
NSSE 2025 Topical Module Report

Civic Engagement

University of La Verne

Originally adapted from a survey of democratic engagement developed by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, this module has been updated to ask students to assess their institution's emphasis on civic issues and their abilities to resolve conflicts, participate in dialogue and contribute to community well-being, and how often students have engaged with campus, local, state, national, or global issues. Items align with the Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement (CLDE) Framework (collegeciviclearning.org). The module complements questions on the core survey about service-learning, community service or volunteer work, and becoming an informed and active citizen.

Comparison group details are in the Selected Comparison Groups report, available in PDF format in your report download folder.

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First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				ULV		Peers USA		ULV	Peers USA	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
1. How much does your institution emphasize the following?										
a. Discussing important social, economic, or political issues with others	CIVdiscuss	1	Very little	11	8	76	8	2.6	2.7	-.09
		2	Some	37	35	352	34			
		3	Quite a bit	52	47	453	42			
		4	Very much	13	10	185	16			
		Total		113	100	1,066	100			
b. Organizing activities focused on important social, economic, or political issues	CIVorganize	1	Very little	12	9	112	11	2.5	2.6	-.10
		2	Some	44	41	367	35			
		3	Quite a bit	45	42	408	39			
		4	Very much	12	8	177	15			
		Total		113	100	1,064	100			
c. Being an informed and active participant in campus, local, state, or national issues	CIVparticipant	1	Very little	12	8	80	9	2.6	2.7	-.06
		2	Some	35	37	320	31			
		3	Quite a bit	45	39	472	43			
		4	Very much	20	16	193	17			
		Total		112	100	1,065	100			
d. Being involved in an organization or group focused on important social, economic, or political issues	CIVinvolved	1	Very little	14	10	123	13	2.6	2.5	.04
		2	Some	38	35	356	34			
		3	Quite a bit	45	42	419	39			
		4	Very much	15	13	166	14			
		Total		112	100	1,064	100			
e. Voting in campus, local, state, or national elections	CIVvoting	1	Very little	11	10	107	11	2.7	2.7	.04
		2	Some	33	35	290	29			
		3	Quite a bit	35	27	434	40			
		4	Very much	33	28	233	20			
		Total		112	100	1,064	100			
f. Encouraging free speech and expression	CIVspeech	1	Very little	6	5	55	6	3.0	2.9	.05
		2	Some	21	21	224	22			
		3	Quite a bit	50	45	488	45			
		4	Very much	36	29	296	27			
		Total		113	100	1,063	100			
f. Developing a sense of responsibility to the communities that matter to you	CIVcommunity	1	Very little	4	3	52	6	3.1	2.9 *	.18 △
		2	Some	22	19	216	22			
		3	Quite a bit	54	47	508	46			
		4	Very much	33	31	290	26			
		Total		113	100	1,066	100			

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				ULV		Peers USA		ULV	Peers USA	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
2. How comfortable do you feel addressing important social, economic, or political issues in the following?										
a. In course assignments	CIVassignment	1	Very little	4	3	59	6	2.8	2.8	-.01
		2	Some	32	31	276	26			
		3	Quite a bit	53	47	475	44			
		4	Very much	24	20	250	24			
		Total	113	100	1,060	100				
b. In course discussions	CIVdiscussion	1	Very little	12	9	87	9	2.7	2.7	-.04
		2	Some	29	29	335	31			
		3	Quite a bit	50	45	432	40			
		4	Very much	21	16	206	20			
		Total	112	100	1,060	100				
c. Outside of class or in your community	CIVoutside	1	Very little	9	9	92	9	2.6	2.7	-.15
		2	Some	44	40	330	30			
		3	Quite a bit	37	34	409	39			
		4	Very much	23	17	230	22			
		Total	113	100	1,061	100				
3. Select the response that best represents your ability to do the following:										
a. Help people work through disagreements with each other	CIVdisagreement	1	Poor	1	1	19	2	3.6	3.6	-.01
		2		11	9	71	7			
		3		40	35	383	36			
		4		48	43	455	42			
		5	Excellent	13	12	134	13			
		Total	113	100	1,062	100				
b. Respond to conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIVconflict	1	Poor	3	2	16	2	3.5	3.5	-.03
		2		8	6	95	8			
		3		43	41	393	38			
		4		46	40	415	39			
		5	Excellent	13	11	138	14			
		Total	113	100	1,057	100				
c. Lead a group in which people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIVlead	1	Poor	3	2	14	2	3.7	3.7	-.06
		2		9	9	82	8			
		3		31	31	283	27			
		4		44	37	457	44			
		5	Excellent	26	21	220	20			
		Total	113	100	1,056	100				
d. Participate in a constructive dialogue with someone who disagrees with you	CIVdialogue	1	Poor	2	1	21	2	3.5	3.6 *	-.21
		2		15	14	72	7			
		3		39	35	349	32			
		4		43	37	441	42			
		5	Excellent	14	12	175	17			
		Total	113	100	1,058	100				
e. Contribute to the health of communities that matter to you	CIVcontribute	1	Poor	2	2	14	1	3.4	3.7 **	-.29
		2		14	13	65	6			
		3		38	37	348	33			
		4		44	34	462	43			
		5	Excellent	15	13	171	17			
		Total	113	100	1,060	100				

