NSSE national survey of student engagement

NSSE 2026 Topical Module Report
Career & Workforce Preparation

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

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.

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

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values[c]	Response options	Frequency Distributions[a] Whitewater Count	Whitewater %	Career Prep Count	Career Prep %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Whitewater Mean	Career Prep Mean	Effect size[d]
1. To what extent do the following apply to you?										
a. You have a clear idea of your career plans	CWPidea	0	Not at all	8	2	1,261	2			
		1	Very little	23	5	4,048	7			
		2	Some	127	28	13,519	25	2.8	2.8	.01
		3	Quite a bit	182	39	18,294	34			
		4	Very much	130	27	15,565	30			
			Total	470	100	52,687	100			
b. What you are learning at this institution is relevant to your career plans	CWPrelevant	0	Not at all	6	1	547	1			
		1	Very little	19	4	1,901	4			
		2	Some	137	30	10,876	20	2.8	3.1 *** ▽	-.29
		3	Quite a bit	193	41	20,197	38			
		4	Very much	112	23	19,085	37			
			Total	467	100	52,606	100			
c. You know where to go with questions about your career plans or further education	CWPquestions	0	Not at all	5	1	1,366	3			
		1	Very little	17	4	4,342	8			
		2	Some	129	28	13,501	25	2.9	2.8	.05
		3	Quite a bit	197	42	18,051	34			
		4	Very much	119	25	15,283	30			
			Total	467	100	52,543	100			
d. You can describe the knowledge, skills, and experiences that are necessary for your career plans	CWPdescribe	0	Not at all	4	1	733	1			
		1	Very little	25	5	2,940	6			
		2	Some	134	29	14,004	26	2.8	2.9 * ▽	-.10
		3	Quite a bit	214	46	20,721	39			
		4	Very much	90	19	14,103	28			
			Total	467	100	52,501	100			
e. You have received supportive feedback from faculty or other advisors about your career plans	CWPfeedback	0	Not at all	19	4	4,168	8			
		1	Very little	39	9	6,458	12			
		2	Some	157	34	14,591	28	2.5	2.5	.06
		3	Quite a bit	171	36	15,746	29			
		4	Very much	81	17	11,480	23			
			Total	467	100	52,443	100			
f. You have a mentor in your area of interest who shares a similar background as you	CWPmentor	0	Not at all	63	13	10,468	21			
		1	Very little	79	17	8,980	17			
		2	Some	134	29	12,880	24	2.1	2.0 * △	.08
		3	Quite a bit	135	29	11,016	20			
		4	Very much	57	12	9,113	18			
			Total	468	100	52,457	100			
2. To what extent have the following influenced your career plans?										
a. Advice from family or friends	CWPfamily	0	Not at all	13	3	2,920	6			
		1	Very little	47	10	5,691	11			
		2	Some	151	33	14,899	28			
		3	Quite a bit	164	35	16,361	30	2.6	2.5	.03
		4	Very much	84	18	11,904	23			
		—	Not applicable	7	2	673	1			
			Total	466	100	52,448	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] Whitewater Count	Whitewater %	Career Prep Count	Career Prep %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Whitewater Mean	Career Prep Mean	Effect size[d]
b. Interactions with a faculty member	CWPinterfac	0	Not at all	67	15	8,136	16			
		1	Very little	90	19	10,391	20			
		2	Some	173	37	15,452	29			
		3	Quite a bit	92	20	9,963	18	**1.9**	1.9	-.02
		4	Very much	34	7	5,734	11			
		—	Not applicable	11	3	2,757	6			
			Total	467	100	52,433	100			
c. Interactions with advisors, success coaches, and/or career services staff	CWPinteradvis	0	Not at all	83	18	9,215	18			
		1	Very little	90	19	10,722	20			
		2	Some	159	34	13,952	26			
		3	Quite a bit	91	20	9,173	17	**1.8**	1.8	-.04
		4	Very much	29	6	5,624	11			
		—	Not applicable	16	4	3,694	7			
			Total	468	100	52,380	100			
d. Co-curricular activities (student organizations or clubs, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	CWPcocurr	0	Not at all	96	21	11,870	23			
		1	Very little	85	17	9,171	17			
		2	Some	125	27	11,172	20			
		3	Quite a bit	90	19	8,017	15	**1.7**	1.6	.06
		4	Very much	32	7	4,965	9			
		—	Not applicable	40	9	7,225	15			
			Total	468	100	52,420	100			
e. Internship, co-op, field experience, student teaching, or clinical placement	CWPintern	0	Not at all	96	21	10,444	21			
		1	Very little	69	14	6,478	12			
		2	Some	88	19	8,879	16			
		3	Quite a bit	79	17	7,296	13	**1.6**	1.7	-.06
		4	Very much	22	5	5,017	9			
		—	Not applicable	114	24	14,177	28			
			Total	468	100	52,291	100			
f. Work experience (on- or off-campus job or prior employment)	CWPwork	0	Not at all	73	16	9,087	18			
		1	Very little	68	15	7,085	13			
		2	Some	126	27	10,994	20			
		3	Quite a bit	106	23	9,226	17	**2.0**	2.0	-.01
		4	Very much	53	11	7,707	16			
		—	Not applicable	42	9	8,248	16			
			Total	468	100	52,347	100			
g. Career fairs, workshops, or course-based exploration of career options	CWPfairs	0	Not at all	95	20	10,579	21			
		1	Very little	85	18	9,453	18			
