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**NSSE 2019 Topical Module Report**  
**First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions**  
Washington State University

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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 'WSU FY & Sr' column of this report.

Group label	WSU FY & Sr
Date submitted	5/16/19
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this comparison group by selecting institutions from all module participants.
Group description	Washington State University's comparison group for the First-Year Experience & Senior Transitions topical module, drawn from WSU's AAU, Legislative, and Strategic Plan peers.

## WSU FY & Sr (N=8)

Colorado State University (Fort Collins, CO)  
 Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College (Baton Rouge, LA)\*  
 Ohio State University, The (Columbus, OH)  
 Oregon State University (Corvallis, OR)  
 Tulane University (New Orleans, LA)\*  
 University of Kentucky (Lexington, KY)  
 University of South Carolina Columbia (Columbia, SC)  
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville, The (Knoxville, TN)

## First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				WSU		WSU FY & Sr		WSU	WSU FY & Sr	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?</b>										
a. Studied when there were other interesting things to do	FYSfy01a	1	Never	43	5	178	3	<b>2.7</b>	2.8 ***	-0.17 ▽
		2	Sometimes	392	39	1,960	34			
		3	Often	388	38	2,325	38			
		4	Very often	201	19	1,434	25			
		Total		1,024	100	5,897	100			
b. Found additional information for course assignments when you didn't understand the material	FYSfy01b	1	Never	19	2	99	2	<b>2.8</b>	2.9 ***	-0.13 ▽
		2	Sometimes	301	31	1,504	26			
		3	Often	508	49	2,855	48			
		4	Very often	197	18	1,431	24			
		Total		1,025	100	5,889	100			
c. Participated in course discussions, even when you didn't feel like it	FYSfy01c	1	Never	86	9	460	9	<b>2.5</b>	2.6	-0.05
		2	Sometimes	447	43	2,431	41			
		3	Often	362	36	2,134	35			
		4	Very often	128	12	863	15			
		Total		1,023	100	5,888	100			
d. Asked instructors for help when you struggled with course assignments	FYSfy01d	1	Never	131	13	743	14	<b>2.4</b>	2.4	-0.01
		2	Sometimes	474	46	2,678	46			
		3	Often	300	29	1,736	29			
		4	Very often	119	12	728	12			
		Total		1,024	100	5,885	100			
e. Finished something you have started when you encountered challenges	FYSfy01e	1	Never	4	0	33	1	<b>3.1</b>	3.2	-0.06
		2	Sometimes	182	19	919	16			
		3	Often	520	50	2,975	50			
		4	Very often	318	31	1,955	33			
		Total		1,024	100	5,882	100			
f. Stayed positive, even when you did poorly on a test or assignment	FYSfy01f	1	Never	51	5	199	4	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	-0.05
		2	Sometimes	333	32	1,874	31			
		3	Often	414	40	2,499	42			
		4	Very often	226	22	1,319	23			
		Total		1,024	100	5,891	100			
<b>2. During the current school year, how difficult have the following been for you?</b>										
a. Learning course material	FYSfy02a	1	Not at all difficult	30	3	193	3	<b>3.5</b>	3.6	-0.05
		2	2	153	15	770	13			
		3	3	297	29	1,709	28			
		4	4	372	36	2,253	38			
		5	5	138	14	748	13			
		6	Very difficult	35	3	217	4			
		Total		1,025	100	5,890	100			
b. Managing your time	FYSfy02b	1	Not at all difficult	46	5	274	5	<b>3.8</b>	3.8	-0.01
		2	2	148	14	769	13			
		3	3	240	23	1,396	23			
		4	4	283	28	1,707	28			
		5	5	196	19	1,160	20			
		6	Very difficult	111	11	584	11			
		Total		1,024	100	5,890	100			