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				ULV		Peers USA		ULV	Peers USA	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
4. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Informed yourself about campus or local issues	CIVinvolvelocal	1	Never	10	10	54	6	2.4	2.5	-.14
		2	Sometimes	56	48	495	47			
		3	Often	35	31	402	38			
		4	Very often	11	10	107	10			
			Total	112	100	1,058	100			
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIVinvolveglobal	1	Never	6	7	49	5	2.7	2.8	-.03
		2	Sometimes	38	33	354	34			
		3	Often	46	41	437	40			
		4	Very often	22	20	218	20			
			Total	112	100	1,058	100			
c. Discussed campus or local issues with others	CIVdiscusslocal	1	Never	9	9	92	9	2.4	2.5	-.17
		2	Sometimes	58	51	448	43			
		3	Often	36	34	385	36			
		4	Very often	8	6	131	12			
			Total	111	100	1,056	100			
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIVdiscussglobal	1	Never	8	7	73	8	2.5	2.6	-.12
		2	Sometimes	49	44	428	42			
		3	Often	43	39	372	33			
		4	Very often	12	9	186	17			
			Total	112	100	1,059	100			
5. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Raised awareness about issues, whether local or global	CIVraise	1	Never	25	23	193	28	2.2	2.1	.09
		2	Sometimes	52	44	310	43			
		3	Often	28	27	156	22			
		4	Very often	7	6	53	7			
			Total	112	100	712	100			
b. Volunteered time, money, or resources to support an issue, whether local or global	CIVvolunteer	1	Never	40	36	266	40	2.0	1.9	.08
		2	Sometimes	42	36	265	37			
		3	Often	24	22	135	18			
		4	Very often	6	6	46	6			
			Total	112	100	712	100			

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				ULV		Peers USA		ULV	Peers USA	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
c. Asked others to address issues, whether local or global	CIVask	1	Never	41	38	283	42	1.9	1.9	.04
		2	Sometimes	44	36	263	36			
		3	Often	24	24	118	17			
		4	Very often	3	2	45	6			
		Total		112	100	709	100			
d. Organized others to work on issues, whether local or global	CIVorgwork	1	Never	57	50	366	53	1.7	1.7	.01
		2	Sometimes	35	29	205	27			
		3	Often	17	19	97	14			
		4	Very often	3	2	42	6			
		Total		112	100	710	100			
e. Participated in research or a project for your community or the public good	CIVproject	1	Never	58	51	304	46	1.7	1.8	-.09
		2	Sometimes	33	29	254	34			
		3	Often	19	19	106	15			
		4	Very often	2	1	43	5			
		Total		112	100	707	100			

6. Think about the experiences you may have had with campus, local, state, national, or global issues. What about these experiences has been most meaningful to you?

