
NSSE 2023 Topical Module Report

First-Year Experiences & Senior Transitions

Eastern Washington University

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 details are in the online Selected Comparison Groups report, linked in the Data & Reports table on the Institution Interface. A PDF copy is also saved in your report download folder.

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First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				EWU		FY Exp / Sr Transitrn		EWU	FY Exp / Sr Transitrn	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Studied when there were other interesting things to do	FYSfy01a	1	Never	4	4	1,313	5	2.9	2.8	.14
		2	Sometimes	25	27	10,998	37			
		3	Often	41	46	11,169	37			
		4	Very often	21	23	6,669	22			
		Total		91	100	30,149	100			
b. Found additional information for course assignments when you didn't understand the material	FYSfy01b	1	Never	5	6	823	3	2.7	2.9 *	-0.22 ▽
		2	Sometimes	31	34	9,057	30			
		3	Often	41	45	13,825	46			
		4	Very often	14	14	6,346	21			
		Total		91	100	30,051	100			
c. Participated in course discussions, even when you didn't feel like it	FYSfy01c	1	Never	7	7	1,613	6	2.7	2.7	-0.04
		2	Sometimes	32	37	10,652	35			
		3	Often	32	34	11,855	39			
		4	Very often	20	22	5,974	20			
		Total		91	100	30,094	100			
d. Asked instructors for help when you struggled with course assignments	FYSfy01d	1	Never	10	11	2,768	9	2.5	2.5	-0.08
		2	Sometimes	39	43	12,944	43			
		3	Often	31	34	9,679	32			
		4	Very often	10	12	4,669	16			
		Total		90	100	30,060	100			
e. Finished something you have started when you encountered challenges	FYSfy01e	1	Never	1	1	285	1	3.1	3.1	-0.03
		2	Sometimes	17	19	5,855	20			
		3	Often	48	53	14,784	49			
		4	Very often	25	27	9,127	31			
		Total		91	100	30,051	100			
f. Stayed positive, even when you did poorly on a test or assignment	FYSfy01f	1	Never	8	9	1,412	5	2.6	2.8 *	-0.26 ▽
		2	Sometimes	35	37	10,003	32			
		3	Often	34	39	12,234	41			
		4	Very often	14	15	6,405	22			
		Total		91	100	30,054	100			
2. During the current school year, how difficult have the following been for you?										
a. Learning course material	FYSfy02a	1	Not at all difficult	7	8	1,274	5	3.2	3.5	-0.21
		2	2	18	20	4,157	14			
		3	3	21	23	9,180	31			
		4	4	37	40	10,586	35			
		5	5	6	7	3,615	12			
		6	Very difficult	2	2	1,268	4			
		Total		91	100	30,080	100			
b. Managing your time	FYSfy02b	1	Not at all difficult	5	7	1,420	5	3.8	3.8	-0.04
		2	2	13	14	3,522	12			
		3	3	16	19	7,033	23			
		4	4	24	25	8,628	29			
		5	5	25	28	5,778	19			
		6	Very difficult	8	8	3,674	12			
		Total		91	100	30,055	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 ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				EWU		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		EWU	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
c. Getting help with school work	FYSfy02c	1	Not at all difficult	9	10	4,040	14	3.3	3.0 *	.26 ▲
		2	2	19	21	7,214	24			
		3	3	20	23	8,657	29			
