
NSSE 2026 Topical Module Report

Development of Transferable Skills

Brenau University

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 and beyond (such as verbal and written fluency, critical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving, project management, and time management). 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.

Comparison group details are in the Selected Comparison Groups report, available in PDF format in your report download folder.

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NSSE 2026 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

Brenau University

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Brenau		Transferable Skills		Brenau	Transferable Skills	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	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	TRNdebate	1	Never	10	14	1,725	20	2.4	2.4	.07
		2	Sometimes	36	48	3,545	39			
		3	Often	14	19	2,462	27			
		4	Very often	13	18	1,325	14			
		Total		73	100	9,057	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRNspeech	1	Never	21	29	2,520	29	2.2	2.1	.08
		2	Sometimes	27	36	3,621	39			
		3	Often	15	21	2,015	21			
		4	Very often	10	14	921	10			
		Total		73	100	9,077	100			
c. Worked in a group with people who differed from you in terms of background, political orientation, points of view, etc.	TRNgroup	1	Never	3	4	578	7	2.9	2.7	.17
		2	Sometimes	24	33	2,955	33			
		3	Often	25	36	3,659	39			
		4	Very often	20	28	1,863	20			
		Total		72	100	9,055	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRNethical	1	Never	9	12	1,430	17	2.5	2.4	.16
		2	Sometimes	29	37	3,534	39			
		3	Often	23	35	2,890	31			
		4	Very often	12	15	1,199	13			
		Total		73	100	9,053	100			
e. Evaluated the credibility of information sources	TRNcred	1	Never	4	5	531	7	3.0	2.8	.21
		2	Sometimes	16	22	2,650	29			
		3	Often	31	43	3,803	41			
		4	Very often	22	30	2,055	22			
		Total		73	100	9,039	100			
f. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRNcomplex	1	Never	3	4	631	8	2.7	2.7	.08
		2	Sometimes	25	32	3,072	35			
		3	Often	34	50	3,637	39			
		4	Very often	11	14	1,694	18			
		Total		73	100	9,034	100			
g. Generated multiple solutions to a problem or task	TRNsolution	1	Never	5	7	464	6	2.7	2.7	.00
		2	Sometimes	24	33	3,015	34			
		3	Often	30	42	3,840	41			
		4	Very often	13	18	1,700	19			
		Total		72	100	9,019	100			
h. Combined dissimilar concepts to create a novel idea	TRNcreate	1	Never	15	20	1,760	21	2.2	2.3	-.07
		2	Sometimes	33	45	3,717	41			
		3	Often	20	31	2,542	27			
		4	Very often	4	5	1,001	11			
		Total		72	100	9,020	100			
i. Adapted a previously used solution to a new situation	TRNadapt	1	Never	5	6	910	11	2.5	2.5	-.02
		2	Sometimes	37	49	3,498	39			
		3	Often	21	30	3,305	36			
		4	Very often	10	14	1,290	14			
		Total		73	100	9,003	100			

