

---

# **NSSE 2025 Topical Module Report**

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

California State University, Chico

---

This module includes two distinct sets of items: one for first-year students and one for seniors, based on institution-reported class level. The first-year questions ask students to report on academic support, goals, and institutional commitment. The senior items explore confidence in skill development, post-graduation plans, and student loan debt.

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

This page intentionally left blank.

### First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				CSU, Chico		FY Exp / Sr Transiti		CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>1. During the current school year, how often were you successful:</b>										
a. Learning course material	FYsuccesslearn	1	Never	2	1	45	0	<b>3.1</b>	3.2 **	-0.22 ▽
		2	Sometimes	33	17	1,874	12			
		3	Often	110	54	8,088	50			
		4	Very often	59	28	5,979	37			
			Total	204	100	15,986	100			
b. Managing your time	FYsuccesstime	1	Never	6	3	394	3	<b>2.8</b>	2.9	-0.09
		2	Sometimes	74	37	4,971	32			
		3	Often	78	39	6,916	42			
		4	Very often	45	21	3,699	23			
			Total	203	100	15,980	100			
c. Getting help with school work	FYsuccesshelp	1	Never	22	11	971	7	<b>2.5</b>	2.7 **	-0.19 ▽
		2	Sometimes	73	37	5,902	37			
		3	Often	88	43	6,229	38			
		4	Very often	20	10	2,867	18			
			Total	203	100	15,969	100			
d. Interacting with faculty	FYsuccessfac	1	Never	17	8	736	5	<b>2.5</b>	2.7 ***	-0.23 ▽
		2	Sometimes	82	41	5,952	37			
		3	Often	78	39	6,137	38			
		4	Very often	23	11	3,147	20			
			Total	200	100	15,972	100			
e. Interacting with peers	FYsuccesspeer	1	Never	8	4	384	3	<b>2.8</b>	3.1 ***	-0.25 ▽
		2	Sometimes	64	31	3,449	23			
		3	Often	78	40	6,628	41			
		4	Very often	52	25	5,520	34			
			Total	202	100	15,981	100			
<b>2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?</b>										
a. I am clear in what I want to major in.	FYclearmaj	1	Strongly disagree	8	4	380	2	<b>3.3</b>	3.3	-0.11
		2	Disagree	19	10	1,677	10			
		3	Agree	83	41	6,306	40			
		4	Strongly agree	93	45	7,623	48			
			Total	203	100	15,986	100			
b. I am clear about my career goals.	FYcleargoals	1	Strongly disagree	7	4	447	3	<b>3.1</b>	3.2	-0.10
		2	Disagree	33	17	2,621	16			
		3	Agree	87	44	6,575	41			
		4	Strongly agree	76	36	6,336	41			
			Total	203	100	15,979	100			
c. I am clear about who I want to become.	FYclearbecome	1	Strongly disagree	5	3	333	2	<b>3.2</b>	3.3	-0.11
		2	Disagree	30	15	2,063	13			
		3	Agree	87	43	6,561	41			
		4	Strongly agree	81	39	7,013	44			
			Total	203	100	15,970	100			
d. At least one instructor or staff member is genuinely interested in me as a person.	FYinstperson	1	Strongly disagree	12	6	743	5	<b>2.9</b>	3.0	-0.11
		2	Disagree	38	19	2,899	19			
		3	Agree	110	55	7,705	48			
		4	Strongly agree	42	20	4,612	28			
			Total	202	100	15,959	100			