		4	4	27	29	6,269	21			
		5	5	9	9	2,609	9			
		6	Very difficult	7	8	1,254	4			
		Total		91	100	30,043	100			
d. Interacting with faculty	FYSfy02d	1	Not at all difficult	13	14	5,392	19	3.1	2.8	.21
		2	2	23	26	7,767	26			
		3	3	18	21	7,936	26			
		4	4	22	23	5,634	18			
		5	5	10	10	2,232	7			
		6	Very difficult	5	6	1,095	4			
		Total		91	100	30,056	100			
3. During the current school year, about how often have you sought help with coursework from the following sources?										
a. Faculty members	FYSfy03a_16	1	Never	21	23	4,760	17	2.0	2.2 *	-.22 ▼
		2	Sometimes	50	54	16,011	53			
		3	Often	16	18	7,061	23			
		4	Very often	4	4	2,175	7			
		Total		91	100	30,007	100			
b. Academic advisors	FYSfy03b_16	1	Never	46	52	12,038	41	1.6	1.8 *	-.27 ▼
		2	Sometimes	34	36	11,920	39			
		3	Often	10	11	4,591	15			
		4	Very often	1	1	1,448	5			
		Total		91	100	29,997	100			
c. Learning support services (tutoring, writing center, success coaching, etc.)	FYSfy03c_16	1	Never	36	41	12,511	43	1.8	1.9	-.06
		2	Sometimes	37	40	10,668	35			
		3	Often	14	15	4,746	16			
		4	Very often	4	4	2,063	7			
		Total		91	100	29,988	100			
d. Friends or other students	FYSfy03d_16	1	Never	12	16	2,460	9	2.4	2.7 **	-.33 ▼
		2	Sometimes	35	38	9,239	32			
		3	Often	33	36	11,280	37			
		4	Very often	11	11	7,032	22			
		Total		91	100	30,011	100			
e. Family members	FYSfy03e_16	1	Never	33	40	11,839	40	1.9	2.0	-.03
		2	Sometimes	35	36	9,982	33			
		3	Often	14	15	5,527	18			
		4	Very often	9	9	2,655	9			
		Total		91	100	30,003	100			
f. Other persons or offices	FYSfy03f_16	1	Never	61	69	17,708	59	1.4	1.6 *	-.21 ▼
		2	Sometimes	22	23	8,317	28			
		3	Often	4	4	2,892	10			
		4	Very often	3	3	1,080	4			
		Total		90	100	29,997	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 ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				EWU		FY Exp / Sr Transiti		EWU	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
4. During the current school year, did you take a course intended for first-year students as described below?^j										
a. A course that introduces students to college and helps develop success skills (study skills, goal setting, time management, etc.)	FYSfycourse <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")</i>	Yes		24	27	16,300	55	27%	55% *** ▼	-.57
		No		52	58	10,579	35			
		Unsure		14	15	3,033	10			
		Total		90	100	29,912	100			
b. A first-year seminar or other course focused on a specialized topic or academic subject that emphasizes discussion and analysis	FYSfyseminar <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")</i>	Yes		25	26	18,079	59	26%	59% *** ▼	-.68
		No		47	53	7,813	27			
		Unsure		19	20	4,007	14			
		Total		91	100	29,899	100			
5a. During the current school year, have you seriously considered leaving this institution?^j										
	FYSfy04a <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")</i>	No		60	65	20,638	70	35%	30%	.10
		Yes		32	35	9,292	30			
		Total		92	100	29,930	100			

