NSSE national survey of student engagement

# NSSE 2026 Topical Module Report
# Career & Workforce Preparation

## California State University, Los Angeles

This module represents a collaboration between NSSE and Strada Education Network to assess how the college experience prepares students for their future. Questions address institutional contributions to students' career plans, influences on their goals, confidence in work-related skills, career exploration in the curriculum, and use of career resources and services.

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

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# NSSE 2026 Career & Workforce Preparation

## Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

## California State University, Los Angeles

## First-Year Students

| Item wording or description | Variable name | Values[c] | Response options | Frequency Distributions[a] Cal State LA Count | Cal State LA % | Career Prep Count | Career Prep % | Statistical Comparisons[b] Cal State LA Mean | Career Prep Mean | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. To what extent do the following apply to you?** | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. You have a clear idea of your career plans | CWPidea | 0 | Not at all | 12 | 3 | 1,257 | 2 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 47 | 10 | 4,029 | 7 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 127 | 28 | 13,546 | 25 | 2.7 | 2.8 ** ▽ | -.14 |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 155 | 33 | 18,366 | 34 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 125 | 26 | 15,650 | 31 | | | |
| | | | Total | 466 | 100 | 52,848 | 100 | | | |
| b. What you are learning at this institution is relevant to your career plans | CWPrelevant | 0 | Not at all | 10 | 2 | 544 | 1 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 23 | 5 | 1,901 | 4 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 115 | 25 | 10,912 | 20 | 2.9 | 3.1 *** ▽ | -.17 |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 164 | 35 | 20,256 | 38 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 153 | 33 | 19,152 | 38 | | | |
| | | | Total | 465 | 100 | 52,765 | 100 | | | |
| c. You know where to go with questions about your career plans or further education | CWPquestions | 0 | Not at all | 12 | 3 | 1,365 | 3 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 48 | 10 | 4,318 | 8 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 109 | 24 | 13,543 | 25 | 2.8 | 2.8 | -.02 |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 147 | 31 | 18,133 | 34 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 147 | 31 | 15,344 | 30 | | | |
| | | | Total | 463 | 100 | 52,703 | 100 | | | |
| d. You can describe the knowledge, skills, and experiences that are necessary for your career plans | CWPdescribe | 0 | Not at all | 8 | 2 | 730 | 1 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 38 | 8 | 2,931 | 6 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 151 | 32 | 14,013 | 26 | 2.7 | 2.9 *** ▽ | -.17 |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 152 | 32 | 20,827 | 39 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 116 | 25 | 14,157 | 28 | | | |
| | | | Total | 465 | 100 | 52,658 | 100 | | | |
| e. You have received supportive feedback from faculty or other advisors about your career plans | CWPfeedback | 0 | Not at all | 27 | 6 | 4,176 | 8 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 56 | 12 | 6,448 | 12 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 131 | 28 | 14,643 | 28 | 2.5 | 2.5 | .05 |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 144 | 31 | 15,812 | 29 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 106 | 23 | 11,522 | 23 | | | |
| | | | Total | 464 | 100 | 52,601 | 100 | | | |
| f. You have a mentor in your area of interest who shares a similar background as you | CWPmentor | 0 | Not at all | 96 | 21 | 10,488 | 21 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 88 | 18 | 8,989 | 17 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 115 | 26 | 12,920 | 24 | 1.9 | 2.0 | -.03 |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 87 | 19 | 11,083 | 20 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 79 | 17 | 9,134 | 18 | | | |
| | | | Total | 465 | 100 | 52,614 | 100 | | | |
| **2. To what extent have the following influenced your career plans?** | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Advice from family or friends | CWPfamily | 0 | Not at all | 33 | 7 | 2,923 | 6 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 57 | 13 | 5,699 | 11 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 114 | 24 | 14,970 | 28 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 117 | 25 | 16,434 | 30 | 2.6 | 2.5 | .05 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 136 | 29 | 11,893 | 23 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 9 | 2 | 684 | 2 | | | |
| | | | Total | 466 | 100 | 52,603 | 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[c] | Response options | Frequency Distributions[a] Cal State LA Count | Cal State LA % | Career Prep Count | Career Prep % | Statistical Comparisons[b] Cal State LA Mean | Career Prep Mean | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| b. Interactions with a faculty member | CWPinterfac | 0 | Not at all | 76 | 16 | 8,158 | 16 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 110 | 24 | 10,393 | 20 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 133 | 28 | 15,527 | 29 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 72 | 16 | 10,003 | 18 | **1.8** | 1.9 | -.07 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 47 | 10 | 5,743 | 11 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 29 | 6 | 2,763 | 6 | | | |