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

### First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				CSU, Chico		FY Exp / Sr Transn		CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transn	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
e. At least one of my peers or classmates is genuinely interested in me as a person.	FYpeerson	1	Strongly disagree	8	4	465	4	<b>3.1</b>	3.3 *	-0.17
		2	Disagree	24	12	1,231	9			
		3	Agree	101	52	6,891	44			
		4	Strongly agree	69	33	7,378	44			
		Total		202	100	15,965	100			
f. My instructors support my learning.	FYinstlearn	1	Strongly disagree	1	0	75	1	<b>3.2</b>	3.3 **	-0.19
		2	Disagree	10	5	590	4			
		3	Agree	140	70	9,602	61			
		4	Strongly agree	52	25	5,698	35			
		Total		203	100	15,965	100			
g. Other students support my learning.	FYstudlearn	1	Strongly disagree	3	2	246	2	<b>3.0</b>	3.1	-0.13
		2	Disagree	26	13	1,455	10			
		3	Agree	133	66	10,053	62			
		4	Strongly agree	40	19	4,191	26			
		Total		202	100	15,945	100			
h. My instructors are open to my ideas and contributions to class discussions.	FYinstopen	1	Strongly disagree	2	1	109	1	<b>3.1</b>	3.3 **	-0.20
		2	Disagree	12	6	736	5			
		3	Agree	144	73	9,975	62			
		4	Strongly agree	43	21	5,125	32			
		Total		201	100	15,945	100			
i. Other students are open to my ideas and contributions to class discussions.	FYstudopen	1	Strongly disagree	4	2	133	1	<b>3.1</b>	3.2 *	-0.16
		2	Disagree	13	6	1,003	7			
		3	Agree	149	74	10,648	66			
		4	Strongly agree	36	18	4,149	26			
		Total		202	100	15,933	100			
j. There are students at my institution with backgrounds, identities, and cultures similar to mine.	FYsimculture	1	Strongly disagree	2	1	185	1	<b>3.2</b>	3.3 *	-0.14
		2	Disagree	11	5	761	5			
		3	Agree	131	67	8,801	56			
		4	Strongly agree	58	28	6,176	37			
		Total		202	100	15,923	100			
k. There are students at my institution with interests similar to mine.	FYsiminterest	1	Strongly disagree	2	1	111	1	<b>3.2</b>	3.3 **	-0.20
		2	Disagree	9	4	594	4			
		3	Agree	136	68	8,962	57			
		4	Strongly agree	55	27	6,283	38			
		Total		202	100	15,950	100			
<b>3. During the current school year, how often have you sought support from the following?</b>										
a. Faculty members, academic advisors, or learning support services (tutoring, writing center, etc.)	FYsupfac	0	Never	20	10	1,216	8	<b>2.0</b>	2.1	-0.03
		1	Rarely	38	19	3,256	20			
		2	Sometimes	75	37	6,140	38			
		3	Often	46	23	3,294	20			
		4	Very often	20	10	1,852	12			
		—	Not available/Not applicable	3	1	159	1			
Total		202	100	15,917	100					

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

# NSSE 2025 First-Year Experiences & Senior Transitions

## Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons: First-Year Experiences California State University, Chico

### First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				CSU, Chico		FY Exp / Sr Transiti		CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
b. Student support services (residence life staff, success coaches, peer mentors, etc.)	FYsupserv	0	Never	43	21	3,149	21	<b>1.6</b>	1.6	.04
		1	Rarely	49	25	4,252	26			
		2	Sometimes	52	26	4,725	29			
		3	Often	37	18	2,096	13			
		4	Very often	16	7	1,190	8			
		—	Not available/Not applicable	4	2	497	3			
Total				201	100	15,909	100			
c. Counseling/health center	FYsupcounsel	0	Never	62	31	6,756	42	<b>1.2</b>	1.1	.08
		1	Rarely	67	33	3,447	21			
		2	Sometimes	44	22	2,783	17			
		3	Often	13	7	1,322	8			
		4	Very often	14	6	1,020	7			
		—	Not available/Not applicable	2	1	585	4			
Total				202	100	15,913	100			
d. Career services office	FYsupcareer	0	Never	71	35	6,620	42	<b>1.1</b>	1.1	.05
		1	Rarely	60	29	3,879	24			
		2	Sometimes	46	23	2,969	18			
		3	Often	14	8	1,088	7			
		4	Very often	7	3	751	5			
		—	Not available/Not applicable	4	2	593	4			
Total				202	100	15,900	100			
e. Financial Aid office	FYsupfinaid	0	Never	51	27	4,202	25	<b>1.3</b>	1.5	-.13
		1	Rarely	67	32	4,321	27			
		2	Sometimes	54	26	4,320	28			
		3	Often	18	10	1,726	11			
		4	Very often	9	4	1,001	7			
		—	Not available/Not applicable	3	1	326	2			
Total				202	100	15,896	100			
f. Your cultural community (identity-based, faith-based, hometown group, etc.)	FYsupcomm	0	Never	61	31	5,180	34	<b>1.4</b>	1.5	-.05
		1	Rarely	43	21	2,609	16			
		2	Sometimes	54	27	3,197	20			
		3	Often	24	12	2,257	13			
		4	Very often	13	6	1,902	11			
		—	Not available/Not applicable	7	3	750	5			
Total				202	100	15,895	100			

