
NSSE 2015 Topical Module
Civic Engagement
Central Connecticut State 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 'Civic Engagement' column of this report.

Group label	Civic Engagement
Date submitted	6/10/15
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution retained the default comparison group (all module participants).
Group description	All NSSE institutions administering the module "Civic Engagement" (includes current- and prior-year administrations)

Civic Engagement (N=85)

Angelo State University (San Angelo, TX)	Manchester University (North Manchester, IN)*
Bemidji State University (Bemidji, MN)	Marshall University (Huntington, WV)
Bryant University (Smithfield, RI)	Marygrove College (Detroit, MI)
Cameron University (Lawton, OK)*	Maryville University of Saint Louis (Saint Louis, MO)*
Central Methodist University (Fayette, MO)	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (North Adams, MA)
Chaminade University of Honolulu (Honolulu, HI)	Meredith College (Raleigh, NC)*
Clarke University (Dubuque, IA)	Merrimack College (North Andover, MA)*
Clayton State University (Morrow, GA)*	Metropolitan State University of Denver (Denver, CO)
Cleveland State University (Cleveland, OH)	Middle Tennessee State University (Murfreesboro, TN)*
Colby-Sawyer College (New London, NH)	Nebraska Methodist College (Omaha, NE)*
College of Wooster, The (Wooster, OH)	Nebraska Wesleyan University (Lincoln, NE)*
Dakota Wesleyan University (Mitchell, SD)*	New England College (Henniker, NH)*
Davis & Elkins College (Elkins, WV)*	Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago, IL)
DePaul University (Chicago, IL)	Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, AZ)
Earlham College (Richmond, IN)	Ohio Valley University (Vienna, WV)
Elon University (Elon, NC)	Otterbein University (Westerville, OH)*
Emporia State University (Emporia, KS)*	Pennsylvania College of Technology (Williamsport, PA)
George Mason University (Fairfax, VA)	Pittsburg State University (Pittsburg, KS)
Governors State University (University Park, IL)	Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX)
Hiram College (Hiram, OH)	Providence College (Providence, RI)*
James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA)*	Rhode Island College (Providence, RI)
Kean University (Union, NJ)	Roger Williams University (Bristol, RI)*
Keene State College (Keene, NH)*	Roosevelt University (Chicago, IL)
La Salle University (Philadelphia, PA)*	Rutgers University-Camden (Camden, NJ)
LaGrange College (Lagrange, GA)	Saint Louis University (Saint Louis, MO)*
Lindenwood University (Saint Charles, MO)	Saint Michael's College (Colchester, VT)
Long Island University - Brooklyn (Brooklyn, NY)	Salem State University (Salem, MA)
Long Island University - Post (Brookville, NY)	San Diego State University (San Diego, CA)
Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles, CA)*	St. Francis Xavier University (Antigonish, NS)*
Loyola University New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)	St. Thomas University (Fredericton, NB)*

Civic Engagement (N=85), continued

Stockton University (Galloway, NJ)*
SUNY College at Oswego (Oswego, NY)*
SUNY Institute of Technology at Utica-Rome (Utica, NY)*
Truman State University (Kirksville, MO)
Tulane University of Louisiana (New Orleans, LA)
Université de Sherbrooke (Sherbrooke, QC)*
University of Houston-Victoria (Victoria, TX)
University of La Verne (La Verne, CA)
University of Mary Washington (Fredericksburg, VA)
University of Massachusetts Lowell (Lowell, MA)
University of Missouri-St. Louis (Saint Louis, MO)
University of North Carolina at Asheville (Asheville, NC)
University of North Carolina Wilmington (Wilmington, NC)
University of North Florida (Jacksonville, FL)*
University of North Georgia (Dahlonega, GA)
University of Pikeville (Pikeville, KY)
University of Sacred Heart (Santurce, PR)*
University of San Diego (San Diego, CA)
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (Whitewater, WI)*
Valley City State University (Valley City, ND)
Wabash College (Crawfordsville, IN)*
Western Carolina University (Cullowhee, NC)
Wichita State University (Wichita, KS)
Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC)*
Wright State University (Dayton, OH)