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

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First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Brenau		Transferable Skills		Brenau	Transferable Skills	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
j. Referred to online content (tutorial, forum, webpage, etc.) to solve a problem	TRNnlsolve	1	Never	4	5	377	5	2.8	3.0	-.20
		2	Sometimes	25	36	2,320	26			
		3	Often	26	36	3,520	38			
		4	Very often	17	24	2,793	31			
		Total		72	100	9,010	100			
k. Referred to online content (tutorial, forum, webpage, etc.) to learn a new skill or procedure	TRNnlskill	1	Never	5	6	434	5	2.7	2.9	-.22
		2	Sometimes	27	38	2,547	29			
		3	Often	26	37	3,527	38			
		4	Very often	15	19	2,501	28			
		Total		73	100	9,009	100			
l. Used project management tools to plan, organize, or schedule tasks	TRNproject	1	Never	5	7	961	12	2.7	2.6	.06
		2	Sometimes	29	39	3,068	34			
		3	Often	23	33	3,149	34			
		4	Very often	15	21	1,821	20			
		Total		72	100	8,999	100			
m. Used a daily or weekly "to do" list	TRNtodo	1	Never	6	8	853	11	2.9	2.9	-.04
		2	Sometimes	24	32	2,166	25			
		3	Often	18	26	2,329	25			
		4	Very often	25	34	3,666	38			
		Total		73	100	9,014	100			
n. Prioritized what tasks need to be accomplished	TRNtasks	1	Never	2	4	186	2	3.3	3.2	.06
		2	Sometimes	8	10	1,492	18			
		3	Often	30	40	3,161	35			
		4	Very often	33	45	4,163	45			
		Total		73	100	9,002	100			
o. Worked longer hours than usual to meet deadlines (i.e., after midnight, before dawn)	TRNhours	1	Never	6	8	668	8	3.0	2.9	.12
		2	Sometimes	16	22	2,606	29			
		3	Often	24	32	2,699	30			
		4	Very often	27	38	3,028	33			
		Total		73	100	9,001	100			
p. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that used information from a variety of sources (books, journals, Internet, databases, etc.)	TRNwrsouce	1	Never	0	0	317	4	3.2	2.9 ** ▲	.31
		2	Sometimes	12	18	2,448	28			
		3	Often	31	42	3,380	37			
		4	Very often	30	40	2,857	31			
		Total		73	100	9,002	100			
q. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRNwrassess	1	Never	8	10	1,165	13	2.7	2.6	.07
		2	Sometimes	25	34	3,116	35			
		3	Often	25	35	2,839	32			
		4	Very often	15	21	1,874	21			
		Total		73	100	8,994	100			

NSSE 2026 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

Brenau University

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Brenau		Transferable Skills		Brenau	Transferable Skills	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
r. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRNwrideas	1	Never	5	8	1,100	12	2.6	2.6	.02
		2	Sometimes	32	43	3,348	38			
		3	Often	21	30	2,831	31			
		4	Very often	14	18	1,720	19			
		Total		72	100	8,999	100			
s. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRNwrviews	1	Never	1	1	849	9	2.6	2.6	-.02
		2	Sometimes	37	51	3,298	37			
		3	Often	23	33	3,097	34			
		4	Very often	12	15	1,755	20			
		Total		73	100	8,999	100			

NSSE 2026 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

Brenau University

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Brenau		Transferable Skills		Brenau	Transferable Skills	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	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	TRNdebate	1	Never	15	17	1,968	19	2.5	2.5	.05
		2	Sometimes	32	36	3,579	36			
		3	Often	22	25	2,639	25			
		4	Very often	19	22	1,891	20			
		Total		88	100	10,077	100			
b. Made a speech to a group	TRNspeech	1	Never	15	18	2,364	24	2.4	2.3	.13
		2	Sometimes	35	39	3,983	39			
		3	Often	23	27	2,343	23			
		4	Very often	15	16	1,396	15			
		Total		88	100	10,086	100			
c. Worked in a group with people who differed from you in terms of background, political orientation, points of view, etc.	TRNgroup	1	Never	5	7	569	6	3.0	2.9	.07
		2	Sometimes	23	26	2,871	28			
		3	Often	29	32	3,861	38			
		4	Very often	32	35	2,787	28			
		Total		89	100	10,088	100			
d. Discussed the ethical consequences of a course of action	TRNethical	1	Never	7	9	1,285	12	2.7	2.6	.13
		2	Sometimes	31	36	3,657	36			
		3	Often	28	31	3,171	31			
		4	Very often	20	24	1,957	20			
		Total		86	100	10,070	100			
e. Evaluated the credibility of information sources	TRNcred	1	Never	7	9	579	6	3.0	3.0	.05
		2	Sometimes	15	16	2,505	25			
		3	Often	36	40	3,858	38			
		4	Very often	31	34	3,131	32			
		Total		89	100	10,073	100			
f. Discussed complex problems with others to develop a better solution	TRNcomplex	1	Never	4	5	577	6	3.0	2.9	.10
		2	Sometimes	19	21	2,746	27			
		3	Often	40	45	4,001	39			
		4	Very often	25	29	2,734	28			
		Total		88	100	10,058	100			
g. Generated multiple solutions to a problem or task	TRNsolution	1	Never	5	6	463	5	2.9	2.9	-.07
		2	Sometimes	24	28	2,745	27			
		3	Often	36	40	4,078	40			
		4	Very often	23	26	2,772	28			
		Total		88	100	10,058	100			
h. Combined dissimilar concepts to create a novel idea	TRNcreate	1	Never	13	15	1,644	16	2.4	2.4	-.04
		2	Sometimes	35	40	4,036	41			
		3	Often	31	35	2,805	28			
		4	Very often	9	10	1,568	16			
		Total		88	100	10,053	100			
i. Adapted a previously used solution to a new situation	TRNadapt	1	Never	6	7	824	8	2.7	2.7	-.02
		2	Sometimes	29	33	3,417	34			
		3	Often	37	43	3,749	37			
		4	Very often	15	17	2,036	21			
		Total		87	100	10,026	100			

