



NSSE 2013
Development of Transferable Skills Module
Grand Valley State University

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

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

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 South Carolina Columbia (Columbia, SC)
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 ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				GVSU		Transferable Skills		GVSU	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
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	141	10	1,951	13	2.6	2.6 *	.06
		2	Sometimes	525	37	5,578	36			
		3	Often	468	33	4,884	31			
		4	Very often	287	21	3,124	20			
		Total		1,421	100	15,537	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	429	30	3,507	24	2.0	2.2 ***	-.19
		2	Sometimes	633	45	6,794	43			
		3	Often	276	20	3,490	22			
		4	Very often	79	6	1,692	11			
		Total		1,417	100	15,483	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	82	6	1,005	7	2.7	2.7	.00
		2	Sometimes	524	37	5,620	37			
		3	Often	570	40	5,818	37			
		4	Very often	243	17	3,057	20			
		Total		1,419	100	15,500	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	223	15	2,289	15	2.4	2.4 *	-.05
		2	Sometimes	603	43	6,245	40			
		3	Often	428	30	4,836	31			
		4	Very often	167	12	2,123	14			
		Total		1,421	100	15,493	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	84	6	851	6	2.7	2.8 **	-.09
		2	Sometimes	492	35	4,839	31			
		3	Often	559	40	6,108	39			
		4	Very often	277	20	3,677	24			
		Total		1,412	100	15,475	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	83	6	917	6	2.7	2.8	-.04
		2	Sometimes	487	34	5,129	33			
		3	Often	585	41	6,071	39			
		4	Very often	264	19	3,320	22			
		Total		1,419	100	15,437	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	112	8	1,301	9	2.6	2.7	-.01
		2	Sometimes	529	37	5,587	36			
		3	Often	525	37	5,514	35			
		4	Very often	251	17	3,026	20			
		Total		1,417	100	15,428	100			

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				GVSU		Transferable Skills		GVSU	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
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	21	1	577	5	3.1	3.0 ***	.15
		2	Sometimes	278	20	3,483	24			
		3	Often	597	42	5,739	36			
		4	Very often	530	37	5,740	35			
			Total	1,426	100	15,539	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	180	12	2,050	14	2.5	2.6	-.02
		2	Sometimes	512	36	5,246	34			
		3	Often	510	36	5,015	31			
		4	Very often	220	15	3,194	20			
			Total	1,422	100	15,505	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	143	10	1,632	12	2.7	2.6	.05
		2	Sometimes	461	32	5,208	34			
		3	Often	544	39	5,324	33			
		4	Very often	274	19	3,331	21			
			Total	1,422	100	15,495	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	122	8	1,244	9	2.7	2.7	-.01
		2	Sometimes	484	34	5,259	34			
		3	Often	553	39	5,539	35			
		4	Very often	265	19	3,421	21			
			Total	1,424	100	15,463	100			

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

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				GVSU		Transferable Skills		GVSU	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
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	132	10	2,083	11	2.7	2.7	.02
		2	Sometimes	496	35	6,532	34			
		3	Often	405	30	5,832	30			
		4	Very often	351	25	4,826	25			
		Total		1,384	100	19,273	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRN01b	1	Never	152	11	2,687	14	2.5	2.5	.01
		2	Sometimes	594	43	7,448	39			
		3	Often	406	29	5,588	29			
		4	Very often	226	17	3,485	18			
		Total		1,378	100	19,208	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	43	3	982	5	2.9	2.9	.02
		2	Sometimes	424	31	5,810	30			
		3	Often	566	41	7,275	38			
		4	Very often	347	25	5,163	27			
		Total		1,380	100	19,230	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRN01d	1	Never	127	9	2,050	11	2.7	2.6 *	.07
		2	Sometimes	487	35	7,156	37			
		3	Often	500	36	6,314	33			
		4	Very often	268	19	3,689	19			
		Total		1,382	100	19,209	100			
e. Creatively thought about new ideas or about ways to improve things	TRN01e	1	Never	43	3	683	4	3.0	3.0	.00
		2	Sometimes	310	23	4,535	24			
		3	Often	597	43	7,441	39			
		4	Very often	429	32	6,535	34			
		Total		1,379	100	19,194	100			
f. Critically evaluated multiple solutions to a problem	TRN01f	1	Never	30	2	701	4	3.0	3.0	.03
		2	Sometimes	320	23	4,612	24			
		3	Often	613	44	7,785	40			
		4	Very often	411	31	6,101	32			
		Total		1,374	100	19,199	100			
g. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRN01g	1	Never	48	4	967	5	2.9	2.9	.03
		2	Sometimes	372	27	5,292	28			
		3	Often	576	42	7,224	37			
		4	Very often	374	28	5,656	30			
		Total		1,370	100	19,139	100			

