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**NSSE 2013**

**Development of Transferable Skills Module**

University of South Carolina Columbia

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## Development of Transferable Skills Module

Adapted from the Degrees of Preparation survey (American Association of State Colleges and Universities), this module examines engagement in activities that develop useful and transferable skills for the workplace such as verbal and written fluency and analytic inquiry.

### Development of Transferable Skills Comparison Group

This section summarizes how your Development of Transferable Skills 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	Not applicable; comparison group not customized.
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution did not customize this comparison group; the default group (all module participants) was used.
Group description	Default comparison group

### 'Transferable Skills' institutions (N=79)

Alberta College of Art + Design (Calgary, AB)	Lawrence University (Appleton, WI)
Armstrong Atlantic State University (Savannah, GA)	Lewis & Clark College (Portland, OR)
Avila University (Kansas City, MO)	LIM College (New York, NY)
Bemidji State University (Bemidji, MN)	Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College (Baton Rouge, LA)
Berry College (Mount Berry, GA)	Loyola University Chicago (Chicago, IL)
Canadian University College (Lacombe, AB)	Marlboro College (Marlboro, VT)
Carthage College (Kenosha, WI)	McPherson College (McPherson, KS)
Central College (Pella, IA)	Metropolitan State University (Saint Paul, MN)
Central Methodist University (Fayette, MO)	Mississippi State University (Mississippi State, MS)
Chadron State College (Chadron, NE)	Mount Royal University (Calgary, AB)
Chapman University (Orange, CA)	National American University-Sioux Falls (Sioux Falls, SD)
Coleman University (San Diego, CA)	Ohio Dominican University (Columbus, OH)
College of Saint Elizabeth (Morristown, NJ)	Ohio Northern University (Ada, OH)
College of William & Mary (Williamsburg, VA)	Pacific Union College (Angwin, CA)
Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction, CO)	Peru State College (Peru, NE)
Concord University (Athens, WV)	Quest University Canada (Squamish, BC)
Concordia University (Portland, OR)	Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame, IN)
Covenant College (Lookout Mountain, GA)	Saint Mary's College of California (Moraga, CA)
DeSales University (Center Valley, PA)	Saint Xavier University (Chicago, IL)
Dominican College of Blauvelt (Orangeburg, NY)	Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, GA)
Emporia State University (Emporia, KS)	Skidmore College (Saratoga Springs, NY)
Framingham State University (Framingham, MA)	Southwestern Assemblies of God University (Waxahachie, TX)
Franklin Pierce University (Rindge, NH)	St. Bonaventure University (Saint Bonaventure, NY)
Golden Gate University-San Francisco (San Francisco, CA)	St. Mary's College of Maryland (Saint Mary's City, MD)
Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI)	Stevenson University (Stevenson, MD)
Hartwick College (Oneonta, NY)	Thiel College (Greenville, PA)
Iona College (New Rochelle, NY)	Trevecca Nazarene University (Nashville, TN)
Iowa State University (Ames, IA)	Trinity Western University (Langley, BC)
Johnson University (Knoxville, TN)	Union College (Barbourville, KY)
La Sierra University (Riverside, CA)	University of Akron (Akron, OH)

## 'Transferable Skills' institutions (N=79), continued

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University of Colorado Denver (Denver, CO)  
University of La Verne (La Verne, CA)  
University of Maine at Augusta (Augusta, ME)  
University of Mount Union (Alliance, OH)  
University of Nebraska at Kearney (Kearney, NE)  
University of Nebraska at Lincoln (Lincoln, NE)  
University of New Hampshire (Durham, NH)  
University of North Carolina Wilmington (Wilmington, NC)  
University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND)  
University of Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls, IA)  
University of Pikeville (Pikeville, KY)  
University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, KY)  
University of West Florida, The (Pensacola, FL)  
Walsh University (North Canton, OH)  
Wartburg College (Waverly, IA)  
Wilmington University (New Castle, DE)  
Wofford College (Spartanburg, SC)  
York College of Pennsylvania (York, PA)  
Youngstown State University (Youngstown, OH)