		2	Some	148	32	12,933	24			
		3	Quite a bit	67	15	7,438	14	**1.6**	1.6	-.01
		4	Very much	25	5	4,153	8			
		—	Not applicable	46	10	7,688	16			
			Total	466	100	52,244	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] Whitewater Count	Whitewater %	Career Prep Count	Career Prep %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Whitewater Mean	Career Prep Mean	Effect size[d]
h. Expected job salary and availability	CWPjobsalary	0	Not at all	52	11	4,621	9			
		1	Very little	50	11	5,841	11			
		2	Some	150	32	14,486	27			
		3	Quite a bit	136	30	14,626	28	2.2	2.4 ** ▽	-.13
		4	Very much	62	13	10,122	20			
		—	Not applicable	18	4	2,604	5			
			Total	468	100	52,300	100			
i. Fit for your interests and abilities	CWPability	0	Not at all	14	3	918	2			
		1	Very little	13	3	1,884	4			
		2	Some	106	23	9,155	18			
		3	Quite a bit	178	38	18,537	35	2.9	3.1 *** ▽	-.18
		4	Very much	147	31	20,966	40			
		—	Not applicable	7	2	802	2			
			Total	465	100	52,262	100			
j. Desire to impact or support my community	CWPimpact	0	Not at all	16	4	1,681	4			
		1	Very little	33	7	3,375	7			
		2	Some	140	31	11,706	23			
		3	Quite a bit	147	32	15,743	29	2.7	2.9 *** ▽	-.17
		4	Very much	122	25	18,722	35			
		—	Not applicable	8	2	1,054	2			
			Total	466	100	52,281	100			
k. Desire to make a difference in broader society	CWPsociety	0	Not at all	19	4	1,747	4			
		1	Very little	49	10	3,522	7			
		2	Some	135	29	11,858	23			
		3	Quite a bit	133	29	15,018	28	2.6	2.9 *** ▽	-.24
		4	Very much	121	25	19,037	36			
		—	Not applicable	11	3	1,145	3			
			Total	468	100	52,327	100			
3. How much confidence do you have in your ability to do the following?										
a. Overcome obstacles in finding and using career-related resources at your institution	CWPobstacle	0	Not at all	5	1	921	2			
		1	Very little	32	7	3,428	7			
		2	Some	159	34	15,595	30			
		3	Quite a bit	185	40	19,258	36	2.6	2.8 ** ▽	-.12
		4	Very much	78	17	12,324	25			
		—	Not applicable	6	1	641	1			
			Total	465	100	52,167	100			
b. Demonstrate effective work habits (punctuality, working productively with others, time and workload management, etc.)	CWPhabits	0	Not at all	6	1	549	1			
		1	Very little	18	4	2,368	5			
		2	Some	122	27	10,988	21			
		3	Quite a bit	196	42	20,030	38	2.9	3.0 *** ▽	-.16
		4	Very much	117	24	17,768	35			
		—	Not applicable	6	1	374	1			
			Total	465	100	52,077	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] Whitewater Count	Whitewater %	Career Prep Count	Career Prep %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Whitewater Mean	Career Prep Mean		Effect size[d]
c. Network with alumni or professionals to make potential career connections	CWPnetwork	0	Not at all	27	6	3,307	7				
		1	Very little	64	14	8,953	17				
		2	Some	185	40	17,336	33				
		3	Quite a bit	119	26	12,594	23	2.3	2.3		-.01
		4	Very much	58	13	8,504	17				
		—	Not applicable	10	2	1,367	3				
			Total	463	100	52,061	100				
d. Communicate your knowledge, skills, and experiences to potential employers	CWPcommunicate	0	Not at all	12	3	1,316	3				
		1	Very little	36	8	4,729	9				
		2	Some	163	35	15,727	30				
		3	Quite a bit	165	35	17,749	33	2.6	2.7		-.09
		4	Very much	84	18	11,722	23				
		—	Not applicable	6	1	737	2				
			Total	466	100	51,980	100				
e. Use career-specific technology (devices, programs, or tools used by those in the field)	CWPtech	0	Not at all	14	3	1,472	3				
		1	Very little	41	9	4,722	9				
		2	Some	172	37	15,466	29				
		3	Quite a bit	168	36	17,410	33	2.5	2.7	*** ▽	-.18
		4	Very much	66	14	11,914	24				
		—	Not applicable	6	1	1,033	2				
			Total	467	100	52,017	100				
f. Work effectively with people of other backgrounds (economic, racial/ethnic, political, religious, nationality, etc.)	CWPdiverse	0	Not at all	6	1	527	1				
		1	Very little	14	3	1,424	3				
		2	Some	105	23	7,848	15				
		3	Quite a bit	188	40	17,620	33	3.0	3.2	*** ▽	-.29
		4	Very much	148	31	23,992	47				
		—	Not applicable	5	1	558	1				
			Total	466	100	51,969	100				
g. Address ethical issues you might face in your career	CWPethics	0	Not at all	7	2	850	2				
		1	Very little	27	6	2,634	5				
		2	Some	147	32	12,836	24				
		3	Quite a bit	180	38	18,740	35	2.7	2.9	*** ▽	-.20
		4	Very much	98	21	16,175	32				
		—	Not applicable	7	2	812	2				
			Total	466	100	52,047	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	CWPanalyze	1	Never	34	7	3,861	8				
		2	Sometimes	135	29	14,822	29				
		3	Often	213	46	20,135	38	2.7	2.8		-.08
		4	Very often	83	17	13,105	25				
			Total	465	100	51,923	100				
b. Researched a career interest, a potential employer, or the job market	CWPresearch	1	Never	81	17	10,385	20				
		2	Sometimes	160	34	16,337	32				
		3	Often	169	37	15,672	29	2.4	2.5		-.03
		4	Very often	54	12	9,510	19				
			Total	464	100	51,904	100				

