
NSSE 2016 Topical Module Report

Civic Engagement

University of Houston-Downtown

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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 asks students to assess their conflict resolution skills and examines how often students have engaged with local or campus and state/national/global issues. The module complements questions on the core survey about service-learning, community service or volunteer work, and becoming an informed and active citizen. 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 'Civic Engagement' column of this report.

Group label	Civic Engagement
Date submitted	5/20/16
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 "Civic Engagement"

Civic Engagement (N=84)

Auburn University (Auburn University, AL)	Manhattan College (Bronx, NY)
Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, TN)	Marshall University (Huntington, WV)
Bard College (Annandale-On-Hudson, NY)	Marygrove College (Detroit, MI)*
Bemidji State University (Bemidji, MN)*	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (North Adams, MA)*
Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, OH)	Mercer University (Macon, GA)
Central Connecticut State University (New Britain, CT)*	Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry, NY)
Clafflin University (Orangeburg, SC)	Mercyhurst University (Erie, PA)
Clayton State University (Morrow, GA)	Metropolitan State University of Denver (Denver, CO)*
Cleveland State University (Cleveland, OH)*	Midwestern State University (Wichita Falls, TX)
Colby-Sawyer College (New London, NH)*	Montana State University Billings (Billings, MT)
Coleman University (San Diego, CA)	Mount Aloysius College (Cresson, PA)
College of Wooster, The (Wooster, OH)*	Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago, IL)
DePaul University (Chicago, IL)*	Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, AZ)*
Dominican University (River Forest, IL)	Olivet College (Olivet, MI)
Dominican University of California (San Rafael, CA)	Pennsylvania College of Technology (Williamsport, PA)*
Earlham College (Richmond, IN)*	Pittsburg State University (Pittsburg, KS)*
Framingham State University (Framingham, MA)	Pitzer College (Claremont, CA)
Geneva College (Beaver Falls, PA)	Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX)*
George Mason University (Fairfax, VA)*	Presbyterian College (Clinton, SC)
Governors State University (University Park, IL)	Ramapo College of New Jersey (Mahwah, NJ)
Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI)	Rhode Island College (Providence, RI)*
Hiram College (Hiram, OH)*	Roosevelt University (Chicago, IL)*
Kean University (Union, NJ)*	Rutgers University-Camden (Camden, NJ)*
Keene State College (Keene, NH)	Salem State University (Salem, MA)
LaGrange College (Lagrange, GA)	Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, TX)
Lindenwood University (Saint Charles, MO)*	San Diego State University (San Diego, CA)*
Long Island University - Brooklyn (Brooklyn, NY)*	Stockton University (Galloway, NJ)
Long Island University - Post (Brookville, NY)*	Sul Ross State University (Alpine, TX)
Loyola University New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)*	Temple University (Philadelphia, PA)
Lycoming College (Williamsport, PA)	Texas A&M University - Texarkana (Texarkana, TX)

Civic Engagement (N=84), continued

Tulane University of Louisiana (New Orleans, LA)*
University of Alaska Anchorage (Anchorage, AK)
University of Houston-Victoria (Victoria, TX)*
University of La Verne (La Verne, CA)*
University of Maine at Presque Isle (Presque Isle, ME)
University of Missouri-St. Louis (Saint Louis, MO)*
University of Nebraska at Omaha (Omaha, NE)
University of North Carolina at Asheville (Asheville, NC)*
University of North Carolina Wilmington (Wilmington, NC)*
University of North Texas (Denton, TX)
University of Pikeville (Pikeville, KY)
University of San Diego (San Diego, CA)*
University of South Carolina Upstate (Spartanburg, SC)
Utah Valley University (Orem, UT)
Valley City State University (Valley City, ND)*
Virginia Wesleyan College (Norfolk, VA)
Wabash College (Crawfordsville, IN)
Weber State University (Ogden, UT)
Western Carolina University (Cullowhee, NC)*
Westfield State University (Westfield, MA)
Wichita State University (Wichita, KS)*
William Paterson University of New Jersey (Wayne, NJ)
Wingate University (Wingate, NC)
Wright State University (Dayton, OH)*

