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# **NSSE 2018 Topical Module Report**

## **First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions**

Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania

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## About This Topical Module

This module includes a set of items only for first-year students and a set only for seniors, with questions adapted from the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement and the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project, respectively. The first-year items focus on academic perseverance, help-seeking behaviors, and institutional commitment, while the senior items explore post-graduation plans, links between the academic major and future plans, and confidence with skills developed during college.

## 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 'FY Exp / Sr Transiti'n' column of this report.

Group label	FY Exp / Sr Transiti'n
Date submitted	5/9/18
How was this comparison group constructed?	This comparison group contains all other institutions in your system that participated in NSSE 2017 and 2018.
Group description	All other current- and prior-year (if applicable) NSSE institutions sharing your university system who administered module "First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions"

## FY Exp / Sr Transiti'n (N=12)

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg, PA)  
 California University of Pennsylvania (California, PA)\*  
 Clarion University of Pennsylvania (Clarion, PA)  
 East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania (East Stroudsburg, PA)\*  
 Edinboro University of Pennsylvania (Edinboro, PA)  
 Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Indiana, PA)  
 Kutztown University of Pennsylvania (Kutztown, PA)\*  
 Lock Haven University (Lock Haven, PA)\*  
 Mansfield University of Pennsylvania (Mansfield, PA)\*  
 Millersville University of Pennsylvania (Millersville, PA)\*  
 Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Slippery Rock, PA)\*  
 West Chester University of Pennsylvania (West Chester, PA)