| | | | Total | 467 | 100 | 52,587 | 100 | | | |
| c. Interactions with advisors, success coaches, and/or career services staff | CWPinteradvis | 0 | Not at all | 75 | 16 | 9,253 | 18 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 95 | 20 | 10,746 | 20 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 116 | 25 | 14,028 | 26 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 93 | 20 | 9,185 | 17 | **1.9** | 1.8 | .09 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 59 | 13 | 5,621 | 11 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 29 | 6 | 3,703 | 7 | | | |
| | | | Total | 467 | 100 | 52,536 | 100 | | | |
| d. Co-curricular activities (student organizations or clubs, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.) | CWPcocurr | 0 | Not at all | 118 | 25 | 11,900 | 24 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 71 | 15 | 9,193 | 17 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 83 | 18 | 11,223 | 20 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 48 | 10 | 8,070 | 15 | **1.5** | 1.6 | -.08 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 41 | 9 | 4,968 | 9 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 106 | 23 | 7,222 | 16 | | | |
| | | | Total | 467 | 100 | 52,576 | 100 | | | |
| e. Internship, co-op, field experience, student teaching, or clinical placement | CWPintern | 0 | Not at all | 120 | 26 | 10,468 | 21 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 50 | 11 | 6,509 | 12 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 76 | 17 | 8,897 | 16 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 54 | 11 | 7,333 | 13 | **1.5** | 1.7 ** ▽ | -.14 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 35 | 7 | 5,019 | 9 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 130 | 28 | 14,222 | 28 | | | |
| | | | Total | 465 | 100 | 52,448 | 100 | | | |
| f. Work experience (on- or off-campus job or prior employment) | CWPwork | 0 | Not at all | 104 | 22 | 9,074 | 17 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 50 | 11 | 7,111 | 13 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 92 | 20 | 11,051 | 20 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 62 | 13 | 9,297 | 17 | **1.7** | 2.0 *** ▽ | -.22 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 50 | 10 | 7,768 | 16 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 108 | 24 | 8,203 | 16 | | | |
| | | | Total | 466 | 100 | 52,504 | 100 | | | |
| g. Career fairs, workshops, or course-based exploration of career options | CWPfairs | 0 | Not at all | 101 | 21 | 10,616 | 21 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 78 | 17 | 9,474 | 18 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 94 | 21 | 13,015 | 24 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 64 | 13 | 7,451 | 14 | **1.7** | 1.6 | .01 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 43 | 9 | 4,153 | 8 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 85 | 19 | 7,690 | 16 | | | |
| | | | Total | 465 | 100 | 52,399 | 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[c] | Response options | Frequency Distributions[a] Cal State LA Count | Cal State LA % | Career Prep Count | Career Prep % | Statistical Comparisons[b] Cal State LA Mean | Career Prep Mean | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| h. Expected job salary and availability | CWPjobsalary | 0 | Not at all | 58 | 12 | 4,626 | 9 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 57 | 12 | 5,847 | 11 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 123 | 26 | 14,551 | 27 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 88 | 19 | 14,706 | 28 | 2.2 | 2.4 ** ▽ | -.15 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 86 | 19 | 10,145 | 20 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 54 | 12 | 2,582 | 5 | | | |
| | | | Total | 466 | 100 | 52,457 | 100 | | | |
| i. Fit for your interests and abilities | CWPability | 0 | Not at all | 24 | 5 | 912 | 2 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 43 | 10 | 1,860 | 4 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 116 | 24 | 9,165 | 18 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 138 | 30 | 18,612 | 35 | 2.7 | 3.1 *** ▼ | -.46 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 125 | 27 | 21,070 | 40 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 18 | 4 | 798 | 2 | | | |
| | | | Total | 464 | 100 | 52,417 | 100 | | | |
| j. Desire to impact or support my community | CWPimpact | 0 | Not at all | 20 | 5 | 1,685 | 4 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 42 | 9 | 3,377 | 7 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 116 | 24 | 11,754 | 23 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 129 | 27 | 15,791 | 29 | 2.7 | 2.9 ** ▽ | -.14 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 141 | 30 | 18,775 | 35 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 19 | 4 | 1,053 | 2 | | | |
| | | | Total | 467 | 100 | 52,435 | 100 | | | |
| k. Desire to make a difference in broader society | CWPsociety | 0 | Not at all | 22 | 5 | 1,752 | 4 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 35 | 8 | 3,542 | 7 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 126 | 27 | 11,893 | 23 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 113 | 24 | 15,065 | 28 | 2.7 | 2.9 ** ▽ | -.14 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 146 | 31 | 19,088 | 36 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 24 | 6 | 1,144 | 3 | | | |