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 48 first-year student(s) and 102 senior(s). Responses are provided in your NSSE25 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

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				ULV		Peers USA		ULV	Peers USA	Effect size ^d
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
1. How much does your institution emphasize the following?										
a. Discussing important social, economic, or political issues with others	CIVdiscuss	1	Very little	17	8	65	9	2.8	2.7	.15
		2	Some	67	31	231	33			
		3	Quite a bit	79	35	296	41			
		4	Very much	57	26	138	17			
		Total		220	100	730	100			
b. Organizing activities focused on important social, economic, or political issues	CIVorganize	1	Very little	17	8	83	13	2.7	2.5 ***	.26
		2	Some	76	35	264	38			
		3	Quite a bit	79	34	273	36			
		4	Very much	50	23	109	13			
		Total		222	100	729	100			
c. Being an informed and active participant in campus, local, state, or national issues	CIVparticipant	1	Very little	19	9	83	13	2.8	2.5 ***	.27
		2	Some	68	32	254	35			
		3	Quite a bit	74	33	271	37			
		4	Very much	60	27	121	15			
		Total		221	100	729	100			
d. Being involved in an organization or group focused on important social, economic, or political issues	CIVinvolved	1	Very little	27	13	95	15	2.6	2.4 **	.23
		2	Some	74	33	284	39			
		3	Quite a bit	67	31	239	32			
		4	Very much	53	23	111	13			
		Total		221	100	729	100			
e. Voting in campus, local, state, or national elections	CIVvoting	1	Very little	17	9	79	12	2.9	2.7 **	.24
		2	Some	52	27	208	29			
		3	Quite a bit	76	31	287	39			
		4	Very much	77	33	156	20			
		Total		222	100	730	100			
f. Encouraging free speech and expression	CIVspeech	1	Very little	16	9	53	8	3.0	2.7 **	.26
		2	Some	47	23	206	31			
		3	Quite a bit	77	32	314	42			
		4	Very much	81	36	156	19			
		Total		221	100	729	100			
f. Developing a sense of responsibility to the communities that matter to you	CIVcommunity	1	Very little	9	5	53	9	3.0	2.8 ***	.25
		2	Some	51	25	173	26			
		3	Quite a bit	75	33	310	42			
		4	Very much	86	37	194	24			
		Total		221	100	730	100			

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				ULV		Peers USA		ULV	Peers USA	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
2. How comfortable do you feel addressing important social, economic, or political issues in the following?										
a. In course assignments	CIVassignment	1	Very little	9	5	51	7	3.1	2.9 **	.21
		2	Some	50	24	178	25			
		3	Quite a bit	76	32	295	41			
		4	Very much	86	40	205	27			
		Total	221	100	729	100				
b. In course discussions	CIVdiscussions	1	Very little	9	4	76	11	3.0	2.7 ***	.32
		2	Some	56	25	208	28			
		3	Quite a bit	76	33	261	36			
		4	Very much	79	37	183	25			
		Total	220	100	728	100				
c. Outside of class or in your community	CIVoutside	1	Very little	11	5	58	9	2.9	2.8	.13
		2	Some	67	29	196	27			
		3	Quite a bit	71	32	276	38			
		4	Very much	73	34	198	27			
		Total	222	100	728	100				
3. Select the response that best represents your ability to do the following:										
a. Help people work through disagreements with each other	CIVdisagreement	1	Poor	3	2	16	2	3.8	3.7 *	.18
		2		12	6	50	7			
		3		66	29	205	29			
		4		77	34	333	46			
		5	Excellent	64	30	123	17			
Total	222	100	727	100						
b. Respond to conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice	CIVconflict	1	Poor	4	2	17	2	3.8	3.6 **	.22
		2		13	5	61	9			
		3		71	33	225	31			
		4		80	34	315	44			
		5	Excellent	54	26	106	14			
Total	222	100	724	100						
c. Lead a group in which people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included	CIVlead	1	Poor	3	1	13	2	4.0	3.9	.12
		2		5	3	33	5			
		3		47	21	152	21			
		4		92	41	319	45			
		5	Excellent	75	34	210	28			
Total	222	100	727	100						
d. Participate in a constructive dialogue with someone who disagrees with you	CIVdialogue	1	Poor	3	1	13	2	3.9	3.8	.13
		2		16	7	40	6			
		3		53	23	204	29			
		4		88	40	320	44			
		5	Excellent	61	28	148	20			
Total	221	100	725	100						
e. Contribute to the health of communities that matter to you	CIVcontribute	1	Poor	3	1	16	2	3.9	3.8	.07
		2		9	4	40	5			
		3		70	32	191	27			
		4		73	32	304	42			
		5	Excellent	67	31	176	24			
Total	222	100	727	100						

