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# **NSSE 2017 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	5/2/17
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution retained the default comparison group (all module participants).
Group description	All other current- and prior-year NSSE institutions who administered module "Development of Transferable Skills "

## Transferable Skills (N=108)

Agnes Scott College (Decatur, GA)*	Harrisburg University of Science and Technology (Harrisburg, PA)
Albertus Magnus College (New Haven, CT)*	Jacksonville University (Jacksonville, FL)*
American InterContinental University Online (Hoffman Estates, IL)	Johnson University (Knoxville, TN)
Anderson University (Anderson, IN)	Kaplan University (Davenport, IA)
Anderson University (Anderson, SC)	Kent State University at Stark (Canton, OH)
Arkansas Tech University (Russellville, AR)	Kenyon College (Gambier, OH)
Baker University (Baldwin City, KS)*	Lakehead University (Thunder Bay, ON)
Baldwin Wallace University (Berea, OH)	Lane College (Jackson, TN)*
Bellevue University (Bellevue, NE)	Lees-McRae College (Banner Elk, NC)*
Bentley University (Waltham, MA)	Lewis-Clark State College (Lewiston, ID)
Bethany Lutheran College (Mankato, MN)	Lincoln Memorial University (Harrogate, TN)*
Boston University (Boston, MA)*	Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College (Baton Rouge, LA)
Brigham Young University-Hawaii (Laie, HI)*	Luther College (Decorah, IA)
California State University-Stanislaus (Turlock, CA)	McPherson College (McPherson, KS)
Campbell University Inc. (Buies Creek, NC)	Meredith College (Raleigh, NC)
Capella University (Minneapolis, MN)	Messiah College (Grantham, PA)
Carthage College (Kenosha, WI)	Mills College (Oakland, CA)
Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, The (Charleston, SC)	Missouri State University (Springfield, MO)*
Clark University (Worcester, MA)	Mount Allison University (Sackville, NB)
Clemson University (Clemson, SC)*	Mount St. Mary's University (Emmitsburg, MD)*
Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction, CO)*	Murray State University (Murray, KY)
Concordia College-New York (Bronxville, NY)	Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX)
Delaware State University (Dover, DE)	Queen's University (Kingston, ON)
DeSales University (Center Valley, PA)	Quest University Canada (Squamish, BC)
Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown, PA)	Regis University (Denver, CO)
Emporia State University (Emporia, KS)*	Reinhardt University (Waleska, GA)*
Franklin University (Columbus, OH)	Rochester Institute of Technology (Rochester, NY)
Georgian Court University (Lakewood, NJ)	Rosemont College (Rosemont, PA)*
Greensboro College (Greensboro, NC)	Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing (Peoria, IL)
Hanover College (Hanover, IN)	Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, GA)

## Transferable Skills (N=108), continued

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Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning (Oakville, ON)  
Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX)  
Texas A&M University - Texarkana (Texarkana, TX)  
Texas State University (San Marcos, TX)  
Texas Tech University (Lubbock, TX)  
Trent University (Peterborough, ON)  
Trevecca Nazarene University (Nashville, TN)  
Truman State University (Kirksville, MO)  
Union College (Barbourville, KY)  
United States Air Force Academy (USAFA, CO)  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock (Little Rock, AR)\*  
University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH)  
University of Delaware (Newark, DE)  
University of Denver (Denver, CO)\*  
University of Guelph (Guelph, ON)  
University of Guelph-Humber (Toronto, ON)  
University of Houston-Clear Lake (Houston, TX)  
University of Louisiana Monroe (Monroe, LA)\*  
University of Maine at Farmington (Farmington, ME)  
University of Maine at Machias (Machias, ME)  
University of Maryland-Eastern Shore (Princess Anne, MD)  
University of Michigan-Dearborn (Dearborn, MI)  
University of Mississippi (University, MS)  
University of Nebraska at Kearney (Kearney, NE)\*  
University of New England (Biddeford, ME)  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)\*  
University of Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown, PE)  
University of Puerto Rico-Carolina (Carolina, PR)\*  
University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, WA)  
University of St. Thomas (Saint Paul, MN)  
University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, KY)  
University of Toronto (Toronto, ON)  
University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, WI)  
University of Wisconsin-Parkside (Kenosha, WI)  
Vancouver Island University (Nanaimo, BC)\*  
Virginia Military Institute (Lexington, VA)  
Wentworth Institute of Technology (Boston, MA)  
Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia (Macon, GA)  
West Texas A&M University (Canyon, TX)  
Western New Mexico University (Silver City, NM)  
Western State Colorado University (Gunnison, CO)\*  
Western University (London, ON)  
Westminster College (Fulton, MO)  
Whitman College (Walla Walla, WA)  
Wilfrid Laurier University (Waterloo, ON)  
Wisconsin Lutheran College (Milwaukee, WI)  
York University (Toronto, ON)  
Young Harris College (Young Harris, GA)\*