| | | | Total | 466 | 100 | 52,484 | 100 | | | |
| **3. How much confidence do you have in your ability to do the following?** | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Overcome obstacles in finding and using career-related resources at your institution | CWPobstacle | 0 | Not at all | 9 | 2 | 922 | 2 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 48 | 10 | 3,417 | 6 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 164 | 35 | 15,614 | 29 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 129 | 28 | 19,357 | 36 | 2.6 | 2.8 ** ▽ | -.15 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 107 | 23 | 12,364 | 25 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 7 | 2 | 647 | 1 | | | |
| | | | Total | 464 | 100 | 52,321 | 100 | | | |
| b. Demonstrate effective work habits (punctuality, working productively with others, time and workload management, etc.) | CWPhabits | 0 | Not at all | 11 | 3 | 544 | 1 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 44 | 10 | 2,347 | 5 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 117 | 25 | 11,011 | 21 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 138 | 29 | 20,123 | 37 | 2.8 | 3.0 *** ▽ | -.24 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 144 | 32 | 17,831 | 35 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 10 | 2 | 375 | 1 | | | |
| | | | Total | 464 | 100 | 52,231 | 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[c] | Response options | Frequency Distributions[a] Cal State LA Count | Cal State LA % | Career Prep Count | Career Prep % | Statistical Comparisons[b] Cal State LA Mean | Career Prep Mean | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| c. Network with alumni or professionals to make potential career connections | CWPnetwork | 0 | Not at all | 33 | 7 | 3,319 | 7 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 108 | 23 | 8,923 | 17 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 142 | 30 | 17,413 | 33 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 80 | 17 | 12,658 | 23 | 2.2 | 2.3 * ▽ | -.10 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 79 | 17 | 8,533 | 17 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 21 | 5 | 1,368 | 3 | | | |
| | | | Total | 463 | 100 | 52,214 | 100 | | | |
| d. Communicate your knowledge, skills, and experiences to potential employers | CWPcommunicate | 0 | Not at all | 19 | 4 | 1,312 | 3 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 71 | 15 | 4,700 | 9 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 163 | 34 | 15,758 | 30 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 107 | 23 | 17,842 | 33 | 2.4 | 2.7 *** ▽ | -.27 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 90 | 20 | 11,788 | 24 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 15 | 4 | 734 | 2 | | | |
| | | | Total | 465 | 100 | 52,134 | 100 | | | |
| e. Use career-specific technology (devices, programs, or tools used by those in the field) | CWPtech | 0 | Not at all | 19 | 4 | 1,469 | 3 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 60 | 13 | 4,716 | 9 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 152 | 32 | 15,512 | 29 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 115 | 25 | 17,492 | 33 | 2.5 | 2.7 *** ▽ | -.18 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 101 | 22 | 11,955 | 25 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 15 | 3 | 1,031 | 2 | | | |
| | | | Total | 462 | 100 | 52,175 | 100 | | | |
| f. Work effectively with people of other backgrounds (economic, racial/ethnic, political, religious, nationality, etc.) | CWPdiverse | 0 | Not at all | 10 | 2 | 523 | 1 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 35 | 8 | 1,406 | 3 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 113 | 25 | 7,853 | 15 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 131 | 28 | 17,705 | 33 | 2.9 | 3.2 *** ▼ | -.41 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 166 | 35 | 24,080 | 47 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 9 | 2 | 557 | 1 | | | |
| | | | Total | 464 | 100 | 52,124 | 100 | | | |
| g. Address ethical issues you might face in your career | CWPethics | 0 | Not at all | 17 | 4 | 842 | 2 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 49 | 11 | 2,615 | 5 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 129 | 27 | 12,877 | 24 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 136 | 30 | 18,818 | 35 | 2.6 | 2.9 *** ▽ | -.29 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 120 | 26 | 16,237 | 32 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 13 | 3 | 811 | 2 | | | |
| | | | Total | 464 | 100 | 52,200 | 100 | | | |
| **4. *In your courses* at this institution, about how often have you done the following?** | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Analyzed a case, scenario, or simulation of a real-life situation | CWPanalyze | 1 | Never | 51 | 11 | 3,850 | 8 | | | |
| | | 2 | Sometimes | 146 | 32 | 14,842 | 29 | | | |
| | | 3 | Often | 181 | 38 | 20,211 | 38 | 2.6 | 2.8 *** ▽ | -.19 |
| | | 4 | Very often | 85 | 19 | 13,175 | 26 | | | |
| | | | Total | 463 | 100 | 52,078 | 100 | | | |
| b. Researched a career interest, a potential employer, or the job market | CWPresearch | 1 | Never | 72 | 16 | 10,412 | 20 | | | |
| | | 2 | Sometimes | 165 | 36 | 16,370 | 32 | | | |
| | | 3 | Often | 140 | 30 | 15,736 | 29 | 2.5 | 2.5 | .04 |
| | | 4 | Very often | 87 | 18 | 9,538 | 19 | | | |
| | | | Total | 464 | 100 | 52,056 | 100 | | | |