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values[c]	Response options	Frequency Distributions[a] Whitewater Count	Whitewater %	Career Prep Count	Career Prep %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Whitewater Mean	Career Prep Mean	Effect size[d]
c. Learned about a career or industry from practicing professionals	CWPpractice	1	Never	73	16	8,486	17			
		2	Sometimes	183	40	17,138	33			
		3	Often	154	33	16,488	31	2.4	2.5 ** ▽	-.11
		4	Very often	52	11	9,707	19			
			Total	462	100	51,819	100			
d. Observed employees in action at a place of work (clinics, offices, schools, etc.)	CWPobserve	1	Never	162	34	20,270	40			
		2	Sometimes	134	29	13,225	25			
		3	Often	122	27	11,085	21	2.1	2.1	.02
		4	Very often	44	9	7,277	14			
			Total	462	100	51,857	100			
e. Connected your learning to how you can impact your community and society	CWPconnect	1	Never	38	8	5,204	11			
		2	Sometimes	178	38	16,858	33			
		3	Often	184	40	18,864	35	2.6	2.7 * ▽	-.09
		4	Very often	63	13	10,962	21			
			Total	463	100	51,888	100			
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)?[j]										
a. Take a career exploration, planning, or development course	CWPcourse *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")*		Have not decided	126	27	11,992	24			
			Do not plan to do	84	18	9,752	19			
			Plan to do	203	44	23,040	44	10%	13%	-.09
			Done or in progress	49	10	7,048	13			
			Total	462	100	51,832	100			
b. Complete a career profile or self-assessment to identify occupations that match your strengths and interests	CWPprofile *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")*		Have not decided	104	22	8,754	17			
			Do not plan to do	72	16	8,548	17			
			Plan to do	220	48	23,558	45	14%	21% *** ▽	-.18
			Done or in progress	67	14	10,821	21			
			Total	463	100	51,681	100			
c. Attend a talk, panel discussion, or workshop about careers	CWPtalk *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")*		Have not decided	124	26	9,125	19			
			Do not plan to do	86	19	6,988	14			
			Plan to do	200	44	25,473	49	11%	19% *** ▽	-.21
			Done or in progress	52	11	10,147	19			
			Total	462	100	51,733	100			
d. Discuss your career interests with a faculty member	CWPfaculty *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")*		Have not decided	82	18	6,698	14			
			Do not plan to do	40	9	4,237	9			
			Plan to do	233	51	26,554	50	23%	27% * ▽	-.10
			Done or in progress	109	23	14,184	27			
			Total	464	100	51,673	100			
e. Interview or shadow someone in a career that you are considering	CWPinterview *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")*		Have not decided	89	20	7,828	16			
			Do not plan to do	36	8	3,474	7			
			Plan to do	288	62	32,872	62	10%	14% * ▽	-.12
			Done or in progress	48	10	7,554	14			
			Total	461	100	51,728	100			
f. Participate in a major- or career-related co-curricular activity (student organization, professional or honor society, etc.)	CWPmajor *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")*		Have not decided	120	26	10,688	22			
			Do not plan to do	42	10	5,296	11			
			Plan to do	226	50	26,365	50	15%	18%	-.07
			Done or in progress	74	15	9,332	18			
			Total	462	100	51,681	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] Whitewater Count	Whitewater %	Career Prep Count	Career Prep %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Whitewater Mean	Career Prep Mean	Effect size[d]
g. Meet with an advisor, success coach, and/or career services staff member to explore your interests and plan your future	CWPmeetstaff		Have not decided	75	16	6,967	14			
			Do not plan to do	36	8	4,482	9			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	252	55	27,020	52	20%	25% * ▽	-.12
			Done or in progress	98	20	13,219	25			
			Total	461	100	51,688	100			
h. Get help with your résumé	CWPresume		Have not decided	75	16	5,797	12			
			Do not plan to do	45	10	5,136	10			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	276	60	28,533	55	14%	23% *** ▽	-.23
			Done or in progress	66	14	12,217	23			
			Total	462	100	51,683	100			
i. Participate in a mock or practice interview	CWPmock		Have not decided	125	27	10,173	20			
			Do not plan to do	71	15	7,201	14			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	216	47	27,853	53	10%	13%	-.06
			Done or in progress	48	10	6,464	13			
			Total	460	100	51,691	100			
j. Participate in a career fair	CWPcareerfair		Have not decided	98	20	9,364	19			
			Do not plan to do	54	12	6,528	13			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	197	43	25,261	48	25%	20% * △	.12
			Done or in progress	114	25	10,545	20			
			Total	463	100	51,698	100			
k. Complete a paid internship	CWPpaid		Have not decided	114	24	8,721	18			
			Do not plan to do	39	8	3,928	8			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	288	63	35,665	68	5%	7%	-.07
			Done or in progress	22	5	3,412	7			
			Total	463	100	51,726	100			
l. Network with alumni or professionals in a field related to your career interests	CWPalumni		Have not decided	134	28	10,121	20			
			Do not plan to do	43	9	3,989	8			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	260	57	32,086	61	6%	10% *** ▽	-.18
			Done or in progress	26	6	5,399	10			
			Total	463	100	51,595	100			
6. If you are currently working for pay, to what extent is this work related to your career plans?										
	CWPworkpay	0	Not at all	83	18	9,292	18			
		1	Very little	65	14	5,418	10			
		2	Some	74	16	5,985	12			
		3	Quite a bit	43	9	3,756	7	1.6	1.7	-.01
		4	Very much	43	9	4,523	10			
		—	Not working for pay	153	33	22,120	43			
			Total	461	100	51,094	100			