### 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>		
				USC		Transferable Skills		USC	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	13	7	2,079	13	<b>2.7</b>	2.6 **	.18
		2	Sometimes	82	35	6,021	36			
		3	Often	77	34	5,275	31			
		4	Very often	54	24	3,357	20			
		Total		226	100	16,732	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	46	20	3,890	25	<b>2.2</b>	2.2	.05
		2	Sometimes	101	45	7,326	43			
		3	Often	57	26	3,709	22			
		4	Very often	21	8	1,750	10			
		Total		225	100	16,675	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	13	7	1,074	7	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	.02
		2	Sometimes	88	38	6,056	37			
		3	Often	76	34	6,312	37			
		4	Very often	48	21	3,252	19			
		Total		225	100	16,694	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	22	10	2,490	15	<b>2.5</b>	2.4	.13
		2	Sometimes	89	39	6,759	40			
		3	Often	85	38	5,179	31			
		4	Very often	28	13	2,262	14			
		Total		224	100	16,690	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	11	5	924	6	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	.05
		2	Sometimes	70	32	5,261	31			
		3	Often	89	38	6,578	39			
		4	Very often	53	25	3,901	24			
		Total		223	100	16,664	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	16	7	984	6	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	.03
		2	Sometimes	68	30	5,548	33			
		3	Often	91	40	6,565	39			
		4	Very often	49	23	3,535	22			
		Total		224	100	16,632	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	18	8	1,395	9	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	.01
		2	Sometimes	84	37	6,032	36			
		3	Often	80	35	5,959	35			
		4	Very often	42	20	3,235	20			
		Total		224	100	16,621	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed)

## 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>		
				USC		Transferable Skills		USC	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	6	3	592	4	<b>3.1</b>	3.0	.08
		2	Sometimes	50	22	3,711	24			
		3	Often	83	37	6,253	37			
		4	Very often	85	38	6,185	35			
		Total		224	100	16,741	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	27	13	2,203	14	<b>2.7</b>	2.6 **	.19
		2	Sometimes	61	27	5,697	35			
		3	Often	78	34	5,447	31			
		4	Very often	58	26	3,356	19			
		Total		224	100	16,703	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	19	9	1,756	12	<b>2.7</b>	2.6	.05
		2	Sometimes	85	38	5,584	34			
		3	Often	67	31	5,801	34			
		4	Very often	53	23	3,552	20			
		Total		224	100	16,693	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	10	5	1,356	9	<b>2.8</b>	2.7 *	.15
		2	Sometimes	73	32	5,670	35			
		3	Often	85	39	6,007	35			
		4	Very often	55	24	3,631	21			
		Total		223	100	16,664	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed)

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				USC		Transferable Skills		USC	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	28	8	2,187	11	<b>2.8</b>	2.7 **	.16
		2	Sometimes	89	29	6,939	34			
		3	Often	103	33	6,134	30			
		4	Very often	90	30	5,087	25			
		Total		310	100	20,347	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	39	13	2,800	14	<b>2.6</b>	2.5	.06
		2	Sometimes	125	40	7,917	39			
		3	Often	82	26	5,912	29			
		4	Very often	63	21	3,648	18			
		Total		309	100	20,277	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	9	3	1,016	5	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	.07
		2	Sometimes	91	30	6,143	30			
		3	Often	119	39	7,722	38			
		4	Very often	90	28	5,420	27			
		Total		309	100	20,301	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	24	7	2,153	11	<b>2.7</b>	2.6 **	.17
		2	Sometimes	108	34	7,535	37			
		3	Often	104	35	6,710	33			
		4	Very often	74	24	3,883	19			
		Total		310	100	20,281	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	8	2	718	4	<b>3.1</b>	3.0	.06
		2	Sometimes	72	22	4,773	24			
		3	Often	124	40	7,914	39			
		4	Very often	105	35	6,859	34			
		Total		309	100	20,264	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	12	4	719	4	<b>3.1</b>	3.0	.09
		2	Sometimes	67	21	4,865	24			
		3	Often	119	40	8,279	41			
		4	Very often	109	36	6,403	32			
		Total		307	100	20,266	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	13	4	1,002	5	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	.04
		2	Sometimes	89	29	5,575	28			
		3	Often	108	36	7,692	38			
		4	Very often	98	31	5,932	29			
		Total		308	100	20,201	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed)

### Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				USC		Transferable Skills		USC	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	10	3	617	3	<b>3.0</b>	3.2 **	-.18
		2	Sometimes	75	24	3,647	19			
		3	Often	115	39	6,416	32			
		4	Very often	109	34	9,661	45			
		Total		309	100	20,341	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	36	11	2,267	12	<b>2.6</b>	2.7 *	-.14
		2	Sometimes	119	40	5,992	30			
		3	Often	88	29	6,165	30			
		4	Very often	66	20	5,879	27			
		Total		309	100	20,303	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	28	9	1,577	8	<b>2.7</b>	2.8 **	-.17
		2	Sometimes	113	38	5,862	30			
		3	Often	99	32	6,730	33			
		4	Very often	68	21	6,134	29			
		Total		308	100	20,303	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	30	9	1,502	8	<b>2.7</b>	2.8	-.09
		2	Sometimes	103	34	6,349	32			
		3	Often	105	35	6,828	34			
		4	Very often	71	22	5,584	26			
		Total		309	100	20,263	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed)



## 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>
	USC	Transferable Skills	USC	Transferable Skills	USC	Transferable Skills	USC	Transferable Skills			
TRN01a	225	2.7	2.6	.06	.02	0.9	1.0	257	.007	.18	
TRN01b	224	2.2	2.2	.06	.02	0.9	0.9	3,767	.453	.05	
TRN01c	224	2.7	2.7	.06	.01	0.9	0.9	3,770	.827	.02	
TRN01d	222	2.5	2.4	.06	.02	0.8	0.9	3,768	.054	.13	
TRN01e	221	2.8	2.8	.06	.01	0.9	0.9	3,762	.480	.05	
TRN01f	222	2.8	2.8	.06	.01	0.9	0.9	3,756	.714	.03	
TRN01g	222	2.7	2.7	.06	.02	0.9	0.9	3,753	.844	.01	
TRN02a	222	3.1	3.0	.06	.01	0.9	0.9	3,779	.258	.08	
TRN02b	222	2.7	2.6	.07	.02	1.0	1.0	3,770	.006	.19	
TRN02c	222	2.7	2.6	.06	.02	0.9	0.9	3,765	.429	.05	
TRN02d	222	2.8	2.7	.06	.02	0.9	0.9	253	.022	.15	

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed)

## 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>
	USC	Transferable Skills	USC	Transferable Skills	USC	Transferable Skills	USC	Transferable Skills			
TRN01a	310	2.8	2.7	.05	.01	0.9	1.0	6,369	.006	.16	
TRN01b	309	2.6	2.5	.05	.01	1.0	0.9	6,348	.296	.06	
TRN01c	309	2.9	2.9	.05	.01	0.8	0.9	6,356	.244	.07	
TRN01d	310	2.7	2.6	.05	.01	0.9	0.9	6,349	.003	.17	
TRN01e	309	3.1	3.0	.05	.01	0.8	0.9	6,343	.307	.06	
TRN01f	307	3.1	3.0	.05	.01	0.8	0.8	6,343	.137	.09	
TRN01g	308	2.9	2.9	.05	.01	0.9	0.9	6,323	.478	.04	
TRN02a	309	3.0	3.2	.05	.01	0.8	0.9	342	.002	-.18	
TRN02b	309	2.6	2.7	.05	.01	0.9	1.0	6,353	.018	-.14	
TRN02c	308	2.7	2.8	.05	.01	0.9	0.9	6,353	.004	-.17	
TRN02d	309	2.7	2.8	.05	.01	0.9	0.9	6,341	.109	-.09	

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed)

## 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.