NSSE 2026 Development of Transferable Skills

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

Brenau University

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Brenau		Transferable Skills		Brenau	Transferable Skills	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
j. Referred to online content (tutorial, forum, webpage, etc.) to solve a problem	TRNnlsolve	1	Never	2	2	376	4	3.0	3.1	-.18
		2	Sometimes	27	30	2,220	21			
		3	Often	34	38	3,664	36			
		4	Very often	25	30	3,792	39			
		Total		88	100	10,052	100			
k. Referred to online content (tutorial, forum, webpage, etc.) to learn a new skill or procedure	TRNnlskill	1	Never	0	0	389	4	3.0	3.1	-.07
		2	Sometimes	25	29	2,399	23			
		3	Often	38	43	3,728	37			
		4	Very often	25	28	3,527	36			
		Total		88	100	10,043	100			
l. Used project management tools to plan, organize, or schedule tasks	TRNproject	1	Never	1	1	994	10	3.0	2.7 *	.23 △
		2	Sometimes	26	29	3,028	31			
		3	Often	35	41	3,451	33			
		4	Very often	25	28	2,562	26			
		Total		87	100	10,035	100			
m. Used a daily or weekly "to do" list	TRNtodo	1	Never	2	2	744	8	3.2	3.1	.17
		2	Sometimes	16	18	2,200	23			
		3	Often	31	35	2,478	24			
		4	Very often	39	45	4,631	45			
		Total		88	100	10,053	100			
n. Prioritized what tasks need to be accomplished	TRNtasks	1	Never	0	0	150	1	3.5	3.4 **	.23 △
		2	Sometimes	4	4	1,274	13			
		3	Often	33	37	3,244	33			
		4	Very often	51	59	5,360	53			
		Total		88	100	10,028	100			
o. Worked longer hours than usual to meet deadlines (i.e., after midnight, before dawn)	TRNhours	1	Never	3	3	604	6	3.2	3.0	.15
		2	Sometimes	19	21	2,638	26			
		3	Often	29	32	2,764	27			
		4	Very often	37	44	4,044	40			
		Total		88	100	10,050	100			
p. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that used information from a variety of sources (books, journals, Internet, databases, etc.)	TRNwrsouce	1	Never	1	2	322	3	3.4	3.1 ***	.35 ▲
		2	Sometimes	8	9	2,103	21			
		3	Often	30	33	3,316	33			
		4	Very often	49	56	4,311	42			
		Total		88	100	10,052	100			
q. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that assessed the conclusions of a published work	TRNwrassess	1	Never	6	8	1,125	11	3.0	2.8 *	.21 △
		2	Sometimes	20	23	2,947	30			
		3	Often	31	34	3,009	30			
		4	Very often	31	35	2,953	29			
		Total		88	100	10,034	100			

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Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

Brenau University

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Brenau		Transferable Skills		Brenau	Transferable Skills	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
r. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that included ideas from more than one academic discipline	TRNwrideas	1	Never	6	7	956	10	2.9	2.8	.18
		2	Sometimes	23	26	3,202	32			
		3	Often	29	32	3,067	30			
		4	Very often	30	34	2,795	28			
		Total		88	100	10,020	100			
s. Written something (paper, report, article, etc.) that presented multiple viewpoints or perspectives	TRNwrviews	1	Never	5	6	913	10	2.9	2.7	.16
		2	Sometimes	25	28	3,356	34			
		3	Often	33	38	3,201	32			
		4	Very often	25	28	2,566	25			
		Total		88	100	10,036	100			