\*2016 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>		
				Tennessee Tech		Transferable Skills		Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<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	34	11	4,404	12	<b>2.5</b>	2.6	-.06
		2	Sometimes	125	41	12,817	36			
		3	Often	93	32	11,355	32			
		4	Very often	48	16	7,200	20			
		Total		300	100	35,776	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	81	26	12,009	34	<b>2.2</b>	2.0 ***	.27 ▲
		2	Sometimes	111	38	14,883	42			
		3	Often	72	24	6,324	18			
		4	Very often	35	12	2,513	7			
		Total		299	100	35,729	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	17	5	2,606	8	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	-.01
		2	Sometimes	115	38	12,390	35			
		3	Often	116	39	13,659	38			
		4	Very often	52	17	7,080	19			
		Total		300	100	35,735	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	48	16	5,292	15	<b>2.3</b>	2.4 *	-.14 ▼
		2	Sometimes	150	49	14,160	40			
		3	Often	69	24	11,707	33			
		4	Very often	33	11	4,552	13			
		Total		300	100	35,711	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	18	6	2,077	6	<b>2.7</b>	2.8	-.06
		2	Sometimes	114	37	11,703	33			
		3	Often	109	36	14,591	41			
		4	Very often	59	20	7,317	21			
		Total		300	100	35,688	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	14	5	1,996	6	<b>2.7</b>	2.8	-.06
		2	Sometimes	117	38	11,885	33			
		3	Often	116	39	14,883	42			
		4	Very often	52	18	6,893	20			
		Total		299	100	35,657	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	29	9	2,786	8	<b>2.6</b>	2.7	-.09
		2	Sometimes	117	38	12,676	35			
		3	Often	107	36	13,743	38			
		4	Very often	47	16	6,403	18			
		Total		300	100	35,608	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>		
				Tennessee Tech		Transferable Skills		Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<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	33	11	1,434	4	<b>2.6</b>	2.9 ***	-0.37
		2	Sometimes	102	35	9,474	28			
		3	Often	113	38	13,913	39			
		4	Very often	51	16	10,854	29			
			Total	299	100	35,675	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	70	23	4,568	14	<b>2.2</b>	2.5 ***	-0.32
		2	Sometimes	127	43	13,066	37			
		3	Often	67	22	11,876	33			
		4	Very often	35	11	6,073	16			
			Total	299	100	35,583	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	62	20	3,725	11	<b>2.3</b>	2.6 ***	-0.31
		2	Sometimes	116	39	12,741	36			
		3	Often	90	30	12,628	35			
		4	Very often	31	10	6,454	17			
			Total	299	100	35,548	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	43	14	2,999	9	<b>2.4</b>	2.6 **	-0.19
		2	Sometimes	119	40	13,129	37			
		3	Often	96	32	13,303	37			
		4	Very often	40	13	6,153	17			
			Total	298	100	35,584	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>		
				Tennessee Tech		Transferable Skills		Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<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	70	17	4,173	11	<b>2.5</b>	2.7 ***	-0.23 ▽
		2	Sometimes	159	36	12,749	33			
		3	Often	126	29	11,677	30			
		4	Very often	76	17	9,939	25			
		Total		431	100	38,538	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	56	15	8,151	21	<b>2.5</b>	2.3 ***	.16 △
		2	Sometimes	172	40	15,385	40			
		3	Often	128	28	9,517	24			
		4	Very often	73	17	5,439	14			
		Total		429	100	38,492	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	22	6	2,055	5	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	-.01
		2	Sometimes	134	30	11,957	31			
		3	Often	160	38	14,593	38			
		4	Very often	114	26	9,879	26			
		Total		430	100	38,484	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	47	12	4,035	11	<b>2.5</b>	2.6	-.09
		2	Sometimes	171	40	13,876	36			
		3	Often	146	33	13,376	34			
		4	Very often	66	15	7,214	18			
		Total		430	100	38,501	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	15	4	1,392	4	<b>2.9</b>	3.0	-.04
		2	Sometimes	118	26	9,827	26			
		3	Often	181	42	15,846	41			
		4	Very often	118	28	11,408	30			
		Total		432	100	38,473	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	13	3	1,308	4	<b>2.9</b>	3.0	-.07
		2	Sometimes	115	26	9,251	24			
		3	Often	186	44	16,371	42			
		4	Very often	115	27	11,533	30			
		Total		429	100	38,463	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	21	5	1,840	5	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	.00
		2	Sometimes	112	25	10,334	27			
		3	Often	178	42	15,480	40			
		4	Very often	115	28	10,719	28			
		Total		426	100	38,373	100			

### Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				Tennessee Tech		Transferable Skills		Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<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	42	11	1,327	4	<b>2.8</b>	3.2 ***	-0.45
		2	Sometimes	122	29	7,326	20			
		3	Often	147	34	12,662	33			
		4	Very often	120	27	17,150	43			
			Total	431	100	38,465	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	87	21	4,010	11	<b>2.3</b>	2.8 ***	-0.45
		2	Sometimes	171	39	11,035	29			
		3	Often	115	26	12,123	31			
		4	Very often	58	14	11,198	28			
			Total	431	100	38,366	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	62	16	2,862	8	<b>2.5</b>	2.8 ***	-0.37
		2	Sometimes	169	39	11,554	31			
		3	Often	129	29	13,057	34			
		4	Very often	68	16	10,920	28			
			Total	428	100	38,393	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	60	15	2,583	7	<b>2.4</b>	2.8 ***	-0.38
		2	Sometimes	178	41	12,205	32			
		3	Often	129	29	13,968	36			
		4	Very often	63	15	9,690	25			
			Total	430	100	38,446	100			

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



# NSSE 2017 Development of Transferable Skills

## Detailed Statistics<sup>e</sup>

### Tennessee Technological University

#### 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>
	Tennessee Tech	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Comparisons with: Transferable Skills		
TRN01a	300	2.53	2.58	.05	.01	0.90	0.94	26,474	.317	-.06
TRN01b	299	2.22	1.98	.06	.01	0.97	0.89	304	.000	.27
TRN01c	300	2.69	2.69	.05	.01	0.82	0.87	26,443	.920	-.01
TRN01d	300	2.30	2.43	.05	.01	0.87	0.89	307	.012	-.14
TRN01e	300	2.70	2.76	.05	.01	0.86	0.85	26,399	.275	-.06
TRN01f	300	2.70	2.75	.05	.01	0.81	0.83	26,386	.273	-.06
TRN01g	300	2.59	2.67	.05	.01	0.87	0.87	26,348	.136	-.09
TRN02a	300	2.60	2.92	.05	.01	0.89	0.86	305	.000	-.37
TRN02b	299	2.22	2.52	.05	.01	0.93	0.92	26,325	.000	-.32
TRN02c	300	2.30	2.59	.05	.01	0.91	0.90	26,303	.000	-.31
TRN02d	299	2.45	2.61	.05	.01	0.90	0.87	26,322	.001	-.19

# NSSE 2017 Development of Transferable Skills

## Detailed Statistics<sup>e</sup>

### Tennessee Technological University

## 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>
	Tennessee Tech	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Tennessee Tech	Transferable Skills	Comparisons with: Transferable Skills		
TRN01a	430	2.47	2.70	.05	.01	0.97	0.97	27,680	.000	-.23
TRN01b	429	2.47	2.32	.05	.01	0.94	0.96	27,646	.001	.16
TRN01c	429	2.84	2.84	.04	.01	0.89	0.87	27,636	.855	-.01
TRN01d	429	2.52	2.60	.04	.01	0.89	0.91	27,645	.066	-.09
TRN01e	431	2.94	2.97	.04	.01	0.83	0.84	27,627	.466	-.04
TRN01f	427	2.94	2.99	.04	.01	0.81	0.83	27,616	.147	-.07
TRN01g	425	2.91	2.92	.04	.01	0.86	0.86	27,546	.971	.00
TRN02a	430	2.76	3.15	.05	.01	0.97	0.87	440	.000	-.45
TRN02b	430	2.32	2.76	.05	.01	0.96	0.99	27,541	.000	-.45
TRN02c	426	2.46	2.81	.05	.01	0.94	0.93	27,559	.000	-.37
TRN02d	429	2.44	2.78	.04	.01	0.92	0.90	27,600	.000	-.38

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## 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.