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

### First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				CSU, Chico		FY Exp / Sr Transitrn		CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transitrn	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>4. During the current school year, did you take a course or seminar intended for first-year students?</b>										
	FYseminar		Yes	83	40	10,701	65	<b>40%</b>	65% ***	-0.50
		(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	No	94	48	3,983	27			
			Unsure	24	11	1,212	8			
			Total	201	100	15,896	100			
<b>4a. [If answered "yes"] What topics did this course cover? (Select all that apply.)</b>										
	FYsem_orient	—	Additional orientation information relevant to your campus	40	40	6,393	54			
	FYsem_skills	—	College success skills (study skills, time management, communication skills, reading skills, goal setting, etc.)	83	85	8,654	76			
	FYsem_specmajor	—	Specialized academic content related to your major	25	24	3,731	35			
	FYsem_theme	—	A specialized theme or academic content that emphasizes discussion	28	28	5,563	47			
<b>5. During the current school year, have you seriously considered leaving this institution?<sup>j</sup></b>										
	FYleaveinst		No	148	73	11,854	74	<b>27%</b>	26%	.02
		(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	Yes	55	27	4,050	26			
			Total	203	100	15,904	100			

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

### First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				CSU, Chico		FY Exp / Sr Transiti		CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>5a. [If answered "yes"] Why did you consider leaving? (Select all that apply.)</b>										
	FYleave_pers	—	Personal reasons (family issues, physical or mental health, homesickness, stress, etc.)	30	58	2,127	52			
	FYleave_acad	—	Academics (major not offered, academic difficulty, course availability, advising, etc.)	12	25	1,326	33			
	FYleave_finan	—	Financial concerns	26	49	1,627	41			
	FYleave_job	—	Job or military service	1	3	72	2			
	FYleave_manage	—	Difficulty managing demands of school and other personal obligations	11	22	798	20			
	FYleave_social	—	Not enough opportunities to socialize and have fun	10	20	749	19			
	FYleave_expfac	—	Experiences with faculty and staff	4	8	510	13			
	FYleave_expstud	—	Experiences with other students	12	21	827	19			
	FYleave_expdisc	—	Experiences with discrimination	3	5	218	5			
	FYleave_climate	—	Campus climate or culture	8	14	747	18			
	FYleave_instloc	—	Institution's location	10	18	603	16			
	FYleave_safety	—	Personal safety	5	8	211	6			
	FYleave_belong	—	Feeling that you don't fit in or belong at your institution	20	36	1,516	37			
	FYleave_inaccess	—	Educational materials or campus space are inaccessible	2	4	140	3			
	FYleave_worth	—	College just doesn't seem worth it	3	7	554	14			
	FYleave_oth	—	A reason not listed above, please specify:	2	5	408	11			

