

2014 NSSE/USF
Alignment with WSCUC
Core Competencies
First Year - Senior Means

NSSE 2014 Items*	First Year		Senior	
	Count	Mean	Count	Mean
WSCUC Core Competency: Critical Thinking				
Connected your learning to societal problems or issues	299	2.77	442	3.05
Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue	299	2.86	442	2.95
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective	299	2.87	442	3.08
Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept	299	2.93	442	3.13
Connected ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge	299	3.12	442	3.33
Coursework emphasized: Applying facts, theories, or methods to practical problems or new situations	299	2.96	442	3.32
Coursework emphasized: Analyzing an idea, experience, or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	299	3.08	442	3.29
Coursework emphasized: Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	299	3.03	442	3.14
Coursework emphasized: Forming a new idea or understanding from various pieces of information	299	2.97	442	3.12
Had discussions with people of a race or ethnicity other than your own	299	3.21	442	3.42
Had discussions with people from an economic background other than your own	299	3.05	442	3.36
Had discussions with people with religious beliefs other than your own	299	3.01	442	3.25
Had discussions with people with political views other than your own	299	2.82	442	3.01
Identified key information from reading assignments	299	3.22	442	3.41
Perceived gains: Thinking critically and analytically	299	3.11	442	3.40
WSCUC Core Competency: Oral Communication				
Asked questions or contributed to course discussions in other ways	299	2.90	442	3.16
Gave a course presentation	299	2.61	442	2.95
Discussed course topics, ideas, or concepts with a faculty member outside of class	299	2.12	442	2.38
Had discussions with people of a race or ethnicity other than your own	299	3.21	442	3.42
Had discussions with people from an economic background other than your own	299	3.05	442	3.36
Had discussions with people with religious beliefs other than your own	299	3.01	442	3.25
Had discussions with people with political views other than your own	299	2.82	442	3.01
Perceived gains: Speaking clearly and effectively	299	2.99	442	3.12

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WSCUC Core Competency: Quantitative Reasoning				
Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information (numbers, graphs, statistics, etc.)	299	2.56	442	2.65
Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)	299	2.41	442	2.46
Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information	299	2.36	442	2.55
Perceived gains: Analyzing numerical and statistical information	299	2.57	442	2.83
WSCUC Core Competency: Written Communication				
Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	299	2.74	442	2.57
Number of written papers or reports: Up to 5 pages (7)	299	3.54	442	3.62
Number of written papers or reports: Between 6 and 10 pages (7)	299	2.49	442	2.70
Number of written papers or reports: 11 pages or more (7)	299	1.56	442	2.05
Perceived gains: Writing clearly and effectively	299	2.99	442	3.17