
NSSE 2016 Topical Module Report

First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions

University of Rhode Island

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About This Topical Module

This module includes a set of items only for first-year students and a set only for seniors, with questions adapted from the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement and the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project, respectively. The first-year items focus on academic perseverance, help-seeking behaviors, and institutional commitment, while the senior items explore post-graduation plans, links between the academic major and future plans, and confidence with skills developed during college.

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 'FY Exp / Sr Transiti' column of this report.

Group label	FY Exp / Sr Transiti
Date submitted	Not applicable; comparison group not customized.
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution did not customize this comparison group; the default group (all module participants) was used.
Group description	Default comparison group

FY Exp / Sr Transiti (N=237)

Alfred University (Alfred, NY)*	College of Charleston (Charleston, SC)
Augusta University (Augusta, GA)	College of New Jersey, The (Ewing, NJ)*
Ave Maria University (Ave Maria, FL)*	College of Our Lady of the Elms (Chicopee, MA)
Averett University (Danville, VA)	College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, The (Saint Joseph, MN)
Avila University (Kansas City, MO)	College of Saint Mary (Omaha, NE)*
Azusa Pacific University (Azusa, CA)	College of Saint Rose, The (Albany, NY)*
Barton College (Wilson, NC)	Colorado College (Colorado Springs, CO)*
Berklee College of Music (Boston, MA)*	Columbus College of Art and Design (Columbus, OH)
Bethany College (Lindsborg, KS)*	Concord University (Athens, WV)
Birmingham-Southern College (Birmingham, AL)	Concordia College-New York (Bronxville, NY)*
Bishop's University (Sherbrooke, QC)*	Concordia University of Edmonton (Edmonton, AB)*
Brandon University (Brandon, MB)*	Converse College (Spartanburg, SC)
Brescia University College (London, ON)	Coppin State University (Baltimore, MD)
Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, VA)	Cornell College (Mount Vernon, IA)*
Buena Vista University (Storm Lake, IA)	Cumberland University (Lebanon, TN)
Burman University (Lacombe, AB)	CUNY Hunter College (New York, NY)
California State University-Channel Islands (Camarillo, CA)	CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice (New York, NY)*
California State University-Chico (Chico, CA)	CUNY New York City College of Technology (Brooklyn, NY)*
California State University, East Bay (Hayward, CA)	Daemen College (Amherst, NY)*
Cameron University (Lawton, OK)	Defiance College (Defiance, OH)
Campbell University Inc. (Buies Creek, NC)*	Dixie State University (Saint George, UT)
Campbellsville University (Campbellsville, KY)	Drake University (Des Moines, IA)
Canadian Mennonite University (Winnipeg, MB)	East Central University (Ada, OK)*
Capital University (Columbus, OH)	Eckerd College (Saint Petersburg, FL)*
Carson-Newman University (Jefferson City, TN)*	Emory and Henry College (Emory, VA)*
Carthage College (Kenosha, WI)*	Evergreen State College, The (Olympia, WA)
Centenary College of Louisiana (Shreveport, LA)	Faulkner University (Montgomery, AL)
Central College (Pella, IA)	Ferrum College (Ferrum, VA)*

Charleston Southern University (Charleston, SC)*

Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, The (Charleston, SC)

Finlandia University (Hancock, MI)

