

**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**  
**NSSE Educational and Personal Growth Items**  
**2001, 2004 and 2006 Comparisons**

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 2001, 2004 and 2006 NSSE surveys. 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. Two plus signs after the mean indicate that it is significantly higher than the previous survey. Two minus signs indicate that it is significantly lower.

	First-Year			Senior		
	2001	2004	2006	2001	2004	2006
Acquiring a broad general education	3.10	3.07	3.08	3.26	3.32	3.24 <sup>-</sup>
Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	2.49	2.54	2.71 <sup>++</sup>	3.14	3.04	3.18
Writing clearly and effectively	2.86	2.78	2.87 <sup>++</sup>	3.08	3.04	3.05
Speaking clearly and effectively	2.53	2.77 <sup>++</sup>	2.80	2.95	2.93	3.02 <sup>++</sup>
Thinking critically and analytically	2.94	3.01	2.97	3.20	3.27	3.27
Analyzing quantitative problems	2.47	2.41	2.76 <sup>++</sup>	2.79	2.74	2.92 <sup>++</sup>
Using computing and information technology	2.77	2.86	2.91	3.23	3.22	3.29 <sup>++</sup>
Working effectively with others	2.89	2.76 <sup>-</sup>	2.83	3.19	3.20	3.26 <sup>++</sup>
Voting in local, state, or national elections	2.43	2.26 <sup>-</sup>	1.98 <sup>-</sup>	2.16	2.16	2.40 <sup>++</sup>
Learning effectively on your own	3.05	2.79 <sup>-</sup>	2.72 <sup>-</sup>	3.08	3.02	2.99
Understanding yourself	2.85	2.68 <sup>-</sup>	2.60 <sup>-</sup>	2.99	2.85 <sup>-</sup>	2.85
Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	2.33	2.42	2.44	2.46	2.40	2.38
Developing a personal code of values and ethics	2.59	2.51	2.46	2.65	2.61	2.56
Contributing to the welfare of your community	2.00	2.10 <sup>++</sup>	2.28 <sup>++</sup>	2.37	2.27 <sup>-</sup>	2.39 <sup>++</sup>
Solving complex real-world problems**	---	2.43	2.47	---	2.63	2.70 <sup>++</sup>
Developing a deepened sense of spirituality**	---	1.99	1.99	---	1.69	1.66

\*\*These questions were not on the 2001 survey.

First-year students report increases in the extent their experiences at UWSP have contributed to their knowledge, skills, and personal development in five areas: acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills; speaking clearly and effectively; using computing and information technology; understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds; and, contributing to the welfare of their community. The only area that shows a significant increase from 2001 to 2004 and 2004 to 2006 is contributing to the welfare of your community. In two of the areas, using computing and information technology and understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds, none of the year to year increases is significant but the 2001 to 2006 increases are significant. First-year students report decreases in three areas: voting in local, state, or national elections; learning effectively on your own; and, understanding yourself. The year to year decreases are significant for all three items.

Senior students report an increase in the extent their experiences at UWSP have contributed to their knowledge, skills, and personal development in working effectively with others. The 2004 to 2006 increase is significant but the 2001 to 2004 is not. They report decreases in two areas; understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds and developing a personal code of values and ethics. None of the year to year decreases is significant but the 2001 to 2006 decreases are.

*The above analysis focuses on trends over the three survey years which reflect relatively consistent changes—increases or decreases. The 2001 sample is different from the 2004 and 2006 samples which may have influenced the survey results.*