
NSSE 2014 Topical Module
Experiences with Diverse Perspectives
University of Wisconsin-Madison

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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	5/22/14
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this comparison group by selecting institutions from all module participants.
Group description	Diverse Perspectives: Private AAUOE and Public Research Universities (high and very high research activity)

'Diverse Perspectives' institutions (N=10)

Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA)*
 Missouri University of Science & Technology (Rolla, MO)*
 Texas Tech University (Lubbock, TX)*
 The University of New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)
 University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH)*
 University of Idaho (Moscow, ID)
 University of South Dakota (Vermillion, SD)
 University of South Florida (Tampa, FL)*
 University of Vermont (Burlington, VT)
 Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, VA)

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UW-Madison		Diverse Perspectives		UW-Madison	Diverse Perspectives	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
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.)?										
	DIV01	1	Very little	84	9	485	12	2.6	2.6	.05
		2	Some	373	37	1,511	37			
		3	Quite a bit	406	39	1,434	35			
		4	Very much	161	15	699	17			
		Total		1,024	100	4,129	100			
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?										
a. Economic or social inequality	DIV02a	1	Never	507	49	2,189	52	1.7	1.7	.02
		2	Sometimes	366	36	1,298	31			
		3	Often	119	12	484	12			
		4	Very often	36	3	181	4			
		Total		1,028	100	4,152	100			
b. Issues of race, ethnicity, or nationality	DIV02b	1	Never	461	45	2,109	51	1.8	1.7	.07
		2	Sometimes	382	37	1,315	31			
		3	Often	137	13	514	12			
		4	Very often	47	4	214	5			
		Total		1,027	100	4,152	100			
c. Religious or philosophical differences	DIV02c	1	Never	526	51	2,313	55	1.7	1.7	.03
		2	Sometimes	345	34	1,194	29			
		3	Often	106	10	447	11			
		4	Very often	48	5	187	5			
		Total		1,025	100	4,141	100			
d. Different political viewpoints	DIV02d	1	Never	570	55	2,369	56	1.6	1.6	-.01
		2	Sometimes	313	31	1,194	29			
		3	Often	104	11	426	11			
		4	Very often	31	3	156	4			
		Total		1,018	100	4,145	100			
e. Issues of gender or sexual orientation	DIV02e	1	Never	547	54	2,338	58	1.6	1.6	.02
		2	Sometimes	327	32	1,156	27			
		3	Often	110	11	420	10			
		4	Very often	37	4	211	5			
		Total		1,021	100	4,125	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 ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UW-Madison		Diverse Perspectives		UW-Madison	Diverse Perspectives	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
3. During the current school year, about how often have you had discussions about the following?										
a. Economic or social inequality	DIV03a	1	Never	135	13	590	15	2.4	2.4	-.03
		2	Sometimes	470	46	1,684	41			
		3	Often	275	27	1,202	29			
		4	Very often	148	14	677	15			
		Total		1,028	100	4,153	100			
b. Issues of race, ethnicity, or nationality	DIV03b	1	Never	140	14	607	15	2.4	2.5	-.02
		2	Sometimes	426	42	1,595	39			
		3	Often	305	29	1,215	29			
		4	Very often	156	15	732	16			
		Total		1,027	100	4,149	100			
c. Religious or philosophical differences	DIV03c	1	Never	189	18	705	17	2.4	2.4 **	-.09
		2	Sometimes	414	41	1,581	38			
		3	Often	284	28	1,123	28			
		4	Very often	140	13	735	17			
		Total		1,027	100	4,144	100			
d. Different political viewpoints	DIV03d	1	Never	198	19	761	18	2.3	2.4 **	-.09
		2	Sometimes	433	43	1,622	40			
		3	Often	271	27	1,078	26			
		4	Very often	124	12	672	16			
		Total		1,026	100	4,133	100			
e. Issues of gender or sexual orientation	DIV03e	1	Never	242	24	924	24	2.2	2.3 *	-.07
		2	Sometimes	440	43	1,614	40			
		3	Often	213	20	949	22			
		4	Very often	131	12	644	14			
		Total		1,026	100	4,131	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 ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UW-Madison		Diverse Perspectives		UW-Madison	Diverse Perspectives	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
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.)?										
	DIV01	1	Very little	170	11	1,574	19	2.5	2.4 ***	.15
		2	Some	676	42	3,391	39			
		3	Quite a bit	547	33	2,569	29			
		4	Very much	229	14	1,173	13			
		Total		1,622	100	8,707	100			
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?										
a. Economic or social inequality	DIV02a	1	Never	795	49	5,196	59	1.7	1.6 ***	.15
		2	Sometimes	568	35	2,395	27			
		3	Often	189	11	800	9			
		4	Very often	77	5	374	4			
		Total		1,629	100	8,765	100			
b. Issues of race, ethnicity, or nationality	DIV02b	1	Never	764	48	5,171	59	1.7	1.6 ***	.17
		2	Sometimes	578	35	2,345	27			
		3	Often	193	11	808	9			
		4	Very often	88	5	421	5			
		Total		1,623	100	8,745	100			
c. Religious or philosophical differences	DIV02c	1	Never	918	57	5,536	63	1.6	1.5 **	.07
		2	Sometimes	500	30	2,141	24			
		3	Often	147	9	719	8			
		4	Very often	56	4	347	4			
		Total		1,621	100	8,743	100			
d. Different political viewpoints	DIV02d	1	Never	862	53	5,352	61	1.6	1.6 ***	.10
		2	Sometimes	540	33	2,274	26			
		3	Often	165	10	777	9			
		4	Very often	56	3	325	4			
		Total		1,623	100	8,728	100			
e. Issues of gender or sexual orientation	DIV02e	1	Never	918	58	5,749	67	1.6	1.5 ***	.13
		2	Sometimes	474	28	1,934	22			
		3	Often	151	9	658	8			
		4	Very often	74	4	357	4			
		Total		1,617	100	8,698	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 ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UW-Madison		Diverse Perspectives		UW-Madison	Diverse Perspectives	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
3. During the current school year, about how often have you had discussions about the following?										
a. Economic or social inequality	DIV03a	1	Never	129	8	1,537	18	2.7	2.5 ***	.24 △
		2	Sometimes	581	37	3,239	38			
		3	Often	516	31	2,264	26			
		4	Very often	401	24	1,728	19			
		Total		1,627	100	8,768	100			
b. Issues of race, ethnicity, or nationality	DIV03b	1	Never	151	10	1,783	21	2.6	2.4 ***	.26 △
		2	Sometimes	591	38	3,222	37			
		3	Often	493	30	2,091	24			
		4	Very often	387	23	1,656	18			
		Total		1,622	100	8,752	100			
c. Religious or philosophical differences	DIV03c	1	Never	248	16	1,984	23	2.5	2.3 ***	.11 △
		2	Sometimes	667	41	3,265	37			
		3	Often	402	25	1,926	22			
		4	Very often	305	19	1,573	18			
		Total		1,622	100	8,748	100			
d. Different political viewpoints	DIV03d	1	Never	211	13	1,810	21	2.5	2.4 ***	.13 △
		2	Sometimes	645	40	3,301	38			
		3	Often	446	28	2,019	23			
		4	Very often	314	19	1,617	18			
		Total		1,616	100	8,747	100			
e. Issues of gender or sexual orientation	DIV03e	1	Never	274	18	2,481	29	2.4	2.2 ***	.22 △
		2	Sometimes	645	40	3,200	37			
		3	Often	381	23	1,640	18			
		4	Very often	320	19	1,397	15			
		Total		1,620	100	8,718	100			