### 6. What has most helped you succeed at this institution?

This question asked students to respond in an open text box. Responses are provided in your "NSSE 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 <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
	CSU, Chico		CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti			
FYsuccesslearn	201		3.09	3.24	.049	.008	.70	.67	211	.003	-.22
FYsuccesstime	201		2.79	2.86	.057	.009	.81	.80	210	.231	-.09
FYsuccesshelp	201		2.52	2.68	.057	.010	.81	.85	212	.007	-.19
FYsuccessfac	198		2.54	2.74	.057	.010	.80	.84	208	.001	-.23
FYsuccesspeer	199		2.85	3.05	.060	.010	.84	.82	209	.001	-.25
FYclearmaj	200		3.26	3.34	.057	.009	.81	.74	209	.170	-.11
FYcleargoals	200		3.12	3.20	.058	.009	.82	.79	210	.168	-.10
FYclearbecome	200		3.18	3.27	.056	.009	.79	.77	210	.156	-.11
FYinstperson	199		2.90	2.99	.056	.010	.78	.83	210	.107	-.11
FYpeerperson	199		3.14	3.27	.054	.009	.76	.78	209	.017	-.17
FYinstlearn	200		3.19	3.29	.037	.007	.53	.57	212	.006	-.19
FYstudlearn	200		3.03	3.12	.044	.008	.62	.65	210	.051	-.13
FYinstopen	199		3.13	3.25	.038	.007	.53	.58	211	.003	-.20
FYstudopen	200		3.08	3.17	.039	.007	.56	.58	210	.021	-.16
FYsimculture	200		3.21	3.30	.040	.007	.56	.62	212	.030	-.14
FYsiminterest	200		3.20	3.32	.040	.007	.56	.59	211	.004	-.20
FYsupfac	197		2.04	2.08	.079	.013	1.11	1.11	207	.674	-.03
FYsupserv	195		1.63	1.58	.088	.014	1.22	1.20	204	.570	.04
FYsupcounsel	198		1.22	1.12	.081	.015	1.15	1.25	210	.204	.08
FYsupcareer	196		1.13	1.07	.078	.014	1.10	1.18	207	.424	.05
FYsupfinaid	197		1.32	1.47	.079	.014	1.11	1.19	209	.054	-.13
FYsupcomm	194		1.41	1.48	.089	.017	1.23	1.40	207	.461	-.05
FYseminar	199		40%	65%	.035	.006	--	--	--	.000	-.50
FYleaveinst	200		27%	26%	.031	.005	--	--	--	.784	.02

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

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				CSU, Chico		FY Exp / Sr Transiti		CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>1. How much confidence do you have in your ability to complete tasks requiring the following skills and abilities?</b>										
a. Critical thinking and analysis of arguments and information	SRskillcritical	1	Very little	0	0	101	1	<b>3.5</b>	3.4	.12
		2	Some	8	6	1,341	9			
		3	Quite a bit	45	38	5,914	38			
		4	Very much	66	56	7,987	52			
		Total		119	100	15,343	100			
b. Creative thinking and problem solving	SRskillcreative	1	Very little	0	0	80	1	<b>3.5</b>	3.4	.07
		2	Some	9	7	1,184	8			
		3	Quite a bit	44	37	5,844	38			
		4	Very much	66	56	8,221	54			
		Total		119	100	15,329	100			
c. Research skills	SRskillres	1	Very little	3	3	236	2	<b>3.2</b>	3.2	-.04
		2	Some	23	18	2,401	15			
		3	Quite a bit	43	36	6,461	42			
		4	Very much	50	43	6,230	41			
		Total		119	100	15,328	100			
d. Clear writing	SRskillwrite	1	Very little	0	0	151	1	<b>3.3</b>	3.3	.05
		2	Some	18	15	1,885	13			
		3	Quite a bit	42	35	6,333	41			
		4	Very much	59	49	6,964	45			
		Total		119	100	15,333	100			
e. Communication for specific audiences or purposes	SRskillcomm	1	Very little	2	2	182	1	<b>3.2</b>	3.3	-.08
		2	Some	21	17	1,994	14			
		3	Quite a bit	44	38	6,294	40			
		4	Very much	52	43	6,858	44			
		Total		119	100	15,328	100			
f. Leadership skills	SRskilllead	1	Very little	2	2	318	2	<b>3.2</b>	3.2	-.09
		2	Some	28	24	2,360	16			
		3	Quite a bit	37	30	5,610	36			
		4	Very much	53	44	7,050	45			
		Total		120	100	15,338	100			
g. Technological skills	SRskilltech	1	Very little	1	1	358	2	<b>3.1</b>	3.1	.04
		2	Some	27	22	3,270	21			
		3	Quite a bit	50	41	6,314	40			
		4	Very much	42	37	5,394	36			
		Total		120	100	15,336	100			
h. Financial, business management, or entrepreneurial skills	SRskillfinan	1	Very little	21	16	2,543	16	<b>2.4</b>	2.5	-.10
		2	Some	46	38	5,483	35			
		3	Quite a bit	35	32	4,184	28			
		4	Very much	18	14	3,127	21			
		Total		120	100	15,337	100			
i. Networking and relationship building	SRskillnetwork	1	Very little	6	5	926	7	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	-.05
		2	Some	37	31	4,101	27			
		3	Quite a bit	43	36	5,604	36			
		4	Very much	34	28	4,714	31			
		Total		120	100	15,345	100			