Flagler College (Saint Augustine, FL)*

FY Exp / Sr Transitr (N=237), continued

Florida Institute of Technology (Melbourne, FL)	Moravian College (Bethlehem, PA)
Florida Polytechnic University (Lakeland, FL)*	Morehead State University (Morehead, KY)*
Framingham State University (Framingham, MA)	Morgan State University (Baltimore, MD)*
Francis Marion University (Florence, SC)	Mount St. Joseph University (Cincinnati, OH)*
Franklin College (Franklin, IN)*	New Mexico Highlands University (Las Vegas, NM)
Franklin Pierce University (Rindge, NH)	New School, The (New York, NY)
Freed-Hardeman University (Henderson, TN)	Newman University (Wichita, KS)
Georgian Court University (Lakewood, NJ)*	Norfolk State University (Norfolk, VA)
Gordon College (Wenham, MA)	Northern State University (Aberdeen, SD)
Grand Canyon University (Phoenix, AZ)	Northwest Nazarene University (Nampa, ID)*
Guilford College (Greensboro, NC)	Northwestern College (Orange City, IA)
Hampshire College (Amherst, MA)	Norwich University (Northfield, VT)
Hanover College (Hanover, IN)	Ohio Dominican University (Columbus, OH)
Hartwick College (Oneonta, NY)	Oklahoma City University (Oklahoma City, OK)*
Harvey Mudd College (Claremont, CA)	Oregon State University (Corvallis, OR)
Hiram College (Hiram, OH)*	Otis College of Art and Design (Los Angeles, CA)*
Hood College (Frederick, MD)*	Pace University (New York, NY)
Hope International University (Fullerton, CA)*	Pennsylvania College of Technology (Williamsport, PA)*
Houston Baptist University (Houston, TX)*	Peru State College (Peru, NE)
Huron University College (London, ON)*	Pfeiffer University (Misenheimer, NC)
Idaho State University (Pocatello, ID)	Plymouth State University (Plymouth, NH)*
Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago, IL)	Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX)*
Indiana University Bloomington (Bloomington, IN)*	Presentation College (Aberdeen, SD)*
Iona College (New Rochelle, NY)	Regent University (Virginia Beach, VA)
Ithaca College (Ithaca, NY)	Regis University (Denver, CO)
Jarvis Christian College (Hawkins, TX)	Roanoke College (Salem, VA)*
Johnson & Wales University (Providence, RI)	Rochester Institute of Technology (Rochester, NY)*
Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)	Roosevelt University (Chicago, IL)*
Johnson & Wales University-Denver (Denver, CO)	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (Terre Haute, IN)*
Johnson & Wales University-North Miami (North Miami, FL)	Rutgers University-Camden (Camden, NJ)*
Judson University (Elgin, IL)	Rutgers University-New Brunswick/Piscataway (New Brunswick, NJ)*
Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS)	Rutgers University-Newark (Newark, NJ)*
Kaplan University (Davenport, IA)*	Sage Colleges, The (Troy, NY)
Kean University (Union, NJ)*	Saint Francis University (Loretto, PA)*
Kennesaw State University (Kennesaw, GA)	Saint Joseph's College (Rensselaer, IN)
Keystone College (La Plume, PA)	Saint Peter's University (Jersey City, NJ)
Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Surrey, BC)	Salem College (Winston Salem, NC)*
La Sierra University (Riverside, CA)*	Scripps College (Claremont, CA)
Lander University (Greenwood, SC)	Seton Hall University (South Orange, NJ)
Lane College (Jackson, TN)	Siena College (Loudonville, NY)*
Lenoir-Rhyne University (Hickory, NC)	Southeast Missouri State University (Cape Girardeau, MO)*
Lesley University (Cambridge, MA)*	Southeastern Louisiana University (Hammond, LA)
Lewis & Clark College (Portland, OR)	Southern University at New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)
Lincoln University (Jefferson City, MO)*	Southern Virginia University (Buena Vista, VA)*
Louisiana State University at Alexandria (Alexandria, LA)	Southwestern Oklahoma State University (Weatherford, OK)
Maranatha Baptist University (Watertown, WI)*	Spelman College (Atlanta, GA)
Marian University (Fond Du Lac, WI)*	Spring Hill College (Mobile, AL)
Mars Hill University (Mars Hill, NC)*	St. Cloud State University (St Cloud, MN)*
Marymount California University (Rancho Palos Verdes, CA)	St. Francis College (Brooklyn Heights, NY)
Marymount Manhattan College (New York, NY)*	St. Mary's College of Maryland (Saint Mary's City, MD)
Mayville State University (Mayville, ND)*	Texas A&M University - Texarkana (Texarkana, TX)
McMaster University (Hamilton, ON)*	Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, TX)
McMurry University (Abilene, TX)	Texas State University (San Marcos, TX)
McNeese State University (Lake Charles, LA)	Texas Wesleyan University (Fort Worth, TX)
Milwaukee School of Engineering (Milwaukee, WI)*	Thomas College (Waterville, ME)*
Minot State University (Minot, ND)*	Thomas More College (Crestview Hills, KY)
Missouri University of Science & Technology (Rolla, MO)	Touro College (New York, NY)
Monmouth College (Monmouth, IL)*	Trine University (Angola, IN)