NSSE 2025 Civic Engagement

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

University of La Verne

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				ULV		Peers USA		ULV	Peers USA	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
4. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Informed yourself about campus or local issues	CIVinvolvelocal	1	Never	12	5	32	5	2.7	2.7	-.03
		2	Sometimes	99	45	285	39			
		3	Often	69	30	288	40			
		4	Very often	42	20	121	17			
		Total	222	100	726	100				
b. Informed yourself about state, national, or global issues	CIVinvolveglo bal	1	Never	10	6	19	3	2.9	3.0	-.13
		2	Sometimes	70	32	196	26			
		3	Often	74	32	301	41			
		4	Very often	67	31	208	30			
		Total	221	100	724	100				
c. Discussed campus or local issues with others	CIVdiscusslocal	1	Never	24	12	49	7	2.5	2.7 **	-0.21 ▽
		2	Sometimes	95	44	270	37			
		3	Often	65	27	265	36			
		4	Very often	38	17	141	19			
		Total	222	100	725	100				
d. Discussed state, national, or global issues with others	CIVdiscussglo bal	1	Never	13	7	40	6	2.7	2.8	-.13
		2	Sometimes	88	40	233	32			
		3	Often	67	29	266	36			
		4	Very often	54	24	187	26			
		Total	222	100	726	100				
5. During the current school year, whether course-related or not, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Raised awareness about issues, whether local or global	CIVraise	1	Never	42	19	111	22	2.3	2.3	.06
		2	Sometimes	98	44	216	41			
		3	Often	51	22	128	25			
		4	Very often	30	15	64	12			
		Total	221	100	519	100				
b. Volunteered time, money, or resources to support an issue, whether local or global	CIVvolunteer	1	Never	49	22	112	25	2.2	2.2	.03
		2	Sometimes	96	44	230	43			
		3	Often	53	22	112	20			
		4	Very often	25	12	64	13			
		Total	223	100	518	100				

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				ULV		Peers USA		ULV	Peers USA	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
c. Asked others to address issues, whether local or global	CIVask	1	Never	66	30	153	30	2.1	2.1	-.01
		2	Sometimes	87	39	209	40			
		3	Often	45	22	101	19			
		4	Very often	20	10	56	11			
		Total		218	100	519	100			
d. Organized others to work on issues, whether local or global	CIVorgwork	1	Never	86	39	213	43	1.9	1.9	.06
		2	Sometimes	82	36	182	35			
		3	Often	38	16	82	15			
		4	Very often	17	8	38	8			
		Total		223	100	515	100			
e. Participated in research or a project for your community or the public good	CIVproject	1	Never	76	36	157	32	2.0	2.1	-.05
		2	Sometimes	77	34	202	39			
		3	Often	44	19	96	18			
		4	Very often	23	11	61	11			
		Total		220	100	516	100			

6. Think about the experiences you may have had with campus, local, state, national, or global issues. What about these experiences has been most meaningful to you?

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 48 first-year student(s) and 102 senior(s). Responses are provided in your NSSE25 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.

