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# **NSSE 2015 Topical Module**

## **Experiences with Diverse Perspectives**

Washington State University

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## About This Topical Module

This module examines activities that promote greater understanding of societal differences. The module complements questions on the core survey about experiences with people from different backgrounds, diverse perspectives in course discussions and assignments, and the extent to which institutions encourage contact among students from different backgrounds. 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 'Diverse Perspectives' column of this report.

Group label	Diverse Perspectives
Date submitted	6/11/15
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this comparison group by selecting institutions from all module participants.
Group description	RU-VH schools + Rutgers U Newark to make six schools

## Diverse Perspectives (N=6)

Rutgers University-Newark (Newark, NJ)  
 University of Hawai'i at Manoa (Honolulu, HI)  
 University of Missouri-Columbia (Columbia, MO)  
 University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, WI)\*  
 Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, VA)\*  
 Wayne State University (Detroit, MI)

### 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		Diverse Perspectives		WSU	Diverse Perspectives	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>1. During the current school year, to what extent have events or activities offered at your institution emphasized perspectives on societal differences (economic, ethnic, political, religious, etc.)?</b>										
	DIV01	1	Very little	41	12	352	11	<b>2.6</b>	2.6	-.05
		2	Some	117	35	1,119	35			
		3	Quite a bit	132	39	1,151	36			
		4	Very much	44	14	551	18			
		Total		334	100	3,173	100			
<b>2. During the current school year, about how often have you attended events or activities that encouraged you to examine your understanding of the following?</b>										
a. Economic or social inequality	DIV02a	1	Never	142	43	1,652	50	<b>1.8</b>	1.7	.06
		2	Sometimes	141	40	993	31			
		3	Often	40	13	412	14			
		4	Very often	11	4	151	5			
		Total		334	100	3,208	100			
b. Issues of race, ethnicity, or nationality	DIV02b	1	Never	123	38	1,540	47	<b>1.9</b>	1.8 **	.15 ▲
		2	Sometimes	131	38	1,043	33			
		3	Often	60	18	445	14			
		4	Very often	17	6	176	6			
		Total		331	100	3,204	100			
c. Religious or philosophical differences	DIV02c	1	Never	176	52	1,737	54	<b>1.6</b>	1.7	-.04
		2	Sometimes	120	36	950	30			
		3	Often	27	8	359	12			
		4	Very often	10	4	151	5			
		Total		333	100	3,197	100			
d. Different political viewpoints	DIV02d	1	Never	193	57	1,859	57	<b>1.6</b>	1.6	-.03
		2	Sometimes	99	30	867	28			
		3	Often	33	11	343	11			
		4	Very often	8	3	124	4			
		Total		333	100	3,193	100			
e. Issues of gender or sexual orientation	DIV02e	1	Never	169	51	1,766	55	<b>1.6</b>	1.7	-.01
		2	Sometimes	113	34	923	29			
		3	Often	40	13	343	11			
		4	Very often	5	2	154	5			
		Total		327	100	3,186	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for a key to the 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		Diverse Perspectives		WSU	Diverse Perspectives	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>3. During the current school year, about how often have you had discussions about the following?</b>										
a. Economic or social inequality	DIV03a	1	Never	42	11	434	14	<b>2.4</b>	2.5	-.09
		2	Sometimes	156	47	1,285	39			
		3	Often	96	30	956	30			
		4	Very often	38	12	533	17			
		Total		332	100	3,208	100			
b. Issues of race, ethnicity, or nationality	DIV03b	1	Never	31	9	397	12	<b>2.6</b>	2.6	.00
		2	Sometimes	138	41	1,213	38			
		3	Often	109	33	997	31			
		4	Very often	54	16	597	19			
		Total		332	100	3,204	100			
c. Religious or philosophical differences	DIV03c	1	Never	67	20	557	18	<b>2.3</b>	2.4	-.11
		2	Sometimes	135	40	1,275	39			
		3	Often	97	30	864	27			
		4	Very often	33	10	503	16			
		Total		332	100	3,199	100			
d. Different political viewpoints	DIV03d	1	Never	86	24	649	19	<b>2.2</b>	2.4 *	-.15 ▽
		2	Sometimes	131	40	1,282	40			
		3	Often	83	25	813	26			
		4	Very often	31	10	456	15			
		Total		331	100	3,200	100			
e. Issues of gender or sexual orientation	DIV03e	1	Never	75	23	702	22	<b>2.2</b>	2.3	-.09
		2	Sometimes	141	43	1,279	40			
		3	Often	80	24	722	22			
		4	Very often	34	10	491	15			
		Total		330	100	3,194	100			