*2015 participant

FY Exp / Sr Transitr (N=237), continued

Truett McConnell University (Cleveland, GA)	Wisconsin Lutheran College (Milwaukee, WI)*
Union College (NE) (Lincoln, NE)*	Wittenberg University (Springfield, OH)
University of Advancing Technology (Tempe, AZ)	Youngstown State University (Youngstown, OH)
University of Akron (Akron, OH)*	
University of Alabama at Birmingham (Birmingham, AL)	
University of Alabama in Huntsville (Huntsville, AL)	
University of Charleston (Charleston, WV)	
University of Colorado Denver (Denver, CO)	
University of Dallas (Irving, TX)	
University of Hartford (West Hartford, CT)*	
University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu (Kapolei, HI)	
University of Illinois at Chicago (Chicago, IL)*	
University of La Verne (La Verne, CA)*	
University of Mary Washington (Fredericksburg, VA)	
University of Michigan-Flint (Flint, MI)	
University of Minnesota Duluth (Duluth, MN)	
University of Montana (Missoula, MT)	
University of Montana-Western, The (Dillon, MT)*	
University of Mount Olive (Mount Olive, NC)*	
University of New Brunswick (Fredericton, NB)	
University of New England (Biddeford, ME)	
University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND)*	
University of North Texas at Dallas (Dallas, TX)	
University of Pittsburgh-Bradford (Bradford, PA)	
University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus (Rio Piedras, PR)*	
University of Redlands (Redlands, CA)*	
University of Saint Joseph (West Hartford, CT)*	
University of Saint Mary (Leavenworth, KS)	
University of San Francisco (San Francisco, CA)	
University of Scranton (Scranton, PA)*	
University of Southern Indiana (Evansville, IN)	
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, The (Knoxville, TN)	
University of Texas at Arlington, The (Arlington, TX)	
University of Texas at El Paso, The (El Paso, TX)	
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, The (Edinburg, TX)	
University of the Virgin Islands (Charlotte Amalie, VI)	
University of Tulsa (Tulsa, OK)	
University of Vermont (Burlington, VT)*	
University of Washington Tacoma (Tacoma, WA)	
University of Wisconsin-River Falls (River Falls, WI)	
University of Wyoming (Laramie, WY)*	
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology (Flushing, NY)	
Warner Pacific College (Portland, OR)*	
Washington Adventist University (Takoma Park, MD)	
Washington College (Chestertown, MD)	
Washington State University (Pullman, WA)*	
Webber International University (Babson Park, FL)	
Wesley College (Dover, DE)*	
Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia (Macon, GA)	
West Virginia Wesleyan College (Buckhannon, WV)	
Western State Colorado University (Gunnison, CO)	
Westfield State University (Westfield, MA)	
Westminster College (Salt Lake City, UT)	
Whitworth University (Spokane, WA)*	
Willamette University (Salem, OR)*	
William Woods University (Fulton, MO)*	
Wingate University (Wingate, NC)	
Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC)	

*2015 participant

NSSE 2016 First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons: First-Year Experiences