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

# NSSE 2025 First-Year Experiences & Senior Transitions

## Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons: Senior Transitions

### California State University, Chico

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				CSU, Chico		FY Exp / Sr Transiti		CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	size <sup>d</sup>
<b>2. To what extent has your coursework in your major(s) emphasized the following?</b>										
a. Generating new ideas or brainstorming	SRcrsideas	1	Very little	2	1	338	3	<b>3.2</b>	3.2	.01
		2	Some	20	18	2,521	17			
		3	Quite a bit	50	41	6,120	40			
		4	Very much	48	40	6,344	40			
		Total		120	100	15,323	100			
b. Taking risks in your coursework without fear of penalty	SRcrsrisks	1	Very little	19	15	2,599	18	<b>2.7</b>	2.6	.13
		2	Some	31	26	4,523	29			
		3	Quite a bit	35	29	4,444	29			
		4	Very much	35	30	3,755	24			
		Total		120	100	15,321	100			
c. Evaluating multiple approaches to a problem	SRcrsproblem	1	Very little	4	4	446	3	<b>3.2</b>	3.1	.09
		2	Some	18	14	2,836	19			
		3	Quite a bit	49	41	6,075	39			
		4	Very much	48	41	5,957	38			
		Total		119	100	15,314	100			
d. Inventing new methods to arrive at unconventional solutions	SRcrsinvent	1	Very little	13	10	1,502	10	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	.01
		2	Some	39	31	4,323	28			
		3	Quite a bit	32	28	5,158	33			
		4	Very much	36	31	4,322	28			
		Total		120	100	15,305	100			
<b>3. Which of the following types of honors have you achieved or are you currently participating in at your institution? (Select all that apply.)</b>										
	SRhon_deans	—	Dean's list or other recognition for high GPA	72	59	10,647	71			
	SRhon_curr	—	Honors program with a special honors curriculum or honors program/college completion requirements	8	7	1,807	12			
	SRhon_dept	—	Honors track in your major or department	5	4	991	7			
	SRhon_disc	—	College honor society specific to your major or discipline	11	10	1,608	11			
	SRhon_gen	—	Collegiate honor society for leadership or general academic achievement outside of your major or discipline (Mortar Board, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, etc.)	5	5	1,471	10			
	SRhon_oth	—	Other, please specify:	2	1	310	2			
	SRhon_none	—	You have not been involved in or received any of these	40	37	3,608	24			

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

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				CSU, Chico		FY Exp / Sr Transiti		CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>4. Do you expect to graduate this spring or summer?</b>										
	SRexpectgrad		No	34	29	4,737	32	<b>71%</b>	68%	.06
			Yes	86	71	10,567	68			
			Total	120	100	15,304	100			
<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")</i>										
<b>5. After graduation, what best describes your immediate plans? (Select all that apply.)</b>										
	SRplan_fulltime	—	Full-time employment	79	67	10,505	70			
	SRplan_parttime	—	Part-time employment	27	22	2,588	17			
	SRplan_grad	—	Graduate or professional school (Master's degree, J.D., Ph.D., M.D., veterinary school, nursing, post-baccalaureate program, etc.)	50	41	6,301	40			
	SRplan_uged	—	Continuing undergraduate education (second major, minor, pre-requisites, etc.)	6	5	397	3			
	SRplan_vocdeg	—	Pursue a vocational degree/AA (trade school, certification exam, certificate, etc.)	4	3	248	2			
	SRplan_intern	—	Internship (paid or unpaid)	26	21	2,303	15			
	SRplan_selfemp	—	Start my own business or self-employment	9	8	878	6			
	SRplan_military	—	Military service	4	4	268	2			
	SRplan_service	—	Service or volunteer activity (AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teach for America, etc.)	2	1	254	2			
	SRplan_care	—	Caregiver for family and/or others	8	7	567	4			
	SRplan_travel	—	Travel	14	12	2,194	14			
	SRplan_unsure	—	Unsure	19	17	1,368	9			
	SRplan_oth	—	Other, please specify:	6	4	258	2			
<b>6. Do you already have a job for after graduation?</b>										
	SRjobafter		No, I am still searching	65	70	7,241	60	<b>30%</b>	40% *	-0.21
			Yes, I will start a new job	13	15	2,005	17			
			Yes, I will continue in my current job	14	15	2,482	23			
			Total	92	100	11,728	100			
<i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")</i>										
<b>7. To what extent have courses in your major(s) prepped you for your post-graduation plans?</b>										
	SRmajorprep	0	Not at all	4	3	283	2	<b>2.9</b>	2.9	.02
		1	Very little	4	3	813	6			
		2	Some	26	20	3,392	23			
		3	Quite a bit	51	44	5,586	36			
		4	Very much	34	29	5,185	33			
			Total	119	100	15,259	100			

