
NSSE 2014 Topical Module
Civic Engagement
University of South Carolina Columbia

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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	6/13/14
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution retained the default comparison group (all module participants).
Group description	Default comparison group

'Civic Engagement' institutions (N=92)

Auburn University at Montgomery (Montgomery, AL)*	Loyola University New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)
Averett University (Danville, VA)	Manchester University (North Manchester, IN)
Baylor University (Waco, TX)*	Marshall University (Huntington, WV)
Berry College (Mount Berry, GA)*	Maryville University of Saint Louis (Saint Louis, MO)
Cameron University (Lawton, OK)	Meredith College (Raleigh, NC)
Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA)*	Merrimack College (North Andover, MA)
Cedar Crest College (Allentown, PA)*	Middle Tennessee State University (Murfreesboro, TN)
Chaminade University of Honolulu (Honolulu, HI)	Minot State University (Minot, ND)*
Clafflin University (Orangeburg, SC)*	Mount Olive College (Mount Olive, NC)*
Clayton State University (Morrow, GA)	Naropa University (Boulder, CO)
Clemson University (Clemson, SC)	National American University-Rapid City (Rapid City, SD)*
Dakota Wesleyan University (Mitchell, SD)	Nebraska Methodist College (Omaha, NE)
Davis & Elkins College (Elkins, WV)	Nebraska Wesleyan University (Lincoln, NE)
DePaul University (Chicago, IL)	New England College (Henniker, NH)
Drake University (Des Moines, IA)*	New Jersey City University (Jersey City, NJ)*
Emerson College (Boston, MA)*	Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago, IL)
Emporia State University (Emporia, KS)	Northern Michigan University (Marquette, MI)*
Florida Southern College (Lakeland, FL)*	Notre Dame de Namur University (Belmont, CA)*
Houghton College (Houghton, NY)*	Ohio Valley University (Vienna, WV)
Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Metro (San Juan, PR)	Oregon State University (Corvallis, OR)*
James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA)	Otterbein University (Westerville, OH)
Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS)*	Paine College (Augusta, GA)
Keene State College (Keene, NH)	Portland State University (Portland, OR)*
La Salle University (Philadelphia, PA)	Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX)
LaGrange College (Lagrange, GA)	Providence College (Providence, RI)
Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA)*	Redeemer University College (Ancaster, ON)
Lindenwood University (Saint Charles, MO)	Roger Williams University (Bristol, RI)
Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College (Baton Rouge, LA)*	Saint Louis University (Saint Louis, MO)
Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles, CA)	Saint Michael's College (Colchester, VT)*
Loyola University Chicago (Chicago, IL)	Salem State University (Salem, MA)

'Civic Engagement' institutions (N=92), continued

St. Francis Xavier University (Antigonish, NS)
St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN)*
St. Thomas University (Fredericton, NB)
Stephen F. Austin State University (Nacogdoches, TX)*
SUNY College at Oswego (Oswego, NY)
SUNY Institute of Technology at Utica-Rome (Utica, NY)
Temple University (Philadelphia, PA)*
Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, TX)*
Texas Woman's University (Denton, TX)*
The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University (Saint Joseph, MN)*
The New School (New York, NY)*
The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (Galloway, NJ)
Trinity University (San Antonio, TX)*
Tulane University of Louisiana (New Orleans, LA)*
Université de Sherbrooke (Sherbrooke, QC)
University of Central Missouri (Warrensburg, MO)*
University of Connecticut (Storrs, CT)*
University of Houston-Victoria (Victoria, TX)*
University of La Verne (La Verne, CA)*
University of Massachusetts Lowell (Lowell, MA)
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 the Incarnate Word (San Antonio, TX)*
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (Whitewater, WI)
Valley City State University (Valley City, ND)*
Wabash College (Crawfordsville, IN)
Westfield State University (Westfield, MA)*
Westminster College (Fulton, MO)
Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC)

