


7-15-2016

# NSSE16 Topical Module - Civic Engagement (UNO)

National Survey of Student Engagement

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/oienesse>

 Part of the [Educational Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Commons](#), and the [Higher Education Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

National Survey of Student Engagement, "NSSE16 Topical Module - Civic Engagement (UNO)" (2016). NSSE. 14.  
<https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/oienesse/14>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Surveys and Assessment at DigitalCommons@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in NSSE by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UNO. For more information, please contact [unodigitalcommons@unomaha.edu](mailto:unodigitalcommons@unomaha.edu).



---

# **NSSE 2016 Topical Module Report**

## **Civic Engagement**

University of Nebraska at Omaha

---

This page intentionally left blank.

## 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	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

## Civic Engagement (N=84)

Auburn University (Auburn University, AL)	Manhattan College (Bronx, NY)
Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, TN)	Marshall University (Huntington, WV)
Bard College (Annandale-On-Hudson, NY)	Marygrove College (Detroit, MI)*
Bemidji State University (Bemidji, MN)*	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (North Adams, MA)*
Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, OH)	Mercer University (Macon, GA)
Central Connecticut State University (New Britain, CT)*	Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry, NY)
Clafflin University (Orangeburg, SC)	Mercyhurst University (Erie, PA)
Clayton State University (Morrow, GA)	Metropolitan State University of Denver (Denver, CO)*
Cleveland State University (Cleveland, OH)*	Midwestern State University (Wichita Falls, TX)
Colby-Sawyer College (New London, NH)*	Montana State University Billings (Billings, MT)
Coleman University (San Diego, CA)	Mount Aloysius College (Cresson, PA)
College of Wooster, The (Wooster, OH)*	Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago, IL)
DePaul University (Chicago, IL)*	Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, AZ)*
Dominican University (River Forest, IL)	Olivet College (Olivet, MI)
Dominican University of California (San Rafael, CA)	Pennsylvania College of Technology (Williamsport, PA)*
Earlham College (Richmond, IN)*	Pittsburg State University (Pittsburg, KS)*
Framingham State University (Framingham, MA)	Pitzer College (Claremont, CA)
Geneva College (Beaver Falls, PA)	Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX)*
George Mason University (Fairfax, VA)*	Presbyterian College (Clinton, SC)
Governors State University (University Park, IL)	Ramapo College of New Jersey (Mahwah, NJ)
Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI)	Rhode Island College (Providence, RI)*
Hiram College (Hiram, OH)*	Roosevelt University (Chicago, IL)*
Kean University (Union, NJ)*	Rutgers University-Camden (Camden, NJ)*
Keene State College (Keene, NH)	Salem State University (Salem, MA)
LaGrange College (Lagrange, GA)	Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, TX)
Lindenwood University (Saint Charles, MO)*	San Diego State University (San Diego, CA)*
Long Island University - Brooklyn (Brooklyn, NY)*	Stockton University (Galloway, NJ)
Long Island University - Post (Brookville, NY)*	Sul Ross State University (Alpine, TX)
Loyola University New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)*	Temple University (Philadelphia, PA)
Lycoming College (Williamsport, PA)	Texas A&M University - Texarkana (Texarkana, TX)

## Civic Engagement (N=84), continued

---

Tulane University of Louisiana (New Orleans, LA)\*  
University of Alaska Anchorage (Anchorage, AK)  
University of Houston-Downtown (Houston, TX)  
University of Houston-Victoria (Victoria, TX)\*  
University of La Verne (La Verne, CA)\*  
University of Maine at Presque Isle (Presque Isle, ME)  
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 Texas (Denton, TX)  
University of Pikeville (Pikeville, KY)  
University of San Diego (San Diego, CA)\*  
University of South Carolina Upstate (Spartanburg, SC)  
Utah Valley University (Orem, UT)  
Valley City State University (Valley City, ND)\*  
Virginia Wesleyan College (Norfolk, VA)  
Wabash College (Crawfordsville, IN)  
Weber State University (Ogden, UT)  
Western Carolina University (Cullowhee, NC)\*  
Westfield State University (Westfield, MA)  
Wichita State University (Wichita, KS)\*  
William Paterson University of New Jersey (Wayne, NJ)  
Wingate University (Wingate, NC)  
Wright State University (Dayton, OH)\*