*2014 participant

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CCSU		Civic Engagement		CCSU	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	4	2	208	1	5.0	5.1 *	-0.14
		2		7	3	324	2			
		3		20	9	1,029	7			
		4		50	23	2,728	17			
		5		51	23	4,843	30			
		6		61	27	4,283	27			
		7	Excellent	31	13	2,371	15			
		Total		224	100	15,786	100			
b. Resolve conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIV01b	1	Poor	4	2	268	2	4.9	4.9	.00
		2		9	4	483	3			
		3		19	9	1,410	9			
		4		54	25	3,571	22			
		5		57	26	4,745	30			
		6		51	22	3,413	22			
		7	Excellent	30	13	1,844	12			
		Total		224	100	15,734	100			
c. Lead a group where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIV01c	1	Poor	6	3	391	3	4.9	5.0	-0.08
		2		7	3	503	3			
		3		25	11	1,238	8			
		4		44	20	2,866	18			
		5		49	24	4,102	26			
		6		56	24	3,938	25			
		7	Excellent	36	16	2,715	17			
		Total		223	100	15,753	100			
d. Contribute to the well-being of your community	CIV01d	1	Poor	3	1	245	2	5.0	5.2 *	-0.16
		2		7	3	341	2			
		3		17	8	932	6			
		4		57	27	2,489	16			
		5		41	19	4,237	27			
		6		59	25	4,504	28			
		7	Excellent	39	16	2,941	19			
		Total		223	100	15,689	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	7	1,510	10	2.7	2.5 **	.19
		2	Sometimes	78	33	6,713	43			
		3	Often	100	46	5,337	33			
		4	Very often	33	14	2,202	14			
		Total		227	100	15,762	100			
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIV02b	1	Never	18	7	1,331	8	2.7	2.6	.06
		2	Sometimes	86	37	6,428	40			
		3	Often	78	35	5,191	33			
		4	Very often	44	20	2,779	19			
		Total		226	100	15,729	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		
				CCSU		Civic Engagement		CCSU	Civic Engagement	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
c. Discussed local or campus issues with others	CIV02c	1	Never	24	10	1,833	12	2.6	2.5 *	.16 △
		2	Sometimes	83	35	6,675	43			
		3	Often	85	39	5,081	31			
		4	Very often	35	16	2,138	13			
		Total		227	100	15,727	100			
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIV02d	1	Never	32	14	1,887	12	2.5	2.5	.06
		2	Sometimes	84	36	6,865	43			
		3	Often	71	32	4,639	30			
		4	Very often	38	18	2,300	15			
		Total		225	100	15,691	100			
e. Raised awareness about local or campus issues	CIV02e	1	Never	78	34	6,486	43	2.1	1.8 ***	.28 △
		2	Sometimes	76	33	5,852	36			
		3	Often	51	23	2,416	15			
		4	Very often	21	10	977	6			
		Total		226	100	15,731	100			
f. Raised awareness about state, national, or global issues	CIV02f	1	Never	72	32	6,307	41	2.1	1.9 ***	.23 △
		2	Sometimes	83	36	5,831	37			
		3	Often	49	23	2,518	16			
		4	Very often	20	9	1,052	7			
		Total		224	100	15,708	100			
g. Asked others to address local or campus issues	CIV02g	1	Never	91	39	7,632	50	2.0	1.7 ***	.28 △
		2	Sometimes	74	33	5,104	32			
		3	Often	40	19	2,146	13			
		4	Very often	20	10	825	5			
		Total		225	100	15,707	100			
h. Asked others to address state, national, or global issues	CIV02h	1	Never	91	40	7,925	51	2.0	1.7 ***	.30 ▲
		2	Sometimes	65	29	4,843	30			
		3	Often	50	23	2,047	13			
		4	Very often	17	8	845	5			
		Total		223	100	15,660	100			
i. Organized others to work on local or campus issues	CIV02i	1	Never	113	49	9,754	63	1.9	1.6 ***	.36 ▲
		2	Sometimes	58	26	3,600	22			
		3	Often	36	17	1,666	10			
		4	Very often	18	9	659	4			
		Total		225	100	15,679	100			
j. Organized others to work on state, national, or global issues	CIV02j	1	Never	121	53	10,090	66	1.8	1.5 ***	.29 △
		2	Sometimes	58	26	3,400	21			
		3	Often	30	14	1,429	9			
		4	Very often	14	7	596	4			
		Total		223	100	15,515	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 115 first-year students and 89 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.

*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		
				CCSU		Civic Engagement		CCSU	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	6	3	191	1	5.1	5.4 **	-0.19
		2		7	3	322	1			
		3		12	5	963	4			
		4		44	16	3,006	14			
		5		75	30	6,769	30			
		6		76	27	6,868	31			
		7	Excellent	42	16	4,004	18			
	Total		262	100	22,123	100				
b. Resolve conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIV01b	1	Poor	9	4	264	1	4.9	5.1 *	-0.12
		2		9	4	544	2			
		3		14	5	1,489	7			
		4		52	20	4,287	19			
		5		81	31	6,746	30			
		6		57	22	5,608	26			
		7	Excellent	38	14	3,118	15			
	Total		260	100	22,056	100				
c. Lead a group where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIV01c	1	Poor	6	2	256	1	5.3	5.5 *	-0.16
		2		9	4	377	2			
		3		11	4	1,050	5			
		4		38	15	2,954	13			
		5		65	25	5,192	23			
		6		74	28	6,727	31			
		7	Excellent	59	22	5,494	26			
	Total		262	100	22,050	100				
d. Contribute to the well-being of your community	CIV01d	1	Poor	7	3	219	1	5.1	5.5 ***	-0.32
		2		10	4	332	2			
		3		17	7	837	4			
		4		44	17	2,802	13			
		5		65	24	5,250	24			
		6		60	22	7,119	32			
		7	Excellent	57	21	5,408	25			
	Total		260	100	21,967	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	44	17	2,168	11	2.3	2.5 ***	-0.21
		2	Sometimes	116	44	9,203	42			
		3	Often	65	26	6,935	30			
		4	Very often	35	13	3,802	17			
		Total		260	100	22,108	100			
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIV02b	1	Never	15	6	1,042	5	2.8	2.9	-0.05
		2	Sometimes	87	33	7,236	31			
		3	Often	87	34	7,874	36			
		4	Very often	70	28	5,911	28			
		Total		259	100	22,063	100			