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				EWU		FY Exp / Sr Transiti		EWU	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
5b. [if answered "yes"] Why did you consider leaving? (Select all that apply.)										
	FYSfy04b_1_16	—	Academics are too difficult	8	25	1,645	18			
	FYSfy04b_2_16	—	Academics are too easy	1	3	468	5			
	FYSfy04b_3_16	—	Other academic issues (major not offered, course availability, advising, credit transfer, etc.)	3	11	1,738	18			
	FYSfy04b_4_16	—	Financial concerns (costs or financial aid)	16	50	3,821	42			
	FYSfy04b_5_16	—	To change your career options (transfer to another school or program, military service, etc.)	0	0	1,479	16			
	FYSfy04b_6_16	—	Difficulty managing demands of school and work	9	29	1,777	20			
	FYSfy04b_7_16	—	Too much emphasis on partying	2	5	500	6			
	FYSfy04b_8_16	—	Not enough opportunities to socialize and have fun	11	39	1,923	21			
	FYSfy04b_9_16	—	Experiences with faculty and staff	7	22	1,325	15			
	FYSfy04b_10_16	—	Experiences with other students	6	19	2,137	22			
	FYSfy04b_11_16	—	Campus climate, location, or culture	14	46	2,856	30			
	FYSfy04b_12_16	—	Unsafe or hostile environment	4	14	754	8			
	FYSfy04b_13_16	—	Personal reasons (family issues, physical or mental health, homesickness, stress, etc.)	16	47	4,162	44			
	FYSfy04b_14_16	—	A reason not listed above, please specify:	3	9	1,180	13			
6. How important is it to you that you graduate from <i>this institution</i>?										
	FYSfy05	1	Not important	3	3	1,267	4	5.0	5.0	.02
		2	2	4	4	1,045	4			
		3	3	7	8	2,030	7			
		4	4	13	14	4,049	14			
		5	5	11	12	5,139	17			
		6	Very important	54	59	16,349	55			
		Total		92	100	29,879	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 ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
		EWU	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	EWU	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	EWU	FY Exp / Sr Transiti			
FYSfy01a	88	2.87	2.76	.087	.007	0.82	0.84	13,321	.204	.14
FYSfy01b	88	2.68	2.85	.085	.007	0.79	0.78	13,276	.044	-.22
FYSfy01c	88	2.70	2.74	.095	.007	0.89	0.84	13,291	.675	-.04
FYSfy01d	87	2.47	2.54	.091	.008	0.84	0.87	13,277	.469	-.08
FYSfy01e	88	3.06	3.09	.075	.006	0.70	0.73	13,272	.751	-.03
FYSfy01f	88	2.59	2.81	.091	.007	0.85	0.83	13,276	.016	-.26
FYSfy02a	88	3.23	3.47	.124	.010	1.16	1.13	13,290	.053	-.21
FYSfy02b	88	3.76	3.81	.147	.012	1.38	1.34	13,273	.718	-.04
FYSfy02c	88	3.32	2.98	.149	.011	1.40	1.31	13,275	.016	.26
FYSfy02d	88	3.08	2.80	.151	.012	1.42	1.33	13,281	.050	.21
FYSfy03a_16	88	2.04	2.21	.083	.007	0.77	0.80	13,259	.040	-.22
FYSfy03b_16	88	1.61	1.84	.078	.007	0.73	0.86	13,255	.012	-.27
FYSfy03c_16	88	1.82	1.87	.088	.008	0.83	0.91	13,247	.606	-.06
FYSfy03d_16	88	2.42	2.72	.095	.008	0.89	0.91	13,259	.002	-.33
FYSfy03e_16	88	1.93	1.96	.103	.008	0.96	0.96	13,253	.797	-.03
FYSfy03f_16	87	1.42	1.59	.079	.007	0.74	0.81	87	.039	-.21
FYSfycourse ^k	87	.270	.548	.0480	.0043	--	--	--	.000	-.57
FYSfyseminar ^k	88	.263	.590	.0473	.0043	--	--	--	.000	-.68
FYSfy04a ^k	89	.351	.303	.0510	.0040	--	--	--	.329	.10
FYSfy05	89	5.02	5.00	.150	.012	1.41	1.40	13,210	.847	.02

