



NSSE 2015 Topical Module

Academic Advising

Indiana University Northwest

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About This Topical Module

This module examines students' experiences with academic advising, including frequency, accessibility, and types of information provided. It also asks students to identify their primary source of advice. The module complements a question on the core survey about the quality of students' interactions with academic advisors. Complementary FSSE set available.

Comparison Group

This section summarizes how this module's comparison group was identified, including selection criteria and whether the default option was taken. This is followed by the resulting list of institutions represented in the 'Peer Institutions' column of this report.

Group label	Peer Institutions
Date submitted	5/21/15
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this comparison group by selecting institutions from all module participants.
Group description	Of the 8 peer institutions for IU Northwest that took the NSSE, six of them also participated in the advising module.

Peer Institutions (N=6)

California State University San Marcos (San Marcos, CA)*
 Indiana University South Bend (South Bend, IN)
 Indiana University Southeast (New Albany, IN)
 Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (Corpus Christi, TX)
 University of Houston-Victoria (Victoria, TX)
 University of Michigan-Dearborn (Dearborn, MI)

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				IU Northwest		Peer Institutions		IU Northwest	Peer Institutions	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
1. During the current school year, about how many times have you and an academic advisor discussed your academic interests, course selections, or academic performance?										
	ADV01	0	0	15	19	150	11	2.1	2.0	.08
		1	1	22	26	372	28			
		2	2	14	17	428	30			
		3	3	14	18	266	18			
		4	4	8	10	117	8			
		5	5	1	2	34	2			
		6	6 or more	6	8	35	3			
		Total		80	100	1,402	100			
2. During the current school year, to what extent have your academic advisors done the following?										
a. Been available when needed	ADV02a	1	Very little	17	19	130	9	2.7	3.0 *	-0.30 ▼
		2	Some	17	20	255	17			
		3	Quite a bit	16	21	419	30			
		4	Very much	24	30	493	35			
		—	Not applicable	7	9	105	9			
		Total		81	100	1,402	100			
b. Listened closely to your concerns and questions	ADV02b	1	Very little	16	19	109	8	2.8	3.1 *	-0.30 ▼
		2	Some	15	18	227	16			
		3	Quite a bit	16	20	395	29			
		4	Very much	27	34	530	37			
		—	Not applicable	7	9	136	11			
		Total		81	100	1,397	100			
c. Informed you of important deadlines	ADV02c	1	Very little	17	19	185	12	2.7	2.9	-.13
		2	Some	13	16	257	18			
		3	Quite a bit	16	20	371	27			
		4	Very much	25	32	457	32			
		—	Not applicable	10	13	127	10			
		Total		81	100	1,397	100			
d. Helped you understand academic rules and policies	ADV02d	1	Very little	15	18	170	12	2.8	2.9	-.09
		2	Some	15	19	262	18			
		3	Quite a bit	10	13	358	26			
		4	Very much	27	36	454	32			
		—	Not applicable	12	15	153	12			
		Total		79	100	1,397	100			
e. Informed you of academic support options (tutoring, study groups, help with writing, etc.)	ADV02e	1	Very little	17	20	201	14	2.6	2.8	-.18
		2	Some	18	22	273	19			
		3	Quite a bit	12	15	334	25			
		4	Very much	23	29	430	30			
		—	Not applicable	11	13	161	12			
		Total		81	100	1,399	100			