## 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>		
				SHIP		FY Exp / Sr Transitm		SHIP	FY Exp / Sr Transitm	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?</b>										
a. Studied when there were other interesting things to do	FYSfy01a	1	Never	5	2	133	4	<b>2.8</b>	2.7	.06
		2	Sometimes	77	40	1,386	39			
		3	Often	65	35	1,385	37			
		4	Very often	45	23	744	20			
		Total		192	100	3,648	100			
b. Found additional information for course assignments when you didn't understand the material	FYSfy01b	1	Never	6	3	115	3	<b>2.7</b>	2.8	-.09
		2	Sometimes	65	35	1,091	31			
		3	Often	89	47	1,720	47			
		4	Very often	32	15	711	19			
		Total		192	100	3,637	100			
c. Participated in course discussions, even when you didn't feel like it	FYSfy01c	1	Never	9	4	272	8	<b>2.8</b>	2.7 *	.15
		2	Sometimes	67	35	1,342	37			
		3	Often	74	38	1,390	38			
		4	Very often	41	23	638	18			
		Total		191	100	3,642	100			
d. Asked instructors for help when you struggled with course assignments	FYSfy01d	1	Never	16	8	349	10	<b>2.5</b>	2.6	-.05
		2	Sometimes	87	46	1,426	39			
		3	Often	61	31	1,269	35			
		4	Very often	29	15	591	16			
		Total		193	100	3,635	100			
e. Finished something you have started when you encountered challenges	FYSfy01e	1	Never	0	0	35	1	<b>3.1</b>	3.1	.00
		2	Sometimes	39	21	647	18			
		3	Often	92	49	1,870	51			
		4	Very often	60	30	1,085	30			
		Total		191	100	3,637	100			
f. Stayed positive, even when you did poorly on a test or assignment	FYSfy01f	1	Never	9	4	133	4	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	.02
		2	Sometimes	49	24	1,083	29			
		3	Often	91	49	1,562	43			
		4	Very often	44	23	858	24			
		Total		193	100	3,636	100			
<b>2. During the current school year, how difficult have the following been for you?</b>										
a. Learning course material	FYSfy02a	1	Not at all difficult	7	4	208	6	<b>3.2</b>	3.2	-.01
		2	2	41	22	666	18			
		3	3	66	32	1,190	32			
		4	4	64	36	1,214	33			
		5	5	11	5	305	8			
		6	Very difficult	4	2	56	2			
		Total		193	100	3,639	100			
b. Managing your time	FYSfy02b	1	Not at all difficult	21	12	247	7	<b>3.5</b>	3.6	-.05
		2	2	23	12	570	15			
		3	3	51	25	948	26			
		4	4	46	22	946	26			
		5	5	40	22	626	17			
		6	Very difficult	12	6	301	8			
		Total		193	100	3,638	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>		
				SHIP		FY Exp / Sr Transn		SHIP	FY Exp / Sr Transn	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
c. Getting help with school work	FYSfy02c	1	Not at all difficult	35	18	659	18	<b>2.7</b>	2.7	-.03
		2	2	60	29	1,028	28			
		3	3	54	30	1,040	28			
		4	4	31	16	633	18			
		5	5	10	6	199	5			
		6	Very difficult	3	2	78	2			
Total				193	100	3,637	100			
d. Interacting with faculty	FYSfy02d	1	Not at all difficult	44	23	833	24	<b>2.6</b>	2.6	.00
		2	2	56	30	1,064	29			
		3	3	46	22	918	25			
		4	4	31	19	543	15			
		5	5	11	5	209	6			
		6	Very difficult	2	1	73	2			
Total				190	100	3,640	100			
<b>3. During the current school year, about how often have you sought help with coursework from the following sources?</b>										
a. Faculty members	FYSfy03a_16	1	Never	29	15	588	16	<b>2.3</b>	2.2	.09
		2	Sometimes	96	49	1,907	51			
		3	Often	46	25	859	25			
		4	Very often	21	11	281	8			
		Total				192	100			
b. Academic advisors	FYSfy03b_16	1	Never	104	53	1,794	48	<b>1.7</b>	1.7	-.09
		2	Sometimes	60	32	1,258	35			
		3	Often	24	12	437	13			
		4	Very often	5	3	143	4			
		Total				193	100			
c. Learning support services (tutoring, writing center, success coaching, etc.)	FYSfy03c_16	1	Never	82	43	1,729	47	<b>1.9</b>	1.8	.08
		2	Sometimes	64	34	1,131	31			
		3	Often	29	15	524	15			
		4	Very often	17	8	252	7			
		Total				192	100			
d. Friends or other students	FYSfy03d_16	1	Never	12	7	149	5	<b>2.8</b>	2.9	-.09
		2	Sometimes	54	28	980	28			
		3	Often	78	39	1,484	41			
		4	Very often	48	25	1,019	27			
		Total				192	100			
e. Family members	FYSfy03e_16	1	Never	62	33	1,260	35	<b>2.1</b>	2.1	.05
		2	Sometimes	67	34	1,203	33			
		3	Often	41	21	767	21			
		4	Very often	22	12	402	11			
		Total				192	100			
f. Other persons or offices	FYSfy03f_16	1	Never	119	62	2,165	59	<b>1.6</b>	1.6	-.01
		2	Sometimes	47	23	1,000	28			
		3	Often	18	11	335	9			
		4	Very often	8	4	123	4			
		Total				192	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>		
				SHIP		FY Exp / Sr Transitrn		SHIP	FY Exp / Sr Transitrn	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>4a. During the current school year, have you seriously considered leaving this institution?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSfy04a	No		145	77	2,607	72	<b>23%</b>	28%	-.11
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	Yes		48	23	1,029	28			
		Total		193	100	3,636	100			
<b>4b. [If answered "yes"] Why did you consider leaving? (Select all that apply.)</b>										
	FYSfy04b_1_16	—	Academics are too difficult	3	5	109	11			
	FYSfy04b_2_16	—	Academics are too easy	2	7	66	7			
			Other academic issues (major not offered, course availability, advising, credit transfer, etc.)							
	FYSfy04b_3_16	—		3	5	162	16			
	FYSfy04b_4_16	—	Financial concerns (costs or financial aid)	11	24	349	35			
			To change your career options (transfer to another school or program, military service, etc.)							
	FYSfy04b_5_16	—		11	27	194	19			
			Difficulty managing demands of school and work							
	FYSfy04b_6_16	—		3	5	127	13			
	FYSfy04b_7_16	—	Too much emphasis on partying	5	13	105	10			
	FYSfy04b_8_16	—	Not enough opportunities to socialize and have fun	10	25	184	18			
	FYSfy04b_9_16	—	Relations with faculty and staff	4	11	95	9			
	FYSfy04b_10_16	—	Relations with other students	8	16	224	21			
	FYSfy04b_11_16	—	Campus climate, location, or culture	14	35	299	29			
	FYSfy04b_12_16	—	Unsafe or hostile environment	0	0	44	4			
			Personal reasons (family issues, physical or mental health, homesickness, stress, etc.)							
	FYSfy04b_13_16	—		23	45	378	35			
	FYSfy04b_14_16	—	A reason not listed above, please specify:	4	9	135	14			
<b>5. How important is it to you that you graduate from <i>this institution</i>?</b>										
	FYSfy05	1	Not important	5	2	161	5	<b>5.2</b>	5.0	.09
		2	2	5	4	158	4			
		3	3	19	10	190	5			
		4	4	14	7	422	12			
		5	5	26	14	523	15			
		6	Very important	120	63	2,123	59			
		Total		189	100	3,577	100			