*2015 participant

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UHD		Civic Engagement		UHD	Civic Engagement	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
1. Select the response that best represents your ability to do the following:										
a. Help people resolve their disagreements with each other	CIV01a	1	Poor	0	0	236	2	5.0	5.1	-.04
		2		4	4	369	2			
		3		9	11	1,099	7			
		4		18	25	3,316	20			
		5		22	25	5,338	31			
		6		9	11	4,127	25			
		7	Excellent	18	25	2,378	14			
	Total			80	100	16,863	100			
b. Resolve conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIV01b	1	Poor	1	1	293	2	5.0	4.8	.15
		2		2	2	510	3			
		3		12	14	1,559	9			
		4		16	21	4,100	24			
		5		20	23	5,026	29			
		6		12	14	3,438	21			
		7	Excellent	18	24	1,888	11			
	Total			81	100	16,814	100			
c. Lead a group where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIV01c	1	Poor	1	1	406	3	5.1	5.1	.06
		2		4	4	531	3			
		3		10	12	1,323	8			
		4		16	21	3,134	19			
		5		13	17	4,369	26			
		6		14	15	4,103	25			
		7	Excellent	23	30	2,940	18			
	Total			81	100	16,806	100			
d. Contribute to the well-being of your community	CIV01d	1	Poor	1	1	257	2	5.2	5.2	.01
		2		3	3	380	3			
		3		9	11	1,045	7			
		4		17	24	2,942	18			
		5		14	17	4,656	27			
		6		12	13	4,434	26			
		7	Excellent	25	32	3,043	18			
	Total			81	100	16,757	100			
2. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Informed yourself about local or campus issues	CIV02a	1	Never	9	10	1,469	10	2.5	2.5	.01
		2	Sometimes	34	44	7,605	46			
		3	Often	29	34	5,556	32			
		4	Very often	10	12	2,197	13			
			Total			82	100			
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIV02b	1	Never	7	7	1,109	7	2.6	2.7	-.07
		2	Sometimes	29	38	6,588	38			
		3	Often	33	39	5,806	35			
		4	Very often	12	15	3,304	21			
			Total			81	100			

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UHD		Civic Engagement		UHD	Civic Engagement	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
c. Discussed local or campus issues with others	CIV02c	1	Never	16	19	2,087	14	2.2	2.4 *	-0.22 ▽
		2	Sometimes	38	47	7,187	43			
		3	Often	21	25	5,314	30			
		4	Very often	7	8	2,211	12			
		Total		82	100	16,799	100			
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIV02d	1	Never	11	13	1,771	11	2.5	2.5	-0.08
		2	Sometimes	35	43	6,902	41			
		3	Often	24	29	5,267	31			
		4	Very often	12	15	2,824	17			
		Total		82	100	16,764	100			
e. Raised awareness about local or campus issues	CIV02e	1	Never	33	38	7,213	45	2.0	1.8	.20
		2	Sometimes	26	34	6,190	36			
		3	Often	17	20	2,388	13			
		4	Very often	6	8	995	6			
		Total		82	100	16,786	100			
f. Raised awareness about state, national, or global issues	CIV02f	1	Never	32	36	6,747	41	2.2	1.9 *	.29 △
		2	Sometimes	20	27	6,171	36			
		3	Often	18	23	2,668	16			
		4	Very often	11	14	1,186	7			
		Total		81	100	16,772	100			
g. Asked others to address local or campus issues	CIV02g	1	Never	39	45	8,344	51	1.9	1.7	.17
		2	Sometimes	22	27	5,318	31			
		3	Often	18	24	2,259	13			
		4	Very often	3	3	856	5			
		Total		82	100	16,777	100			
h. Asked others to address state, national, or global issues	CIV02h	1	Never	40	46	8,376	51	1.9	1.7	.18
		2	Sometimes	21	25	5,151	30			
		3	Often	15	21	2,245	13			
		4	Very often	6	8	952	6			
		Total		82	100	16,724	100			
i. Organized others to work on local or campus issues	CIV02i	1	Never	48	55	10,710	65	1.8	1.5 *	.29 △
		2	Sometimes	16	21	3,754	22			
		3	Often	12	17	1,635	9			
		4	Very often	5	7	651	4			
		Total		81	100	16,750	100			
j. Organized others to work on state, national, or global issues	CIV02j	1	Never	48	54	10,984	67	1.8	1.5 **	.45 ▲
		2	Sometimes	15	20	3,574	21			
		3	Often	11	15	1,450	8			
		4	Very often	8	11	595	4			
		Total		82	100	16,603	100			

3. Think about the experiences you may have had with local, campus, state, national, or global issues. What about these experiences has been most meaningful to you?

