
NSSE 2021 Topical Module Report

Career & Workforce Preparation

University of California-Merced

This module represents a collaboration between NSSE and Strada Education Network to assess how the college experience prepares students for their future. Questions address institutional contributions to students' career plans, influences on their goals, confidence in work-related skills, career exploration in the curriculum, and use of career resources and services.

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First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UC Merced		Pub-RU/H/VH		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Mean
1. To what extent do the following apply to you?										
a. You have a clear idea of your career plans	CWP01a	0	Not at all	24	5	232	4	2.6	2.7	-.09
		1	Very little	50	11	598	10			
		2	Some	119	27	1,583	27			
		3	Quite a bit	151	34	2,037	35			
		4	Very much	99	22	1,443	25			
			Total	443	100	5,893	100			
b. Your experience at this institution has helped clarify your career plans	CWP01b	0	Not at all	25	6	369	7	2.4	2.3	.03
		1	Very little	70	16	817	14			
		2	Some	144	32	2,094	35			
		3	Quite a bit	134	31	1,707	29			
		4	Very much	69	15	891	15			
			Total	442	100	5,878	100			
c. What you are learning at this institution is relevant to your career plans	CWP01c	0	Not at all	5	1	122	3	2.8	2.8	-.03
		1	Very little	32	7	329	6			
		2	Some	122	28	1,440	25			
		3	Quite a bit	169	38	2,268	38			
		4	Very much	115	26	1,727	29			
			Total	443	100	5,886	100			
d. You know where to go with questions about your career plans or further education	CWP01d	0	Not at all	27	6	249	4	2.6	2.7	-.07
		1	Very little	49	11	601	10			
		2	Some	116	26	1,537	26			
		3	Quite a bit	142	32	1,985	34			
		4	Very much	109	25	1,511	25			
			Total	443	100	5,883	100			
e. You can describe the knowledge, skills, and experiences that are necessary for your career plans	CWP01e	0	Not at all	16	4	167	3	2.5	2.6 **	-.16 ▽
		1	Very little	58	13	546	9			
		2	Some	140	31	1,752	30			
		3	Quite a bit	156	36	2,151	37			
		4	Very much	72	16	1,256	21			
			Total	442	100	5,872	100			
f. You have received supportive feedback from faculty or other advisors about your career plans	CWP01f	0	Not at all	29	6	489	8	2.4	2.3	.02
		1	Very little	68	15	902	16			
		2	Some	136	31	1,736	29			
		3	Quite a bit	138	32	1,692	29			
		4	Very much	72	16	1,057	18			
			Total	443	100	5,876	100			
2. To what extent have the following influenced your career plans?										
a. Interest or passion for the work	CWP02a	0	Not at all	12	3	83	2	3.0	3.1 **	-.14 ▽
		1	Very little	16	3	211	4			
		2	Some	87	20	968	16			
		3	Quite a bit	165	37	2,113	36			
		4	Very much	155	35	2,423	41			
		—	Not applicable	7	2	76	1			
			Total	442	100	5,874	100			