First-Year Students

						Standard				Effect
	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	size ^d
Variable name	ULV	ULV	Peers USA	ULV	Peers USA	ULV	Peers USA	Comparisons with: Peers USA		
CIVdiscuss	115	2.58	2.66	.073	.023	.78	.84	139	.325	-.09
CIVorganize	115	2.50	2.58	.072	.025	.77	.88	142	.274	-.10
CIVparticipant	115	2.63	2.69	.080	.024	.85	.85	135	.523	-.06
CIVinvolved	114	2.59	2.55	.079	.025	.84	.89	136	.637	.04
CIVvoting	115	2.72	2.68	.092	.026	.99	.92	132	.666	.04
CIVspeech	115	2.97	2.93	.078	.024	.84	.85	136	.618	.05
CIVcommunity	115	3.07	2.91	.073	.024	.78	.85	139	.049	.18
CIVassignment	115	2.84	2.85	.072	.024	.77	.85	141	.890	-.01
CIVdiscussions	114	2.69	2.72	.080	.025	.86	.88	135	.714	-.04
CIVoutside	115	2.60	2.74	.082	.025	.88	.90	137	.110	-.15
CIVdisagreement	115	3.56	3.57	.079	.024	.84	.87	137	.925	-.01
CIVconflict	115	3.51	3.54	.079	.025	.85	.89	138	.711	-.03
CIVlead	115	3.67	3.72	.091	.026	.98	.92	134	.570	-.06
CIVdialogue	115	3.45	3.65	.086	.026	.93	.92	135	.032	-.21
CIVcontribute	115	3.42	3.68	.089	.024	.95	.87	132	.007	-.29
CIVinvolve local	115	2.41	2.52	.076	.021	.81	.75	132	.169	-.14
CIVinvolve global	115	2.73	2.75	.080	.023	.86	.83	134	.744	-.03
CIVdiscuss local	114	2.38	2.52	.069	.023	.74	.82	139	.056	-.17
CIVdiscuss global	115	2.50	2.60	.071	.024	.76	.86	141	.190	-.12
CIVraise	115	2.15	2.07	.079	.034	.85	.88	158	.353	.09
CIVvolunteer	115	1.97	1.90	.085	.034	.91	.90	153	.444	.08
CIVask	115	1.90	1.86	.078	.034	.83	.89	161	.670	.04
CIVorgwork	115	1.73	1.73	.078	.035	.84	.91	162	.949	.01
CIVproject	115	1.71	1.79	.077	.034	.82	.88	161	.356	-.09

Seniors

Variable name	N		Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	ULV	ULV	Peers USA	ULV	Peers USA	ULV	Peers USA	Comparisons with: Peers USA			
CIVdiscuss	219	2.79	2.66	.062	.025	.91	.87	297	.052	.15	
CIVorganize	222	2.73	2.50	.061	.026	.91	.88	304	.001	.26	
CIVparticipant	221	2.78	2.53	.063	.026	.94	.90	301	.000	.27	
CIVinvolved	220	2.65	2.43	.066	.026	.98	.90	293	.003	.23	
CIVvoting	222	2.88	2.66	.065	.027	.97	.93	302	.001	.24	
CIVspeech	221	2.95	2.73	.065	.025	.97	.86	290	.001	.26	
CIVcommunity	221	3.03	2.80	.061	.026	.90	.90	308	.001	.25	
CIVassignment	221	3.06	2.87	.061	.026	.91	.89	304	.005	.21	
CIVdiscussions	220	3.04	2.74	.060	.028	.89	.95	321	.000	.32	
CIVoutside	222	2.95	2.83	.061	.027	.91	.92	312	.081	.13	
CIVdisagreement	222	3.84	3.68	.065	.026	.97	.89	296	.022	.18	
CIVconflict	222	3.78	3.57	.063	.027	.94	.93	307	.004	.22	
CIVlead	222	4.04	3.93	.060	.026	.89	.90	313	.097	.12	
CIVdialogue	221	3.87	3.75	.064	.026	.95	.90	299	.086	.13	
CIVcontribute	222	3.87	3.81	.063	.027	.95	.92	304	.341	.07	
CIVinvolve local	222	2.66	2.68	.057	.024	.85	.81	301	.671	-.03	
CIVinvolve global	221	2.88	2.99	.061	.024	.91	.82	290	.103	-.13	
CIVdiscuss local	222	2.49	2.68	.061	.025	.91	.87	303	.006	-.21	
CIVdiscuss global	222	2.71	2.82	.061	.026	.91	.89	306	.082	-.13	
CIVraise	221	2.33	2.27	.064	.035	.95	.94	364	.413	.06	
CIVvolunteer	223	2.23	2.20	.062	.036	.93	.95	378	.683	.03	
CIVask	218	2.10	2.11	.064	.036	.94	.95	362	.898	-.01	
CIVorgwork	223	1.93	1.87	.063	.035	.94	.93	368	.419	.06	
CIVproject	220	2.05	2.09	.067	.036	1.00	.97	356	.552	-.05	

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.