\*2015 participant

## 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>		
				UNO		Civic Engagement		UNO	Civic Engagement	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>1. Select the response that best represents your ability to do the following:</b>										
a. Help people resolve their disagreements with each other	CIV01a	1	Poor	8	2	228	2	<b>4.9</b>	5.1 *	-0.12
		2		12	3	361	2			
		3		33	8	1,075	7			
		4		100	25	3,234	19			
		5		126	29	5,234	31			
		6		87	21	4,049	25			
		7	Excellent	53	13	2,343	14			
	Total		419	100	16,524	100				
b. Resolve conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIV01b	1	Poor	8	2	286	2	<b>4.7</b>	4.8 *	-0.11
		2		20	5	492	3			
		3		44	11	1,527	9			
		4		109	25	4,007	24			
		5		118	30	4,928	29			
		6		73	17	3,377	21			
	7	Excellent	41	11	1,865	11				
Total		413	100	16,482	100					
c. Lead a group where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIV01c	1	Poor	16	4	391	3	<b>4.9</b>	5.1 *	-0.10
		2		12	3	523	3			
		3		39	10	1,294	8			
		4		79	18	3,071	19			
		5		114	27	4,268	26			
		6		95	23	4,022	24			
	7	Excellent	63	15	2,900	18				
Total		418	100	16,469	100					
d. Contribute to the well-being of your community	CIV01d	1	Poor	9	2	249	2	<b>5.0</b>	5.2 *	-0.11
		2		9	2	374	3			
		3		25	6	1,029	7			
		4		97	23	2,862	18			
		5		122	30	4,548	27			
		6		86	21	4,360	26			
	7	Excellent	67	16	3,001	18				
Total		415	100	16,423	100					
<b>2. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?</b>										
a. Informed yourself about local or campus issues	CIV02a	1	Never	47	12	1,431	10	<b>2.4</b>	2.5 **	-0.14
		2	Sometimes	219	51	7,420	45			
		3	Often	111	28	5,474	32			
		4	Very often	40	10	2,167	13			
	Total		417	100	16,492	100				
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIV02b	1	Never	29	6	1,087	7	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	.04
		2	Sometimes	167	38	6,450	38			
		3	Often	136	34	5,703	35			
		4	Very often	85	22	3,231	21			
	Total		417	100	16,471	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>		
				UNO		Civic Engagement		UNO	Civic Engagement	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
c. Discussed local or campus issues with others	CIV02c	1	Never	65	15	2,038	14	<b>2.4</b>	2.4	-.05
		2	Sometimes	188	44	7,037	43			
		3	Often	121	30	5,214	30			
		4	Very often	42	11	2,176	12			
		Total		416	100	16,465	100			
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIV02d	1	Never	41	9	1,741	11	<b>2.6</b>	2.5 *	.10
		2	Sometimes	171	40	6,766	41			
		3	Often	126	31	5,165	31			
		4	Very often	77	21	2,759	17			
		Total		415	100	16,431	100			
e. Raised awareness about local or campus issues	CIV02e	1	Never	194	45	7,052	45	<b>1.8</b>	1.8	-.02
		2	Sometimes	144	35	6,072	36			
		3	Often	60	16	2,345	13			
		4	Very often	17	4	984	6			
		Total		415	100	16,453	100			
f. Raised awareness about state, national, or global issues	CIV02f	1	Never	188	43	6,591	41	<b>1.9</b>	1.9	-.01
		2	Sometimes	132	32	6,059	36			
		3	Often	66	16	2,620	16			
		4	Very often	30	8	1,167	7			
		Total		416	100	16,437	100			
g. Asked others to address local or campus issues	CIV02g	1	Never	232	55	8,151	51	<b>1.6</b>	1.7	-.10
		2	Sometimes	126	31	5,214	31			
		3	Often	44	10	2,233	13			
		4	Very often	15	4	844	5			
		Total		417	100	16,442	100			
h. Asked others to address state, national, or global issues	CIV02h	1	Never	231	53	8,185	51	<b>1.7</b>	1.7	-.02
		2	Sometimes	111	27	5,061	30			
		3	Often	50	13	2,210	13			
		4	Very often	24	6	934	6			
		Total		416	100	16,390	100			
i. Organized others to work on local or campus issues	CIV02i	1	Never	281	67	10,477	65	<b>1.5</b>	1.5	-.06
		2	Sometimes	95	22	3,675	22			
		3	Often	27	7	1,620	9			
		4	Very often	14	4	642	4			
		Total		417	100	16,414	100			
j. Organized others to work on state, national, or global issues	CIV02j	1	Never	296	71	10,736	67	<b>1.4</b>	1.5	-.06
		2	Sometimes	78	19	3,511	21			
		3	Often	26	6	1,435	8			
		4	Very often	15	4	588	4			
		Total		415	100	16,270	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 145 first-year students and 91 seniors. Responses are provided in your "NSSE16 Topical Module - Civic Engagement 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