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UC Merced		Pub-RU/H/VH		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
b. Fit for your skills and abilities	CWP02b	0	Not at all	6	1	62	1	2.8	3.0 ***	-.23
		1	Very little	29	6	172	3			
		2	Some	113	25	1,193	20			
		3	Quite a bit	181	41	2,528	43			
		4	Very much	106	24	1,842	31			
		—	Not applicable	7	2	74	1			
Total				442	100	5,871	100			
c. Advice from family or friends	CWP02c	0	Not at all	30	7	352	6	2.3	2.4 *	-.13
		1	Very little	75	16	772	13			
		2	Some	130	30	1,755	30			
		3	Quite a bit	128	29	1,711	29			
		4	Very much	69	15	1,203	20			
		—	Not applicable	9	2	80	1			
Total				441	100	5,873	100			
d. Advice from a high school teacher or counselor	CWP02d	0	Not at all	72	16	1,255	22	1.9	1.7 *	.12
		1	Very little	95	21	1,277	21			
		2	Some	114	27	1,465	25			
		3	Quite a bit	88	20	1,006	17			
		4	Very much	53	12	677	11			
		—	Not applicable	20	4	197	4			
Total				442	100	5,877	100			
e. Interactions with a faculty member or advisor	CWP02e	0	Not at all	73	17	945	17	1.8	1.8	-.01
		1	Very little	92	20	1,302	22			
		2	Some	124	29	1,690	29			
		3	Quite a bit	84	19	1,099	19			
		4	Very much	42	9	635	11			
		—	Not applicable	27	6	196	3			
Total				442	100	5,867	100			
f. Co-curricular activities (student organizations or clubs, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	CWP02f	0	Not at all	110	25	1,416	24	1.5	1.6	-.10
		1	Very little	66	15	1,028	18			
		2	Some	79	18	1,175	20			
		3	Quite a bit	58	13	870	14			
		4	Very much	28	6	544	9			
		—	Not applicable	100	23	836	14			
Total				441	100	5,869	100			
g. Internship, co-op, field experience, student teaching, or clinical placement	CWP02g	0	Not at all	100	23	1,190	21	1.5	1.7	-.12
		1	Very little	50	11	645	11			
		2	Some	58	13	872	14			
		3	Quite a bit	48	11	709	12			
		4	Very much	34	8	565	10			
		—	Not applicable	152	34	1,885	32			
Total				442	100	5,866	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		
				UC Merced		Pub-RU/H/VH		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
h. Work experience (on- or off-campus job or prior employment)	CWP02h	0	Not at all	97	23	1,187	21	1.5	1.8 **	-0.16 ▽
		1	Very little	60	13	839	14			
		2	Some	58	13	1,184	19			
		3	Quite a bit	51	11	872	15			
		4	Very much	35	8	645	11			
		—	Not applicable	140	31	1,139	20			
Total				441	100	5,866	100			
i. Career fairs, workshops, or course-based exploration of career options	CWP02i	0	Not at all	86	20	1,427	25	1.6	1.5 **	.15 △
		1	Very little	70	16	969	17			
		2	Some	89	20	1,167	19			
		3	Quite a bit	63	14	664	11			
		4	Very much	31	7	366	6			
		—	Not applicable	101	23	1,266	22			
Total				440	100	5,859	100			
j. Expected availability of jobs in the field	CWP02j	0	Not at all	62	14	736	12	2.1	2.2	-0.05
		1	Very little	52	11	732	13			
		2	Some	108	25	1,719	29			
		3	Quite a bit	112	26	1,480	25			
		4	Very much	55	13	852	15			
		—	Not applicable	52	12	338	6			
Total				441	100	5,857	100			
k. Potential salary or earnings	CWP02k	0	Not at all	39	9	502	8	2.5	2.5	.01
		1	Very little	43	9	672	11			
		2	Some	120	27	1,614	27			
		3	Quite a bit	121	28	1,685	29			
		4	Very much	95	22	1,235	22			
		—	Not applicable	23	5	163	3			
Total				441	100	5,871	100			
3. How much confidence do you have in your ability to do the following?										
a. Demonstrate effective work habits (punctuality, working productively with others, time and workload management, etc.)	CWP03a	0	Not at all	5	1	64	1	3.0	3.1 **	-0.16 ▽
		1	Very little	17	4	196	3			
		2	Some	96	22	959	16			
		3	Quite a bit	174	39	2,284	39			
		4	Very much	144	33	2,327	40			
		—	Not applicable	4	1	28	0			
Total				440	100	5,858	100			
b. Network with alumni or professionals to make potential career connections	CWP03b	0	Not at all	25	6	399	7	2.1	2.3 **	-0.14 ▽
		1	Very little	94	22	1,040	17			
		2	Some	150	34	1,936	33			
		3	Quite a bit	95	22	1,414	24			
		4	Very much	53	12	950	17			
		—	Not applicable	22	5	122	2			
Total				439	100	5,861	100			

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UC Merced		Pub-RU/H/VH		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
c. Communicate your knowledge, skills, and experiences to potential employers	CWP03c	0	Not at all	16	4	136	2	2.5	2.7 ***	-0.24 ▽
		1	Very little	59	13	499	8			
		2	Some	137	32	1,704	28			
		3	Quite a bit	141	32	2,077	36			
		4	Very much	76	17	1,374	24			
		—	Not applicable	11	2	59	1			
Total				440	100	5,849	100			
d. Use career-specific technology (devices, programs, or tools used by those in the field)	CWP03d	0	Not at all	16	4	181	3	2.5	2.7 ***	-0.19 ▽
		1	Very little	66	15	529	9			
		2	Some	127	28	1,694	28			
		3	Quite a bit	129	29	1,968	34			
		4	Very much	90	21	1,393	25			
		—	Not applicable	13	3	92	2			
Total				441	100	5,857	100			
e. Work effectively with people of other backgrounds (economic, racial/ethnic, political, religious, nationality, etc.)	CWP03e	0	Not at all	6	1	52	1	3.3	3.4	-0.06
		1	Very little	9	2	109	2			
		2	Some	52	12	613	10			
		3	Quite a bit	137	31	1,866	32			
		4	Very much	231	53	3,171	54			
		—	Not applicable	6	1	42	1			
Total				441	100	5,853	100			
f. Address ethical issues you might face in your career	CWP03f	0	Not at all	11	3	94	2	2.9	3.0 **	-0.17 ▽
		1	Very little	25	6	240	4			
		2	Some	107	24	1,163	20			
		3	Quite a bit	150	34	2,152	36			
		4	Very much	139	31	2,153	37			
		—	Not applicable	9	2	60	1			
Total				441	100	5,862	100			
4. In your courses at this institution, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Analyzed a case, scenario, or simulation of a real-life situation	CWP04a	1	Never	38	9	538	10	2.7	2.7 *	0.10 △
		2	Sometimes	134	30	1,932	34			
		3	Often	168	39	2,161	37			
		4	Very often	100	23	1,212	20			
		Total				440	100			
b. Researched a career interest, a potential employer, or the job market	CWP04b	1	Never	152	35	1,428	25	2.1	2.3 ***	-0.20 ▽
		2	Sometimes	137	31	1,975	34			
		3	Often	94	22	1,521	26			
		4	Very often	57	12	917	15			
		Total				440	100			
c. Learned about a career or industry from practicing professionals	CWP04c	1	Never	141	32	1,314	23	2.1	2.3 ***	-0.20 ▽
		2	Sometimes	145	33	2,037	35			
		3	Often	104	24	1,615	28			
		4	Very often	50	11	880	14			
		Total				440	100			