# NSSE 2025 First-Year Experiences & Senior Transitions

## Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons: Senior Transitions

### California State University, Chico

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				CSU, Chico		FY Exp / Sr Transiti		CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>8. How closely related are your post-graduation plans to your major?</b>										
	SRmajorclose	0	Not at all	4	3	253	2	<b>3.2</b>	3.2	-.01
		1	Very little	5	4	553	4			
		2	Some	18	14	2,298	16			
		3	Quite a bit	29	27	3,939	26			
		4	Very much	64	53	8,193	53			
		Total		120	100	15,236	100			
<b>9. Do you plan to be self-employed, an independent contractor, a freelance worker, or start your own business someday?</b>										
	SRownbus	Yes		21	18	2,994	21	<b>18%</b>	21%	-.08
	(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Yes.")	No		55	44	8,325	53			
		Unsure		44	38	3,907	26			
		Total		120	100	15,226	100			
<b>10. How much loan debt will you graduate with after completing your undergraduate degree(s)?</b>										
	SRloan debt	0	None	50	42	6,430	40	<b>\$10,441</b>	\$16,824 ***	-.29
	(Means are from the derived variable SRloan debtnum using the midpoints of dollar amount ranges and an estimate for unbounded options.)	1	\$10,000 or less	24	19	1,471	10			
		2	\$10,001 to \$20,000	18	15	1,405	9			
		3	\$20,001 to \$30,000	8	7	1,567	10			
		4	\$30,001 to \$40,000	8	7	886	6			
		5	\$40,001 to \$50,000	1	1	610	4			
		6	\$50,001 to \$60,000	3	3	511	4			
		7	More than \$60,000	1	1	956	7			
		—	I have loan debt but don't know the amount	4	3	785	5			
		—	I prefer not to respond	3	3	689	5			
		Total		120	100	15,310	100			
<b>11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?</b>										
a. Considering the total cost of my undergraduate education, attending my institution was a good investment.	SRinvestment	1	Strongly disagree	1	1	512	4	<b>3.4</b>	3.1 ***	.30
		2	Disagree	6	5	1,719	12			
		3	Agree	62	51	7,593	51			
		4	Strongly agree	51	44	5,466	34			
		Total		120	100	15,290	100			
b. My post-graduation plans and decisions have been impacted by student loan debt.	SRimpact debt	1	Strongly disagree	36	30	3,832	24	<b>2.2</b>	2.3	-.10
		2	Disagree	39	33	4,974	32			
		3	Agree	24	21	4,061	27			
		4	Strongly agree	21	17	2,367	16			
		Total		120	100	15,234	100			
c. I worry about making enough money to cover my cost of living (including any student loan payments) after graduation.	SRcost living	1	Strongly disagree	9	7	1,770	12	<b>3.0</b>	2.9	.11
		2	Disagree	27	24	3,422	22			
		3	Agree	42	36	5,303	35			
		4	Strongly agree	41	34	4,771	31			
		Total		119	100	15,266	100			
d. I have experienced difficulty in paying for my college or university expenses.	SRdiff paying	1	Strongly disagree	18	14	2,909	19	<b>2.5</b>	2.5	.07
		2	Disagree	44	39	5,373	34			
		3	Agree	32	26	4,200	28			
		4	Strongly agree	25	20	2,759	19			
		Total		119	100	15,241	100			