* 2013 participant

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				USC		Civic Engagement		USC	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	2	1	238	1	5.3	5.2	.10
		2		1	1	368	2			
		3		6	3	1,221	6			
		4		38	15	3,358	16			
		5		91	37	6,352	31			
		6		73	29	5,792	28			
		7	Excellent	39	15	3,141	15			
	Total			250	100	20,470	100			
b. Resolve conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIV01b	1	Poor	4	2	320	2	5.0	4.9	.07
		2		2	1	637	3			
		3		16	7	1,777	9			
		4		59	24	4,439	22			
		5		77	31	6,349	31			
		6		64	25	4,426	22			
		7	Excellent	29	11	2,461	12			
	Total			251	100	20,409	100			
c. Lead a group where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIV01c	1	Poor	5	2	445	2	5.2	5.1	.07
		2		6	2	642	3			
		3		15	6	1,544	8			
		4		42	18	3,645	18			
		5		61	24	5,275	26			
		6		72	29	5,236	26			
		7	Excellent	48	18	3,615	18			
	Total			249	100	20,402	100			
d. Contribute to the well-being of your community	CIV01d	1	Poor	2	1	288	2	5.4	5.3	.06
		2		4	2	382	2			
		3		11	5	1,049	5			
		4		35	15	3,114	16			
		5		67	27	5,366	26			
		6		78	30	6,118	29			
		7	Excellent	52	20	4,046	20			
	Total			249	100	20,363	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	10	4	1,889	9	2.7	2.5 *	.14
		2	Sometimes	109	43	8,625	42			
		3	Often	88	35	7,016	34			
		4	Very often	43	18	2,904	15			
			Total			250	100			
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIV02b	1	Never	9	4	1,520	7	2.7	2.7	.10
		2	Sometimes	98	40	8,243	39			
		3	Often	92	36	6,911	34			
		4	Very often	50	21	3,722	20			
			Total			249	100			