## First-Year Students

| Item wording or description | Variable name | Values[c] | Response options | Frequency Distributions[a] Cal State LA Count | Cal State LA % | Career Prep Count | Career Prep % | Statistical Comparisons[b] Cal State LA Mean | Career Prep Mean | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| c. Learned about a career or industry from practicing professionals | CWPpractice | 1 | Never | 87 | 19 | 8,508 | 18 | | | |
| | | 2 | Sometimes | 162 | 36 | 17,193 | 33 | | | |
| | | 3 | Often | 135 | 29 | 16,540 | 31 | 2.4 | 2.5 | -.08 |
| | | 4 | Very often | 79 | 17 | 9,730 | 19 | | | |
| | | | Total | 463 | 100 | 51,971 | 100 | | | |
| d. Observed employees in action at a place of work (clinics, offices, schools, etc.) | CWPobserve | 1 | Never | 149 | 32 | 20,345 | 40 | | | |
| | | 2 | Sometimes | 129 | 29 | 13,261 | 25 | | | |
| | | 3 | Often | 115 | 24 | 11,113 | 21 | 2.2 | 2.1 * △ | .11 |
| | | 4 | Very often | 70 | 15 | 7,290 | 14 | | | |
| | | | Total | 463 | 100 | 52,009 | 100 | | | |
| e. Connected your learning to how you can impact your community and society | CWPconnect | 1 | Never | 52 | 12 | 5,212 | 11 | | | |
| | | 2 | Sometimes | 167 | 37 | 16,902 | 33 | | | |
| | | 3 | Often | 154 | 33 | 18,939 | 35 | 2.6 | 2.7 | -.08 |
| | | 4 | Very often | 89 | 19 | 10,990 | 21 | | | |
| | | | Total | 462 | 100 | 52,043 | 100 | | | |
| **5. Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do at this institution before you graduate (whether in person or online)?[j]** | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Take a career exploration, planning, or development course | CWPcourse *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Have not decided | 115 | 25 | 12,031 | 24 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 58 | 13 | 9,794 | 19 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 248 | 53 | 23,084 | 44 | 9% | 13% ** ▽ | -.15 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 41 | 9 | 7,077 | 13 | | | |
| | | | Total | 462 | 100 | 51,986 | 100 | | | |
| b. Complete a career profile or self-assessment to identify occupations that match your strengths and interests | CWPprofile *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Have not decided | 102 | 23 | 8,778 | 17 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 48 | 10 | 8,591 | 17 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 253 | 54 | 23,606 | 45 | 13% | 21% *** ▽ | -.23 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 60 | 13 | 10,858 | 21 | | | |
| | | | Total | 463 | 100 | 51,833 | 100 | | | |
| c. Attend a talk, panel discussion, or workshop about careers | CWPtalk *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Have not decided | 128 | 29 | 9,162 | 19 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 52 | 11 | 7,047 | 14 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 237 | 50 | 25,500 | 49 | 9% | 18% *** ▽ | -.27 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 43 | 9 | 10,176 | 18 | | | |
| | | | Total | 460 | 100 | 51,885 | 100 | | | |
| d. Discuss your career interests with a faculty member | CWPfaculty *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Have not decided | 99 | 22 | 6,715 | 14 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 52 | 11 | 4,240 | 9 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 236 | 50 | 26,627 | 50 | 16% | 27% *** ▽ | -.27 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 75 | 16 | 14,245 | 27 | | | |
| | | | Total | 462 | 100 | 51,827 | 100 | | | |
| e. Interview or shadow someone in a career that you are considering | CWPinterview *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Have not decided | 110 | 25 | 7,842 | 17 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 39 | 9 | 3,495 | 8 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 287 | 61 | 32,948 | 62 | 6% | 14% *** ▽ | -.28 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 27 | 6 | 7,592 | 14 | | | |
| | | | Total | 463 | 100 | 51,877 | 100 | | | |
| f. Participate in a major- or career-related co-curricular activity (student organization, professional or honor society, etc.) | CWPmajor *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Have not decided | 133 | 30 | 10,719 | 22 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 41 | 9 | 5,324 | 11 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 242 | 52 | 26,407 | 49 | 9% | 18% *** ▽ | -.24 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 44 | 9 | 9,386 | 18 | | | |
| | | | Total | 460 | 100 | 51,836 | 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[c] | Response options | Frequency Distributions[a] Cal State LA Count | Cal State LA % | Career Prep Count | Career Prep % | Statistical Comparisons[b] Cal State LA Mean | Career Prep Mean | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| g. Meet with an advisor, success coach, and/or career services staff member to explore your interests and plan your future | CWPmeetstaff | | Have not decided | 69 | 16 | 7,003 | 14 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 24 | 5 | 4,514 | 9 | | | |
| | *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Plan to do | 285 | 61 | 27,072 | 52 | 18% | 25% *** ▽ | -.18 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 85 | 18 | 13,250 | 25 | | | |
| | | | Total | 463 | 100 | 51,839 | 100 | | | |
| h. Get help with your résumé | CWPresume | | Have not decided | 65 | 15 | 5,828 | 12 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 27 | 6 | 5,169 | 10 | | | |
| | *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Plan to do | 294 | 64 | 28,605 | 55 | 16% | 23% *** ▽ | -.19 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 72 | 16 | 12,237 | 23 | | | |
| | | | Total | 458 | 100 | 51,839 | 100 | | | |
| i. Participate in a mock or practice interview | CWPmock | | Have not decided | 84 | 19 | 10,250 | 20 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 34 | 7 | 7,263 | 14 | | | |
| | *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Plan to do | 236 | 50 | 27,907 | 53 | 23% | 12% *** △ | .29 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 107 | 23 | 6,422 | 12 | | | |
| | | | Total | 461 | 100 | 51,842 | 100 | | | |
| j. Participate in a career fair | CWPcareerfair | | Have not decided | 127 | 28 | 9,373 | 19 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 49 | 11 | 6,559 | 13 | | | |
| | *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Plan to do | 231 | 49 | 25,298 | 48 | 12% | 20% *** ▽ | -.22 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 54 | 12 | 10,623 | 20 | | | |
| | | | Total | 461 | 100 | 51,853 | 100 | | | |
| k. Complete a paid internship | CWPpaid | | Have not decided | 98 | 22 | 8,775 | 18 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 17 | 4 | 3,978 | 8 | | | |
| | *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Plan to do | 310 | 66 | 35,724 | 67 | 8% | 6% | .05 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 35 | 8 | 3,405 | 6 | | | |
| | | | Total | 460 | 100 | 51,882 | 100 | | | |
| l. Network with alumni or professionals in a field related to your career interests | CWPalumni | | Have not decided | 132 | 29 | 10,163 | 21 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 30 | 7 | 4,023 | 8 | | | |
| | *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Plan to do | 267 | 57 | 32,160 | 61 | 7% | 10% * ▽ | -.11 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 32 | 7 | 5,404 | 10 | | | |
| | | | Total | 461 | 100 | 51,750 | 100 | | | |
| **6. If you are currently working for pay, to what extent is this work related to your career plans?** | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CWPworkpay | 0 | Not at all | 70 | 14 | 9,337 | 18 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 35 | 8 | 5,459 | 10 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 46 | 10 | 6,040 | 12 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 34 | 7 | 3,782 | 7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | .01 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 32 | 7 | 4,575 | 10 | | | |
| | | — | Not working for pay | 239 | 53 | 22,057 | 42 | | | |
| | | | Total | 456 | 100 | 51,250 | 100 | | | |