7. Is there anything this institution could do better to help students develop their career plans or gain work-related skills (such as coursework, resources, etc.)? Please describe.

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 101 first-year student(s) and 56 senior(s). Responses are provided in your NSSE26 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

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values[c]	Response options	Frequency Distributions[a] Whitewater Count	Whitewater %	Career Prep Count	Career Prep %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Whitewater Mean	Career Prep Mean		Effect size[d]
1. To what extent do the following apply to you?											
a. You have a clear idea of your career plans	CWPidea	0	Not at all	2	1	1,232	2				
		1	Very little	15	5	3,316	6				
		2	Some	55	21	11,548	22	3.1	2.9	*	.12
		3	Quite a bit	82	33	17,402	32		△		
		4	Very much	103	40	19,601	37				
			Total	257	100	53,099	100				
b. What you are learning at this institution is relevant to your career plans	CWPrelevant	0	Not at all	1	0	631	1				
		1	Very little	11	4	1,647	3				
		2	Some	43	17	9,510	18	3.1	3.1		.00
		3	Quite a bit	94	37	18,089	34				
		4	Very much	109	41	23,167	43				
			Total	258	100	53,044	100				
c. You know where to go with questions about your career plans or further education	CWPquestions	0	Not at all	3	1	1,686	4				
		1	Very little	15	6	4,325	9				
		2	Some	49	19	12,546	24	3.1	2.8	***	.23
		3	Quite a bit	85	33	16,128	30		△		
		4	Very much	104	41	18,338	34				
			Total	256	100	53,023	100				
d. You can describe the knowledge, skills, and experiences that are necessary for your career plans	CWPdescribe	0	Not at all	0	0	620	1				
		1	Very little	9	3	1,756	3				
		2	Some	50	18	9,353	18	3.1	3.1		.01
		3	Quite a bit	102	42	20,261	38				
		4	Very much	97	37	21,007	39				
			Total	258	100	52,997	100				
e. You have received supportive feedback from faculty or other advisors about your career plans	CWPfeedback	0	Not at all	8	3	3,710	8				
		1	Very little	25	10	5,814	12				
		2	Some	47	18	12,355	24	2.9	2.6	***	.22
		3	Quite a bit	89	35	14,629	27		△		
		4	Very much	87	34	16,433	30				
			Total	256	100	52,941	100				
f. You have a mentor in your area of interest who shares a similar background as you	CWPmentor	0	Not at all	46	18	9,897	20				
		1	Very little	34	13	7,709	14				
		2	Some	53	19	11,601	22	2.2	2.1		.08
		3	Quite a bit	60	24	10,603	19				
		4	Very much	64	25	13,135	24				
			Total	257	100	52,945	100				
2. To what extent have the following influenced your career plans?											
a. Advice from family or friends	CWPfamily	0	Not at all	20	9	3,456	7				
		1	Very little	24	11	6,214	12				
		2	Some	79	30	14,893	28				
		3	Quite a bit	76	30	15,049	28	2.4	2.5		-.05
		4	Very much	54	20	12,453	23				
		—	Not applicable	3	1	874	2				
			Total	256	100	52,939	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] Whitewater Count	Whitewater %	Career Prep Count	Career Prep %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Whitewater Mean	Career Prep Mean	Effect size[d]
b. Interactions with a faculty member	CWPinterfac	0	Not at all	28	12	6,213	13			
		1	Very little	41	18	8,203	16			
		2	Some	72	27	15,226	29			
		3	Quite a bit	66	24	12,490	23	**2.1**	2.1	-.02
		4	Very much	39	14	8,942	16			
		—	Not applicable	10	5	1,858	4			
			Total	256	100	52,932	100			
c. Interactions with advisors, success coaches, and/or career services staff	CWPinteradvis	0	Not at all	47	19	10,115	20			
		1	Very little	43	18	10,510	20			
		2	Some	83	31	13,627	25			
		3	Quite a bit	40	15	8,815	16	**1.8**	1.8	.03
		4	Very much	31	12	6,757	12			
		—	Not applicable	11	5	3,063	6			
			Total	255	100	52,887	100			
d. Co-curricular activities (student organizations or clubs, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.)	CWPcocurr	0	Not at all	45	19	12,692	25			
		1	Very little	50	19	8,380	15			
		2	Some	55	20	9,956	18			
		3	Quite a bit	35	13	6,819	12	**1.7**	1.6	.07
		4	Very much	28	11	5,704	11			
		—	Not applicable	43	18	9,319	18			
			Total	256	100	52,870	100			
e. Internship, co-op, field experience, student teaching, or clinical placement	CWPintern	0	Not at all	28	12	7,225	15			
		1	Very little	15	7	4,100	8			
		2	Some	33	13	8,380	15			
		3	Quite a bit	64	24	10,801	19	**2.6**	2.4 * △	.14
		4	Very much	71	27	13,420	24			
		—	Not applicable	44	18	8,890	18			
			Total	255	100	52,816	100			
f. Work experience (on- or off-campus job or prior employment)	CWPwork	0	Not at all	24	9	4,585	9			
		1	Very little	17	8	4,880	9			
		2	Some	56	22	10,934	21			
		3	Quite a bit	64	25	12,775	24	**2.6**	2.6	.02
		4	Very much	81	31	16,111	30			
		—	Not applicable	15	5	3,543	7			
			Total	257	100	52,828	100			
g. Career fairs, workshops, or course-based exploration of career options	CWPfairs	0	Not at all	58	25	12,353	24			
		1	Very little	44	17	9,760	18			
		2	Some	64	24	11,914	22			
		3	Quite a bit	35	13	6,539	12	**1.6**	1.6	-.02
		4	Very much	22	8	5,103	10			