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

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				IU Northwest		Peer Institutions		IU Northwest	Peer Institutions	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
f. Provided useful information about courses	ADV02f	1	Very little	13	15	156	11	2.9	3.0	-.10
		2	Some	19	23	236	16			
		3	Quite a bit	12	14	401	29			
		4	Very much	30	39	497	35			
		—	Not applicable	7	9	110	9			
		Total		81	100	1,400	100			
g. Helped you when you had academic difficulties	ADV02g	1	Very little	21	25	214	15	2.6	2.8	-.13
		2	Some	11	13	220	15			
		3	Quite a bit	10	12	290	22			
		4	Very much	25	32	395	27			
		—	Not applicable	14	17	274	21			
		Total		81	100	1,393	100			
h. Helped you get information on special opportunities (study abroad, internship, research projects, etc.)	ADV02h	1	Very little	22	26	270	18	2.5	2.6	-.14
		2	Some	14	17	243	18			
		3	Quite a bit	8	11	251	19			
		4	Very much	20	26	343	24			
		—	Not applicable	15	20	284	21			
		Total		79	100	1,391	100			
i. Discussed your career interests and post-graduation plans	ADV02i	1	Very little	22	26	269	19	2.6	2.6	-.07
		2	Some	11	14	267	19			
		3	Quite a bit	13	17	295	21			
		4	Very much	22	28	365	26			
		—	Not applicable	12	15	191	15			
		Total		80	100	1,387	100			
3. How often have your academic advisors reached out to you about your academic progress or performance?										
	ADV04_15	1	Never	41	49	416	39	1.8	1.9	-.13
		2	Sometimes	23	29	373	37			
		3	Often	11	14	180	18			
		4	Very often	6	7	62	6			
		—	Not applicable							
		Total		81	100	1,031	100			
4. During the current school year, which of the following has been your primary source of advice regarding your academic plans? (Select one)										
	ADV03	—	Academic advisor(s) assigned to you	31	38	469	31			
		—	Academic advisor(s) available to any student	5	6	145	10			
		—	Faculty or staff not formally assigned as an advisor	5	6	138	10			
		—	Online advising system (degree progress report, etc.)	1	2	38	3			
		—	Web site, catalog, or other published sources	4	5	59	4			
		—	Friends or other students	8	9	213	17			
		—	Family members	20	27	249	18			
		—	Other, please specify:	0	0	12	1			
		—	I did not seek academic advice this year	6	7	76	6			
		Total		80	100	1,399	100			

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

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b			
				IU Northwest		Peer Institutions		IU Northwest	Peer Institutions		
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d	
1. During the current school year, about how many times have you and an academic advisor discussed your academic interests, course selections, or academic performance?											
	ADV01	0	0		30	22	350	18	2.0	1.9	.07
		1	1		34	24	539	28			
		2	2		32	22	472	25			
		3	3		20	14	247	13			
		4	4		10	7	110	6			
		5	5		5	4	55	2			
		6	6 or more		12	8	127	6			
		Total			143	100	1,900	100			
2. During the current school year, to what extent have your academic advisors done the following?											
a. Been available when needed	ADV02a	1	Very little		26	18	217	12	2.7	2.9 *	-0.22
		2	Some		26	19	349	19			
		3	Quite a bit		39	27	471	24			
		4	Very much		37	26	648	34			
		—	Not applicable		14	10	218	11			
		Total			142	100	1,903	100			
b. Listened closely to your concerns and questions	ADV02b	1	Very little		26	19	204	11	2.6	2.9 **	-0.27
		2	Some		26	19	341	18			
		3	Quite a bit		38	26	448	24			
		4	Very much		35	25	660	34			
		—	Not applicable		16	12	246	12			
		Total			141	100	1,899	100			
c. Informed you of important deadlines	ADV02c	1	Very little		32	23	332	17	2.6	2.7	-0.15
		2	Some		28	20	350	19			
		3	Quite a bit		36	25	427	22			
		4	Very much		34	24	544	28			
		—	Not applicable		11	8	246	13			
		Total			141	100	1,899	100			
d. Helped you understand academic rules and policies	ADV02d	1	Very little		25	18	349	19	2.6	2.6	.03
		2	Some		22	16	349	19			
		3	Quite a bit		41	29	375	19			
		4	Very much		31	21	476	25			
		—	Not applicable		23	16	335	17			
		Total			142	100	1,884	100			
e. Informed you of academic support options (tutoring, study groups, help with writing, etc.)	ADV02e	1	Very little		31	22	470	25	2.3	2.4	-0.10
		2	Some		36	25	327	17			
		3	Quite a bit		25	18	293	15			
		4	Very much		18	12	369	20			
		—	Not applicable		32	22	440	23			
		Total			142	100	1,899	100			