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				USC		Civic Engagement		USC	Civic Engagement	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
c. Discussed local or campus issues with others	CIV02c	1	Never	13	5	2,385	12	2.6	2.5	.10
		2	Sometimes	112	45	8,455	42			
		3	Often	94	37	6,746	32			
		4	Very often	31	12	2,799	14			
		Total		250	100	20,385	100			
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIV02d	1	Never	12	5	2,174	10	2.7	2.5 *	.14
		2	Sometimes	109	43	8,689	42			
		3	Often	87	34	6,325	31			
		4	Very often	43	18	3,165	16			
		Total		251	100	20,353	100			
e. Raised awareness about local or campus issues	CIV02e	1	Never	98	39	8,735	43	1.9	1.8	.04
		2	Sometimes	97	40	7,463	36			
		3	Often	45	17	3,024	15			
		4	Very often	11	5	1,163	6			
		Total		251	100	20,385	100			
f. Raised awareness about state, national, or global issues	CIV02f	1	Never	94	37	8,321	41	1.9	1.9	-.01
		2	Sometimes	110	44	7,458	36			
		3	Often	31	13	3,153	16			
		4	Very often	16	6	1,429	7			
		Total		251	100	20,361	100			
g. Asked others to address local or campus issues	CIV02g	1	Never	116	45	10,350	51	1.8	1.7	.07
		2	Sometimes	87	35	6,404	31			
		3	Often	37	15	2,557	13			
		4	Very often	11	5	1,047	5			
		Total		251	100	20,358	100			
h. Asked others to address state, national, or global issues	CIV02h	1	Never	128	50	10,643	52	1.7	1.7	.04
		2	Sometimes	74	30	6,145	30			
		3	Often	36	14	2,449	12			
		4	Very often	12	5	1,070	5			
		Total		250	100	20,307	100			
i. Organized others to work on local or campus issues	CIV02i	1	Never	146	58	13,000	64	1.6	1.5	.12
		2	Sometimes	60	24	4,466	22			
		3	Often	32	12	2,031	10			
		4	Very often	13	5	815	4			
		Total		251	100	20,312	100			
j. Organized others to work on state, national, or global issues	CIV02j	1	Never	150	61	13,404	66	1.6	1.5	.11
		2	Sometimes	56	24	4,182	21			
		3	Often	24	9	1,760	9			
		4	Very often	13	6	763	4			
		Total		243	100	20,109	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 95 first-year students and 148 seniors. Responses are provided in your "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		
				USC		Civic Engagement		USC	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	2	0	213	1	5.4	5.4	-.04
		2		5	1	395	1			
		3		18	4	1,329	4			
		4		63	15	4,264	13			
		5		136	31	10,123	30			
		6		137	32	11,011	32			
		7	Excellent	73	16	6,234	18			
	Total			434	100	33,569	100			
b. Resolve conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIV01b	1	Poor	5	1	318	1	5.1	5.1	-.03
		2		8	2	715	2			
		3		30	7	2,114	6			
		4		88	20	6,220	19			
		5		142	32	10,467	31			
		6		99	24	8,814	26			
		7	Excellent	61	14	4,831	14			
	Total			433	100	33,479	100			
c. Lead a group where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIV01c	1	Poor	3	1	324	1	5.5	5.5	.01
		2		5	1	547	2			
		3		16	4	1,493	5			
		4		63	14	4,339	13			
		5		105	24	7,813	23			
		6		141	32	10,689	31			
		7	Excellent	101	23	8,266	25			
	Total			434	100	33,471	100			
d. Contribute to the well-being of your community	CIV01d	1	Poor	3	1	267	1	5.5	5.5	-.06
		2		6	1	414	1			
		3		15	3	1,143	4			
		4		64	15	3,954	12			
		5		113	27	7,873	24			
		6		129	30	11,145	32			
		7	Excellent	102	23	8,567	25			
	Total			432	100	33,363	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	34	8	3,933	11	2.7	2.5 ***	.17
		2	Sometimes	166	37	13,552	41			
		3	Often	145	34	10,590	32			
		4	Very often	92	21	5,456	17			
			Total			437	100			
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIV02b	1	Never	20	5	1,376	4	2.9	2.9	-.04
		2	Sometimes	139	32	10,213	30			
		3	Often	149	34	12,033	36			
		4	Very often	127	29	9,870	30			
			Total			435	100			