		—	Not applicable	33	13	7,139	14			
			Total	256	100	52,808	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] Whitewater Count	Whitewater %	Career Prep Count	Career Prep %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Whitewater Mean	Career Prep Mean	Effect size[d]
h. Expected job salary and availability	CWPjobsalary	0	Not at all	29	11	4,406	8			
		1	Very little	31	12	5,638	10			
		2	Some	71	28	14,601	27			
		3	Quite a bit	82	33	14,318	27	2.3	2.5 * ▽	-.15
		4	Very much	39	15	11,925	23			
		—	Not applicable	5	2	1,923	4			
			Total	257	100	52,811	100			
i. Fit for your interests and abilities	CWPability	0	Not at all	6	2	837	2			
		1	Very little	7	2	1,474	3			
		2	Some	31	12	7,951	15			
		3	Quite a bit	99	39	18,183	34	3.2	3.2	.03
		4	Very much	110	43	23,451	44			
		—	Not applicable	3	1	866	2			
			Total	256	100	52,762	100			
j. Desire to impact or support my community	CWPimpact	0	Not at all	10	4	1,737	4			
		1	Very little	10	4	2,942	6			
		2	Some	66	27	10,762	21			
		3	Quite a bit	73	28	14,998	28	2.9	2.9	-.07
		4	Very much	92	34	21,281	39			
		—	Not applicable	5	2	1,066	2			
			Total	256	100	52,786	100			
k. Desire to make a difference in broader society	CWPsociety	0	Not at all	9	4	1,761	4			
		1	Very little	18	7	2,936	6			
		2	Some	58	24	10,663	21			
		3	Quite a bit	70	28	14,426	27	2.9	3.0	-.10
		4	Very much	95	35	21,927	41			
		—	Not applicable	6	3	1,121	2			
			Total	256	100	52,834	100			
3. How much confidence do you have in your ability to do the following?										
a. Overcome obstacles in finding and using career-related resources at your institution	CWPobstacle	0	Not at all	4	1	1,336	3			
		1	Very little	8	3	3,683	7			
		2	Some	73	28	14,178	27			
		3	Quite a bit	105	42	17,628	33	2.8	2.8	.06
		4	Very much	62	24	14,938	28			
		—	Not applicable	4	2	906	2			
			Total	256	100	52,669	100			
b. Demonstrate effective work habits (punctuality, working productively with others, time and workload management, etc.)	CWPhabits	0	Not at all	4	2	396	1			
		1	Very little	5	2	1,289	3			
		2	Some	22	8	7,050	14			
		3	Quite a bit	112	47	17,891	34	3.2	3.3	-.04
		4	Very much	109	41	25,611	48			
		—	Not applicable	2	1	392	1			
			Total	254	100	52,629	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] Whitewater Count	Whitewater %	Career Prep Count	Career Prep %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Whitewater Mean	Career Prep Mean	Effect size[d]
c. Network with alumni or professionals to make potential career connections	CWPnetwork	0	Not at all	18	6	3,413	7			
		1	Very little	49	19	7,958	16			
		2	Some	92	38	16,013	30			
		3	Quite a bit	50	19	12,696	24	2.2	2.4 * ▽	-.14
		4	Very much	43	16	11,180	21			
		—	Not applicable	2	1	1,360	3			
			Total	254	100	52,620	100			
d. Communicate your knowledge, skills, and experiences to potential employers	CWPcommunicate	0	Not at all	5	2	818	2			
		1	Very little	11	4	2,698	5			
		2	Some	51	21	12,275	24			
		3	Quite a bit	114	46	18,932	35	2.9	2.9	-.01
		4	Very much	71	26	17,275	33			
		—	Not applicable	2	1	568	1			
			Total	254	100	52,566	100			
e. Use career-specific technology (devices, programs, or tools used by those in the field)	CWPtech	0	Not at all	8	3	952	2			
		1	Very little	15	5	2,926	5			
		2	Some	61	22	12,588	24			
		3	Quite a bit	105	44	18,318	34	2.9	2.9	-.07
		4	Very much	65	26	17,026	33			
		—	Not applicable	1	0	770	2			
			Total	255	100	52,580	100			
f. Work effectively with people of other backgrounds (economic, racial/ethnic, political, religious, nationality, etc.)	CWPdiverse	0	Not at all	3	1	435	1			
		1	Very little	6	2	912	2			
		2	Some	21	8	5,294	10			
		3	Quite a bit	104	43	16,103	30	3.3	3.4 * ▽	-.12
		4	Very much	117	45	29,314	56			
		—	Not applicable	3	1	504	1			
			Total	254	100	52,562	100			
g. Address ethical issues you might face in your career	CWPethics	0	Not at all	5	2	676	1			
		1	Very little	4	2	1,764	3			
		2	Some	44	16	9,670	18			
		3	Quite a bit	99	41	18,653	35	3.1	3.1	.02
		4	Very much	100	38	21,166	41			
		—	Not applicable	3	1	659	1			
			Total	255	100	52,588	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	CWPanalyze	1	Never	3	1	1,622	3			
		2	Sometimes	46	18	9,890	20			
		3	Often	96	39	18,438	35	3.2	3.2	.05
		4	Very often	107	41	22,537	42			
			Total	252	100	52,487	100			
b. Researched a career interest, a potential employer, or the job market	CWPresearch	1	Never	28	11	7,369	15			
		2	Sometimes	86	36	15,512	30			
		3	Often	78	30	14,973	28	2.6	2.7	-.04
		4	Very often	62	22	14,593	27			
			Total	254	100	52,447	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] Whitewater Count	Whitewater %	Career Prep Count	Career Prep %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Whitewater Mean	Career Prep Mean	Effect size[d]
c. Learned about a career or industry from practicing professionals	CWPpractice	1	Never	15	7	5,165	11			
		2	Sometimes	67	27	15,758	31			
		3	Often	104	41	16,345	31	**2.8**	2.8	.09
		4	Very often	67	25	15,126	28			
			Total	253	100	52,394	100			