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UNO		Civic Engagement		UNO	Civic Engagement	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>1. Select the response that best represents your ability to do the following:</b>										
a. Help people resolve their disagreements with each other	CIV01a	1	Poor	2	1	251	1	<b>5.3</b>	5.3	.00
		2		2	1	364	1			
		3		16	5	1,183	5			
		4		44	14	3,702	15			
		5		110	35	7,823	30			
		6		86	28	7,427	29			
		7	Excellent	52	17	4,587	18			
	Total			312	100	25,337	100			
b. Resolve conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIV01b	1	Poor	5	2	333	1	<b>5.1</b>	5.1	.01
		2		5	2	638	3			
		3		19	6	1,765	7			
		4		57	18	4,956	19			
		5		111	35	7,677	30			
		6		75	25	6,171	24			
		7	Excellent	40	13	3,718	15			
	Total			312	100	25,258	100			
c. Lead a group where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIV01c	1	Poor	4	1	324	1	<b>5.4</b>	5.5	-.03
		2		3	1	471	2			
		3		15	5	1,164	5			
		4		41	13	3,410	13			
		5		90	28	5,958	23			
		6		88	28	7,386	29			
		7	Excellent	71	23	6,535	26			
	Total			312	100	25,248	100			
d. Contribute to the well-being of your community	CIV01d	1	Poor	2	1	271	1	<b>5.5</b>	5.5	-.01
		2		1	0	410	2			
		3		15	5	1,052	4			
		4		44	14	3,483	14			
		5		93	29	6,051	24			
		6		91	29	7,668	30			
		7	Excellent	66	22	6,241	25			
	Total			312	100	25,176	100			
<b>2. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?</b>										
a. Informed yourself about local or campus issues	CIV02a	1	Never	45	15	2,757	12	<b>2.4</b>	2.5	-.06
		2	Sometimes	133	42	10,945	43			
		3	Often	87	28	7,509	29			
		4	Very often	47	15	4,093	16			
			Total			312	100			
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIV02b	1	Never	18	6	1,149	5	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	.04
		2	Sometimes	91	28	7,913	30			
		3	Often	102	33	8,982	35			
		4	Very often	102	33	7,207	30			
			Total			313	100			



## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UNO		Civic Engagement		UNO	Civic Engagement	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
c. Discussed local or campus issues with others	CIV02c	1	Never	55	17	3,471	15	<b>2.4</b>	2.4	.00
		2	Sometimes	121	39	10,637	43			
		3	Often	88	28	7,203	27			
		4	Very often	49	16	3,934	15			
		Total		313	100	25,245	100			
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIV02d	1	Never	25	8	1,953	8	<b>2.8</b>	2.7	.05
		2	Sometimes	98	31	9,089	35			
		3	Often	113	36	8,389	33			
		4	Very often	75	25	5,810	24			
		Total		311	100	25,241	100			
e. Raised awareness about local or campus issues	CIV02e	1	Never	133	42	10,425	43	<b>1.9</b>	1.9	-.01
		2	Sometimes	116	37	9,067	35			
		3	Often	43	14	3,729	14			
		4	Very often	21	7	2,028	8			
		Total		313	100	25,249	100			
f. Raised awareness about state, national, or global issues	CIV02f	1	Never	104	33	8,838	36	<b>2.1</b>	2.0	.06
		2	Sometimes	117	37	9,322	36			
		3	Often	53	17	4,503	18			
		4	Very often	38	12	2,573	10			
		Total		312	100	25,236	100			
g. Asked others to address local or campus issues	CIV02g	1	Never	166	53	12,586	52	<b>1.7</b>	1.7	-.02
		2	Sometimes	95	30	7,835	30			
		3	Often	33	11	3,161	12			
		4	Very often	19	6	1,651	6			
		Total		313	100	25,233	100			
h. Asked others to address state, national, or global issues	CIV02h	1	Never	152	48	12,108	49	<b>1.8</b>	1.8	.06
		2	Sometimes	87	28	7,797	30			
		3	Often	45	15	3,433	13			
		4	Very often	27	9	1,834	7			
		Total		311	100	25,172	100			
i. Organized others to work on local or campus issues	CIV02i	1	Never	204	65	15,869	65	<b>1.5</b>	1.5	-.01
		2	Sometimes	66	21	5,565	21			
		3	Often	30	10	2,394	9			
		4	Very often	13	4	1,354	5			
		Total		313	100	25,182	100			
j. Organized others to work on state, national, or global issues	CIV02j	1	Never	205	65	16,241	67	<b>1.5</b>	1.5	.03
		2	Sometimes	63	21	5,301	20			
		3	Often	26	9	2,214	8			
		4	Very often	17	5	1,218	5			
		Total		311	100	24,974	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 145 first-year students and 91 seniors. Responses are provided in your "NSSE16 Topical Module - Civic Engagement 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.