**7. Is there anything this institution could do better to help students develop their career plans or gain work-related skills (such as coursework, resources, etc.)? Please describe.**

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 117 first-year student(s) and 362 senior(s). Responses are provided in your NSSE26 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.*

# NSSE 2026 Career & Workforce Preparation

## Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

## California State University, Los Angeles

## Seniors

| Item wording or description | Variable name | Values[c] | Response options | Frequency Distributions[a] Cal State LA Count | Cal State LA % | Career Prep Count | Career Prep % | Statistical Comparisons[b] Cal State LA Mean | Career Prep Mean | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. To what extent do the following apply to you?** | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. You have a clear idea of your career plans | CWPidea | 0 | Not at all | 33 | 3 | 1,210 | 2 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 88 | 8 | 3,261 | 6 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 283 | 25 | 11,431 | 22 | **2.8** | 3.0 *** ▽ | -.13 |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 370 | 32 | 17,300 | 32 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 366 | 32 | 19,699 | 37 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,140 | 100 | 52,901 | 100 | | | |
| b. What you are learning at this institution is relevant to your career plans | CWPrelevant | 0 | Not at all | 14 | 1 | 626 | 1 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 42 | 4 | 1,630 | 3 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 186 | 16 | 9,461 | 18 | **3.2** | 3.2 | .03 |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 366 | 32 | 18,003 | 34 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 534 | 46 | 23,125 | 44 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,142 | 100 | 52,845 | 100 | | | |
| c. You know where to go with questions about your career plans or further education | CWPquestions | 0 | Not at all | 38 | 3 | 1,671 | 4 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 106 | 9 | 4,268 | 8 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 273 | 24 | 12,409 | 24 | **2.8** | 2.8 | .00 |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 318 | 28 | 16,075 | 30 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 407 | 36 | 18,400 | 34 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,142 | 100 | 52,823 | 100 | | | |
| d. You can describe the knowledge, skills, and experiences that are necessary for your career plans | CWPdescribe | 0 | Not at all | 17 | 1 | 613 | 1 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 49 | 4 | 1,733 | 3 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 255 | 22 | 9,222 | 18 | **3.0** | 3.1 *** ▽ | -.12 |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 407 | 36 | 20,165 | 38 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 414 | 36 | 21,063 | 40 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,142 | 100 | 52,796 | 100 | | | |
| e. You have received supportive feedback from faculty or other advisors about your career plans | CWPfeedback | 0 | Not at all | 84 | 7 | 3,714 | 8 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 130 | 11 | 5,773 | 12 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 284 | 25 | 12,261 | 24 | **2.6** | 2.6 | .00 |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 309 | 27 | 14,555 | 27 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 335 | 29 | 16,434 | 30 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,142 | 100 | 52,737 | 100 | | | |
| f. You have a mentor in your area of interest who shares a similar background as you | CWPmentor | 0 | Not at all | 281 | 25 | 9,882 | 21 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 185 | 16 | 7,631 | 14 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 227 | 20 | 11,529 | 21 | **2.0** | 2.1 *** ▽ | -.10 |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 191 | 17 | 10,581 | 19 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 258 | 23 | 13,119 | 24 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,142 | 100 | 52,742 | 100 | | | |
| **2. To what extent have the following influenced your career plans?** | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Advice from family or friends | CWPfamily | 0 | Not at all | 103 | 9 | 3,455 | 7 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 163 | 14 | 6,169 | 12 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 292 | 25 | 14,846 | 28 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 282 | 25 | 14,979 | 28 | **2.4** | 2.5 | -.06 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 275 | 24 | 12,395 | 23 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 27 | 2 | 890 | 2 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,142 | 100 | 52,734 | 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[c] | Response options | Frequency Distributions[a] Cal State LA Count | Cal State LA % | Career Prep Count | Career Prep % | Statistical Comparisons[b] Cal State LA Mean | Career Prep Mean | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| b. Interactions with a faculty member | CWPinterfac | 0 | Not at all | 141 | 12 | 6,258 | 13 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 179 | 16 | 8,179 | 16 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 298 | 26 | 15,161 | 28 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 267 | 23 | 12,364 | 22 | **2.2** | 2.1 | .05 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 202 | 18 | 8,871 | 16 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 55 | 5 | 1,893 | 4 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,142 | 100 | 52,726 | 100 | | | |
| c. Interactions with advisors, success coaches, and/or career services staff | CWPinteradvis | 0 | Not at all | 194 | 17 | 10,132 | 20 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 205 | 18 | 10,453 | 20 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 283 | 25 | 13,578 | 25 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 190 | 17 | 8,748 | 16 | **2.0** | 1.8 *** △ | .14 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 180 | 16 | 6,700 | 12 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 86 | 8 | 3,076 | 6 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,138 | 100 | 52,687 | 100 | | | |