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

## First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				WSU		WSU FY & Sr		WSU	WSU FY & Sr	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
c. Getting help with school work	FYSfy02c	1	Not at all difficult	129	13	692	12	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	.04
		2	2	260	25	1,534	26			
		3	3	275	27	1,758	29			
		4	4	220	21	1,187	20			
		5	5	96	9	509	9			
		6	Very difficult	45	5	209	4			
		Total		1,025	100	5,889	100			
d. Interacting with faculty	FYSfy02d	1	Not at all difficult	158	16	828	14	<b>2.9</b>	3.0	-.03
		2	2	279	27	1,500	26			
		3	3	252	25	1,647	28			
		4	4	190	19	1,124	19			
		5	5	106	10	556	9			
		6	Very difficult	40	4	228	4			
		Total		1,025	100	5,883	100			
<b>3. During the current school year, about how often have you sought help with coursework from the following sources?</b>										
a. Faculty members	FYSfy03a_16	1	Never	193	19	1,092	19	<b>2.1</b>	2.1	-.02
		2	Sometimes	586	57	3,270	56			
		3	Often	189	19	1,199	20			
		4	Very often	55	5	322	5			
		Total		1,023	100	5,883	100			
b. Academic advisors	FYSfy03b_16	1	Never	440	43	2,554	46	<b>1.8</b>	1.7	.04
		2	Sometimes	410	40	2,308	38			
		3	Often	141	14	804	13			
		4	Very often	33	3	221	3			
		Total		1,024	100	5,887	100			
c. Learning support services (tutoring, writing center, success coaching, etc.)	FYSfy03c_16	1	Never	397	39	2,135	38	<b>1.9</b>	2.0 *	-.09
		2	Sometimes	403	39	2,151	36			
		3	Often	157	15	1,058	18			
		4	Very often	65	6	533	8			
		Total		1,022	100	5,877	100			
d. Friends or other students	FYSfy03d_16	1	Never	46	5	191	4	<b>2.9</b>	3.0 ***	-.15
		2	Sometimes	285	29	1,337	24			
		3	Often	402	40	2,389	39			
		4	Very often	290	27	1,964	32			
		Total		1,023	100	5,881	100			
e. Family members	FYSfy03e_16	1	Never	452	46	2,571	46	<b>1.8</b>	1.8	.01
		2	Sometimes	327	32	1,919	32			
		3	Often	172	16	993	16			
		4	Very often	71	6	402	6			
		Total		1,022	100	5,885	100			
f. Other persons or offices	FYSfy03f_16	1	Never	642	63	3,561	62	<b>1.5</b>	1.5	-.03
		2	Sometimes	286	28	1,680	28			
		3	Often	72	7	468	7			
		4	Very often	22	2	169	3			
		Total		1,022	100	5,878	100			

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

## First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				WSU		WSU FY & Sr		WSU	WSU FY & Sr	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>4a. During the current school year, have you seriously considered leaving this institution?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSfy04a	No		661	66	4,355	75	<b>34%</b>	25% ***	.18
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	Yes		359	34	1,538	25			
		Total		1,020	100	5,893	100			
<b>4b. [If answered "yes"] Why did you consider leaving? (Select all that apply.)</b>										
	FYSfy04b_1_16	—	Academics are too difficult	84	25	357	27			
	FYSfy04b_2_16	—	Academics are too easy	21	6	69	5			
	FYSfy04b_3_16	—	Other academic issues (major not offered, course availability, advising, credit transfer, etc.)	50	15	207	13			
	FYSfy04b_4_16	—	Financial concerns (costs or financial aid)	156	44	685	43			
	FYSfy04b_5_16	—	To change your career options (transfer to another school or program, military service, etc.)	58	17	240	17			
	FYSfy04b_6_16	—	Difficulty managing demands of school and work	64	19	244	16			
	FYSfy04b_7_16	—	Too much emphasis on partying	49	13	164	13			
	FYSfy04b_8_16	—	Not enough opportunities to socialize and have fun	49	14	164	11			
	FYSfy04b_9_16	—	Relations with faculty and staff	25	8	109	8			
	FYSfy04b_10_16	—	Relations with other students	64	17	359	23			
	FYSfy04b_11_16	—	Campus climate, location, or culture	131	35	388	25			
	FYSfy04b_12_16	—	Unsafe or hostile environment	12	3	88	7			
	FYSfy04b_13_16	—	Personal reasons (family issues, physical or mental health, homesickness, stress, etc.)	201	55	729	46			
	FYSfy04b_14_16	—	A reason not listed above, please specify:	37	11	195	14			
<b>5. How important is it to you that you graduate from <i>this institution</i>?</b>										
	FYSfy05	1	Not important	51	5	218	4	<b>5.1</b>	5.1	.00
		2		31	3	163	3			
		3		53	5	326	6			
		4		121	13	718	13			
		5		149	15	1,000	17			
		6	Very important	612	60	3,436	58			
		Total		1,017	100	5,861	100			

