



NSSE 2015 Topical Module

Civic Engagement

Western Carolina 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 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 'Public Masters/L' column of this report.

Group label	Public Masters/L
Date submitted	6/9/15
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this group by selecting institutional characteristics as follows: Basic Classification (Master's L); Sector (Pub); UG Enrollment 5-10K
Group description	Public Master's L institutions with enrollment of 5001-10000 students.

Public Masters/L (N=9)

Central Connecticut State University (New Britain, CT)
Marshall University (Huntington, WV)
Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago, IL)
Pittsburg State University (Pittsburg, KS)
Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX)
Rhode Island College (Providence, RI)
Salem State University (Salem, MA)
SUNY College at Oswego (Oswego, NY)*
Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC)*

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				WCU		Public Masters/L		WCU	Public Masters/L	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
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	1	1	30	2	5.3	5.1 **	.15
		2		2	1	45	3			
		3		15	6	113	7			
		4		45	15	256	17			
		5		91	32	399	27			
		6		90	29	375	26			
		7	Excellent	50	18	276	18			
	Total			294	100	1,494	100			
b. Resolve conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIV01b	1	Poor	2	1	33	2	5.1	4.9	.11
		2		3	1	53	3			
		3		27	10	135	9			
		4		61	22	312	21			
		5		81	27	415	28			
		6		78	24	322	22			
		7	Excellent	41	15	217	14			
	Total			293	100	1,487	100			
c. Lead a group where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIV01c	1	Poor	6	2	46	3	5.2	5.0 *	.13
		2		4	1	70	5			
		3		24	9	124	8			
		4		53	18	278	19			
		5		64	20	344	24			
		6		90	31	332	22			
		7	Excellent	53	19	297	19			
	Total			294	100	1,491	100			
d. Contribute to the well-being of your community	CIV01d	1	Poor	2	1	31	2	5.4	5.2	.12
		2		6	3	48	3			
		3		13	4	101	7			
		4		51	18	266	18			
		5		76	25	352	24			
		6		76	24	369	25			
		7	Excellent	69	24	319	21			
	Total			293	100	1,486	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	16	6	158	11	2.6	2.6	.03
		2	Sometimes	131	46	577	39			
		3	Often	99	32	523	35			
		4	Very often	49	16	240	16			
			Total			295	100			
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIV02b	1	Never	26	8	128	9	2.6	2.6	-.08
		2	Sometimes	126	44	600	39			
		3	Often	89	30	476	32			
		4	Very often	52	17	289	20			
			Total			293	100			

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

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				WCU		Public Masters/L		WCU	Public Masters/L	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
c. Discussed local or campus issues with others	CIV02c	1	Never	26	9	208	13	2.5	2.5	.00
		2	Sometimes	134	46	583	39			
		3	Often	89	31	466	31			
		4	Very often	44	14	240	16			
		Total		293	100	1,497	100			
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIV02d	1	Never	42	14	209	14	2.4	2.5	-.07
		2	Sometimes	125	44	609	41			
		3	Often	85	29	435	30			
		4	Very often	42	14	236	16			
		Total		294	100	1,489	100			
e. Raised awareness about local or campus issues	CIV02e	1	Never	129	44	620	41	1.8	1.9	-.06
		2	Sometimes	107	35	516	36			
		3	Often	38	13	254	16			
		4	Very often	21	7	106	7			
		Total		295	100	1,496	100			
f. Raised awareness about state, national, or global issues	CIV02f	1	Never	135	46	607	40	1.8	1.9 *	-.15 ▽
		2	Sometimes	109	38	523	36			
		3	Often	31	10	246	17			
		4	Very often	19	6	116	7			
		Total		294	100	1,492	100			
g. Asked others to address local or campus issues	CIV02g	1	Never	136	48	693	47	1.8	1.8	-.04
		2	Sometimes	106	35	481	32			
		3	Often	34	11	224	15			
		4	Very often	18	6	94	6			
		Total		294	100	1,492	100			
h. Asked others to address state, national, or global issues	CIV02h	1	Never	149	52	717	48	1.7	1.8	-.08
		2	Sometimes	94	31	451	31			
		3	Often	32	12	220	15			
		4	Very often	17	5	96	6			
		Total		292	100	1,484	100			
i. Organized others to work on local or campus issues	CIV02i	1	Never	182	61	885	59	1.6	1.6	-.03
		2	Sometimes	68	22	346	24			
		3	Often	30	11	181	12			
		4	Very often	14	5	79	5			
		Total		294	100	1,491	100			
j. Organized others to work on state, national, or global issues	CIV02j	1	Never	189	64	917	62	1.6	1.6	-.01
		2	Sometimes	61	21	331	22			
		3	Often	23	9	155	10			
		4	Very often	16	6	71	5			
		Total		289	100	1,474	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 119 first-year students and 121 seniors. Responses are provided in your "NSSE15 Civic Engagement Open-Ended Responses" 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.

