Customizing your NSSE Survey: Topical Modules and Consortia Participation

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Outline

• Topical Module Overview
• Topical Module Details
• Consortia Overview
• Consortia Details
• Deadlines & Logistics
What are Topical Modules?

• Short sets of questions on topics of interest to higher education institutions
• Appended to core NSSE survey
• Institutions may add one Topical Module to the core survey at no charge
• A second module can be added for $250
  • Exception: institutions asking consortium questions (more on this later!) can append no more than one module to the core instrument
Topical Modules for 2021 Administration

• Academic Advising
• Career & Workforce Preparation (New for 2021!)
• Civic Engagement
• Coping with COVID (New for 2021!)
• Development of Transferable Skills
• Experiences with Online Learning (New for 2021!)
• Experiences with Writing
• First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions
• Global Learning
• Inclusiveness and Engagement with Cultural Diversity
Academic Advising

- Updated for NSSE 2020
- Examines students' experiences with academic advising, including:
  - frequency of interaction with advisors
  - exposure to various advising practices
  - identifying people/resources who have been helpful
- Designed to reflect National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) core values
Career & Workforce Preparation

• New for 2021 administration!
• Assesses how the college experience prepares students for their future, including:
  • institutional contributions to students’ career plans
  • influences on their goals
  • confidence in work-related skills
  • career exploration in the curriculum
  • use of career resources and services
• Collaboration with Strada Education Network
Civic Engagement

• Updated for NSSE 2019
• Asks students to:
  • assess conflict resolution skills
  • examine perceptions of support for activism
  • report frequency of engagement with campus, local, state, national, or global issues
• Adapted from a pilot survey developed by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities
Coping with COVID

• New for 2021 administration!
• Explores the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students’ educational experiences, mental wellness, and everyday life experiences
• Addresses:
  • perceptions of faculty and institutional responses
  • disruptions to educational plans
  • living situation details
  • stressors and negative emotional experiences
  • changes in leisure activities and time demands
Development of Transferable Skills

• Updated for 2021 administration
• Examines activities that develop useful and transferable skills for the workplace and beyond:
  • verbal and written fluency
  • critical thinking
  • creative thinking and problem solving
  • project and time management
• Originally adapted from a pilot survey that was developed by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities
Experiences with Online Learning

• New for the 2021 administration!
• Measures instructional aspects considered ideal for online courses, including:
  • how students engage in both online and hybrid courses
  • degree of comfort with online learning
  • experiences of support
  • ideas about how learning experience can be improved
• Based in part on Standards for the Quality Matters Higher Education Rubric (6th Ed.)
Experiences with Writing

• Items touch on three aspects of good writing assignments:
  • interactivity
  • meaning-making
  • clarity

• Ongoing collaboration between NSSE and the Council of Writing Program Administrators
• Includes separate items for first-year students and seniors (based on institution-reported class level)
• First-year items focus on academic perseverance, help-seeking behaviors, and institutional commitment
• Senior items explore post-graduation plans, links between the academic major and future plans, and confidence in skill development
• Some items adapted from the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement and the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (with partial support from the National Endowment for the Arts)
Global Learning

• Assesses student experiences and coursework that emphasize:
  • global affairs
  • world cultures
  • nationalities
  • religions
  • other international topics

• Designed to complement the American Council on Education's 2016 edition of the Mapping Internationalization on U.S. Campuses survey
Inclusiveness & Engagement with Cultural Diversity

• Examines environments, processes, and activities that reflect the engagement and validation of cultural diversity and promote greater understanding of societal differences

• Items explore:
  • exposure to inclusive teaching practices and intercultural learning
  • perceptions of institutional values and commitment regarding diversity
  • participation in diversity-related programming and coursework
What Do I Get From Module Participation?

• “Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons” report for all module items
• Ability to customize a comparison group from other module participants
• Student-level respondent data file (SPSS)
What is Consortium Participation?

• A group of five or more institutions may form around a common interest or mission

• Short set of survey items (subject to NSSE review) appended to core survey
  • OR coordinated use of Topical Modules among participants

• Institutional fees range between $100-$400, depending on the use and types of additional questions added
Consortium Participation for 2021 Administration

Additional question set:
- Catholic Colleges & Universities
- Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
- Honors Education Consortium
- Jesuit Colleges and Universities
- Mission Engagement Consortium for Independent Colleges
- New American Colleges and Universities

No additional question set:
- Connecticut State Universities
- Indiana University
- Tennessee Publics
What Do I Get From Consortium Participation?

• “Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons” report for all consortium items
• Ability to customize a comparison group from other consortium participants (if large enough)
• Student-level respondent data file (SPSS)

• If no additional items, same as module benefits
• Some consortia have data sharing requirements
How Should You Select Your Modules or Consortium?

Choosing only 2 modules, or 1 module and 1 consortium from so many options can be tough!

Factors:

• Appeal of the topic (responsive to campus concern, interests specific campus audiences)
• Repeat for continuity, or to assess change
• New topics suit current needs
• FSSE companion set availability

nsse.indiana.edu/nsse/survey-instruments/topical-modules
Timeline for Survey Customization

• All Topical Module and Consortium selections should be made by December 4, 2020

• Later than in previous years to accommodate COVID-related interruptions and maximize communication with various stakeholders on campus

• Customization is done through the NSSE User Interface
Thanks for watching!

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