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First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UC Merced		Pub-RU/H/VH		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
5. Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do at this institution before you graduate (whether in person or online)?¹										
a. Take a career exploration, planning, or development course	CWP05a		Have not decided	121	28	1,437	25	5%	15% ***	-0.34
			Do not plan to do	28	6	1,062	19			
			Plan to do	269	61	2,458	42			
			Done or in progress	22	5	874	15			
			Total	440	100	5,831	100			
b. Complete a career profile or self-assessment to identify occupations that match your strengths and interests	CWP05b		Have not decided	121	28	1,437	25	9%	26% ***	-0.46
			Do not plan to do	28	6	1,062	19			
			Plan to do	269	61	2,458	42			
			Done or in progress	22	5	874	15			
			Total	440	100	5,831	100			
c. Attend a talk, panel discussion, or workshop about careers	CWP05c		Have not decided	103	24	945	17	10%	17% ***	-0.21
			Do not plan to do	30	7	862	15			
			Plan to do	265	60	2,516	42			
			Done or in progress	41	9	1,507	26			
			Total	439	100	5,830	100			
d. Discuss your career interests with a faculty member	CWP05d		Have not decided	88	20	1,112	20	24%	29% *	-0.12
			Do not plan to do	28	7	729	13			
			Plan to do	278	63	2,936	50			
			Done or in progress	46	10	1,055	17			
			Total	440	100	5,832	100			
e. Interview or shadow someone in a career that you are considering	CWP05e		Have not decided	61	14	685	12	5%	13% ***	-0.25
			Do not plan to do	20	5	350	6			
			Plan to do	251	57	3,111	52			
			Done or in progress	107	24	1,687	29			
			Total	439	100	5,833	100			
f. Participate in a major- or career-related co-curricular activity (student organization, professional or honor society, etc.)	CWP05f		Have not decided	93	22	766	14	7%	16% ***	-0.29
			Do not plan to do	22	5	216	4			
			Plan to do	300	68	4,124	70			
			Done or in progress	23	5	723	13			
			Total	438	100	5,829	100			
g. Use resources and information (database or other digital tools, videos, guides, books, etc.) from career services	CWP05g		Have not decided	115	27	1,212	21	10%	15% **	-0.16
			Do not plan to do	22	5	410	7			
			Plan to do	270	61	3,220	55			
			Done or in progress	32	7	985	16			
			Total	439	100	5,827	100			
h. Meet with career services staff to explore your interests and future plans	CWP05h		Have not decided	110	25	1,186	21	8%	11% *	-0.11
			Do not plan to do	18	4	525	9			
			Plan to do	268	61	3,232	54			
			Done or in progress	44	10	880	15			
			Total	440	100	5,823	100			
i. Get help with your résumé	CWP05i		Have not decided	92	22	1,145	21	15%	21% **	-0.17
			Do not plan to do	16	3	555	11			
			Plan to do	295	67	3,441	57			
			Done or in progress	37	8	683	11			
			Total	440	100	5,824	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		
				UC Merced		Pub-RU/H/VH		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
j. Participate in a mock or practice interview	CWP05j <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>		Have not decided	50	12	594	11	9%	10%	-.04
			Do not plan to do	14	3	330	6			
			Plan to do	309	70	3,635	62			
			Done or in progress	67	15	1,275	21			
			Total	440	100	5,834	100			
k. Participate in a career fair	CWP05k <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>		Have not decided	122	28	1,201	21	7%	12% ***	-0.19
			Do not plan to do	28	6	599	11			
			Plan to do	248	57	3,450	58			
			Done or in progress	41	9	579	10			
			Total	439	100	5,829	100			
l. Network with alumni or professionals in a field related to your career interests	CWP05l <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>		Have not decided	114	27	1,291	23	5%	9% **	-0.17
			Do not plan to do	26	6	629	11			
			Plan to do	270	61	3,190	54			
			Done or in progress	29	7	720	12			
			Total	439	100	5,830	100			
6. If you are currently working for pay, to what extent is this work related to your career plans?										
	CWP06	0	Not at all	95	22	1,063	19	1.2	1.3	-.04
		1	Very little	12	3	271	5			
		2	Some	310	70	3,938	67			
		3	Quite a bit	21	5	533	9			
		4	Very much	438	100	5,805	100			
		—	Not working for pay	73	17	1,167	20			
			Total	30	7	529	9			
7. Is there anything this institution could do better to help students develop their career plans or gain work-related skills? Please describe.										