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 20 first-year students and 97 seniors. Responses are provided in your "NSSE16 Topical Module - Civic Engagement Student Comments" report and in a separate SPSS data file.

These open-ended responses appear exactly as respondents entered them and may not be suitable for distribution without prior review.

*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 ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UHD		Civic Engagement		UHD	Civic Engagement	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
1. Select the response that best represents your ability to do the following:										
a. Help people resolve their disagreements with each other	CIV01a	1	Poor	5	1	248	1	5.3	5.3	.01
		2		5	1	361	1			
		3		16	4	1,183	5			
		4		72	17	3,674	14			
		5		115	28	7,818	30			
		6		121	30	7,392	29			
		7	Excellent	82	19	4,557	18			
	Total			416	100	25,233	100			
b. Resolve conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIV01b	1	Poor	6	1	332	1	5.2	5.1 *	.10
		2		11	3	632	3			
		3		27	6	1,757	7			
		4		75	18	4,938	19			
		5		106	25	7,682	30			
		6		111	28	6,135	24			
		7	Excellent	79	19	3,679	15			
	Total			415	100	25,155	100			
c. Lead a group where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIV01c	1	Poor	10	3	318	1	5.5	5.5	-.01
		2		10	2	464	2			
		3		17	4	1,162	5			
		4		58	14	3,393	13			
		5		89	21	5,959	23			
		6		108	26	7,366	29			
		7	Excellent	124	30	6,482	26			
	Total			416	100	25,144	100			
d. Contribute to the well-being of your community	CIV01d	1	Poor	9	2	264	1	5.4	5.5	-.05
		2		11	3	400	2			
		3		19	5	1,048	4			
		4		69	17	3,458	14			
		5		78	18	6,066	24			
		6		118	29	7,641	30			
		7	Excellent	111	27	6,196	25			
	Total			415	100	25,073	100			
2. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Informed yourself about local or campus issues	CIV02a	1	Never	54	12	2,748	12	2.5	2.5	.00
		2	Sometimes	177	42	10,901	43			
		3	Often	122	30	7,474	29			
		4	Very often	65	16	4,075	16			
			Total			418	100			
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIV02b	1	Never	37	8	1,130	5	2.9	2.9	-.06
		2	Sometimes	120	28	7,884	30			
		3	Often	141	34	8,943	35			
		4	Very often	118	30	7,191	30			
			Total			416	100			

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UHD		Civic Engagement		UHD	Civic Engagement	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
c. Discussed local or campus issues with others	CIV02c	1	Never	87	21	3,439	15	2.3	2.4 ***	-0.16
		2	Sometimes	191	45	10,567	43			
		3	Often	81	19	7,210	28			
		4	Very often	59	15	3,924	15			
		Total		418	100	25,140	100			
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIV02d	1	Never	47	11	1,931	8	2.7	2.7	-0.08
		2	Sometimes	152	36	9,035	35			
		3	Often	120	29	8,382	33			
		4	Very often	94	24	5,791	24			
		Total		413	100	25,139	100			
e. Raised awareness about local or campus issues	CIV02e	1	Never	184	43	10,374	43	1.8	1.9	-0.03
		2	Sometimes	155	37	9,028	35			
		3	Often	47	12	3,725	14			
		4	Very often	33	8	2,016	8			
		Total		419	100	25,143	100			
f. Raised awareness about state, national, or global issues	CIV02f	1	Never	148	34	8,794	36	2.1	2.0	.06
		2	Sometimes	147	35	9,292	36			
		3	Often	73	18	4,483	18			
		4	Very often	48	12	2,563	10			
		Total		416	100	25,132	100			
g. Asked others to address local or campus issues	CIV02g	1	Never	225	54	12,527	52	1.7	1.7	-0.06
		2	Sometimes	132	31	7,798	30			
		3	Often	32	8	3,162	12			
		4	Very often	27	6	1,643	6			
		Total		416	100	25,130	100			
h. Asked others to address state, national, or global issues	CIV02h	1	Never	219	52	12,041	49	1.7	1.8	-0.08
		2	Sometimes	130	31	7,754	30			
		3	Often	40	10	3,438	13			
		4	Very often	26	7	1,835	7			
		Total		415	100	25,068	100			
i. Organized others to work on local or campus issues	CIV02i	1	Never	276	67	15,797	65	1.5	1.5	-0.06
		2	Sometimes	95	23	5,536	21			
		3	Often	23	6	2,401	9			
		4	Very often	20	5	1,347	5			
		Total		414	100	25,081	100			
j. Organized others to work on state, national, or global issues	CIV02j	1	Never	272	65	16,174	67	1.5	1.5	-0.01
		2	Sometimes	96	24	5,268	20			
		3	Often	29	7	2,211	8			
		4	Very often	16	4	1,219	5			
		Total		413	100	24,872	100			