University of Rhode Island

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				URI		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		URI	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Studied when there were other interesting things to do	FYSfy01a	1	Never	21	3	1,531	4	2.7	2.8 ***	-.12
		2	Sometimes	244	38	13,926	34			
		3	Often	270	41	15,047	36			
		4	Very often	115	17	10,645	25			
			Total	650	100	41,149	100			
b. Found additional information for course assignments when you didn't understand the material	FYSfy01b	1	Never	16	3	1,209	3	2.8	2.9	-.07
		2	Sometimes	205	32	12,095	30			
		3	Often	297	46	18,045	44			
		4	Very often	130	19	9,646	23			
			Total	648	100	40,995	100			
c. Participated in course discussions, even when you didn't feel like it	FYSfy01c	1	Never	54	8	3,020	8	2.5	2.7 ***	-.23
		2	Sometimes	314	48	15,125	37			
		3	Often	210	32	15,088	36			
		4	Very often	72	11	7,807	19			
			Total	650	100	41,040	100			
d. Asked instructors for help when you struggled with course assignments	FYSfy01d	1	Never	79	12	3,835	10	2.4	2.6 ***	-.21
		2	Sometimes	313	49	16,249	40			
		3	Often	172	26	13,480	32			
		4	Very often	81	12	7,335	17			
			Total	645	100	40,899	100			
e. Finished something you have started when you encountered challenges	FYSfy01e	1	Never	7	1	392	1	3.0	3.1 *	-.10
		2	Sometimes	139	22	7,291	19			
		3	Often	311	48	19,351	47			
		4	Very often	190	29	13,863	33			
			Total	647	100	40,897	100			
f. Stayed positive, even when you did poorly on a test or assignment	FYSfy01f	1	Never	26	4	1,461	4	2.8	2.9 ***	-.14
		2	Sometimes	212	32	11,497	28			
		3	Often	273	43	17,013	41			
		4	Very often	134	21	10,913	27			
			Total	645	100	40,884	100			
2. During the current school year, how difficult have the following been for you?										
a. Learning course material	FYSfy02a	1	Not at all difficult	14	2	2,739	7	3.7	3.3 ***	.29
		2	2	74	11	7,240	18			
		3	3	172	26	11,899	29			
		4	4	266	41	12,871	31			
		5	5	96	15	4,787	11			
		6	Very difficult	29	4	1,518	4			
	Total	651	100	41,054	100					
b. Managing your time	FYSfy02b	1	Not at all difficult	31	5	2,422	6	3.7	3.8	-.07
		2	2	81	12	5,284	13			
		3	3	160	25	8,738	21			
		4	4	201	31	10,577	26			
		5	5	108	17	8,348	21			
		6	Very difficult	67	10	5,597	14			

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

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University of Rhode Island

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				URI		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		URI	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options							
		Total		648	100	40,966	100			

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

NSSE 2016 First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons: First-Year Experiences