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

#### First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
		WSU	WSU FY & Sr	WSU	WSU FY & Sr	WSU	WSU FY & Sr			
FYSfy01a	1,023	2.70	2.84	.026	.009	0.82	0.83	8,762	.000	-.17
FYSfy01b	1,023	2.84	2.94	.023	.009	0.74	0.76	8,748	.000	-.13
FYSfy01c	1,022	2.52	2.56	.025	.010	0.81	0.84	8,747	.109	-.05
FYSfy01d	1,023	2.38	2.39	.027	.010	0.86	0.86	8,743	.860	-.01
FYSfy01e	1,021	3.12	3.16	.022	.008	0.70	0.71	8,744	.071	-.06
FYSfy01f	1,022	2.79	2.84	.026	.009	0.84	0.82	1,288	.123	-.05
FYSfy02a	1,023	3.53	3.58	.034	.013	1.09	1.10	8,756	.170	-.05
FYSfy02b	1,023	3.77	3.79	.042	.015	1.34	1.33	8,751	.744	-.01
FYSfy02c	1,023	3.03	2.99	.041	.015	1.32	1.28	1,287	.281	.04
FYSfy02d	1,023	2.91	2.95	.042	.015	1.34	1.32	8,742	.304	-.03
FYSfy03a_16	1,022	2.10	2.11	.024	.009	0.76	0.76	8,745	.509	-.02
FYSfy03b_16	1,023	1.77	1.74	.025	.009	0.79	0.80	8,744	.284	.04
FYSfy03b_16	1,020	1.89	1.97	.028	.011	0.89	0.94	8,731	.010	-.09
FYSfy03b_16	1,022	2.88	3.01	.027	.010	0.86	0.85	1,296	.000	-.15
FYSfy03e_16	1,020	1.83	1.82	.029	.010	0.92	0.91	8,745	.758	.01
FYSfy03f_16	1,020	1.48	1.51	.022	.008	0.72	0.74	8,728	.337	-.03
FYSfy04a <sup>k</sup>	1019	.338	.254	.0148	.0049	--	--	--	.000	.18
FYSfy05	1,017	5.08	5.08	.044	.016	1.41	1.36	8,711	.966	.00

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				WSU		WSU FY & Sr		WSU	WSU FY & Sr	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>1. Do you expect to graduate this spring or summer?</b>										
	FYSsr01_16	No		399	32	2,857	41			
		Yes		893	68	4,622	59			
		Total		1,292	100	7,479	100			
<b>1a. [Excludes those who answered "No," not expecting spring/summer graduation] After graduation, what best describes your immediate plans?</b>										
	FYSsr01a	—	Full-time employment	546	62	2,583	56			
		—	Part-time employment	32	3	153	3			
		—	Graduate or professional school	164	18	1,128	24			
		—	Military service	9	1	53	1			
		—	Service or volunteer activity (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.)	11	1	58	1			
		—	Internship (paid or unpaid)	49	5	220	5			
		—	Travel or gap year	42	5	254	5			
		—	No plans at this time	20	2	153	3			
		—	Other, please specify:	23	2	71	1			
		Total		896	100	4,673	100			
<b>1b. [If immediate plans included full- or part-time employment] Do you already have a job for after graduation?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSsr01b	No		287	49	1,397	48	<b>51%</b>	52%	-.01
		Yes, I will start a new job		158	28	898	35			
		Yes, I will continue in my current job		133	23	435	16			
		Total		578	100	2,730	100			
		<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")</i>								
<b>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?</b>										
	FYSsr02	1	Very little	56	7	307	7	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	.05
		2	Some	201	23	1,138	25			
		3	Quite a bit	353	39	1,840	39			
		4	Very much	282	31	1,387	29			
		Total		892	100	4,672	100			
<b>3. Do you intend to work eventually in a field related to your major(s)?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSsr03	Yes		1,133	88	6,368	84	<b>88%</b>	84% ***	.10
		No		57	5	395	6			
		Unsure		101	8	739	10			
		Total		1,291	100	7,502	100			
		<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")</i>								
<b>4. Do you plan to be self-employed, an independent contractor, or a freelance worker someday?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSsr04	Yes		248	20	1,315	18	<b>20%</b>	18% *	.07
		No		714	52	4,071	54			
		Unsure		332	27	2,122	28			
		Total		1,294	100	7,508	100			
		<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")</i>								