\*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>
	SHIP	SHIP	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	SHIP	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	SHIP	FY Exp / Sr Transiti			
FYSfy01a	184	2.78	2.73	.06	.02	0.83	0.82	2,613	.405	.06
FYSfy01b	184	2.74	2.81	.06	.02	0.75	0.77	2,606	.223	-.09
FYSfy01c	184	2.79	2.66	.06	.02	0.84	0.85	2,610	.044	.15
FYSfy01d	185	2.53	2.58	.06	.02	0.84	0.87	2,607	.490	-.05
FYSfy01e	184	3.10	3.10	.05	.01	0.71	0.71	2,607	.996	.00
FYSfy01f	185	2.90	2.88	.06	.02	0.80	0.82	2,608	.782	.02
FYSfy02a	185	3.23	3.24	.08	.02	1.03	1.08	2,609	.927	-.01
FYSfy02b	185	3.49	3.56	.10	.03	1.42	1.36	2,609	.502	-.05
FYSfy02c	185	2.66	2.71	.09	.02	1.20	1.23	2,608	.665	-.03
FYSfy02d	182	2.56	2.56	.09	.03	1.23	1.27	2,607	.976	.00
FYSfy03a_16	185	2.31	2.24	.06	.02	0.85	0.81	2,606	.225	.09
FYSfy03b_16	185	1.65	1.72	.06	.02	0.80	0.83	2,604	.256	-.09
FYSfy03b_16	185	1.89	1.81	.07	.02	0.95	0.92	2,605	.278	.08
FYSfy03b_16	185	2.82	2.90	.07	.02	0.89	0.85	2,603	.218	-.09
FYSfy03e_16	185	2.12	2.07	.07	.02	1.01	0.99	2,603	.535	.05
FYSfy03f_16	184	1.57	1.57	.06	.02	0.84	0.80	2,595	.904	-.01
FYSfy04a <sup>k</sup>	185	.230	.276	.0310	.0091	--	--	--	.175	-.11
FYSfy05	181	5.16	5.03	.10	.03	1.34	1.45	2,562	.263	.09

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				SHIP		FY Exp / Sr		SHIP	FY Exp / Sr	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>1. Do you expect to graduate this spring or summer?</b>										
	FYSsr01_16	No		108	36	1,244	29			
		Yes		192	64	3,108	71			
		Total		300	100	4,352	100			
<b>1a. [Excludes those who answered "No," not expecting spring/summer graduation] After graduation, what best describes your immediate plans?</b>										
	FYSsr01a	—	Full-time employment	115	62	1,841	60			
		—	Part-time employment	8	4	133	4			
		—	Graduate or professional school	50	24	696	22			
		—	Military service	1	0	33	1			
		—	Service or volunteer activity (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.)	0	0	19	1			
		—	Internship (paid or unpaid)	8	4	170	5			
		—	Travel or gap year	8	4	88	3			
		—	No plans at this time	2	1	103	3			
		—	Other, please specify:	2	1	54	2			
		Total		194	100	3,137	100			
<b>1b. [If immediate plans included full- or part-time employment] Do you already have a job for after graduation?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSsr01b	No		75	62	1,197	60	<b>38%</b>	40%	-.03
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	Yes, I will start a new job		27	23	371	19			
		Yes, I will continue in my current job		21	15	394	21			
		Total		123	100	1,962	100			
<b>2. [Excludes those who answered "No," not expecting spring/summer graduation] To what extent have courses in your major(s) prepared you for your post-graduation plans?</b>										
	FYSsr02	1	Very little	13	8	162	5	<b>3.0</b>	3.1	-.04
		2	Some	39	19	640	20			
		3	Quite a bit	69	35	1,139	37			
		4	Very much	73	38	1,190	38			
		Total		194	100	3,131	100			
<b>3. Do you intend to work eventually in a field related to your major(s)?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSsr03	Yes		266	88	3,918	89	<b>88%</b>	89%	-.04
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	No		7	2	136	3			
		Unsure		27	9	315	8			
		Total		300	100	4,369	100			
<b>4. Do you plan to be self-employed, an independent contractor, or a freelance worker someday?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSsr04	Yes		47	17	710	18	<b>17%</b>	18%	-.02
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	No		182	57	2,551	56			
		Unsure		72	26	1,108	26			
		Total		301	100	4,369	100			