University of Rhode Island

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				URI		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		URI	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
c. Getting help with school work	FYSfy02c	1	Not at all difficult	62	10	6,960	17	3.1	2.9 ***	.14
		2	2	154	24	10,761	26			
		3	3	209	32	10,916	27			
		4	4	148	23	7,532	18			
		5	5	58	9	3,267	8			
		6	Very difficult	18	3	1,506	4			
		Total	649	100	40,942	100				
d. Interacting with faculty	FYSfy02d	1	Not at all difficult	76	12	8,437	21	3.0	2.8 ***	.16
		2	2	150	23	10,505	25			
		3	3	204	31	9,796	24			
		4	4	131	20	6,983	17			
		5	5	54	8	3,465	9			
		6	Very difficult	33	5	1,705	5			
		Total	648	100	40,891	100				
3. During the current school year, about how often have you sought help with coursework from the following sources? ¹										
a. Faculty members	FYSfy03a_16	1	Never	140	22	4,250	18	2.1	2.2 ***	-.14
		2	Sometimes	337	52	12,564	51			
		3	Often	138	22	5,694	23			
		4	Very often	29	4	2,008	8			
		Total	644	100	24,516	100				
b. Academic advisors	FYSfy03b_16	1	Never	309	48	11,255	46	1.7	1.7	-.06
		2	Sometimes	232	36	9,027	37			
		3	Often	84	13	3,172	13			
		4	Very often	17	3	1,000	4			
		Total	642	100	24,454	100				
c. Learning support services (tutoring, writing center, success coaching, etc.)	FYSfy03c_16	1	Never	237	37	9,430	40	2.0	1.9	.03
		2	Sometimes	233	37	8,616	35			
		3	Often	123	19	4,163	17			
		4	Very often	49	7	2,175	9			
		Total	642	100	24,384	100				
d. Friends or other students	FYSfy03d_16	1	Never	25	4	1,437	6	3.0	2.8 ***	.19
		2	Sometimes	134	21	6,726	28			
		3	Often	284	44	9,660	39			
		4	Very often	199	30	6,654	26			
		Total	642	100	24,477	100				
e. Family members	FYSfy03e_16	1	Never	244	38	9,842	41	2.0	1.9	.02
		2	Sometimes	217	34	7,939	33			
		3	Often	135	21	4,486	18			
		4	Very often	47	7	2,193	9			
		Total	643	100	24,460	100				
f. Other persons or offices	FYSfy03f_16	1	Never	380	59	15,135	62	1.6	1.5	.04
		2	Sometimes	183	29	6,345	26			
		3	Often	68	11	2,073	9			
		4	Very often	13	2	776	3			
		Total	644	100	24,329	100				

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

NSSE 2016 First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons: First-Year Experiences

University of Rhode Island

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				URI		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		URI	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
4a. During the current school year, have you seriously considered leaving this institution? ^j										
	FYSfy04a		No	411	64	16,389	67	36%	33%	.07
(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")			Yes	236	36	8,113	33			
			Total	647	100	24,502	100			
4b. [If answered "yes"] Why did you consider leaving? (Select all that apply.) ^l										
	FYSfy04b_1_16	—	Academics are too difficult	39	17	1,145	14			
	FYSfy04b_2_16	—	Academics are too easy	12	5	550	7			
	FYSfy04b_3_16	—	Other academic issues (major not offered, course availability, advising, credit transfer, etc.)	43	19	1,674	21			
	FYSfy04b_4_16	—	Financial concerns (costs or financial aid)	100	42	3,598	43			
	FYSfy04b_5_16	—	To change your career options (transfer to another school or program, military service, etc.)	45	20	1,538	20			
	FYSfy04b_6_16	—	Difficulty managing demands of school and work	31	13	1,130	14			
	FYSfy04b_7_16	—	Too much emphasis on partying	40	17	441	6			
	FYSfy04b_8_16	—	Not enough opportunities to socialize and have fun	62	27	1,667	21			
	FYSfy04b_9_16	—	Relations with faculty and staff	25	11	779	10			
	FYSfy04b_10_16	—	Relations with other students	64	26	1,652	19			
	FYSfy04b_11_16	—	Campus climate, location, or culture	78	33	2,028	25			
	FYSfy04b_12_16	—	Unsafe or hostile environment	7	3	432	6			
	FYSfy04b_13_16	—	Personal reasons (family issues, physical or mental health, homesickness, stress, etc.)	75	31	2,845	34			
	FYSfy04b_14_16	—	Another reason, please specify:	34	15	1,288	17			
5. How important is it to you that you graduate from this institution?										
	FYSfy05	1	Not important	22	3	1,448	4	5.2	5.2	-.05
		2	2	8	1	1,030	3			
		3	3	35	6	2,072	5			
		4	4	87	14	3,669	9			
		5	5	105	16	5,178	13			
		6	Very important	390	60	27,509	66			

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

NSSE 2016 First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons: First-Year Experiences

University of Rhode Island

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				URI		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		URI		FY Exp / Sr Transitn
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options							
		Total		647	100	40,906	100			

