19,306	40				
		4	Very often	89	37	15,481	32				
		Total		242	100	48,356	100				
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	24	10	2,624	6	<b>2.9</b>	2.9		-.05
		2	Sometimes	66	27	13,127	27				
		3	Often	74	30	18,072	37				
		4	Very often	84	34	14,403	30				
		Total		248	100	48,226	100				

### Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				Regent		Transferable Skills		Regent	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<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	5	2	1,470	3	<b>3.6</b>	3.2 ***	.47
		2	Sometimes	13	5	8,116	18			
		3	Often	47	19	14,113	30			
		4	Very often	184	74	24,892	49			
		Total		249	100	48,591	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	21	9	5,183	11	<b>3.1</b>	2.8 ***	.34
		2	Sometimes	48	19	13,381	29			
		3	Often	56	22	14,314	29			
		4	Very often	124	50	15,623	31			
		Total		249	100	48,501	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	11	5	3,832	9	<b>3.3</b>	2.9 ***	.42
		2	Sometimes	44	17	13,398	29			
		3	Often	61	25	15,288	32			
		4	Very often	132	53	15,946	31			
		Total		248	100	48,464	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	13	6	3,411	8	<b>3.2</b>	2.8 ***	.38
		2	Sometimes	43	17	14,478	31			
		3	Often	77	31	16,032	33			
		4	Very often	114	46	14,478	29			
		Total		247	100	48,399	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for a key to the 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>
	Regent	Regent	Transferable Skills	Regent	Transferable Skills	Regent	Transferable Skills	Comparisons with: Transferable Skills		
TRN01a	73	3.04	2.53	.10	.00	0.84	0.97	72	.000	.53
TRN01b	73	2.50	2.08	.12	.00	1.02	0.91	72	.001	.46
TRN01c	73	2.71	2.67	.11	.00	0.90	0.88	61,284	.716	.04
TRN01d	73	2.61	2.39	.11	.00	0.90	0.91	61,205	.043	.24
TRN01e	72	2.92	2.77	.10	.00	0.85	0.88	61,191	.157	.17
TRN01f	71	2.78	2.75	.11	.00	0.92	0.87	61,103	.735	.04
TRN01g	72	2.72	2.65	.11	.00	0.94	0.90	60,913	.510	.08
TRN02a	73	3.69	3.04	.06	.00	0.55	0.87	72	.000	.75
TRN02b	72	2.84	2.55	.11	.00	0.92	0.96	61,286	.012	.30
TRN02c	73	3.11	2.65	.11	.00	0.94	0.94	61,214	.000	.49
TRN02d	73	3.05	2.68	.10	.00	0.85	0.91	61,103	.001	.41



### 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>
	Regent	Regent	Transferable Skills	Regent	Transferable Skills	Regent	Transferable Skills			
TRN01a	248	2.94	2.64	.06	.00	1.00	0.98	74,110	.000	.31
TRN01b	244	2.12	2.41	.06	.00	0.99	0.96	73,776	.000	-.30
TRN01c	247	2.70	2.87	.06	.00	0.99	0.89	247	.007	-.19
TRN01d	247	2.75	2.58	.07	.00	1.05	0.93	247	.012	.18
TRN01e	247	3.08	3.01	.06	.00	0.87	0.86	73,797	.222	.08
TRN01f	242	3.04	3.00	.06	.00	0.88	0.85	73,756	.487	.04
TRN01g	248	2.88	2.92	.06	.00	0.99	0.89	248	.524	-.05
TRN02a	249	3.64	3.24	.04	.00	0.69	0.87	250	.000	.47
TRN02b	249	3.13	2.79	.06	.00	1.01	1.00	73,959	.000	.34
TRN02c	247	3.26	2.86	.06	.00	0.91	0.96	73,907	.000	.42
TRN02d	247	3.18	2.82	.06	.00	0.91	0.93	73,820	.000	.38

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## Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by gender 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 gender 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 gender 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. 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.