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



## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				WSU		WSU FY & Sr		WSU	WSU FY & Sr	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>5. Do you plan to start your own business (nonprofit or for-profit) someday?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSsr05		Yes	289	24	1,539	21	<b>24%</b>	21% *	.07
		(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	No	626	46	3,643	48			
			Unsure	378	31	2,332	31			
			Total	1,293	100	7,514	100			
<b>6. How much confidence do you have in your ability to complete tasks requiring the following skills and abilities?</b>										
a. Critical thinking and analysis of arguments and information	FYSsr06a		1 Very little	8	1	36	1	<b>3.5</b>	3.5	-.02
			2 Some	78	6	503	7			
			3 Quite a bit	514	39	2,806	36			
			4 Very much	692	55	4,154	57			
			Total	1,292	100	7,499	100			
b. Creative thinking and problem solving	FYSsr06b		1 Very little	11	1	50	1	<b>3.5</b>	3.5	.04
			2 Some	87	6	532	7			
			3 Quite a bit	454	35	2,758	36			
			4 Very much	738	58	4,161	56			
			Total	1,290	100	7,501	100			
c. Research skills	FYSsr06c		1 Very little	24	2	151	2	<b>3.3</b>	3.2 **	.09
			2 Some	199	16	1,350	18			
			3 Quite a bit	503	39	2,971	40			
			4 Very much	566	44	3,031	40			
			Total	1,292	100	7,503	100			
d. Clear writing	FYSsr06d		1 Very little	14	1	90	1	<b>3.3</b>	3.3	.04
			2 Some	137	11	964	13			
			3 Quite a bit	535	42	3,014	40			
			4 Very much	606	46	3,429	46			
			Total	1,292	100	7,497	100			
e. Persuasive speaking	FYSsr06e		1 Very little	64	5	303	4	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	.01
			2 Some	315	24	1,977	27			
			3 Quite a bit	485	38	2,860	37			
			4 Very much	427	33	2,357	33			
			Total	1,291	100	7,497	100			
f. Technological skills	FYSsr06f		1 Very little	35	3	257	3	<b>3.1</b>	3.1	.04
			2 Some	291	21	1,684	22			
			3 Quite a bit	520	40	3,056	40			
			4 Very much	444	37	2,505	35			
			Total	1,290	100	7,502	100			
g. Financial and business management skills	FYSsr06g		1 Very little	210	15	1,344	17	<b>2.5</b>	2.5	.02
			2 Some	496	38	2,802	37			
			3 Quite a bit	375	29	2,066	27			
			4 Very much	210	17	1,286	18			
			Total	1,291	100	7,498	100			