\*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>		
				SHIP		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		SHIP	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>5. Do you plan to start your own business (nonprofit or for-profit) someday?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYSsr05		Yes	51	19	822	20	<b>19%</b>	20%	-.05
			No	186	60	2,320	51			
			Unsure	64	22	1,222	28			
			Total	301	100	4,364	100			
<b>6. How much confidence do you have in your ability to complete tasks requiring the following skills and abilities?<sup>j</sup></b>										
a. Critical thinking and analysis of arguments and information	FYSsr06a		1 Very little	1	0	28	1	<b>3.4</b>	3.4	-.05
			2 Some	33	10	362	8			
			3 Quite a bit	122	39	1,773	39			
			4 Very much	145	50	2,197	52			
			Total	301	100	4,360	100			
b. Creative thinking and problem solving	FYSsr06b		1 Very little	2	1	21	0	<b>3.4</b>	3.5	-.09
			2 Some	24	8	289	6			
			3 Quite a bit	124	40	1,676	38			
			4 Very much	150	52	2,372	56			
			Total	300	100	4,358	100			
c. Research skills	FYSsr06c		1 Very little	2	1	83	2	<b>3.2</b>	3.2	.02
			2 Some	67	21	746	16			
			3 Quite a bit	101	35	1,825	42			
			4 Very much	130	44	1,702	40			
			Total	300	100	4,356	100			
d. Clear writing	FYSsr06d		1 Very little	3	1	48	1	<b>3.3</b>	3.3	.00
			2 Some	42	14	561	13			
			3 Quite a bit	114	39	1,799	41			
			4 Very much	142	46	1,952	45			
			Total	301	100	4,360	100			
e. Persuasive speaking	FYSsr06e		1 Very little	17	6	153	3	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	-.08
			2 Some	72	23	1,034	23			
			3 Quite a bit	114	38	1,726	39			
			4 Very much	96	33	1,451	34			
			Total	299	100	4,364	100			
f. Technological skills	FYSsr06f		1 Very little	10	4	132	3	<b>3.1</b>	3.1	.03
			2 Some	62	20	993	22			
			3 Quite a bit	122	40	1,811	41			
			4 Very much	106	37	1,430	34			
			Total	300	100	4,366	100			
g. Financial and business management skills	FYSsr06g		1 Very little	57	18	768	16	<b>2.6</b>	2.5	.03
			2 Some	104	31	1,566	35			
			3 Quite a bit	79	29	1,229	29			
			4 Very much	61	22	798	20			
			Total	301	100	4,361	100			