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

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				IU Northwest		Peer Institutions		IU Northwest	Peer Institutions	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size ^d
f. Provided useful information about courses	ADV02f	1	Very little	28	20	371	20	2.5	2.7	-.15
		2	Some	34	24	337	18			
		3	Quite a bit	33	23	379	20			
		4	Very much	30	21	552	29			
		—	Not applicable	17	12	257	13			
		Total		142	100	1,896	100			
g. Helped you when you had academic difficulties	ADV02g	1	Very little	30	21	388	21	2.3	2.5	-.14
		2	Some	30	22	248	13			
		3	Quite a bit	21	15	278	15			
		4	Very much	23	16	416	21			
		—	Not applicable	37	27	567	30			
		Total		141	100	1,897	100			
h. Helped you get information on special opportunities (study abroad, internship, research projects, etc.)	ADV02h	1	Very little	44	32	466	25	2.1	2.3	-.18
		2	Some	27	20	260	14			
		3	Quite a bit	17	12	259	14			
		4	Very much	20	14	341	17			
		—	Not applicable	31	22	571	30			
		Total		139	100	1,897	100			
i. Discussed your career interests and post-graduation plans	ADV02i	1	Very little	45	32	512	28	2.2	2.3	-.11
		2	Some	29	21	326	17			
		3	Quite a bit	25	18	269	14			
		4	Very much	23	16	403	21			
		—	Not applicable	17	12	382	21			
		Total		139	100	1,892	100			
3. How often have your academic advisors reached out to you about your academic progress or performance?										
	ADV04 _15	1	Never	64	45	670	45	1.8	1.8	-.04
		2	Sometimes	49	35	529	34			
		3	Often	21	15	217	14			
		4	Very often	8	5	113	7			
		—	Not applicable	17	12	382	21			
		Total		142	100	1,529	100			
4. During the current school year, which of the following has been your primary source of advice regarding your academic plans? (Select one)										
	ADV03	—	Academic advisor(s) assigned to you	54	38	561	28	1.8	1.8	-.04
		—	Academic advisor(s) available to any student	7	5	141	8			
		—	Faculty or staff not formally assigned as an advisor	28	20	395	19			
		—	Online advising system (degree progress report, etc.)	9	6	142	7			
		—	Web site, catalog, or other published sources	5	4	115	7			
		—	Friends or other students	9	7	213	11			
		—	Family members	6	4	131	7			
		—	Other, please specify:	5	4	34	2			
		—	I did not seek academic advice this year	17	13	174	10			
		Total		140	100	1,906	100			

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

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	IU Northwest	IU Northwest	Peer Institutions	IU Northwest	Peer Institutions	IU Northwest	Peer Institutions			
ADV01	80	2.12	2.00	.20	.05	1.76	1.38	91	.567	.08
ADV02a	73	2.68	2.99	.13	.04	1.15	0.99	86	.032	-.30
ADV02b	74	2.77	3.06	.14	.04	1.17	0.97	86	.041	-.30
ADV02c	71	2.75	2.88	.14	.04	1.17	1.05	84	.350	-.13
ADV02d	66	2.78	2.88	.15	.04	1.21	1.05	77	.539	-.09
ADV02e	70	2.62	2.81	.14	.04	1.18	1.07	84	.191	-.18
ADV02f	74	2.85	2.96	.13	.04	1.15	1.03	88	.459	-.10
ADV02g	67	2.62	2.77	.16	.05	1.28	1.11	79	.375	-.13
ADV02h	63	2.45	2.62	.16	.05	1.26	1.14	568	.298	-.14
ADV02i	68	2.55	2.63	.15	.05	1.24	1.13	610	.586	-.07
ADV04_15	81	1.79	1.91	.11	.04	0.95	0.89	565	.281	-.13

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

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
		IU Northwest	Peer Institutions	IU Northwest	Peer Institutions	IU Northwest	Peer Institutions			
	Comparisons with:									
Peer Institutions										
ADV01	143	2.03	1.93	.15	.04	1.78	1.62	1,483	.452	.07
ADV02a	128	2.68	2.91	.10	.03	1.10	1.06	1,317	.020	-.22
ADV02b	125	2.65	2.93	.10	.03	1.10	1.05	1,295	.004	-.27
ADV02c	130	2.55	2.72	.10	.03	1.13	1.12	1,290	.111	-.15
ADV02d	119	2.65	2.61	.10	.03	1.08	1.14	1,217	.768	.03
ADV02e	110	2.26	2.38	.10	.04	1.05	1.19	141	.256	-.10
ADV02f	125	2.51	2.68	.10	.03	1.09	1.16	1,284	.122	-.15
ADV02g	103	2.34	2.51	.11	.04	1.12	1.20	130	.151	-.14
ADV02h	108	2.11	2.33	.11	.04	1.14	1.19	136	.063	-.18
ADV02i	122	2.21	2.34	.10	.04	1.13	1.20	155	.224	-.11
ADV04_15	142	1.80	1.84	.07	.03	0.88	0.92	1,293	.632	-.04

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.
- 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 .
- 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. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the comparison group is due to chance.

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.