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				GVSU		Transferable Skills		GVSU	Transferable Skills	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
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	28	2	599	4	3.3	3.2 ***	.18
		2	Sometimes	193	14	3,529	20			
		3	Often	439	32	6,092	32			
		4	Very often	722	52	9,048	44			
		Total		1,382	100	19,268	100			
b. Assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRN02b	1	Never	113	8	2,190	12	2.9	2.7 ***	.15
		2	Sometimes	389	28	5,722	31			
		3	Often	433	32	5,820	30			
		4	Very often	442	31	5,503	27			
		Total		1,377	100	19,235	100			
c. Included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRN02c	1	Never	71	5	1,534	9	2.9	2.8 ***	.10
		2	Sometimes	401	29	5,574	30			
		3	Often	490	36	6,339	33			
		4	Very often	419	30	5,783	28			
		Total		1,381	100	19,230	100			
d. Presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRN02d	1	Never	69	5	1,463	8	2.9	2.8 ***	.10
		2	Sometimes	424	31	6,028	32			
		3	Often	497	36	6,436	33			
		4	Very often	387	28	5,268	26			
		Total		1,377	100	19,195	100			

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

First-Year Students

Variable name	N		Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	GVSU	Transferable Skills	GVSU	Transferable Skills	GVSU	Transferable Skills	GVSU	Transferable Skills			
TRN01a	1,421	2.6	2.6	.02	.01	0.9	0.9	1,571	.021	.06	
TRN01b	1,417	2.0	2.2	.02	.01	0.9	0.9	1,578	.000	-.19	
TRN01c	1,419	2.7	2.7	.02	.01	0.8	0.9	1,573	.949	.00	
TRN01d	1,421	2.4	2.4	.02	.01	0.9	0.9	1,566	.043	-.05	
TRN01e	1,410	2.7	2.8	.02	.01	0.8	0.9	30,986	.001	-.09	
TRN01f	1,419	2.7	2.8	.02	.01	0.8	0.9	1,570	.111	-.04	
TRN01g	1,417	2.6	2.7	.02	.01	0.9	0.9	1,567	.603	-.01	
TRN02a	1,426	3.1	3.0	.02	.01	0.8	0.9	1,604	.000	.15	
TRN02b	1,422	2.5	2.6	.02	.01	0.9	1.0	1,583	.379	-.02	
TRN02c	1,421	2.7	2.6	.02	.01	0.9	0.9	1,574	.062	.05	
TRN02d	1,424	2.7	2.7	.02	.01	0.9	0.9	1,575	.658	-.01	

Seniors

Variable name	N		Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	GVSU	Transferable Skills	GVSU	Transferable Skills	GVSU	Transferable Skills	GVSU	Transferable Skills			
TRN01a	1,385	2.7	2.7	.03	.01	1.0	1.0	31,275	.551	.02	
TRN01b	1,379	2.5	2.5	.02	.01	0.9	0.9	1,523	.666	.01	
TRN01c	1,381	2.9	2.9	.02	.01	0.8	0.9	1,527	.489	.02	
TRN01d	1,384	2.7	2.6	.02	.01	0.9	0.9	1,521	.011	.07	
TRN01e	1,380	3.0	3.0	.02	.00	0.8	0.9	1,521	.952	.00	
TRN01f	1,375	3.0	3.0	.02	.00	0.8	0.8	1,522	.204	.03	
TRN01g	1,371	2.9	2.9	.02	.01	0.8	0.9	1,517	.302	.03	
TRN02a	1,383	3.3	3.2	.02	.01	0.8	0.9	1,537	.000	.18	
TRN02b	1,378	2.9	2.7	.03	.01	1.0	1.0	1,517	.000	.15	
TRN02c	1,382	2.9	2.8	.02	.01	0.9	0.9	1,528	.000	.10	
TRN02d	1,378	2.9	2.8	.02	.01	0.9	0.9	1,524	.000	.10	

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.