

**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
NSSE Educational and Personal Growth Items, 2006**

Students were asked, “To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?” in the 2006 NSSE survey. The response categories are very much, quite a bit, some, and very little and are coded 4, 3, 2, and 1 respectively. The following table displays the mean first-year and senior responses for UWSP and its peers. Peers are other master’s degree granting institutions. Two plus signs after the mean indicate that UWSP is significantly higher than its peers. Two minus signs indicate that it is significantly lower.

	First-Year		Seniors	
	UWSP	Peers	UWSP	Peers
Acquiring a broad general education	3.07	3.10	3.23	3.23
Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	2.70	2.68	3.17 ⁺⁺	3.05
Writing clearly and effectively	2.87 ⁻⁻	2.96	3.04	3.08
Speaking clearly and effectively	2.78	2.80	3.01	3.01
Thinking critically and analytically	2.96 ⁻⁻	3.13	3.27	3.31
Analyzing quantitative problems	2.76	2.82	2.92	3.01
Using computing and information technology	2.92	2.98	3.29 ⁺⁺	3.21
Working effectively with others	2.84 ⁻⁻	2.94	3.25	3.17
Voting in local, state, or national elections	2.01	1.94	2.39 ⁺⁺	2.10
Learning effectively on your own	2.72 ⁻⁻	2.82	2.98	2.98
Understanding yourself	2.60 ⁻⁻	2.71	2.84	2.78
Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	2.45 ⁻⁻	2.58	2.37 ⁻⁻	2.61
Developing a personal code of values and ethics	2.45 ⁻⁻	2.58	2.54 ⁻⁻	2.65
Contributing to the welfare of your community	2.28	2.31	2.37	2.41
Solving complex real-world problems	2.47 ⁻⁻	2.56	2.70	2.70
Developing a deepened sense of spirituality	1.99	2.06	1.88	1.93

UWSP first-year students are similar to their peers on eight of the sixteen items. They score significantly lower on the remaining items. Compared to their peers UWSP first-year students feel that their experience at UWSP has contributed significantly less to their knowledge, skills, and personal development in writing clearly and effectively; thinking critically and analytically; working effectively with others; learning effectively on their own; understanding themselves; understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds; developing a personal code of values and ethics; and, solving complex real-world problems.

UWSP seniors are similar to their peers on eleven of the items. They score significantly higher on three items and lower on two items. Compared to their peers UWSP seniors feel that their experience at UWSP has contributed significantly more to their knowledge, skills, and personal development in acquiring job related knowledge and skills; using computing and information technology; and, voting in elections. They feel their experience has contributed significantly less to their development in understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds and developing a personal code of values and ethics.

UWSP first-year and senior students are in agreement that their experience at UWSP has contributed significantly less to their development in understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds and developing a personal code of values and ethics than their peers.