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	URI	URI	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	URI	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	URI	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	Comparisons with:		
								FY Exp / Sr Transiti		
FYSfy01a	651	2.73	2.83	.03	.00	0.78	0.85	668	.001	-.12
FYSfy01b	649	2.82	2.88	.03	.00	0.77	0.80	55,693	.080	-.07
FYSfy01c	651	2.46	2.66	.03	.00	0.80	0.87	668	.000	-.23
FYSfy01d	646	2.39	2.57	.03	.00	0.86	0.89	662	.000	-.21
FYSfy01e	648	3.05	3.12	.03	.00	0.74	0.74	55,571	.013	-.10
FYSfy01f	646	2.80	2.92	.03	.00	0.81	0.83	55,546	.000	-.14
FYSfy02a	652	3.68	3.33	.04	.01	1.07	1.21	671	.000	.29
FYSfy02b	649	3.73	3.83	.05	.01	1.30	1.42	666	.053	-.07
FYSfy02c	650	3.06	2.87	.05	.01	1.21	1.33	668	.000	.14
FYSfy02d	649	3.05	2.82	.05	.01	1.30	1.40	666	.000	.16
FYSfy03a_16 ^l	645	2.09	2.20	.03	.00	0.78	0.83	673	.000	-.14
FYSfy03b_16 ^l	643	1.70	1.75	.03	.00	0.79	0.83	33,171	.157	-.06
FYSfy03b_16 ^l	643	1.97	1.94	.04	.01	0.92	0.95	33,094	.456	.03
FYSfy03b_16 ^l	643	3.01	2.85	.03	.00	0.82	0.88	671	.000	.19
FYSfy03e_16 ^l	644	1.96	1.94	.04	.01	0.93	0.96	33,193	.643	.02
FYSfy03f_16 ^l	645	1.56	1.53	.03	.00	0.76	0.78	33,030	.318	.04
FYSfy04a ^k	648	.361	.329	.0189	.0026	--	--	--	.086	.07
FYSfy05	649	5.17	5.24	.05	.01	1.26	1.32	55,620	.192	-.05

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				URI		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		URI	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
1. Do you expect to graduate this spring or summer? ^j										
	FYSsr01_16		No	136	20	9,497	34			
			Yes	564	80	20,891	66			
			Total	700	100	30,388	100			
1a. [Excludes those who answered "No," not expecting spring/summer graduation] After graduation, what best describes your immediate plans?										
	FYSsr01a	—	Full-time employment	313	56	24,207	59			
	(Includes all 2015 respondents because FYSsr01_16 was a new item in 2016.)	—	Part-time employment	20	3	1,607	4			
		—	Graduate or professional school	123	22	9,339	23			
		—	Military service	7	1	413	1			
		—	Service or volunteer activity (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.)	1	0	457	1			
		—	Internship (paid or unpaid)	38	6	1,549	4			
		—	Travel or gap year	33	6	1,384	3			
		—	No plans at this time	20	3	1,212	3			
		—	Other, please specify:	10	2	1,229	3			
			Total	565	100	41,397	100			
1b. [If immediate plans included full- or part-time employment] Do you already have a job for after graduation? ^j										
	FYSsr01b		No	197	59	14,540	56	41%	44%	-.06
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes." Includes all 2015 respondents because FYSsr01_16 was a new item in 2016.)		Yes, I will start a new job	80	25	4,713	18			
			Yes, I will continue in my current job	54	16	6,438	26			
			Total	331	100	25,691	100			
2. [Excludes those who answered "No," not expecting spring/summer graduation] To what extent have courses in your major(s) prepared you for your post-graduation plans?										
	FYSsr02	1	Very little	42	7	2,394	6	2.9	3.0 **	-.12
	(Includes all 2015 respondents because FYSsr01_16 was a new item in 2016.)	2	Some	124	22	8,830	22			
		3	Quite a bit	244	43	15,334	37			
		4	Very much	156	27	14,720	35			
			Total	566	100	41,278	100			
3. Do you intend to work eventually in a field related to your major(s)? ^j										
	FYSsr03		Yes	608	87	43,306	85	87%	85%	.03
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")		No	28	4	2,147	4			
			Unsure	65	9	5,165	10			
			Total	701	100	50,618	100			
4. Do you plan to be self-employed, an independent contractor, or a freelance worker someday? ^j										
	FYSsr04		Yes	138	21	10,716	23	21%	23%	-.05
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")		No	369	51	25,257	48			
			Unsure	193	28	14,633	29			
			Total	700	100	50,606	100			

