

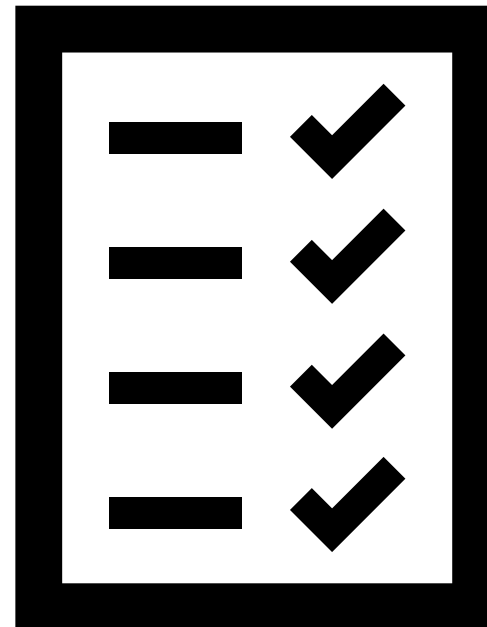
Customizing your NSSE Survey: Topical Modules and Consortia Participation

**Angie L. Miller,
NSSE Research
Scientist**



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



First-Year Experiences & Senior Transitions

- 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)



NSSE 2020 Academic Advising Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons NSSEville State University

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				NSSEville State		Academic Advising		NSSEville State	Academic Advising	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
1. During the current school year, how many times have you discussed your academic interests, course selections, or academic performance with the following individuals?										
a. Academic advisor, faculty, or staff assigned to advise you	AAD01a	0 0		12	4	13,160	16	2.4	2.0 ***	.30
		1 1		63	18	14,274	20			
		2 2		112	32	17,167	25			
		3 3		91	26	13,160	19			
		4 4 or more		63	19	10,760	16			
		— Not applicable		4	1	2,269	3			
		Total		345	100	70,790	100			
b. Academic advisor(s) available to any student	AAD01b	0 0		93	26	24,313	33	1.6	1.4 *	.12
		1 1		70	21	15,175	21			
		2 2		72	21	12,713	18			
		3 3		64	18	8,833	13			
		4 4 or more		28	9	6,608	10			
		— Not applicable		16	5	3,001	4			
		Total		343	100	70,643	100			
c. Faculty or instructor(s) not assigned to advise you	AAD01c	0 0		163	47	34,759	48			
		1 1		52	15	12,006	17			



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**



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!

Angie L. Miller, Ph.D.

NSSE Research Scientist

anglmill@indiana.edu

OR

nsse.indiana.edu

nsse@indiana.edu