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				WSU		WSU FY & Sr		WSU	WSU FY & Sr	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
h. Entrepreneurial skills	FYSsr06h	1	Very little	373	28	1,986	26	<b>2.2</b>	2.2	-.04
		2	Some	493	38	2,881	39			
		3	Quite a bit	269	21	1,663	22			
		4	Very much	154	13	973	13			
		Total		1,289	100	7,503	100			
i. Leadership skills	FYSsr06i	1	Very little	55	4	214	3	<b>3.2</b>	3.2	-.03
		2	Some	207	16	1,308	18			
		3	Quite a bit	479	37	2,686	36			
		4	Very much	550	42	3,293	44			
		Total		1,291	100	7,501	100			
j. Networking and relationship building	FYSsr06j	1	Very little	77	6	416	6	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	.01
		2	Some	292	23	1,809	25			
		3	Quite a bit	485	38	2,769	36			
		4	Very much	435	33	2,504	33			
		Total		1,289	100	7,498	100			
<b>7. To what extent has your coursework in your major(s) emphasized the following?</b>										
a. Generating new ideas or brainstorming	FYSsr07a	1	Very little	45	4	329	5	<b>3.0</b>	3.0 *	.07
		2	Some	271	21	1,698	23			
		3	Quite a bit	542	42	3,026	40			
		4	Very much	432	33	2,436	32			
		Total		1,290	100	7,489	100			
b. Taking risks in your coursework without fear of penalty	FYSsr07b	1	Very little	345	27	2,148	30	<b>2.4</b>	2.3 **	.09
		2	Some	373	28	2,364	31			
		3	Quite a bit	346	27	1,725	23			
		4	Very much	223	17	1,248	16			
		Total		1,287	100	7,485	100			
c. Evaluating multiple approaches to a problem	FYSsr07c	1	Very little	66	5	376	6	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	.04
		2	Some	292	23	1,775	24			
		3	Quite a bit	507	39	2,940	39			
		4	Very much	417	33	2,384	32			
		Total		1,282	100	7,475	100			
d. Inventing new methods to arrive at unconventional solutions	FYSsr07d	1	Very little	177	14	1,030	15	<b>2.6</b>	2.6	.02
		2	Some	421	33	2,426	32			
		3	Quite a bit	406	31	2,360	31			
		4	Very much	271	22	1,630	22			
		Total		1,275	100	7,446	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 495 seniors. Responses are provided in your "NSSE19 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.*

\*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 <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
		WSU	WSU FY & Sr	WSU	WSU FY & Sr	WSU	WSU FY & Sr			
FYSsr01b <sup>k</sup>	573	.512	.515	.0209	.0082	--	--	--	.888	-.01
FYSsr02	870	2.95	2.90	.031	.011	0.90	0.90	7,170	.163	.05
FYSsr03 <sup>k</sup>	1290	.876	.840	.0092	.0036	--	--	--	.001	.10
FYSsr04 <sup>k</sup>	1293	.204	.177	.0112	.0037	--	--	--	.021	.07
FYSsr05 <sup>k</sup>	1292	.236	.208	.0118	.0039	--	--	--	.020	.07
FYSsr06a	1,291	3.48	3.49	.018	.006	0.63	0.64	11,860	.597	-.02
FYSsr06b	1,289	3.49	3.47	.018	.006	0.66	0.67	11,863	.175	.04
FYSsr06c	1,291	3.25	3.18	.022	.008	0.78	0.80	11,863	.002	.09
FYSsr06d	1,291	3.33	3.30	.020	.007	0.71	0.74	1,651	.124	.04
FYSsr06e	1,291	2.99	2.98	.025	.008	0.88	0.87	11,852	.687	.01
FYSsr06f	1,290	3.11	3.07	.023	.008	0.82	0.83	11,866	.150	.04
FYSsr06g	1,290	2.48	2.46	.026	.009	0.95	0.98	11,856	.501	.02
FYSsr06h	1,289	2.19	2.22	.027	.010	0.98	0.98	11,864	.180	-.04
FYSsr06i	1,290	3.18	3.20	.024	.008	0.85	0.83	11,855	.373	-.03
FYSsr06j	1,289	2.97	2.96	.025	.009	0.90	0.90	11,855	.669	.01
FYSsr07a	1,290	3.05	2.98	.023	.008	0.83	0.86	11,839	.011	.07
FYSsr07b	1,286	2.35	2.26	.029	.010	1.06	1.05	11,840	.002	.09
FYSsr07c	1,281	3.00	2.96	.024	.009	0.87	0.88	11,815	.218	.04
FYSsr07d	1,275	2.61	2.59	.027	.010	0.98	0.99	11,766	.575	.02

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## 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."

### **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.