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	Brenau	Brenau	Transferable Skills	Brenau	Transferable Skills	Brenau	Transferable Skills	Comparisons with: Transferable Skills		
TRNdebate	72	2.42	2.35	.113	.007	.95	.96	71	.563	.07
TRNspeech	72	2.21	2.13	.121	.006	1.02	.95	71	.526	.08
TRNgroup	71	2.87	2.72	.103	.006	.87	.87	70	.167	.17
TRNethical	72	2.55	2.41	.106	.006	.89	.91	71	.185	.16
TRNcred	72	2.97	2.79	.101	.006	.86	.87	71	.081	.21
TRNcomplex	72	2.74	2.67	.088	.006	.75	.87	71	.443	.08
TRNsolution	71	2.73	2.72	.100	.006	.84	.84	70	.982	.00
TRNcreate	71	2.21	2.28	.098	.006	.82	.92	70	.502	-.07
TRNadapt	72	2.52	2.54	.097	.006	.82	.87	71	.849	-.02
TRNnonsolve	71	2.78	2.95	.104	.006	.87	.87	70	.094	-.20
TRNnonskill	72	2.69	2.88	.102	.006	.86	.88	71	.057	-.22
TRNproject	71	2.69	2.63	.105	.006	.88	.93	70	.575	.06
TRNtodo	72	2.86	2.90	.116	.007	.98	1.04	71	.698	-.04
TRNtasks	72	3.27	3.22	.096	.006	.81	.82	71	.618	.06
TRNhours	72	3.00	2.89	.113	.007	.96	.96	71	.315	.12
TRNwrsources	72	3.22	2.95	.087	.006	.74	.86	71	.003	.31
TRNwrassess	72	2.66	2.60	.109	.006	.93	.95	71	.572	.07
TRNwrideas	71	2.59	2.57	.105	.006	.88	.93	70	.842	.02
TRNwrviews	72	2.62	2.64	.090	.006	.76	.90	71	.860	-.02

NSSE 2026 Development of Transferable Skills

Detailed Statistics^e Brenau University

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	Brenau	Brenau	Transferable Skills	Brenau	Transferable Skills	Brenau	Transferable Skills	Comparisons with: Transferable Skills		
TRNdebate	88	2.51	2.45	.109	.006	1.02	1.01	87	.623	.05
TRNspeech	88	2.41	2.29	.104	.006	.97	.99	87	.222	.13
TRNgroup	89	2.96	2.89	.101	.005	.95	.88	88	.521	.07
TRNethical	86	2.71	2.59	.101	.006	.93	.94	85	.242	.13
TRNcred	89	3.00	2.95	.100	.005	.94	.89	88	.661	.05
TRNcomplex	88	2.98	2.89	.090	.005	.84	.88	87	.351	.10
TRNsolution	88	2.86	2.91	.094	.005	.88	.85	87	.542	-.07
TRNcreate	88	2.40	2.43	.092	.006	.86	.94	87	.720	-.04
TRNadapt	87	2.69	2.71	.090	.005	.84	.89	86	.828	-.02
TRNnonsolve	88	2.95	3.10	.089	.005	.83	.86	87	.092	-.18
TRNnonskill	88	2.99	3.05	.081	.005	.76	.86	87	.456	-.07
TRNproject	87	2.97	2.75	.085	.006	.79	.95	86	.011	.23
TRNtodo	88	3.22	3.05	.088	.006	.82	1.00	87	.055	.17
TRNtasks	88	3.54	3.37	.062	.004	.58	.76	88	.005	.23
TRNhours	88	3.16	3.02	.093	.006	.87	.95	87	.130	.15
TRNwrsources	88	3.43	3.13	.078	.005	.73	.87	87	.000	.35
TRNwrsassess	88	2.97	2.76	.102	.006	.96	.99	87	.045	.21
TRNwrideas	88	2.94	2.76	.102	.006	.95	.96	87	.089	.18
TRNwrvviews	88	2.87	2.72	.096	.006	.90	.95	87	.118	.16

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. Comparison group details are in the Selected Comparison Groups report, linked in the Data & Reports table on the Institution Interface.
- 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 Ns due to weighting..
- 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.

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. You may not see all of these symbols in your report.