| d. Co-curricular activities (student organizations or clubs, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.) | CWPcocurr | 0 | Not at all | 299 | 26 | 12,667 | 25 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 155 | 13 | 8,341 | 15 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 177 | 16 | 9,898 | 18 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 129 | 12 | 6,752 | 12 | **1.6** | 1.6 | -.03 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 118 | 10 | 5,674 | 11 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 260 | 22 | 9,334 | 19 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,138 | 100 | 52,666 | 100 | | | |
| e. Internship, co-op, field experience, student teaching, or clinical placement | CWPintern | 0 | Not at all | 234 | 21 | 7,238 | 15 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 117 | 10 | 4,048 | 8 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 185 | 16 | 8,282 | 15 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 155 | 14 | 10,752 | 19 | **1.9** | 2.4 *** ▽ | -.29 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 192 | 16 | 13,365 | 24 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 256 | 22 | 8,925 | 19 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,139 | 100 | 52,610 | 100 | | | |
| f. Work experience (on- or off-campus job or prior employment) | CWPwork | 0 | Not at all | 146 | 13 | 4,514 | 9 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 114 | 10 | 4,813 | 9 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 194 | 17 | 10,892 | 20 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 242 | 21 | 12,742 | 23 | **2.4** | 2.6 *** ▽ | -.14 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 315 | 27 | 16,159 | 31 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 130 | 11 | 3,504 | 7 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,141 | 100 | 52,624 | 100 | | | |
| g. Career fairs, workshops, or course-based exploration of career options | CWPfairs | 0 | Not at all | 229 | 20 | 12,378 | 24 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 177 | 16 | 9,712 | 18 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 247 | 22 | 11,829 | 22 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 158 | 14 | 6,468 | 12 | **1.8** | 1.6 *** △ | .17 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 153 | 13 | 5,053 | 10 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 174 | 15 | 7,162 | 15 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,138 | 100 | 52,602 | 100 | | | |

## Seniors

| Item wording or description | Variable name | Values[c] | Response options | Frequency Distributions[a] Cal State LA Count | Cal State LA % | Career Prep Count | Career Prep % | Statistical Comparisons[b] Cal State LA Mean | Career Prep Mean | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| h. Expected job salary and availability | CWPjobsalary | 0 | Not at all | 108 | 9 | 4,393 | 9 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 121 | 11 | 5,592 | 10 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 287 | 25 | 14,502 | 27 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 259 | 23 | 14,316 | 27 | 2.4 | 2.5 | -.03 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 275 | 24 | 11,891 | 23 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 88 | 8 | 1,912 | 4 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,138 | 100 | 52,606 | 100 | | | |
| i. Fit for your interests and abilities | CWPability | 0 | Not at all | 44 | 4 | 820 | 2 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 70 | 6 | 1,433 | 3 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 260 | 23 | 7,828 | 15 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 346 | 31 | 18,136 | 34 | 2.8 | 3.2 *** ▼ | -.36 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 375 | 32 | 23,475 | 44 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 42 | 4 | 866 | 2 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,137 | 100 | 52,558 | 100 | | | |
| j. Desire to impact or support my community | CWPimpact | 0 | Not at all | 58 | 5 | 1,724 | 4 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 71 | 7 | 2,917 | 6 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 247 | 22 | 10,726 | 21 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 297 | 26 | 14,927 | 28 | 2.9 | 2.9 * ▽ | -.07 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 431 | 37 | 21,204 | 39 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 34 | 3 | 1,084 | 2 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,138 | 100 | 52,582 | 100 | | | |
| k. Desire to make a difference in broader society | CWPsociety | 0 | Not at all | 60 | 5 | 1,744 | 4 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 64 | 6 | 2,929 | 6 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 239 | 21 | 10,604 | 21 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 290 | 26 | 14,365 | 27 | 2.9 | 3.0 * ▽ | -.07 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 449 | 38 | 21,853 | 40 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 38 | 3 | 1,135 | 2 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,140 | 100 | 52,630 | 100 | | | |
| **3. How much confidence do you have in your ability to do the following?** | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Overcome obstacles in finding and using career-related resources at your institution | CWPobstacle | 0 | Not at all | 30 | 3 | 1,326 | 3 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 105 | 9 | 3,621 | 7 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 333 | 29 | 14,030 | 27 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 322 | 28 | 17,600 | 33 | 2.7 | 2.8 * ▽ | -.07 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 324 | 28 | 14,972 | 29 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 26 | 2 | 911 | 2 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,140 | 100 | 52,460 | 100 | | | |
| b. Demonstrate effective work habits (punctuality, working productively with others, time and workload management, etc.) | CWPhabits | 0 | Not at all | 12 | 1 | 393 | 1 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 46 | 4 | 1,256 | 3 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 240 | 21 | 6,891 | 13 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 360 | 32 | 17,802 | 33 | 3.1 | 3.3 *** ▽ | -.24 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 464 | 40 | 25,684 | 49 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 18 | 2 | 393 | 1 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,140 | 100 | 52,419 | 100 | | | |