7. Is there anything this institution could do better to help students develop their career plans or gain work-related skills? Please describe.

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 86 first-year students and 84 seniors. Responses are provided in your NSSE21 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

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UC Merced		Pub-RU/H/VH		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
1. To what extent do the following apply to you?										
a. You have a clear idea of your career plans	CWP01a	0	Not at all	9	3	213	3	2.6	2.9 ***	-0.24 ▽
		1	Very little	29	10	548	7			
		2	Some	82	30	1,704	23			
		3	Quite a bit	91	33	2,311	31			
		4	Very much	66	24	2,665	36			
			Total	277	100	7,441	100			
b. Your experience at this institution has helped clarify your career plans	CWP01b	0	Not at all	18	7	388	6	2.5	2.6	-0.09
		1	Very little	33	11	763	10			
		2	Some	78	28	2,054	27			
		3	Quite a bit	89	33	2,235	30			
		4	Very much	57	21	1,958	26			
			Total	275	100	7,398	100			
c. What you are learning at this institution is relevant to your career plans	CWP01c	0	Not at all	3	1	117	2	2.9	3.0	-0.09
		1	Very little	9	3	332	5			
		2	Some	80	29	1,597	22			
		3	Quite a bit	95	34	2,486	33			
		4	Very much	89	33	2,894	39			
			Total	276	100	7,426	100			
d. You know where to go with questions about your career plans or further education	CWP01d	0	Not at all	14	5	336	5	2.6	2.7	-0.06
		1	Very little	29	10	752	10			
		2	Some	76	27	1,878	25			
		3	Quite a bit	86	31	2,199	29			
		4	Very much	72	26	2,253	31			
			Total	277	100	7,418	100			
e. You can describe the knowledge, skills, and experiences that are necessary for your career plans	CWP01e	0	Not at all	5	2	160	2	2.8	3.0 **	-0.18 ▽
		1	Very little	15	5	365	5			
		2	Some	88	33	1,547	21			
		3	Quite a bit	90	32	2,763	37			
		4	Very much	78	28	2,585	35			
			Total	276	100	7,420	100			
f. You have received supportive feedback from faculty or other advisors about your career plans	CWP01f	0	Not at all	30	11	601	9	2.3	2.5 *	-0.16 ▽
		1	Very little	45	16	955	13			
		2	Some	84	30	1,904	26			
		3	Quite a bit	55	20	2,007	26			
		4	Very much	63	23	1,940	26			
			Total	277	100	7,407	100			
2. To what extent have the following influenced your career plans?										
a. Interest or passion for the work	CWP02a	0	Not at all	3	1	109	2	3.1	3.2 *	-0.13 ▽
		1	Very little	12	5	200	3			
		2	Some	53	20	1,049	15			
		3	Quite a bit	88	32	2,496	34			
		4	Very much	119	42	3,512	46			
		—	Not applicable	2	1	52	1			
			Total	277	100	7,418	100			