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				SHIP		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		SHIP	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
h. Entrepreneurial skills	FYSsr06h	1	Very little	83	26	1,038	22	<b>2.1</b>	2.3 ***	-0.19 ▽
		2	Some	135	44	1,654	38			
		3	Quite a bit	51	18	1,012	24			
		4	Very much	32	12	648	16			
		Total		301	100	4,352	100			
i. Leadership skills	FYSsr06i	1	Very little	9	3	96	2	<b>3.2</b>	3.3	-0.11
		2	Some	57	18	624	14			
		3	Quite a bit	100	34	1,561	36			
		4	Very much	134	45	2,078	48			
		Total		300	100	4,359	100			
j. Networking and relationship building	FYSsr06j	1	Very little	15	5	177	4	<b>3.0</b>	3.1 **	-0.17 ▽
		2	Some	81	27	848	19			
		3	Quite a bit	105	34	1,669	38			
		4	Very much	100	34	1,667	39			
		Total		301	100	4,361	100			
<b>7. To what extent has your coursework in your major(s) emphasized the following?</b>										
a. Generating new ideas or brainstorming	FYSsr07a	1	Very little	12	4	107	3	<b>3.1</b>	3.2	-0.05
		2	Some	49	16	740	17			
		3	Quite a bit	127	43	1,810	42			
		4	Very much	110	37	1,695	38			
		Total		298	100	4,352	100			
b. Taking risks in your coursework without fear of penalty	FYSsr07b	1	Very little	57	19	748	17	<b>2.5</b>	2.6	-0.10
		2	Some	91	31	1,224	28			
		3	Quite a bit	87	30	1,321	31			
		4	Very much	63	20	1,056	24			
		Total		298	100	4,349	100			
c. Evaluating multiple approaches to a problem	FYSsr07c	1	Very little	8	3	147	4	<b>3.1</b>	3.1	.03
		2	Some	48	15	793	18			
		3	Quite a bit	135	46	1,746	40			
		4	Very much	108	36	1,647	38			
		Total		299	100	4,333	100			
d. Inventing new methods to arrive at unconventional solutions	FYSsr07d	1	Very little	29	10	383	9	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	-0.02
		2	Some	83	27	1,193	27			
		3	Quite a bit	107	37	1,566	36			
		4	Very much	78	26	1,184	27			
		Total		297	100	4,326	100			

### 8. Is there anything your institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or further education? Please describe.

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 74 seniors. Responses are provided in your "NSSE18 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

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>
		SHIP	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	SHIP	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	SHIP	FY Exp / Sr Transiti			
FYSsr01b <sup>k</sup>	127	.383	.397	.0434	.0117	--	--	--	.752	-.03
FYSsr02	193	3.03	3.06	.07	.02	0.94	0.89	2,954	.613	-.04
FYSsr03 <sup>k</sup>	296	.882	.893	.0188	.0049	--	--	--	.544	-.04
FYSsr04 <sup>k</sup>	297	.171	.177	.0219	.0061	--	--	--	.784	-.02
FYSsr05 <sup>k</sup>	297	.187	.205	.0226	.0065	--	--	--	.459	-.05
FYSsr06a	297	3.40	3.43	.04	.01	0.68	0.66	4,192	.420	-.05
FYSsr06b	296	3.42	3.48	.04	.01	0.66	0.64	4,190	.137	-.09
FYSsr06c	296	3.22	3.20	.05	.01	0.79	0.77	4,187	.747	.02
FYSsr06d	297	3.30	3.30	.04	.01	0.74	0.73	4,192	.996	.00
FYSsr06e	296	2.98	3.05	.05	.01	0.90	0.84	4,194	.188	-.08
FYSsr06f	296	3.09	3.07	.05	.01	0.84	0.82	4,197	.585	.03
FYSsr06g	297	2.55	2.52	.06	.02	1.02	0.98	4,192	.666	.03
FYSsr06h	297	2.15	2.34	.05	.02	0.94	1.00	349	.001	-.19
FYSsr06i	296	3.20	3.29	.05	.01	0.85	0.79	4,191	.057	-.11
FYSsr06j	297	2.96	3.11	.05	.01	0.91	0.85	4,193	.004	-.17
FYSsr07a	294	3.12	3.16	.05	.01	0.83	0.80	4,182	.453	-.05
FYSsr07b	294	2.51	2.62	.06	.02	1.01	1.03	4,179	.096	-.10
FYSsr07c	295	3.15	3.12	.05	.01	0.78	0.83	4,165	.622	.03
FYSsr07d	293	2.80	2.82	.05	.02	0.94	0.94	4,156	.735	-.02

## 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."

### 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.