3. Think about the experiences you may have had with local, campus, state, national, or global issues. What about these experiences has been most meaningful to you?

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 20 first-year students and 97 seniors. Responses are provided in your "NSSE16 Topical Module - Civic Engagement Student Comments" report and in a separate SPSS data file.

These open-ended responses appear exactly as respondents entered them and may not be suitable for distribution without prior review.

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

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UHD	UHD	Civic Engagement	UHD	Civic Engagement	UHD	Civic Engagement			
										<i>Comparisons with:</i>
										Civic Engagement
CIV01a	81	5.02	5.07	.16	.01	1.47	1.32	10,608	.742	-.04
CIV01b	82	5.04	4.84	.17	.01	1.50	1.36	10,568	.178	.15
CIV01c	82	5.14	5.05	.18	.01	1.60	1.47	82	.603	.06
CIV01d	82	5.18	5.17	.17	.01	1.57	1.37	82	.918	.01
CIV02a	83	2.48	2.47	.09	.01	0.84	0.84	10,587	.949	.01
CIV02b	83	2.63	2.69	.09	.01	0.84	0.87	10,570	.502	-.07
CIV02c	83	2.22	2.41	.09	.01	0.86	0.87	10,569	.046	-.22
CIV02d	83	2.47	2.54	.10	.01	0.91	0.90	10,547	.443	-.08
CIV02e	83	1.98	1.80	.10	.01	0.95	0.88	10,554	.067	.20
CIV02f	83	2.15	1.89	.12	.01	1.07	0.92	83	.029	.29
CIV02g	83	1.86	1.71	.10	.01	0.90	0.87	10,553	.111	.17
CIV02h	83	1.90	1.74	.11	.01	0.99	0.89	10,513	.093	.18
CIV02i	82	1.75	1.51	.11	.01	0.97	0.81	82	.030	.29
CIV02j	83	1.84	1.48	.12	.01	1.06	0.79	83	.003	.45

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UHD	UHD	Civic Engagement	UHD	Civic Engagement	UHD	Civic Engagement			
										<i>Comparisons with: Civic Engagement</i>
CIV01a	417	5.35	5.33	.06	.01	1.26	1.25	15,929	.811	.01
CIV01b	415	5.21	5.07	.07	.01	1.38	1.33	435	.050	.10
CIV01c	417	5.46	5.48	.07	.01	1.47	1.35	435	.795	-.01
CIV01d	416	5.39	5.47	.07	.01	1.46	1.32	434	.316	-.05
CIV02a	418	2.50	2.49	.04	.01	0.90	0.90	15,907	.924	.00
CIV02b	417	2.86	2.91	.05	.01	0.95	0.88	436	.258	-.06
CIV02c	419	2.28	2.43	.05	.01	0.95	0.92	15,873	.001	-.16
CIV02d	414	2.66	2.73	.05	.01	0.96	0.91	433	.135	-.08
CIV02e	420	1.84	1.87	.04	.01	0.92	0.93	15,878	.559	-.03
CIV02f	416	2.08	2.03	.05	.01	1.00	0.97	15,866	.268	.06
CIV02g	416	1.67	1.73	.04	.01	0.88	0.90	15,859	.228	-.06
CIV02h	415	1.72	1.79	.04	.01	0.90	0.93	15,833	.128	-.08
CIV02i	414	1.49	1.54	.04	.01	0.81	0.86	438	.219	-.06
CIV02j	413	1.50	1.51	.04	.01	0.80	0.84	15,705	.787	-.01

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."
- l. This was a new item in 2016, comparison group results do not include 2015 institutions. May not apply to all modules.

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.