



**National Survey of Student Engagement  
2020  
Selected Items Related to Interdisciplinary Thinking**

**Dates of Administration:** February 4, 2020 - March 3, 2020<sup>1</sup>  
**Method of Administration:** Web survey (Administered through NSSE)

**Demographics and Response Rates:**

	<b>First Years</b>	<b>Seniors</b>
<b>Overall Response Rate</b>	<b>52% (116/225)</b>	<b>42% (89/211)</b>
% Female	49%	47%
% Am. Indian or AK Native	0%	0%
% Asian	22%	12%
% Black or African American	5%	5%
% Hispanic or Latino	15%	17%
% White	32%	38%
% International/foreign born	12%	8%
% Two or more races	7%	11%
% Unknown	7%	10%

**Background:**

HMC participates in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) annually each spring, surveying all first years and graduating seniors asking them about the characteristics and quality of their undergraduate experience. It includes 10 Engagement Indicators (Higher-Order Learning, Reflective and Integrative Learning, Learning Strategies, Quantitative Reasoning, Collaborative Learning, Discussions with Diverse Others, Student-Faculty Interaction, Effective Teaching Practices, Quality of Interactions, and Supportive Environment) and High Impact Practices (Learning Communities, Service-Learning, Research with Faculty, Internships, Study Abroad, and Capstones). Additionally, NSSE allows campuses to add up to two additional topical modules to their survey. The Assessment and Accreditation Committee has worked with OIRE to develop a [cycle for the modules](#) that are relevant to HMC.

In 2020, right before transitioning to remote learning, HMC participated in NSSE and chose additional two modules: the [Civic Engagement Module](#) and the [Inclusiveness & Engagement with Diversity Module](#). While the comparison group for the overall survey is our Carnegie Class (Private More Selective Baccalaureate Arts & Sciences Focus – 27 other schools), our Comparison Group for the FY/SR module in 2020 is all other institutions who participated in the module...

NSSE results are used throughout the campus in academic and co-curricular programs to evaluate growth and development on student learning outcomes and by the college overall in its improvement efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> HMC’s 2020 NSSE administration concluded before we transitioned to remote learning, however, some of our comparison schools may have had their NSSE administrations interrupted or disrupted by the transition to remote learning. More info about actions taken by NSSE to minimize the pandemic’s impact and the analyses completed to ensure data quality is available [here](#).

**Highlights:**

- First year respondents at HMC responded similarly to their peers at comparison institutions with respect to combining ideas from different courses when completing assignments, trying to better understanding someone else’s views, connecting ideas from their courses to their prior experiences and knowledge, and including diverse perspectives in course assignments or discussions.,
- However, seniors at HMC reported that they are significantly less likely to engage in interdisciplinary thinking than their peers. We would highlight including diverse perspectives in course assignments or discussions (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender), where HMC seniors reported 2.2 out of 4 indicating that they do this “sometimes.”

<b>FIRST YEARS</b>				
	<u>HMC</u>	<u>Peer</u>	<u>Comp</u>	<u>Sig</u>
	n = 116	n =4,812		
<b>During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?</b>				
<i>1 = never; 2 = sometimes; 3 = often; 4 = very often</i>				
Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments	2.6	2.7		
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender) in course assignments or discussions	2.7	2.9		
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective	2.9	3.0		
Connected ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge	3.2	3.2		

<b>SENIORS</b>				
	<u>HMC</u>	<u>Peer</u>	<u>Comp</u>	<u>Sig</u>
	n = 96	n =7,180		
<b>During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?</b>				
<i>1 = never; 2 = sometimes; 3 = often; 4 = very often</i>				
Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments	2.7	3.0	▼	p < .001
Included diverse perspectives (political, religious, racial/ethnic, gender) in course assignments or discussions	2.2	3.0	▼	p < .001
Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective	2.7	3.0	▼	p < .001
Connected ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge	3.1	3.3	▽	p<.01