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UC Merced		Pub-RU/H/VH		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
b. Fit for your skills and abilities	CWP02b	0	Not at all	3	1	73	1	2.9	3.2 ***	-0.26
		1	Very little	17	6	179	3			
		2	Some	63	23	1,191	16			
		3	Quite a bit	98	35	2,936	39			
		4	Very much	94	34	2,982	40			
		—	Not applicable	2	1	51	1			
Total				277	100	7,412	100			
c. Advice from family or friends	CWP02c	0	Not at all	32	12	492	7	2.1	2.4 ***	-0.30
		1	Very little	62	22	1,016	14			
		2	Some	78	28	2,270	30			
		3	Quite a bit	50	18	1,915	26			
		4	Very much	48	17	1,580	21			
		—	Not applicable	7	2	137	2			
Total				277	100	7,410	100			
d. Advice from a high school teacher or counselor	CWP02d	0	Not at all	82	30	2,511	34	1.4	1.3	.08
		1	Very little	66	24	1,531	20			
		2	Some	61	22	1,281	17			
		3	Quite a bit	30	11	698	9			
		4	Very much	23	8	637	9			
		—	Not applicable	14	5	752	10			
Total				276	100	7,410	100			
e. Interactions with a faculty member or advisor	CWP02e	0	Not at all	47	18	1,056	15	1.9	2.0	-0.09
		1	Very little	53	18	1,279	17			
		2	Some	85	31	2,212	30			
		3	Quite a bit	49	18	1,529	20			
		4	Very much	35	13	1,064	14			
		—	Not applicable	8	3	267	4			
Total				277	100	7,407	100			
f. Co-curricular activities (student organizations or clubs, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	CWP02f	0	Not at all	62	24	1,972	27	1.7	1.6	.11
		1	Very little	50	18	1,160	16			
		2	Some	50	18	1,342	18			
		3	Quite a bit	45	16	1,008	13			
		4	Very much	36	13	800	11			
		—	Not applicable	33	11	1,127	15			
Total				276	100	7,409	100			
g. Internship, co-op, field experience, student teaching, or clinical placement	CWP02g	0	Not at all	48	18	1,076	15	2.1	2.4 *	-0.14
		1	Very little	31	11	550	8			
		2	Some	39	14	1,129	15			
		3	Quite a bit	37	13	1,430	19			
		4	Very much	61	22	1,798	24			
		—	Not applicable	61	22	1,417	20			
Total				277	100	7,400	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		
				UC Merced		Pub-RU/H/VH		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
h. Work experience (on- or off-campus job or prior employment)	CWP02h	0	Not at all	42	15	935	13	2.2	2.4 *	-0.14 ▽
		1	Very little	36	14	760	10			
		2	Some	54	19	1,512	20			
		3	Quite a bit	44	16	1,617	22			
		4	Very much	62	23	1,929	26			
		—	Not applicable	37	14	643	9			
Total				275	100	7,396	100			
i. Career fairs, workshops, or course-based exploration of career options	CWP02i	0	Not at all	54	20	1,941	26	1.8	1.5 **	.19 △
		1	Very little	50	18	1,284	18			
		2	Some	76	28	1,528	21			
		3	Quite a bit	36	13	867	12			
		4	Very much	32	11	645	9			
		—	Not applicable	28	10	1,135	15			
Total				276	100	7,400	100			
j. Expected availability of jobs in the field	CWP02j	0	Not at all	40	14	828	11	2.2	2.3	-0.08
		1	Very little	34	12	896	11			
		2	Some	77	27	2,097	28			
		3	Quite a bit	72	27	1,882	25			
		4	Very much	46	17	1,367	19			
		—	Not applicable	8	3	330	4			
Total				277	100	7,400	100			
k. Potential salary or earnings	CWP02k	0	Not at all	26	9	667	9	2.4	2.4	.03
		1	Very little	31	10	963	12			
		2	Some	85	31	2,175	29			
		3	Quite a bit	63	22	1,882	26			
		4	Very much	65	25	1,522	22			
		—	Not applicable	7	3	193	3			
Total				277	100	7,402	100			
3. How much confidence do you have in your ability to do the following?										
a. Demonstrate effective work habits (punctuality, working productively with others, time and workload management, etc.)	CWP03a	0	Not at all	3	1	59	1	3.2	3.4 ***	-0.25 ▽
		1	Very little	12	5	154	2			
		2	Some	37	13	791	11			
		3	Quite a bit	101	36	2,252	30			
		4	Very much	122	44	4,105	55			
		—	Not applicable	1	0	27	0			
Total				276	100	7,388	100			
b. Network with alumni or professionals to make potential career connections	CWP03b	0	Not at all	18	7	495	7	2.4	2.4	-0.03
		1	Very little	48	17	1,127	15			
		2	Some	84	30	2,265	30			
		3	Quite a bit	58	21	1,711	23			
		4	Very much	63	23	1,642	23			
		—	Not applicable	4	2	140	2			
Total				275	100	7,380	100			