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				EWU		FY Exp / Sr		EWU	FY Exp / Sr	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
1. Do you expect to graduate this spring or summer?										
	FYSr01_16	No		49	31	9,892	31			
		Yes		111	69	25,611	69			
		Total		160	100	35,503	100			
1a. [Excludes those who answered "No," not expecting spring/summer graduation] After graduation, what best describes your immediate plans?										
	FYSr01a	—	Full-time employment	69	63	14,887	58			
		—	Part-time employment	8	7	1,280	5			
		—	Graduate or professional school	30	25	5,850	22			
		—	Military service	0	0	161	1			
		—	Service or volunteer activity (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.)	0	0	112	0			
		—	Internship (paid or unpaid)	2	2	979	4			
		—	Travel or gap year	1	1	1,103	4			
		—	No plans at this time	2	2	974	4			
		—	Other, please specify:	1	1	494	2			
		Total		113	100	25,840	100			
1b. [If immediate plans included full- or part-time employment] Do you already have a job for after graduation?^j										
	FYSr01b	No		45	62	7,457	46	38%	54% **	-.32
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	Yes, I will start a new job		14	18	4,887	30			
		Yes, I will continue in my current job		17	20	3,720	24			
		Total		76	100	16,064	100			
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?										
	FYSr02	1	Very little	6	5	1,552	6	3.0	3.0	.00
		2	Some	26	24	5,571	22			
		3	Quite a bit	40	36	9,587	37			
		4	Very much	40	35	9,035	35			
		Total		112	100	25,745	100			
3. Do you intend to work eventually in a field related to your major(s)?^j										
	FYSr03	Yes		139	87	30,692	86	87%	86%	.02
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	No		2	1	1,452	4			
		Unsure		19	12	3,388	10			
		Total		160	100	35,532	100			
4. Do you plan to be self-employed, an independent contractor, or a freelance worker someday?^j										
	FYSr04	Yes		19	12	7,026	20	12%	20% **	-.24
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	No		81	49	18,454	50			
		Unsure		61	39	10,071	29			
		Total		161	100	35,551	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 ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				EWU		FY Exp / Sr Transitn		EWU	FY Exp / Sr Transitn	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
5. Do you plan to start your own business (nonprofit or for-profit) someday?^j										
	FYSsr05		Yes	25	15	7,923	23	15%	23% *	-0.20
			No	77	48	16,843	46			
			Unsure	58	37	10,764	31			
			Total	160	100	35,530	100			
<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")</i>										
6. How much confidence do you have in your ability to complete tasks requiring the following skills and abilities?										
a. Critical thinking and analysis of arguments and information	FYSsr06a		1 Very little	1	1	218	1	3.4	3.4	-.12
			2 Some	17	11	2,926	8			
			3 Quite a bit	65	40	13,287	37			
			4 Very much	78	49	19,006	54			
			Total	161	100	35,437	100			
b. Creative thinking and problem solving	FYSsr06b		1 Very little	0	0	185	1	3.5	3.5	-.02
			2 Some	12	8	2,554	7			
			3 Quite a bit	60	38	12,951	37			
			4 Very much	88	54	19,696	56			
			Total	160	100	35,386	100			
c. Research skills	FYSsr06c		1 Very little	1	1	644	2	3.3	3.2	.07
			2 Some	22	15	5,488	16			
			3 Quite a bit	64	39	14,132	40			
			4 Very much	73	45	15,145	43			
			Total	160	100	35,409	100			
d. Clear writing	FYSsr06d		1 Very little	1	1	397	1	3.3	3.3	.00
			2 Some	21	14	4,229	12			
			3 Quite a bit	63	38	14,024	40			
			4 Very much	75	47	16,765	47			
			Total	160	100	35,415	100			
e. Persuasive speaking	FYSsr06e		1 Very little	11	9	1,107	3	2.8	3.1 ***	-.33
			2 Some	48	30	7,942	23			
			3 Quite a bit	58	35	13,621	38			
			4 Very much	43	26	12,737	36			
			Total	160	100	35,407	100			
f. Technological skills	FYSsr06f		1 Very little	3	2	1,085	3	3.0	3.1	-.08
			2 Some	47	28	7,457	21			
			3 Quite a bit	54	33	14,159	39			
			4 Very much	56	37	12,706	37			
			Total	160	100	35,407	100			
g. Financial and business management skills	FYSsr06g		1 Very little	33	20	5,818	16	2.3	2.6 ***	-.26
			2 Some	69	44	12,261	34			
			3 Quite a bit	36	22	10,153	29			
			4 Very much	22	14	7,158	21			
			Total	160	100	35,390	100			
h. Entrepreneurial skills	FYSsr06h		1 Very little	51	33	8,075	23	2.1	2.4 ***	-.27
			2 Some	60	36	12,507	35			
			3 Quite a bit	31	20	8,614	25			
			4 Very much	18	12	6,191	18			
			Total	160	100	35,387	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