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				WCU		Public Masters/L		WCU	Public Masters/L	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
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	4	1	27	1	5.5	5.4	.09
		2		6	2	36	2			
		3		10	3	102	4			
		4		37	12	331	14			
		5		82	26	702	30			
		6		109	35	699	30			
		7	Excellent	64	21	457	19			
	Total			312	100	2,354	100			
b. Resolve conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIV01b	1	Poor	4	1	35	2	5.4	5.1 **	.20
		2		5	2	56	2			
		3		17	5	149	6			
		4		44	14	431	18			
		5		76	24	702	31			
		6		107	35	587	24			
		7	Excellent	59	20	388	17			
	Total			312	100	2,348	100			
c. Lead a group where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIV01c	1	Poor	4	1	44	2	5.7	5.4 ***	.20
		2		4	1	49	2			
		3		7	2	111	5			
		4		35	11	341	14			
		5		60	19	517	22			
		6		107	34	671	29			
		7	Excellent	94	30	614	26			
	Total			311	100	2,347	100			
d. Contribute to the well-being of your community	CIV01d	1	Poor	2	1	31	1	5.7	5.5 ***	.20
		2		2	1	43	2			
		3		7	2	95	4			
		4		37	12	341	14			
		5		59	19	534	23			
		6		111	36	661	28			
		7	Excellent	94	30	642	27			
	Total			312	100	2,347	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	37	12	289	13	2.7	2.5 **	.20
		2	Sometimes	108	34	988	42			
		3	Often	92	31	731	31			
		4	Very often	75	23	343	15			
			Total			312	100			
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIV02b	1	Never	6	2	115	5	3.0	2.9 *	.15
		2	Sometimes	101	31	760	32			
		3	Often	102	33	836	35			
		4	Very often	102	34	635	28			
			Total			311	100			

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

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				WCU		Public Masters/L		WCU	Public Masters/L	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
c. Discussed local or campus issues with others	CIV02c	1	Never	47	16	326	14	2.6	2.5 *	.14
		2	Sometimes	105	33	978	42			
		3	Often	88	28	717	30			
		4	Very often	71	23	328	14			
		Total		311	100	2,349	100			
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIV02d	1	Never	16	5	206	9	2.8	2.7 **	.18
		2	Sometimes	117	37	872	37			
		3	Often	89	29	771	33			
		4	Very often	89	30	496	22			
		Total		311	100	2,345	100			
e. Raised awareness about local or campus issues	CIV02e	1	Never	122	39	1,001	42	2.0	1.9 *	.17
		2	Sometimes	100	33	817	35			
		3	Often	44	15	358	15			
		4	Very often	45	14	173	8			
		Total		311	100	2,349	100			
f. Raised awareness about state, national, or global issues	CIV02f	1	Never	95	29	848	36	2.2	2.0 **	.20
		2	Sometimes	109	36	836	35			
		3	Often	58	19	436	19			
		4	Very often	49	16	228	10			
		Total		311	100	2,348	100			
g. Asked others to address local or campus issues	CIV02g	1	Never	137	43	1,172	49	1.9	1.8 **	.16
		2	Sometimes	102	33	727	31			
		3	Often	39	13	301	13			
		4	Very often	34	11	145	6			
		Total		312	100	2,345	100			
h. Asked others to address state, national, or global issues	CIV02h	1	Never	126	40	1,122	47	2.0	1.8 **	.17
		2	Sometimes	101	33	723	31			
		3	Often	50	17	333	14			
		4	Very often	31	10	160	7			
		Total		308	100	2,338	100			
i. Organized others to work on local or campus issues	CIV02i	1	Never	174	56	1,461	62	1.7	1.6 *	.12
		2	Sometimes	81	26	505	22			
		3	Often	29	10	240	10			
		4	Very often	28	9	133	6			
		Total		312	100	2,339	100			
j. Organized others to work on state, national, or global issues	CIV02j	1	Never	182	59	1,479	64	1.7	1.6	.09
		2	Sometimes	71	24	489	21			
		3	Often	28	9	224	10			
		4	Very often	24	8	119	6			
		Total		305	100	2,311	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 119 first-year students and 121 seniors. Responses are provided in your "NSSE15 Civic Engagement Open-Ended Responses" 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.