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UC Merced		Pub-RU/H/VH		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
c. Communicate your knowledge, skills, and experiences to potential employers	CWP03c	0	Not at all	9	3	106	1	2.7	3.0 ***	-0.27 ▽
		1	Very little	27	10	372	5			
		2	Some	75	27	1,688	23			
		3	Quite a bit	84	30	2,625	36			
		4	Very much	77	29	2,534	35			
		—	Not applicable	2	1	55	1			
Total				274	100	7,380	100			
d. Use career-specific technology (devices, programs, or tools used by those in the field)	CWP03d	0	Not at all	7	2	120	2	2.7	3.0 ***	-0.25 ▽
		1	Very little	29	10	417	6			
		2	Some	80	29	1,758	23			
		3	Quite a bit	78	28	2,465	33			
		4	Very much	77	29	2,538	35			
		—	Not applicable	4	2	79	1			
Total				275	100	7,377	100			
e. Work effectively with people of other backgrounds (economic, racial/ethnic, political, religious, nationality, etc.)	CWP03e	0	Not at all	3	1	50	1	3.4	3.5	-0.14
		1	Very little	11	4	104	1			
		2	Some	32	11	612	9			
		3	Quite a bit	68	25	2,179	29			
		4	Very much	157	58	4,368	59			
		—	Not applicable	1	0	59	1			
Total				272	100	7,372	100			
f. Address ethical issues you might face in your career	CWP03f	0	Not at all	6	2	74	1	2.9	3.2 ***	-0.27 ▽
		1	Very little	19	7	207	3			
		2	Some	64	23	1,190	16			
		3	Quite a bit	82	30	2,685	36			
		4	Very much	102	37	3,158	43			
		—	Not applicable	2	1	63	1			
Total				275	100	7,377	100			
4. In your courses at this institution, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Analyzed a case, scenario, or simulation of a real-life situation	CWP04a	1	Never	14	5	265	4	2.9	3.1 ***	-0.23 ▽
		2	Sometimes	86	32	1,655	23			
		3	Often	92	33	2,593	35			
		4	Very often	81	29	2,858	38			
		Total				273	100			
b. Researched a career interest, a potential employer, or the job market	CWP04b	1	Never	41	14	1,262	18	2.6	2.6	.02
		2	Sometimes	89	33	2,331	32			
		3	Often	86	32	1,983	27			
		4	Very often	57	21	1,785	24			
		Total				273	100			
c. Learned about a career or industry from practicing professionals	CWP04c	1	Never	40	14	872	12	2.6	2.7	-0.10
		2	Sometimes	93	34	2,346	32			
		3	Often	82	29	2,201	29			
		4	Very often	59	22	1,947	26			
		Total				274	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		
				UC Merced		Pub-RU/H/VH		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
5. Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do at this institution before you graduate (whether in person or online)?ⁱ										
a. Take a career exploration, planning, or development course	CWP05a		Have not decided	36	13	773	11	28%	28%	-.02
			Do not plan to do	109	38	3,444	47			
			Plan to do	59	21	956	13			
			Done or in progress	70	28	2,183	28			
			Total	274	100	7,356	100			
				<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>						
b. Complete a career profile or self-assessment to identify occupations that match your strengths and interests	CWP05b		Have not decided	36	13	773	11	34%	37%	-.06
			Do not plan to do	109	38	3,444	47			
			Plan to do	59	21	956	13			
			Done or in progress	70	28	2,183	28			
			Total	274	100	7,356	100			
				<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>						
c. Attend a talk, panel discussion, or workshop about careers	CWP05c		Have not decided	25	10	696	10	40%	37%	.08
			Do not plan to do	77	28	2,626	37			
			Plan to do	80	28	1,244	17			
			Done or in progress	92	34	2,781	37			
			Total	274	100	7,347	100			
				<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>						
d. Discuss your career interests with a faculty member	CWP05d		Have not decided	28	11	770	11	41%	48% *	-0.13
			Do not plan to do	54	20	2,500	35			
			Plan to do	83	29	1,312	18			
			Done or in progress	107	40	2,775	37			
			Total	272	100	7,357	100			
				<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>						
e. Interview or shadow someone in a career that you are considering	CWP05e		Have not decided	28	11	584	8	21%	38% ***	-.39
			Do not plan to do	48	18	1,558	22			
			Plan to do	85	30	1,576	22			
			Done or in progress	113	41	3,624	48			
			Total	274	100	7,342	100			
				<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>						
f. Participate in a major- or career-related co-curricular activity (student organization, professional or honor society, etc.)	CWP05f		Have not decided	52	20	774	11	33%	37%	-.08
			Do not plan to do	54	21	1,785	25			
			Plan to do	110	39	1,860	26			
			Done or in progress	56	21	2,929	38			
			Total	272	100	7,348	100			
				<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>						
g. Use resources and information (database or other digital tools, videos, guides, books, etc.) from career services	CWP05g		Have not decided	41	15	854	12	34%	36%	-.04
			Do not plan to do	94	34	2,683	37			
			Plan to do	48	18	1,014	14			
			Done or in progress	91	33	2,781	37			
			Total	274	100	7,332	100			
				<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>						
h. Meet with career services staff to explore your interests and future plans	CWP05h		Have not decided	44	16	845	11	30%	28%	.05
			Do not plan to do	52	20	2,117	30			
			Plan to do	87	31	1,692	23			
			Done or in progress	89	34	2,670	36			
			Total	272	100	7,324	100			
				<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>						
i. Get help with your résumé	CWP05i		Have not decided	47	17	959	13	48%	50%	-.04
			Do not plan to do	58	21	2,708	37			
			Plan to do	91	32	1,581	22			
			Done or in progress	78	30	2,083	28			
			Total	274	100	7,331	100			
				<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>						