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

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				CSU, Chico		FY Exp / Sr Transiti		CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>12. If you could start over again, would you:</b>										
a. Choose a different major (or field)?	SRagainmajor	1	Definitely no	49	43	5,652	37	<b>1.8</b>	1.9	-.11
		2	Probably no	43	34	6,129	40			
		3	Probably yes	22	18	2,597	17			
		4	Definitely yes	5	4	900	6			
		Total		119	100	15,278	100			
b. Pursue a bachelor's degree?	SRagainbach	1	Definitely no	1	1	237	2	<b>3.7</b>	3.7	.01
		2	Probably no	8	6	500	4			
		3	Probably yes	19	18	3,009	21			
		4	Definitely yes	91	76	11,497	74			
		Total		119	100	15,243	100			
c. Pursue any postsecondary education (including community college, associates degrees, certificate programs)?	SRagainpostsec	1	Definitely no	5	5	1,191	8	<b>3.1</b>	3.0	.18
		2	Probably no	27	24	3,799	25			
		3	Probably yes	29	24	4,576	30			
		4	Definitely yes	58	47	5,669	37			
		Total		119	100	15,235	100			

### Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
		CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti	CSU, Chico	FY Exp / Sr Transiti			
SRskillcritical	120	3.50	3.41	.056	.007	.62	.69	123	.146	.12
SRskillcreative	120	3.49	3.44	.058	.007	.63	.67	123	.404	.07
SRskillres	120	3.19	3.23	.076	.008	.83	.76	122	.660	-.04
SRskillwrite	120	3.34	3.30	.067	.008	.73	.73	122	.553	.05
SRskillcomm	120	3.22	3.28	.073	.008	.80	.75	122	.441	-.08
SRskilllead	121	3.17	3.24	.078	.009	.85	.81	123	.332	-.09
SRskilltech	121	3.14	3.11	.070	.009	.77	.81	123	.659	.04
SRskillfinan	121	2.43	2.53	.084	.011	.92	1.00	124	.235	-.10
SRskillnetwork	121	2.86	2.91	.081	.010	.89	.91	123	.567	-.05
SRcrsideas	121	3.19	3.18	.071	.009	.78	.80	123	.922	.01
SRcrsrisks	121	2.74	2.60	.095	.011	1.05	1.04	123	.147	.13
SRcrsproblem	120	3.20	3.13	.074	.009	.81	.83	122	.324	.09
SRcrsinvent	121	2.80	2.79	.090	.010	.99	.97	123	.909	.01
SRexpectgrad	121	71%	68%	.041	.005	--	--	--	.543	.06
SRjobafter	92	30%	40%	.048	.006	--	--	--	.048	-.21
SRmajorprep	119	2.94	2.92	.086	.011	.94	.99	122	.863	.02
SRmajorclose	121	3.23	3.25	.092	.010	1.01	.97	123	.903	-.01
SRownbus	121	18%	21%	.035	.004	--	--	--	.419	-.08
SRloandebt	114	\$10,441	\$16,824	\$1,389	\$248	\$14,818	\$21,796	120	.000	-.29
SRinvestment	121	3.37	3.14	.056	.008	.62	.77	125	.000	.30
SRimpactdebt	121	2.24	2.35	.096	.011	1.06	1.02	123	.282	-.10
SRcostliving	120	2.96	2.85	.085	.011	.93	.99	123	.224	.11
SRdiffpaying	120	2.53	2.46	.089	.011	.97	1.00	122	.457	.07
SRagainmajor	120	1.83	1.93	.079	.010	.87	.88	122	.221	-.11
SRagainbach	120	3.68	3.67	.057	.007	.62	.63	122	.885	.01
SRagainpostsec	120	3.13	2.96	.086	.010	.95	.97	122	.053	.18

## 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.