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CCSU		Civic Engagement		CCSU	Civic Engagement	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
c. Discussed local or campus issues with others	CIV02c	1	Never	44	17	2,550	13	2.3	2.5 **	-0.17
		2	Sometimes	114	44	9,174	42			
		3	Often	69	27	6,744	29			
		4	Very often	32	12	3,595	16			
		Total		259	100	22,063	100			
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIV02d	1	Never	32	12	1,633	7	2.6	2.7	-0.11
		2	Sometimes	90	34	8,363	37			
		3	Often	89	35	7,356	33			
		4	Very often	50	19	4,693	22			
		Total		261	100	22,045	100			
e. Raised awareness about local or campus issues	CIV02e	1	Never	121	45	8,654	41	1.8	1.9	-0.08
		2	Sometimes	84	33	8,199	36			
		3	Often	38	15	3,397	15			
		4	Very often	17	6	1,809	8			
		Total		260	100	22,059	100			
f. Raised awareness about state, national, or global issues	CIV02f	1	Never	109	41	7,608	35	2.0	2.0	-0.08
		2	Sometimes	82	32	8,369	37			
		3	Often	43	17	3,910	18			
		4	Very often	25	10	2,163	10			
		Total		259	100	22,050	100			
g. Asked others to address local or campus issues	CIV02g	1	Never	140	54	10,645	50	1.7	1.8	-0.06
		2	Sometimes	70	27	7,107	31			
		3	Often	39	15	2,828	12			
		4	Very often	11	4	1,472	7			
		Total		260	100	22,052	100			
h. Asked others to address state, national, or global issues	CIV02h	1	Never	135	52	10,488	49	1.7	1.8	-0.09
		2	Sometimes	76	30	6,976	31			
		3	Often	37	14	2,955	13			
		4	Very often	11	4	1,546	7			
		Total		259	100	21,965	100			
i. Organized others to work on local or campus issues	CIV02i	1	Never	171	65	13,364	63	1.5	1.6	-0.06
		2	Sometimes	52	21	5,071	22			
		3	Often	25	9	2,218	9			
		4	Very often	13	5	1,328	6			
		Total		261	100	21,981	100			
j. Organized others to work on state, national, or global issues	CIV02j	1	Never	167	65	13,818	65	1.5	1.5	.00
		2	Sometimes	49	19	4,825	21			
		3	Often	29	12	2,017	9			
		4	Very often	10	4	1,124	5			
		Total		255	100	21,784	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 115 first-year students and 89 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.

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

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	CCSU	CCSU	Civic Engagement	CCSU	Civic Engagement	CCSU	Civic Engagement			
										<i>Comparisons with:</i>
										Civic Engagement
CIV01a	222	4.96	5.14	.09	.01	1.40	1.31	18,115	.040	-.14
CIV01b	222	4.87	4.88	.09	.01	1.39	1.36	18,058	.966	.00
CIV01c	221	4.93	5.05	.10	.01	1.48	1.47	18,071	.242	-.08
CIV01d	222	5.02	5.23	.09	.01	1.40	1.37	18,000	.020	-.16
CIV02a	226	2.67	2.51	.05	.01	0.80	0.85	231	.003	.19
CIV02b	225	2.69	2.63	.06	.01	0.88	0.88	18,054	.348	.06
CIV02c	226	2.60	2.46	.06	.01	0.87	0.87	18,058	.014	.16
CIV02d	224	2.53	2.48	.06	.01	0.94	0.89	18,002	.373	.06
CIV02e	225	2.09	1.84	.07	.01	0.98	0.89	229	.000	.28
CIV02f	223	2.09	1.89	.06	.01	0.95	0.91	18,029	.001	.23
CIV02g	223	1.98	1.74	.07	.01	0.98	0.88	18,027	.000	.28
CIV02h	222	2.00	1.73	.07	.01	0.98	0.89	17,957	.000	.30
CIV02i	224	1.86	1.56	.07	.01	0.99	0.84	227	.000	.36
CIV02j	221	1.75	1.51	.06	.01	0.94	0.82	224	.000	.29

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.