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				USC		Civic Engagement		USC	Civic Engagement	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
c. Discussed local or campus issues with others	CIV02c	1	Never	49	11	5,096	14	2.6	2.5	.09
		2	Sometimes	174	40	13,026	41			
		3	Often	134	30	9,968	30			
		4	Very often	79	19	5,371	16			
		Total		436	100	33,461	100			
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIV02d	1	Never	35	8	2,095	6	2.7	2.8 *	-0.11 ▽
		2	Sometimes	169	39	11,711	35			
		3	Often	140	32	11,495	34			
		4	Very often	91	21	8,163	24			
		Total		435	100	33,464	100			
e. Raised awareness about local or campus issues	CIV02e	1	Never	174	39	14,091	42	1.9	1.9	.07
		2	Sometimes	156	36	12,084	36			
		3	Often	66	15	4,850	15			
		4	Very often	40	9	2,454	8			
		Total		436	100	33,479	100			
f. Raised awareness about state, national, or global issues	CIV02f	1	Never	166	38	11,066	34	2.0	2.1 *	-0.10 ▽
		2	Sometimes	158	37	12,438	37			
		3	Often	75	17	6,307	19			
		4	Very often	36	9	3,638	11			
		Total		435	100	33,449	100			
g. Asked others to address local or campus issues	CIV02g	1	Never	212	48	17,114	51	1.8	1.7	.08
		2	Sometimes	127	30	10,331	31			
		3	Often	65	15	3,997	12			
		4	Very often	30	7	1,984	6			
		Total		434	100	33,426	100			
h. Asked others to address state, national, or global issues	CIV02h	1	Never	207	47	15,574	47	1.8	1.8	-0.01
		2	Sometimes	134	32	10,616	32			
		3	Often	67	15	4,663	14			
		4	Very often	26	6	2,460	7			
		Total		434	100	33,313	100			
i. Organized others to work on local or campus issues	CIV02i	1	Never	257	59	21,083	63	1.6	1.6	.07
		2	Sometimes	107	26	7,292	22			
		3	Often	41	9	3,171	9			
		4	Very often	28	7	1,778	6			
		Total		433	100	33,324	100			
j. Organized others to work on state, national, or global issues	CIV02j	1	Never	263	61	21,153	64	1.6	1.5	.09
		2	Sometimes	91	22	7,315	22			
		3	Often	45	11	2,948	9			
		4	Very often	27	6	1,680	5			
		Total		426	100	33,096	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 95 first-year students and 148 seniors. Responses are provided in your "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
	USC	USC	Civic Engagement	USC	Civic Engagement	USC	Civic Engagement			
									<i>Comparisons with:</i>	
										<i>Civic Engagement</i>
CIV01a	254	5.32	5.19	.07	.01	1.10	1.28	275	.064	.10
CIV01b	255	5.00	4.90	.08	.02	1.25	1.35	273	.209	.07
CIV01c	253	5.19	5.08	.09	.02	1.41	1.46	8,228	.254	.07
CIV01d	253	5.38	5.30	.08	.02	1.26	1.35	8,212	.386	.06
CIV02a	254	2.66	2.54	.05	.01	0.81	0.85	8,236	.027	.14
CIV02b	253	2.74	2.66	.05	.01	0.83	0.87	8,222	.135	.10
CIV02c	254	2.57	2.48	.05	.01	0.77	0.87	274	.086	.10
CIV02d	255	2.66	2.53	.05	.01	0.83	0.88	8,207	.023	.14
CIV02e	255	1.87	1.84	.05	.01	0.85	0.89	8,219	.548	.04
CIV02f	255	1.88	1.89	.05	.01	0.86	0.92	273	.813	-.01
CIV02g	255	1.78	1.73	.05	.01	0.86	0.88	8,207	.294	.07
CIV02h	254	1.74	1.70	.06	.01	0.89	0.88	8,184	.493	.04
CIV02i	255	1.65	1.55	.06	.01	0.89	0.84	8,188	.062	.12
CIV02j	247	1.59	1.50	.06	.01	0.87	0.81	8,106	.097	.11

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	USC	USC	Civic Engagement	USC	Civic Engagement	USC	Civic Engagement			
										<i>Comparisons with:</i> Civic Engagement
CIV01a	432	5.36	5.40	.06	.01	1.16	1.19	11,377	.442	-.04
CIV01b	432	5.07	5.12	.06	.01	1.28	1.29	11,348	.505	-.03
CIV01c	433	5.50	5.49	.06	.01	1.24	1.31	11,344	.860	.01
CIV01d	431	5.47	5.55	.06	.01	1.24	1.26	11,307	.229	-.06
CIV02a	436	2.69	2.54	.04	.01	0.89	0.89	11,364	.000	.17
CIV02b	434	2.88	2.92	.04	.01	0.88	0.87	11,349	.385	-.04
CIV02c	435	2.57	2.48	.04	.01	0.92	0.92	11,347	.055	.09
CIV02d	434	2.67	2.77	.04	.01	0.90	0.89	11,344	.029	-.11
CIV02e	435	1.94	1.88	.05	.01	0.96	0.92	11,347	.158	.07
CIV02f	434	1.97	2.07	.05	.01	0.95	0.97	11,338	.039	-.10
CIV02g	433	1.81	1.74	.04	.01	0.94	0.90	11,330	.107	.08
CIV02h	433	1.80	1.81	.04	.01	0.91	0.93	11,287	.813	-.01
CIV02i	432	1.64	1.58	.04	.01	0.90	0.88	11,295	.163	.07
CIV02j	424	1.62	1.55	.04	.01	0.91	0.86	452	.104	.09

Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by gender 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 gender 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 gender 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 *Ns* 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.