### Topical Modules

Topical Modules are short sets of questions on current topics in higher education and student engagement. Participating institutions can append one module to the core survey at no charge and a second for an additional fee. Topical Modules offered in 2015 are listed below. Question sets with a companion NSSE module are shown with an asterisk (*).

#### Academic Advising*

This module examines the quality of academic advising and the extent to which advisors have assisted students in their academic progress. The module complements a question on the core FSSE survey about perceptions of the quality of student interactions with academic advisors. Pages from a sample report are shown below.

#### Civic Engagement*

Adapted from a project of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, this module asks faculty to assess institutional emphasis on conflict resolution skills and examines how often students are encouraged to engage with local/campus and state/national/global issues. The module complements questions on the core FSSE survey about the importance of service-learning, perceptions of student participation in community service or volunteer work, and course emphasis on becoming an informed and active citizen.

#### Development of Transferable Skills*

Adapted from a project of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, this module examines student engagement in activities that develop useful and transferable skills for the workplace. The module complements questions on the core FSSE survey about course emphasis on higher-order learning, the importance of reflective and integrative learning, and course emphasis on student development in a variety of areas.

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**FSSE 2015 Academic Advising Topical Module
NSSEville State University**

To better meet the needs of their diverse stakeholders, institutions participating in FSSE can customize their surveys by appending Topical Modules and/or consortium items to the core survey.
Experiences with Diverse Perspectives*

This module examines opportunities for students to engage in activities that promote greater understanding of societal differences. The module complements questions on the core FSSE survey about students’ experiences with people from different backgrounds, the importance of diverse perspectives in course discussions and assignments, and the importance of encouraging contact among students from different backgrounds.

Learning with Technology*

Developed in partnership with EDUCAUSE, these questions examine the role of technology in student learning, focusing on student use of technology, the extent to which institutional support is valued, and communication. The module complements questions on the core FSSE survey about emphasis on learning with peers, perceptions of students’ interactions with others, and the importance of technology in academic support.

Experiences with Writing*

This module is a result of NSSE’s ongoing collaboration with the Council of Writing Program Administrators. The questions touch on three aspects of good writing assignments: interactivity, meaning-making, and clarity. The module complements questions on the core survey about how much writing students are assigned, the nature of course assignments, and emphasis on developing written expression.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

This module asks about both institution-supported and faculty-driven assessment efforts such as surveys and other tools (e.g., portfolios) that are used to gather information about student educational experiences and learning. The module complements questions on the core FSSE survey on how faculty spend their time and on the extent to which they use effective teaching practices.

Teaching Professional Development

This module asks about aspects of professional development for teaching such as how important it is for faculty to receive assistance in various areas and how often they participate in professional development activities and practices. The module complements questions on the core FSSE survey asking how much time faculty spend working to improve their teaching and the extent to which they display effective teaching practices.

To view the Topical Modules in their entirety, visit fsse.indiana.edu/html/topicalmodules.cfm

Additional Topical Modules may be developed and introduced over time. If you have suggestions for modules, please contact us via email (fsse@indiana.edu) or phone (812-856-5824).

Consortium Participation

Institutions participating in a NSSE consortium have the opportunity to administer consortium items, additional questions appended to the core survey instrument, along with their FSSE administration. Consortia typically form around a shared institutional mission, institution type, or statewide system commonality. Including such items with a FSSE administration provides additional, customized context for faculty responses about the student experience.

2015 Participating Consortia

- Catholic Colleges and Universities
- Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
- Mission Engagement Consortium for Independent Colleges

For more information or to view a complete list of historical consortium participation in NSSE, visit nsse.indiana.edu/html/consortia.cfm