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UC Merced		Pub-RU/H/VH		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
j. Participate in a mock or practice interview	CWP05j <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>		Have not decided	17	6	471	6	27%	32%	-.12
			Do not plan to do	34	12	1,375	19			
			Plan to do	95	34	1,837	25			
			Done or in progress	128	48	3,660	50			
			Total	274	100	7,343	100			
k. Participate in a career fair	CWP05k <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>		Have not decided	38	14	770	10	41%	39%	.03
			Do not plan to do	57	21	2,356	33			
			Plan to do	107	39	1,767	24			
			Done or in progress	71	27	2,445	32			
			Total	273	100	7,338	100			
l. Network with alumni or professionals in a field related to your career interests	CWP05l <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>		Have not decided	31	11	833	11	30%	32%	-.04
			Do not plan to do	48	17	2,239	30			
			Plan to do	87	32	1,437	20			
			Done or in progress	108	41	2,829	39			
			Total	274	100	7,338	100			
6. If you are currently working for pay, to what extent is this work related to your career plans?										
	CWP06	0	Not at all	43	15	1,011	14	1.9	2.0	-.04
		1	Very little	33	12	1,458	20			
		2	Some	117	43	2,478	34			
		3	Quite a bit	80	30	2,369	32			
		4	Very much	273	100	7,316	100			
		—	Not working for pay	40	13	1,314	17			
			Total	33	12	702	10			

7. Is there anything this institution could do better to help students develop their career plans or gain work-related skills? Please describe.

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 86 first-year students and 84 seniors. Responses are provided in your NSSE21 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.

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH			
								<i>Comparisons with:</i>		
CWP01a	444	2.57	2.66	.053	.012	1.11	1.07	8,946	.067	-.09
CWP01b	443	2.35	2.31	.052	.012	1.09	1.10	8,919	.473	.03
CWP01c	444	2.80	2.83	.045	.011	0.94	0.99	8,927	.526	-.03
CWP01d	444	2.59	2.66	.054	.012	1.14	1.09	8,923	.171	-.07
CWP01e	443	2.49	2.65	.049	.011	1.03	1.01	8,908	.001	-.16
CWP01f	444	2.35	2.33	.053	.013	1.11	1.17	8,915	.642	.02
CWP02a	435	3.01	3.13	.046	.010	0.97	0.92	8,789	.005	-.14
CWP02b	436	2.82	3.02	.044	.009	0.93	0.85	474	.000	-.23
CWP02c	433	2.30	2.44	.055	.012	1.14	1.14	8,780	.011	-.13
CWP02d	423	1.90	1.75	.061	.014	1.26	1.31	470	.016	.12
CWP02e	416	1.83	1.84	.060	.014	1.23	1.24	8,587	.849	-.01
CWP02f	342	1.48	1.61	.071	.016	1.31	1.34	7,617	.080	-.10
CWP02g	291	1.52	1.69	.083	.019	1.41	1.43	6,035	.054	-.12
CWP02h	304	1.55	1.77	.080	.017	1.39	1.38	7,096	.007	-.16
CWP02i	339	1.64	1.45	.070	.016	1.29	1.28	6,961	.007	.15
CWP02j	390	2.13	2.20	.064	.014	1.27	1.23	8,353	.310	-.05
CWP02k	418	2.48	2.46	.059	.013	1.21	1.19	8,660	.796	.01
CWP03a	437	3.00	3.14	.043	.010	0.90	0.88	8,840	.001	-.16
CWP03b	418	2.12	2.28	.053	.013	1.09	1.15	465	.005	-.14
CWP03c	430	2.48	2.72	.051	.011	1.05	1.00	470	.000	-.24
CWP03d	429	2.51	2.70	.053	.011	1.10	1.03	467	.000	-.19
CWP03e	435	3.33	3.38	.041	.009	0.86	0.81	8,800	.209	-.06
CWP03f	433	2.88	3.04	.048	.010	1.01	0.94	472	.001	-.17
CWP04a	441	2.75	2.66	.043	.010	0.90	0.90	8,866	.044	.10
CWP04b	441	2.12	2.32	.049	.011	1.02	1.01	8,857	.000	-.20
CWP04c	441	2.14	2.34	.047	.011	0.99	0.98	8,867	.000	-.20
CWP05a ^k	444	5%	15%	.010	.004	--	--	--	.000	-.34
CWP05b ^k	443	9%	26%	.014	.005	--	--	--	.000	-.46
CWP05c ^k	444	10%	17%	.014	.004	--	--	--	.000	-.21
CWP05d ^k	444	24%	29%	.020	.005	--	--	--	.020	-.12
CWP05e ^k	443	5%	13%	.011	.004	--	--	--	.000	-.25
CWP05f ^k	444	7%	16%	.012	.004	--	--	--	.000	-.29
CWP05g ^k	435	10%	15%	.014	.004	--	--	--	.002	-.16
CWP05h ^k	436	8%	11%	.013	.003	--	--	--	.042	-.11
CWP05i ^k	433	15%	21%	.017	.004	--	--	--	.001	-.17
CWP05j ^k	423	9%	10%	.014	.003	--	--	--	.449	-.04
CWP05k ^k	416	7%	12%	.012	.004	--	--	--	.001	-.19
CWP05l ^k	342	5%	9%	.010	.003	--	--	--	.003	-.17
CWP06	167	1.21	1.26	.104	.022	1.34	1.35	4,091	.651	-.04