\*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 <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				WSU		Diverse Perspectives		WSU	Diverse Perspectives	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>1. During the current school year, to what extent have events or activities offered at your institution emphasized perspectives on societal differences (economic, ethnic, political, religious, etc.)?</b>										
	DIV01	1	Very little	105	14	833	14	<b>2.5</b>	2.5	.00
		2	Some	279	38	2,305	39			
		3	Quite a bit	260	35	1,932	32			
		4	Very much	101	13	882	15			
		Total		745	100	5,952	100			
<b>2. During the current school year, about how often have you attended events or activities that encouraged you to examine your understanding of the following?</b>										
a. Economic or social inequality	DIV02a	1	Never	389	52	3,147	52	<b>1.7</b>	1.7	-.04
		2	Sometimes	249	33	1,847	31			
		3	Often	85	12	677	12			
		4	Very often	27	3	313	5			
		Total		750	100	5,984	100			
b. Issues of race, ethnicity, or nationality	DIV02b	1	Never	400	54	3,063	51	<b>1.6</b>	1.7 *	-.09 ▽
		2	Sometimes	230	31	1,841	31			
		3	Often	88	12	704	12			
		4	Very often	27	4	360	6			
		Total		745	100	5,968	100			
c. Religious or philosophical differences	DIV02c	1	Never	484	64	3,505	58	<b>1.5</b>	1.6 ***	-.15 ▽
		2	Sometimes	185	25	1,626	28			
		3	Often	63	9	559	10			
		4	Very often	16	2	279	5			
		Total		748	100	5,969	100			
d. Different political viewpoints	DIV02d	1	Never	466	62	3,438	57	<b>1.5</b>	1.6 *	-.08 ▽
		2	Sometimes	182	25	1,692	29			
		3	Often	75	10	560	10			
		4	Very often	23	3	258	4			
		Total		746	100	5,948	100			
e. Issues of gender or sexual orientation	DIV02e	1	Never	440	59	3,542	60	<b>1.6</b>	1.6	-.03
		2	Sometimes	208	28	1,531	26			
		3	Often	78	11	574	10			
		4	Very often	21	3	298	5			
		Total		747	100	5,945	100			

\*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 <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				WSU		Diverse Perspectives		WSU	Diverse Perspectives	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>3. During the current school year, about how often have you had discussions about the following?</b>										
a. Economic or social inequality	DIV03a	1	Never	96	13	850	14	<b>2.5</b>	2.6	-.03
		2	Sometimes	292	41	2,158	37			
		3	Often	203	27	1,686	28			
		4	Very often	154	19	1,291	21			
		Total		745	100	5,985	100			
b. Issues of race, ethnicity, or nationality	DIV03b	1	Never	109	15	888	15	<b>2.5</b>	2.6	-.04
		2	Sometimes	271	38	2,069	35			
		3	Often	200	27	1,684	28			
		4	Very often	165	20	1,332	22			
		Total		745	100	5,973	100			
c. Religious or philosophical differences	DIV03c	1	Never	150	21	1,211	20	<b>2.3</b>	2.4 *	-.09
		2	Sometimes	325	44	2,292	38			
		3	Often	157	21	1,385	23			
		4	Very often	114	15	1,078	18			
		Total		746	100	5,966	100			
d. Different political viewpoints	DIV03d	1	Never	144	19	1,224	20	<b>2.3</b>	2.4	-.04
		2	Sometimes	305	42	2,284	38			
		3	Often	182	25	1,400	24			
		4	Very often	112	15	1,046	18			
		Total		743	100	5,954	100			
e. Issues of gender or sexual orientation	DIV03e	1	Never	160	22	1,413	24	<b>2.3</b>	2.3	.00
		2	Sometimes	292	40	2,202	38			
		3	Often	154	21	1,237	20			
		4	Very often	131	17	1,096	18			
		Total		737	100	5,948	100			

\*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 <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
	WSU	WSU	Diverse Perspectives	WSU	Diverse Perspectives	WSU	Diverse Perspectives			
DIV01	330	2.55	2.60	.05	.02	0.87	0.90	2,293	.382	-.05
DIV02a	330	1.78	1.73	.04	.02	0.81	0.87	463	.282	.06
DIV02b	327	1.92	1.78	.05	.02	0.89	0.89	2,313	.009	.15
DIV02c	330	1.64	1.67	.04	.02	0.79	0.85	467	.485	-.04
DIV02d	330	1.60	1.62	.04	.02	0.80	0.83	2,310	.663	-.03
DIV02e	325	1.65	1.65	.04	.02	0.77	0.86	467	.891	-.01
DIV03a	328	2.42	2.50	.05	.02	0.84	0.93	469	.093	-.09
DIV03b	328	2.56	2.56	.05	.02	0.87	0.93	460	.973	.00
DIV03c	328	2.31	2.42	.05	.02	0.90	0.96	457	.056	-.11
DIV03d	327	2.21	2.36	.05	.02	0.93	0.96	2,311	.010	-.15
DIV03e	327	2.22	2.30	.05	.02	0.91	0.98	460	.123	-.09



## 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	Diverse Perspectives	WSU	Diverse Perspectives	WSU	Diverse Perspectives			
DIV01	742	2.48	2.48	.03	.01	0.89	0.91	4,881	.916	.00
DIV02a	747	1.67	1.70	.03	.01	0.81	0.87	1,078	.312	-.04
DIV02b	742	1.65	1.73	.03	.01	0.82	0.89	1,081	.013	-.09
DIV02c	745	1.48	1.61	.03	.01	0.74	0.85	1,122	.000	-.15
DIV02d	744	1.55	1.62	.03	.01	0.80	0.84	4,877	.035	-.08
DIV02e	745	1.57	1.60	.03	.01	0.79	0.86	1,081	.393	-.03
DIV03a	742	2.53	2.56	.03	.02	0.95	0.97	4,905	.391	-.03
DIV03b	742	2.53	2.56	.04	.02	0.98	0.99	4,896	.378	-.04
DIV03c	743	2.30	2.39	.04	.02	0.96	1.00	1,052	.022	-.09
DIV03d	740	2.35	2.38	.03	.02	0.95	1.00	1,053	.351	-.04
DIV03e	733	2.32	2.32	.04	.02	1.00	1.03	4,870	.961	.00

## 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  $d$ .
- 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. 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.

Note: It is important to interpret the direction of differences relative to item wording and your institutional context.