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				URI		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		URI	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
5. Do you plan to start your own business (nonprofit or for-profit) someday? ^j										
	FYSsr05	Yes		157	24	11,939	25	24%	25%	-.04
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	No		314	43	23,028	43			
		Unsure		228	33	15,689	31			
		Total		699	100	50,656	100			
6. How much confidence do you have in your ability to complete tasks requiring the following skills and abilities?										
a. Critical thinking and analysis of arguments and information	FYSsr06a	1	Very little	6	1	325	1	3.4	3.5 ***	-.14
		2	Some	65	9	3,738	7			
		3	Quite a bit	283	40	17,663	34			
		4	Very much	343	50	28,907	58			
		Total		697	100	50,633	100			
b. Creative thinking and problem solving	FYSsr06b	1	Very little	6	1	296	1	3.4	3.5 ***	-.15
		2	Some	60	8	3,414	7			
		3	Quite a bit	280	39	17,102	34			
		4	Very much	351	51	29,755	59			
		Total		697	100	50,567	100			
c. Research skills	FYSsr06c	1	Very little	19	2	947	2	3.2	3.3 ***	-.13
		2	Some	127	18	7,460	15			
		3	Quite a bit	282	41	19,502	38			
		4	Very much	266	39	22,654	45			
		Total		694	100	50,563	100			
d. Clear writing	FYSsr06d	1	Very little	15	2	723	1	3.1	3.3 ***	-.25
		2	Some	128	19	6,266	12			
		3	Quite a bit	294	42	19,175	38			
		4	Very much	260	37	24,382	48			
		Total		697	100	50,546	100			
e. Persuasive speaking	FYSsr06e	1	Very little	32	4	1,956	4	3.0	3.1 *	-.09
		2	Some	165	23	11,310	22			
		3	Quite a bit	284	41	18,744	37			
		4	Very much	215	31	18,508	37			
		Total		696	100	50,518	100			
f. Technological skills	FYSsr06f	1	Very little	32	4	1,851	4	3.0	3.1	-.06
		2	Some	158	22	11,234	22			
		3	Quite a bit	275	40	19,624	38			
		4	Very much	231	34	17,783	37			
		Total		696	100	50,492	100			
g. Financial and business management skills	FYSsr06g	1	Very little	138	19	7,783	15	2.4	2.6 ***	-.18
		2	Some	263	37	17,218	33			
		3	Quite a bit	186	28	14,977	30			
		4	Very much	108	16	10,565	22			
		Total		695	100	50,543	100			