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UW-Madison	UW-Madison	Diverse Perspectives	UW-Madison	Diverse Perspectives	UW-Madison	Diverse Perspectives	Comparisons with: Diverse Perspectives		
DIV01	1,021	2.61	2.57	.03	.01	0.85	0.90	1,671	.113	.05
DIV02a	1,026	1.70	1.68	.03	.01	0.81	0.85	1,656	.649	.02
DIV02b	1,024	1.77	1.71	.03	.01	0.84	0.87	1,628	.055	.07
DIV02c	1,023	1.68	1.65	.03	.01	0.84	0.86	4,991	.339	.03
DIV02d	1,016	1.62	1.62	.02	.01	0.79	0.82	4,990	.868	-.01
DIV02e	1,019	1.64	1.62	.03	.01	0.81	0.85	4,973	.479	.02
DIV03a	1,026	2.41	2.44	.03	.01	0.89	0.92	1,641	.357	-.03
DIV03b	1,025	2.44	2.46	.03	.01	0.91	0.94	1,635	.582	-.02
DIV03c	1,025	2.36	2.45	.03	.02	0.93	0.97	1,645	.007	-.09
DIV03d	1,023	2.32	2.40	.03	.02	0.91	0.96	1,658	.006	-.09
DIV03e	1,024	2.20	2.27	.03	.02	0.94	0.98	1,638	.029	-.07

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UW-Madison	UW-Madison	Diverse Perspectives	UW-Madison	Diverse Perspectives	UW-Madison	Diverse Perspectives	Comparisons with: Diverse Perspectives		
DIV01	1,616	2.51	2.37	.02	.01	0.86	0.93	2,434	.000	.15
DIV02a	1,624	1.72	1.59	.02	.01	0.84	0.83	9,785	.000	.15
DIV02b	1,618	1.74	1.60	.02	.01	0.86	0.85	9,761	.000	.17
DIV02c	1,616	1.59	1.54	.02	.01	0.80	0.82	9,757	.007	.07
DIV02d	1,618	1.64	1.56	.02	.01	0.80	0.82	9,749	.000	.10
DIV02e	1,612	1.60	1.49	.02	.01	0.83	0.80	2,254	.000	.13
DIV03a	1,622	2.70	2.46	.02	.01	0.92	0.99	2,428	.000	.24
DIV03b	1,618	2.65	2.39	.02	.01	0.94	1.01	2,422	.000	.26
DIV03c	1,616	2.46	2.35	.02	.01	0.97	1.02	2,379	.000	.11
DIV03d	1,612	2.53	2.39	.02	.01	0.95	1.01	2,387	.000	.13
DIV03e	1,615	2.43	2.20	.02	.01	0.99	1.03	9,733	.000	.22

Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by gender 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 gender 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 gender 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 Ns 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.