d. Observed employees in action at a place of work (clinics, offices, schools, etc.)	CWPobserve	1	Never	72	30	15,572	32			
		2	Sometimes	56	21	13,088	25			
		3	Often	63	26	10,845	20	**2.4**	2.4	.06
		4	Very often	62	23	12,897	23			
			Total	253	100	52,402	100			
e. Connected your learning to how you can impact your community and society	CWPconnect	1	Never	19	8	3,914	9			
		2	Sometimes	77	33	14,041	28			
		3	Often	86	32	17,856	33	**2.8**	2.9	-.09
		4	Very often	71	27	16,651	30			
			Total	253	100	52,462	100			
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)?[j]										
a. Take a career exploration, planning, or development course	CWPcourse		Have not decided	24	11	5,999	12			
			Do not plan to do	115	45	23,501	45			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	23	10	8,448	17	**34%**	26% ** △	.17
			Done or in progress	89	34	14,422	26			
			Total	251	100	52,370	100			
b. Complete a career profile or self-assessment to identify occupations that match your strengths and interests	CWPprofile		Have not decided	21	11	5,318	11			
			Do not plan to do	98	40	18,415	36			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	38	15	10,867	21	**35%**	33%	.05
			Done or in progress	95	35	17,676	33			
			Total	252	100	52,276	100			
c. Attend a talk, panel discussion, or workshop about careers	CWPtalk		Have not decided	29	14	5,713	11			
			Do not plan to do	98	39	16,405	32			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	28	11	11,010	22	**35%**	35%	.01
			Done or in progress	95	35	19,191	35			
			Total	250	100	52,319	100			
d. Discuss your career interests with a faculty member	CWPfaculty		Have not decided	19	8	4,501	9			
			Do not plan to do	56	23	10,142	21			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	34	15	11,654	23	**55%**	47% * △	.15
			Done or in progress	141	55	26,029	47			
			Total	250	100	52,326	100			
e. Interview or shadow someone in a career that you are considering	CWPinterview		Have not decided	25	10	6,240	13			
			Do not plan to do	78	32	12,628	26			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	35	14	13,410	26	**43%**	36% * △	.15
			Done or in progress	112	43	20,023	36			
			Total	250	100	52,301	100			
f. Participate in a major- or career-related co-curricular activity (student organization, professional or honor society, etc.)	CWPmajor		Have not decided	25	11	6,356	13			
			Do not plan to do	92	40	18,400	36			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	18	8	8,419	17	**41%**	35% * △	.13
			Done or in progress	113	41	19,075	35			
			Total	248	100	52,250	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] Whitewater Count	Whitewater %	Career Prep Count	Career Prep %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Whitewater Mean	Career Prep Mean	Effect size[d]
g. Meet with an advisor, success coach, and/or career services staff member to explore your interests and plan your future	CWPmeetstaff		Have not decided	17	7	5,127	10			
			Do not plan to do	71	30	13,863	28			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	34	14	11,779	23	49%	39% ** △	.20
			Done or in progress	127	49	21,499	39			
			Total	249	100	52,268	100			
h. Get help with your résumé	CWPresume		Have not decided	7	3	3,607	7			
			Do not plan to do	48	21	10,319	21			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	45	19	12,567	25	58%	47% *** △	.21
			Done or in progress	150	58	25,805	47			
			Total	250	100	52,298	100			
i. Participate in a mock or practice interview	CWPmock		Have not decided	22	10	5,935	12			
			Do not plan to do	88	36	16,992	33			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	46	17	12,892	25	37%	30% * △	.14
			Done or in progress	95	37	16,466	30			
			Total	251	100	52,285	100			
j. Participate in a career fair	CWPcareerfair		Have not decided	19	9	5,535	11			
			Do not plan to do	87	37	16,282	31			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	26	9	10,394	21	45%	38% * △	.15
			Done or in progress	118	45	20,081	38			
			Total	250	100	52,292	100			
k. Complete a paid internship	CWPpaid		Have not decided	30	12	6,458	13			
			Do not plan to do	102	41	17,926	34			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	29	12	11,782	23	36%	30%	.12
			Done or in progress	90	36	16,153	30			
			Total	251	100	52,319	100			
l. Network with alumni or professionals in a field related to your career interests	CWPalumni		Have not decided	35	15	6,801	13			
			Do not plan to do	74	28	10,410	20			
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")		Plan to do	66	27	18,069	35	30%	31%	-.03
			Done or in progress	75	30	16,944	31			
			Total	250	100	52,224	100			
6. If you are currently working for pay, to what extent is this work related to your career plans?										
	CWPworkpay	0	Not at all	33	13	7,549	14			
		1	Very little	31	12	5,202	10			
		2	Some	40	16	8,299	16			
		3	Quite a bit	26	10	6,896	13	2.3	2.3	-.01
		4	Very much	63	26	12,918	25			
		—	Not working for pay	56	23	11,221	22			
			Total	249	100	52,085	100			