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
		UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH	UC Merced	Pub-RU/H/VH			
								<i>Comparisons with:</i>		
CWP01a	277	2.64	2.89	.064	.012	1.06	1.06	8,131	.000	-.24
CWP01b	275	2.51	2.60	.069	.013	1.14	1.15	8,082	.165	-.09
CWP01c	276	2.93	3.02	.056	.011	0.92	0.97	8,111	.147	-.09
CWP01d	277	2.64	2.70	.067	.013	1.12	1.15	8,108	.368	-.06
CWP01e	276	2.80	2.97	.058	.011	0.97	0.98	8,110	.004	-.18
CWP01f	277	2.29	2.48	.077	.014	1.28	1.25	8,099	.011	-.16
CWP02a	275	3.09	3.21	.058	.010	0.96	0.91	8,042	.031	-.13
CWP02b	275	2.94	3.16	.059	.010	0.97	0.86	289	.000	-.26
CWP02c	271	2.06	2.41	.077	.013	1.27	1.17	7,939	.000	-.30
CWP02d	263	1.41	1.30	.079	.016	1.28	1.32	7,311	.216	.08
CWP02e	269	1.89	2.01	.078	.015	1.27	1.26	7,803	.132	-.09
CWP02f	244	1.74	1.58	.090	.017	1.41	1.40	6,885	.084	.11
CWP02g	216	2.14	2.35	.104	.018	1.53	1.46	6,501	.039	-.14
CWP02h	237	2.21	2.40	.093	.016	1.43	1.37	7,335	.032	-.14
CWP02i	249	1.76	1.51	.082	.016	1.29	1.32	6,901	.004	.19
CWP02j	269	2.20	2.31	.078	.014	1.28	1.25	7,736	.176	-.08
CWP02k	270	2.44	2.40	.076	.014	1.24	1.21	7,876	.616	.03
CWP03a	275	3.17	3.38	.056	.009	0.92	0.82	8,040	.000	-.25
CWP03b	271	2.37	2.41	.074	.014	1.21	1.20	7,916	.642	-.03
CWP03c	271	2.72	2.98	.066	.011	1.09	0.95	285	.000	-.27
CWP03d	271	2.72	2.96	.065	.011	1.07	0.98	285	.000	-.25
CWP03e	271	3.36	3.46	.056	.009	0.92	0.77	283	.059	-.14
CWP03f	272	2.94	3.18	.063	.010	1.04	0.88	285	.000	-.27
CWP04a	272	2.87	3.07	.054	.010	0.90	0.87	8,049	.000	-.23
CWP04b	273	2.60	2.57	.059	.012	0.98	1.04	294	.680	.02
CWP04c	273	2.59	2.69	.060	.011	0.98	0.99	8,044	.112	-.10
CWP05a ^k	277	28%	28%	.027	.005	--	--	--	.772	-.02
CWP05b ^k	275	34%	37%	.029	.005	--	--	--	.342	-.06
CWP05c ^k	276	40%	37%	.030	.005	--	--	--	.216	.08
CWP05d ^k	277	41%	48%	.030	.006	--	--	--	.030	-.13
CWP05e ^k	276	21%	38%	.025	.006	--	--	--	.000	-.39
CWP05f ^k	277	33%	37%	.029	.006	--	--	--	.187	-.08
CWP05g ^k	275	34%	36%	.029	.005	--	--	--	.493	-.04
CWP05h ^k	275	30%	28%	.028	.005	--	--	--	.427	.05
CWP05i ^k	271	48%	50%	.030	.006	--	--	--	.501	-.04
CWP05j ^k	263	27%	32%	.027	.005	--	--	--	.054	-.12
CWP05k ^k	269	41%	39%	.030	.006	--	--	--	.625	.03
CWP05l ^k	244	30%	32%	.028	.005	--	--	--	.483	-.04
CWP06	161	1.94	2.00	.117	.021	1.48	1.51	5,552	.612	-.04

See the endnotes on the last page of this report.

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 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.