## 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>
	UNO	UNO	Civic Engagement	UNO	Civic Engagement	UNO	Civic Engagement			
										<i>Comparisons with: Civic Engagement</i>
CIV01a	417	4.92	5.08	.07	.01	1.35	1.32	18,441	.015	-.12
CIV01b	410	4.69	4.84	.07	.01	1.39	1.36	18,372	.026	-.11
CIV01c	416	4.90	5.05	.07	.01	1.52	1.47	18,363	.037	-.10
CIV01d	413	5.02	5.17	.07	.01	1.37	1.38	18,312	.024	-.11
CIV02a	414	2.36	2.48	.04	.01	0.82	0.84	18,404	.006	-.14
CIV02b	414	2.72	2.69	.04	.01	0.88	0.87	18,374	.481	.04
CIV02c	413	2.37	2.41	.04	.01	0.87	0.87	18,372	.277	-.05
CIV02d	413	2.63	2.54	.04	.01	0.91	0.90	18,334	.036	.10
CIV02e	412	1.78	1.80	.04	.01	0.86	0.88	18,346	.705	-.02
CIV02f	413	1.89	1.89	.05	.01	0.95	0.92	18,336	.912	-.01
CIV02g	414	1.63	1.71	.04	.01	0.82	0.87	18,346	.054	-.10
CIV02h	413	1.72	1.74	.05	.01	0.92	0.89	18,275	.724	-.02
CIV02i	414	1.47	1.52	.04	.01	0.78	0.82	434	.186	-.06
CIV02j	412	1.44	1.49	.04	.01	0.79	0.80	18,164	.193	-.06

## 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>
	UNO	UNO	Civic Engagement	UNO	Civic Engagement	UNO	Civic Engagement			
									<i>Comparisons with:</i>	
									Civic Engagement	
CIV01a	311	5.33	5.33	.07	.01	1.17	1.25	31,636	.982	.00
CIV01b	311	5.10	5.08	.07	.01	1.26	1.33	31,548	.797	.01
CIV01c	311	5.44	5.48	.07	.01	1.29	1.36	31,534	.583	-.03
CIV01d	311	5.46	5.46	.07	.01	1.19	1.32	318	.912	-.01
CIV02a	311	2.44	2.49	.05	.01	0.92	0.90	31,592	.285	-.06
CIV02b	312	2.94	2.91	.05	.00	0.92	0.88	31,524	.536	.04
CIV02c	312	2.42	2.42	.05	.01	0.95	0.92	31,526	.943	.00
CIV02d	310	2.77	2.73	.05	.01	0.91	0.91	31,518	.352	.05
CIV02e	312	1.85	1.87	.05	.01	0.90	0.93	31,534	.795	-.01
CIV02f	311	2.09	2.03	.06	.01	1.00	0.97	31,512	.268	.06
CIV02g	312	1.70	1.72	.05	.01	0.89	0.90	31,498	.680	-.02
CIV02h	310	1.84	1.78	.06	.01	0.98	0.93	31,447	.289	.06
CIV02i	312	1.53	1.54	.05	.00	0.84	0.85	31,453	.906	-.01
CIV02j	310	1.54	1.51	.05	.00	0.86	0.84	31,192	.563	.03

---

## 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.