7. Is there anything this institution could do better to help students develop their career plans or gain work-related skills (such as coursework, resources, etc.)? Please describe.

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 101 first-year student(s) and 56 senior(s). Responses are provided in your NSSE26 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

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error[f]		Standard deviation[g]		DF[h]	Sig.[i]	Effect size[d]
								Comparisons with:		
	Whitewater	Whitewater	Career Prep	Whitewater	Career Prep	Whitewater	Career Prep	Career Prep		
CWPidea	470	2.84	2.83	.043	.004	.94	1.02	477	.898	.01
CWPrelevant	467	2.80	3.06	.041	.004	.89	.90	473	.000	-.29
CWPquestions	467	2.85	2.80	.041	.004	.88	1.04	475	.198	.05
CWPdescribe	467	2.77	2.86	.039	.004	.85	.94	474	.017	-.10
CWPfeedback	467	2.54	2.47	.047	.005	1.01	1.20	476	.134	.06
CWPmentor	468	2.09	1.97	.056	.006	1.21	1.39	476	.038	.08
CWPfamily	459	2.57	2.53	.046	.005	1.00	1.14	467	.416	.03
CWPinterfac	455	1.85	1.88	.053	.005	1.13	1.24	462	.658	-.02
CWPinteradvis	451	1.76	1.81	.055	.005	1.16	1.27	458	.356	-.04
CWPcocurr	427	1.72	1.64	.060	.006	1.23	1.34	434	.159	.06
CWPintern	354	1.61	1.70	.067	.007	1.26	1.39	360	.219	-.06
CWPwork	426	1.99	2.00	.061	.006	1.26	1.40	434	.778	-.01
CWPfairs	420	1.64	1.65	.057	.006	1.16	1.27	427	.856	-.01
CWPjobsalary	450	2.25	2.41	.055	.005	1.17	1.21	457	.003	-.13
CWPability	457	2.93	3.10	.045	.004	.97	.95	462	.000	-.18
CWPimpact	457	2.69	2.87	.049	.004	1.05	1.10	464	.000	-.17
CWPsociety	456	2.61	2.88	.052	.004	1.11	1.11	462	.000	-.24
CWPobstacle	458	2.64	2.76	.041	.004	.88	.96	465	.005	-.12
CWPhabits	458	2.86	3.01	.041	.004	.88	.93	465	.000	-.16
CWPnetwork	453	2.26	2.27	.049	.005	1.05	1.15	460	.888	-.01
CWPcommunicate	459	2.58	2.66	.045	.004	.97	1.02	466	.054	-.09
CWPtech	460	2.50	2.69	.044	.004	.95	1.03	468	.000	-.18
CWPdiverse	460	2.98	3.24	.042	.004	.90	.88	466	.000	-.29
CWPethics	459	2.73	2.92	.043	.004	.92	.97	465	.000	-.20
CWPanalyze	465	2.74	2.81	.039	.004	.83	.90	472	.067	-.08
CWPresearch	464	2.43	2.46	.042	.004	.90	1.01	472	.502	-.03
CWPpractice	462	2.40	2.51	.041	.004	.88	.99	470	.009	-.11
CWPobserve	462	2.11	2.09	.046	.004	.99	1.08	470	.702	.02
CWPconnect	463	2.58	2.66	.038	.004	.82	.93	471	.039	-.09

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

NSSE 2026 Career & Workforce Preparation

Detailed Statistics[e]

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error[f]		Standard deviation[g]		DF[h]	Sig.[i]	Effect size[d]
								Comparisons with:		
	Whitewater	Whitewater	Career Prep	Whitewater	Career Prep	Whitewater	Career Prep	Career Prep		
CWPcourse	462	10%	13%	.014	.001	--	--	--	.071	-.09
CWPprofile	463	14%	21%	.016	.002	--	--	--	.000	-.18
CWPtalk	462	11%	19%	.015	.002	--	--	--	.000	-.21
CWPfaculty	464	23%	27%	.019	.002	--	--	--	.037	-.10
CWPinterview	462	10%	14%	.014	.001	--	--	--	.017	-.12
CWPmajor	462	15%	18%	.017	.002	--	--	--	.138	-.07
CWPmeetstaff	461	20%	25%	.019	.002	--	--	--	.015	-.12
CWPresume	462	14%	23%	.016	.002	--	--	--	.000	-.23
CWPmock	460	10%	13%	.014	.001	--	--	--	.185	-.06
CWPcareerfair	464	25%	20%	.020	.002	--	--	--	.010	.12
CWPpaid	464	5%	7%	.010	.001	--	--	--	.146	-.07
CWPalumni	464	6%	10%	.011	.001	--	--	--	.001	-.18
CWPworkpay	309	1.65	1.66	.078	.008	1.37	1.46	314	.900	-.01

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

NSSE national survey of student engagement

NSSE 2026 Career & Workforce Preparation

Detailed Statistics[e]

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error[f]		Standard deviation[g]		DF[h]	Sig.[i]	Effect size[d]
								Comparisons with:		
	Whitewater	Whitewater	Career Prep	Whitewater	Career Prep	Whitewater	Career Prep	Career Prep		
CWPidea	258	3.07	2.95	.058	.005	.94	1.03	261	.033	.12
CWPrelevant	259	3.15	3.15	.054	.004	.88	.92	262	.994	.00
CWPquestions	258	3.07	2.82	.060	.005	.96	1.10	261	.000	.23
CWPdescribe	259	3.11	3.10	.051	.004	.82	.90	262	.862	.01
CWPfeedback	257	2.86	2.59	.068	.006	1.08	1.24	260	.000	.22
CWPmentor	258	2.24	2.12	.089	.007	1.43	1.45	260	.173	.08
CWPfamily	254	2.43	2.49	.074	.006	1.18	1.18	256	.393	-.05
CWPinterfac	245	2.12	2.14	.079	.006	1.24	1.26	247	.793	-.02
CWPinteradvis	244	1.82	1.79	.082	.007	1.27	1.31	246	.676	.03
CWPcocurr	211	1.71	1.62	.092	.007	1.34	1.39	213	.301	.07
CWPintern	209	2.58	2.38	.096	.008	1.39	1.45	211	.033	.14
CWPwork	244	2.63	2.61	.082	.007	1.28	1.30	246	.791	.02
CWPfairs	224	1.58	1.60	.087	.007	1.30	1.33	226	.784	-.02
CWPjobsalary	253	2.30	2.47	.075	.006	1.20	1.21	256	.018	-.15
CWPability	254	3.21	3.18	.056	.005	.90	.92	256	.609	.03
CWPimpact	251	2.86	2.94	.068	.005	1.07	1.10	253	.232	-.07
CWPsociety	251	2.86	2.97	.070	.005	1.10	1.10	253	.116	-.10
CWPobstacle	253	2.85	2.78	.055	.005	.87	1.03	256	.244	.06
CWPhabits	253	3.24	3.27	.051	.004	.81	.85	256	.559	-.04
CWPnetwork	253	2.21	2.37	.071	.006	1.13	1.19	255	.020	-.14
CWPcommunicate	253	2.92	2.93	.056	.005	.89	.97	256	.880	-.01
CWPtech	255	2.86	2.92	.059	.005	.95	.99	258	.281	-.07
CWPdiverse	252	3.30	3.40	.049	.004	.78	.82	254	.046	-.12
CWPethics	253	3.13	3.11	.055	.005	.87	.93	255	.685	.02
CWPanalyze	254	3.20	3.16	.049	.004	.78	.85	257	.356	.05
CWPresearch	256	2.63	2.67	.060	.005	.95	1.03	258	.539	-.04
CWPpractice	255	2.85	2.75	.055	.005	.87	.98	258	.097	.09
CWPobserve	255	2.42	2.36	.071	.006	1.14	1.15	257	.375	.06
CWPconnect	255	2.77	2.86	.059	.005	.94	.95	257	.143	-.09