NSSE 2023 First-Year Experiences & Senior Transitions

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons: Senior Transitions

Eastern Washington University

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				EWU		FY Exp / Sr Transiti		EWU	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
i. Leadership skills	FYSsr06i	1	Very little	13	9	1,013	3	2.9	3.2 ***	-0.34
		2	Some	45	28	5,679	16			
		3	Quite a bit	37	24	12,710	36			
		4	Very much	65	39	15,989	45			
		Total		160	100	35,391	100			
j. Networking and relationship building	FYSsr06j	1	Very little	14	10	1,923	6	2.8	3.0 **	-0.21
		2	Some	38	24	7,928	23			
		3	Quite a bit	64	39	12,954	36			
		4	Very much	44	26	12,595	35			
		Total		160	100	35,400	100			
7. To what extent has your coursework in your major(s) emphasized the following?										
a. Generating new ideas or brainstorming	FYSsr07a	1	Very little	2	1	967	3	3.1	3.1	-0.06
		2	Some	36	22	6,271	18			
		3	Quite a bit	68	43	14,248	40			
		4	Very much	54	34	13,862	39			
		Total		160	100	35,348	100			
b. Taking risks in your coursework without fear of penalty	FYSsr07b	1	Very little	40	27	6,591	19	2.4	2.6 **	-0.21
		2	Some	45	29	10,032	28			
		3	Quite a bit	43	26	10,070	28			
		4	Very much	30	18	8,649	24			
		Total		158	100	35,342	100			
c. Evaluating multiple approaches to a problem	FYSsr07c	1	Very little	7	4	1,311	4	3.1	3.1	-0.04
		2	Some	34	21	6,774	19			
		3	Quite a bit	60	39	14,108	40			
		4	Very much	58	36	13,132	37			
		Total		159	100	35,325	100			
d. Inventing new methods to arrive at unconventional solutions	FYSsr07d	1	Very little	27	19	3,543	11	2.5	2.8 ***	-0.30
		2	Some	57	35	9,989	28			
		3	Quite a bit	39	25	11,847	33			
		4	Very much	36	21	9,820	27			
		Total		159	100	35,199	100			
8. Have you been creating an ePortfolio or other collection that includes samples of your work over time, shows your progress, and helps you reflect on the knowledge and skills you have gained?^j										
	FYSsr09_21	Yes		52	32	10,143	29	32%	29%	.08
		No		89	57	22,031	63			
		Unsure		18	10	3,009	9			
		Total		159	100	35,183	100			

9. 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 61 senior(s). Responses are provided in your NSSE23 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.

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
		EWU	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	EWU	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	EWU	FY Exp / Sr Transiti			
FYSsr01b ^k	76	.381	.539	.0559	.0055	--	--	--	.006	-.32
FYSsr02	111	3.00	3.00	.085	.008	0.90	0.91	13,033	.987	.00
FYSsr03 ^k	159	.870	.863	.0268	.0025	--	--	--	.797	.02
FYSsr04 ^k	160	.117	.204	.0255	.0029	--	--	--	.007	-.24
FYSsr05 ^k	159	.152	.231	.0285	.0031	--	--	--	.017	-.20
FYSsr06a	160	3.37	3.45	.056	.005	0.70	0.67	18,789	.132	-.12
FYSsr06b	159	3.46	3.47	.051	.005	0.65	0.66	18,763	.802	-.02
FYSsr06c	159	3.29	3.24	.059	.006	0.74	0.78	18,770	.392	.07
FYSsr06d	159	3.32	3.32	.058	.005	0.73	0.73	18,778	.961	.00
FYSsr06e	159	2.79	3.07	.074	.006	0.93	0.84	160	.000	-.33
FYSsr06f	159	3.04	3.10	.069	.006	0.86	0.83	18,775	.332	-.08
FYSsr06g	159	2.29	2.55	.075	.007	0.95	0.99	161	.001	-.26
FYSsr06h	159	2.10	2.38	.079	.007	0.99	1.02	161	.001	-.27
FYSsr06i	159	2.94	3.22	.080	.006	1.01	0.83	160	.001	-.34
FYSsr06j	159	2.82	3.01	.074	.007	0.94	0.90	18,772	.009	-.21
FYSsr07a	159	3.09	3.14	.062	.006	0.78	0.82	18,744	.486	-.06
FYSsr07b	157	2.35	2.57	.085	.008	1.06	1.06	18,736	.009	-.21
FYSsr07c	158	3.06	3.09	.068	.006	0.86	0.85	18,720	.621	-.04
FYSsr07d	158	2.49	2.77	.082	.007	1.03	0.97	18,648	.000	-.30
FYSsr09_21 ^k	158	0.32	0.29	.0374	.0033	--	--	--	.300	.08

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. Comparison group details are in the Selected Comparison Groups report, linked in the Data & Reports table on the Institution Interface.
- 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 Ns 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. You may not see all of these symbols in your report.