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

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				URI		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		URI	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
h. Entrepreneurial skills	FYSsr06h	1	Very little	178	25	10,840	21	2.2	2.4 ***	-.16
		2	Some	272	38	18,052	35			
		3	Quite a bit	163	25	12,739	25			
		4	Very much	81	12	8,774	18			
		Total	694	100	50,405	100				
i. Leadership skills	FYSsr06i	1	Very little	22	3	1,348	3	3.2	3.3 ***	-.13
		2	Some	132	19	7,520	15			
		3	Quite a bit	256	37	17,437	35			
		4	Very much	283	41	24,187	47			
		Total	693	100	50,492	100				
j. Networking and relationship building	FYSsr06j	1	Very little	34	5	2,534	5	3.0	3.0	-.01
		2	Some	149	22	10,859	22			
		3	Quite a bit	260	38	18,265	36			
		4	Very much	244	35	18,702	37			
		Total	687	100	50,360	100				
7. To what extent has your coursework in your major(s) emphasized the following?										
a. Generating new ideas or brainstorming	FYSsr07a	1	Very little	34	5	1,959	4	3.0	3.1 ***	-.20
		2	Some	168	24	9,241	19			
		3	Quite a bit	295	42	18,461	36			
		4	Very much	197	29	20,836	41			
		Total	694	100	50,497	100				
b. Taking risks in your coursework without fear of penalty	FYSsr07b	1	Very little	172	24	10,877	22	2.3	2.5 ***	-.15
		2	Some	218	31	14,052	28			
		3	Quite a bit	203	30	13,537	27			
		4	Very much	101	14	11,908	23			
		Total	694	100	50,374	100				
c. Evaluating multiple approaches to a problem	FYSsr07c	1	Very little	36	5	2,349	5	2.9	3.1 ***	-.17
		2	Some	171	24	10,016	20			
		3	Quite a bit	295	43	18,549	37			
		4	Very much	183	28	19,353	38			
		Total	685	100	50,267	100				
d. Inventing new methods to arrive at unconventional solutions	FYSsr07d	1	Very little	88	12	6,254	13	2.7	2.7 *	-.08
		2	Some	230	33	14,244	28			
		3	Quite a bit	221	32	15,385	31			
		4	Very much	153	23	14,044	28			
		Total	692	100	49,927	100				

8. Is there anything your institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or further education? Please describe.

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 310 seniors. Responses are provided in your "NSSE16 Topical Module - Senior Transitions Student Comments" 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.

NSSE 2016 First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons: Senior Transitions

University of Rhode Island

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				URI		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		URI		FY Exp / Sr Transitn
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d

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

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	URI	URI	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	URI	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	URI	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	Comparisons with:		
								FY Exp / Sr Transiti		
FYSsr01b ^k	331	.410	.442	.0271	.0027	--	--	--	.255	-.06
FYSsr02	560	2.90	3.01	.04	.00	0.89	0.90	53,870	.004	-.12
FYSsr03 ^k	702	.865	.853	.0129	.0014	--	--	--	.371	.03
FYSsr04 ^k	701	.206	.226	.0153	.0016	--	--	--	.221	-.05
FYSsr05 ^k	700	.236	.252	.0161	.0017	--	--	--	.328	-.04
FYSsr06a	698	3.40	3.49	.03	.00	0.68	0.66	66,736	.000	-.14
FYSsr06b	699	3.41	3.51	.03	.00	0.68	0.65	711	.000	-.15
FYSsr06c	695	3.16	3.27	.03	.00	0.80	0.78	66,636	.001	-.13
FYSsr06d	699	3.14	3.33	.03	.00	0.79	0.75	66,612	.000	-.25
FYSsr06e	698	3.00	3.07	.03	.00	0.85	0.86	712	.016	-.09
FYSsr06f	697	3.03	3.08	.03	.00	0.85	0.85	66,543	.142	-.06
FYSsr06g	697	2.41	2.59	.04	.00	0.98	0.99	66,616	.000	-.18
FYSsr06h	696	2.25	2.41	.04	.00	0.96	1.01	711	.000	-.16
FYSsr06i	695	3.15	3.26	.03	.00	0.84	0.82	66,539	.001	-.13
FYSsr06j	689	3.04	3.05	.03	.00	0.88	0.89	66,367	.756	-.01
FYSsr07a	696	2.96	3.14	.03	.00	0.84	0.86	710	.000	-.20
FYSsr07b	696	2.35	2.51	.04	.00	1.00	1.08	712	.000	-.15
FYSsr07c	687	2.93	3.08	.03	.00	0.85	0.88	702	.000	-.17
FYSsr07d	694	2.66	2.73	.04	.00	0.97	1.01	65,790	.044	-.08

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 ; z -tests use Cohen's h .
- 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 or z -tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the students in the comparison group is due to chance.
- j. Statistical comparison uses z -test to compare the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes" with all who responded otherwise.
- k. Mean represents the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes."
- l. This was a new item in 2016, comparison group results do not include 2015 institutions. May not apply to all modules.

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.