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

NSSE 2026 Career & Workforce Preparation

Detailed Statistics[e]

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error[f]		Standard deviation[g]		DF[h]	Sig.[i]	Effect size[d]
								Comparisons with:		
	Whitewater	Whitewater	Career Prep	Whitewater	Career Prep	Whitewater	Career Prep	Career Prep		
CWPcourse	253	34%	26%	.030	.002	--	--	--	.006	.17
CWPprofile	254	35%	33%	.030	.002	--	--	--	.426	.05
CWPtalk	252	35%	35%	.030	.002	--	--	--	.918	.01
CWPfaculty	252	55%	47%	.031	.002	--	--	--	.015	.15
CWPinterview	252	43%	36%	.031	.002	--	--	--	.015	.15
CWPmajor	250	41%	35%	.031	.002	--	--	--	.031	.13
CWPmeetstaff	251	49%	39%	.032	.002	--	--	--	.001	.20
CWPresume	252	58%	47%	.031	.002	--	--	--	.001	.21
CWPmock	253	37%	30%	.030	.002	--	--	--	.023	.14
CWPcareerfair	252	45%	38%	.031	.002	--	--	--	.015	.15
CWPpaid	253	36%	30%	.030	.002	--	--	--	.062	.12
CWPalumni	252	30%	31%	.029	.002	--	--	--	.592	-.03
CWPworkpay	194	2.29	2.30	.107	.008	1.49	1.49	196	.916	-.01

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

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..

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.

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.

NSSE 2026 Career & Workforce Preparation Topical Module Thematic Groupings

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

First-Year Students

Career Clarity & Planning[a]

Do students have a clear path forward?



66% have a clear idea of career plans

67% know where to go for career questions

65% can describe the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary for their career plans

41% have a mentor who shares a similar interest or background

53% received supportive feedback from faculty or advisors

64% say coursework is relevant to their career plans

Career-Related Course Experiences[b]

Are careers showing up in the classroom?



45% learned about a career or industry from practicing professionals

64% analyzed a case, scenario, or simulation of a real-life situation

49% researched a career interest, a potential employer, or the job market

36% observed employees in action at a place of work (clinics, offices, schools, etc.)

53% connected their learning with how to impact their community and society

Experiential Learning & Career Preparation[c]

Are students getting real-world experience?



62% network with alumni or professional in a field related to their career interests

72% interview or shadow someone in a career they are considering

65% participate in a major or career-related co-curricular activity

67% complete a paid internship

57% participate in a mock/practice interview

Motivation & Career Values[a]

What drives students' career choices?



57% the desire to impact or support their community influenced their career plans

43% expected job salary and availability influenced their career plans

69% fit to their interests and abilities motivates their career plans

54% the desire to make a difference in society motivates their career plans

Career Confidence & Workforce Readiness[a]

Are students ready to take on the workforce?



66% confident demonstrating effective work habits

50% confident using career-specific technology

56% confident overcoming obstacles in finding and using career resources at institution

38% confident networking with alumni and professionals

59% confident addressing ethical issues in careers

53% confident communicating skills to employers

71% confident working with people from diverse backgrounds

Career Services & Institution Support[c]

Is support present when students need it?



62% completed a career self-assessment

74% received resume help

55% took a career exploration or development course

73% discussed career interests with a faculty member

68% participated in a career fair

76% met with career advisors, success coaches, or career services staff

NOTES: a. Combination of students responding "very much" or "quite a bit." – b. Combination of students responding "very often" or "often." – c. Combination of students responding "done or in progress" or "plan to do."

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NSSE 2026 Career & Workforce Preparation Topical Module Thematic Groupings

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Seniors

Career Clarity & Planning[a]

Do students have a clear path forward?

74% have a clear idea of career plans

74% know where to go for career questions

78% can describe the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary for their career plans

49% have a mentor who shares a similar interest or background

69% received supportive feedback from faculty or advisors

78% say coursework is relevant to their career plans

Career-Related Course Experiences[b]

Are careers showing up in the classroom?

66% learned about a career or industry from practicing professionals

80% analyzed a case, scenario, or simulation of a real-life situation

52% researched a career interest, a potential employer, or the job market

49% observed employees in action at a place of work (clinics, offices, schools, etc.)

59% connected their learning with how to impact their community and society

Experiential Learning & Career Preparation[c]

Are students getting real-world experience?

30% network with alumni or professional in a field related to their career interests

43% interview or shadow someone in a career they are considering

41% participate in a major or career-related co-curricular activity

36% complete a paid internship

37% participate in a mock/practice interview

Motivation & Career Values[a]

What drives students' career choices?

62% the desire to impact or support their community influenced their career plans

48% expected job salary and availability influenced their career plans

83% fit to their interests and abilities motivates their career plans

63% the desire to make a difference in society motivates their career plans

Career Confidence & Workforce Readiness[a]

Are students ready to take on the workforce?

87% confident demonstrating effective work habits

70% confident using career-specific technology

66% confident overcoming obstacles in finding and using career resources at institution

36% confident networking with alumni and professionals

79% confident addressing ethical issues in careers

72% confident communicating skills to employers

88% confident working with people from diverse backgrounds

Career Services & Institution Support[c]

Is support present when students need it?

35% completed a career self-assessment

58% received resume help

34% took a career exploration or development course

55% discussed career interests with a faculty member

45% participated in a career fair

49% met with career advisors, success coaches, or career services staff

NOTES: a. Combination of students responding "very much" or "quite a bit." – b. Combination of students responding "very often" or "often." – c. Percentage of students responding "done or in progress."

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