## Seniors

| Item wording or description | Variable name | Values[c] | Response options | Frequency Distributions[a] Cal State LA Count | Cal State LA % | Career Prep Count | Career Prep % | Statistical Comparisons[b] Cal State LA Mean | Career Prep Mean | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| c. Network with alumni or professionals to make potential career connections | CWPnetwork | 0 | Not at all | 99 | 9 | 3,399 | 7 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 191 | 17 | 7,901 | 15 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 309 | 27 | 15,944 | 30 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 258 | 23 | 12,612 | 23 | 2.3 | 2.4 | -.05 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 237 | 21 | 11,186 | 21 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 44 | 4 | 1,365 | 3 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,138 | 100 | 52,407 | 100 | | | |
| d. Communicate your knowledge, skills, and experiences to potential employers | CWPcommunicate | 0 | Not at all | 31 | 3 | 805 | 2 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 111 | 10 | 2,624 | 5 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 314 | 28 | 12,102 | 23 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 333 | 29 | 18,903 | 35 | 2.7 | 2.9 *** ▽ | -.24 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 320 | 28 | 17,361 | 33 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 27 | 2 | 561 | 1 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,136 | 100 | 52,356 | 100 | | | |
| e. Use career-specific technology (devices, programs, or tools used by those in the field) | CWPtech | 0 | Not at all | 32 | 3 | 938 | 2 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 101 | 9 | 2,871 | 5 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 294 | 26 | 12,444 | 23 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 343 | 31 | 18,276 | 34 | 2.8 | 2.9 *** ▽ | -.17 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 334 | 29 | 17,083 | 34 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 31 | 3 | 760 | 2 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,135 | 100 | 52,372 | 100 | | | |
| f. Work effectively with people of other backgrounds (economic, racial/ethnic, political, religious, nationality, etc.) | CWPdiverse | 0 | Not at all | 22 | 2 | 425 | 1 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 43 | 4 | 888 | 2 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 184 | 16 | 5,167 | 10 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 350 | 31 | 16,003 | 30 | 3.2 | 3.4 *** ▼ | -.31 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 510 | 45 | 29,368 | 57 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 24 | 2 | 502 | 1 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,133 | 100 | 52,353 | 100 | | | |
| g. Address ethical issues you might face in your career | CWPethics | 0 | Not at all | 28 | 2 | 665 | 1 | | | |
| | | 1 | Very little | 70 | 6 | 1,714 | 3 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 267 | 24 | 9,500 | 18 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 358 | 32 | 18,582 | 35 | 2.9 | 3.1 *** ▽ | -.24 |
| | | 4 | Very much | 387 | 34 | 21,264 | 41 | | | |
| | | — | Not applicable | 28 | 2 | 654 | 1 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,138 | 100 | 52,379 | 100 | | | |
| **4. *In your courses* at this institution, about how often have you done the following?** | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Analyzed a case, scenario, or simulation of a real-life situation | CWPanalyze | 1 | Never | 60 | 5 | 1,584 | 3 | | | |
| | | 2 | Sometimes | 247 | 22 | 9,770 | 19 | | | |
| | | 3 | Often | 384 | 34 | 18,387 | 35 | 3.1 | 3.2 *** ▽ | -.12 |
| | | 4 | Very often | 446 | 39 | 22,535 | 42 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,137 | 100 | 52,276 | 100 | | | |
| b. Researched a career interest, a potential employer, or the job market | CWPresearch | 1 | Never | 150 | 13 | 7,337 | 15 | | | |
| | | 2 | Sometimes | 339 | 30 | 15,404 | 29 | | | |
| | | 3 | Often | 325 | 29 | 14,905 | 28 | 2.7 | 2.7 | .04 |
| | | 4 | Very often | 321 | 28 | 14,589 | 27 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,135 | 100 | 52,235 | 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[c] | Response options | Frequency Distributions[a] Cal State LA Count | Cal State LA % | Career Prep Count | Career Prep % | Statistical Comparisons[b] Cal State LA Mean | Career Prep Mean | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| c. Learned about a career or industry from practicing professionals | CWPpractice | 1 | Never | 127 | 11 | 5,173 | 11 | | | |
| | | 2 | Sometimes | 306 | 27 | 15,669 | 30 | | | |
| | | 3 | Often | 375 | 33 | 16,237 | 30 | 2.8 | 2.8 | .03 |
| | | 4 | Very often | 323 | 28 | 15,110 | 28 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,131 | 100 | 52,189 | 100 | | | |
| d. Observed employees in action at a place of work (clinics, offices, schools, etc.) | CWPobserve | 1 | Never | 304 | 27 | 15,596 | 32 | | | |