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	WCU	WCU	Public Masters/L	WCU	Public Masters/L	WCU	Public Masters/L			
CIV01a	287	5.35	5.14	.07	.03	1.18	1.41	430	.007	.15
CIV01b	286	5.08	4.93	.08	.03	1.30	1.42	2,052	.094	.11
CIV01c	287	5.20	5.00	.08	.04	1.43	1.55	2,055	.039	.13
CIV01d	286	5.35	5.18	.08	.03	1.34	1.45	2,046	.063	.12
CIV02a	288	2.58	2.56	.05	.02	0.82	0.88	2,064	.633	.03
CIV02b	285	2.56	2.63	.05	.02	0.88	0.90	2,056	.230	-.08
CIV02c	286	2.49	2.50	.05	.02	0.85	0.92	399	.975	.00
CIV02d	287	2.43	2.49	.05	.02	0.89	0.92	2,052	.307	-.07
CIV02e	288	1.83	1.89	.05	.02	0.91	0.91	2,062	.312	-.06
CIV02f	287	1.77	1.91	.05	.02	0.86	0.92	2,057	.015	-.15
CIV02g	287	1.77	1.80	.05	.02	0.89	0.90	2,055	.507	-.04
CIV02h	285	1.71	1.78	.05	.02	0.88	0.91	2,045	.197	-.08
CIV02i	287	1.60	1.63	.05	.02	0.88	0.88	2,055	.627	-.03
CIV02j	282	1.56	1.57	.05	.02	0.88	0.86	2,030	.826	-.01

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	WCU	WCU	Public Masters/L	WCU	Public Masters/L	WCU	Public Masters/L			
								<i>Comparisons with:</i>		
								Public Masters/L		
CIV01a	312	5.47	5.36	.07	.03	1.26	1.27	2,501	.134	.09
CIV01b	312	5.40	5.13	.07	.03	1.30	1.34	2,493	.001	.20
CIV01c	311	5.70	5.43	.07	.03	1.26	1.42	430	.000	.20
CIV01d	312	5.75	5.48	.07	.03	1.16	1.36	444	.000	.20
CIV02a	312	2.66	2.48	.05	.02	0.97	0.89	390	.002	.20
CIV02b	311	3.00	2.87	.05	.02	0.85	0.88	2,491	.012	.15
CIV02c	311	2.58	2.45	.06	.02	1.01	0.90	384	.034	.14
CIV02d	311	2.84	2.68	.05	.02	0.91	0.91	2,490	.003	.18
CIV02e	311	2.04	1.88	.06	.02	1.05	0.93	383	.011	.17
CIV02f	311	2.22	2.03	.06	.02	1.04	0.97	391	.002	.20
CIV02g	312	1.91	1.77	.06	.02	0.99	0.91	2,492	.008	.16
CIV02h	308	1.98	1.81	.06	.02	0.99	0.94	2,480	.004	.17
CIV02i	312	1.71	1.60	.05	.02	0.96	0.89	2,484	.041	.12
CIV02j	306	1.65	1.57	.05	.02	0.93	0.88	2,451	.121	.09

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 .
- 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. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the comparison group is due to chance.

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.