| | | 2 | Sometimes | 269 | 24 | 12,971 | 24 | | | |
| | | 3 | Often | 277 | 24 | 10,757 | 20 | 2.5 | 2.4 ** △ | .09 |
| | | 4 | Very often | 276 | 24 | 12,876 | 24 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,126 | 100 | 52,200 | 100 | | | |
| e. Connected your learning to how you can impact your community and society | CWPconnect | 1 | Never | 111 | 10 | 3,911 | 9 | | | |
| | | 2 | Sometimes | 281 | 25 | 13,990 | 28 | | | |
| | | 3 | Often | 376 | 33 | 17,737 | 33 | 2.9 | 2.9 | .00 |
| | | 4 | Very often | 365 | 31 | 16,615 | 31 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,133 | 100 | 52,253 | 100 | | | |
| **5. Which of the following have you done or do you plan to do at this institution before you graduate (whether in person or online)?[j]** | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Take a career exploration, planning, or development course | CWPcourse *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Have not decided | 219 | 20 | 5,934 | 12 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 285 | 25 | 23,553 | 45 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 356 | 32 | 8,273 | 17 | 23% | 26% * ▽ | -.06 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 270 | 23 | 14,399 | 26 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,130 | 100 | 52,159 | 100 | | | |
| b. Complete a career profile or self-assessment to identify occupations that match your strengths and interests | CWPprofile *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Have not decided | 185 | 17 | 5,251 | 11 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 254 | 23 | 18,437 | 36 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 389 | 35 | 10,716 | 21 | 26% | 32% *** ▽ | -.15 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 294 | 26 | 17,669 | 32 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,122 | 100 | 52,073 | 100 | | | |
| c. Attend a talk, panel discussion, or workshop about careers | CWPtalk *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Have not decided | 202 | 18 | 5,661 | 12 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 235 | 21 | 16,517 | 32 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 380 | 34 | 10,830 | 22 | 27% | 35% *** ▽ | -.16 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 306 | 27 | 19,107 | 35 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,123 | 100 | 52,115 | 100 | | | |
| d. Discuss your career interests with a faculty member | CWPfaculty *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Have not decided | 165 | 15 | 4,485 | 10 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 184 | 16 | 10,253 | 21 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 386 | 34 | 11,465 | 23 | 35% | 46% *** ▽ | -.24 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 391 | 35 | 25,916 | 46 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,126 | 100 | 52,119 | 100 | | | |
| e. Interview or shadow someone in a career that you are considering | CWPinterview *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Have not decided | 215 | 19 | 6,173 | 13 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 206 | 18 | 12,722 | 26 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 443 | 39 | 13,204 | 26 | 23% | 35% *** ▽ | -.27 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 260 | 23 | 19,997 | 35 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,124 | 100 | 52,096 | 100 | | | |
| f. Participate in a major- or career-related co-curricular activity (student organization, professional or honor society, etc.) | CWPmajor *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")* | | Have not decided | 234 | 21 | 6,276 | 13 | | | |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 316 | 28 | 18,425 | 36 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 321 | 28 | 8,256 | 17 | 23% | 35% *** ▽ | -.26 |
| | | | Done or in progress | 254 | 23 | 19,082 | 35 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,125 | 100 | 52,039 | 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[c] | Response options | Frequency Distributions[a] Cal State LA Count | Cal State LA % | Career Prep Count | Career Prep % | Statistical Comparisons[b] Cal State LA Mean | Career Prep Mean | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| g. Meet with an advisor, success coach, and/or career services staff member to explore your interests and plan your future | CWPmeetstaff (Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.") | | Have not decided | 184 | 16 | 5,093 | 11 | 29% | 38% *** ▽ | -.21 |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 223 | 20 | 13,952 | 28 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 396 | 35 | 11,588 | 23 | | | |
| | | | Done or in progress | 323 | 29 | 21,425 | 38 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,126 | 100 | 52,058 | 100 | | | |
| h. Get help with your résumé | CWPresume (Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.") | | Have not decided | 127 | 11 | 3,571 | 7 | 34% | 47% *** ▽ | -.26 |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 186 | 16 | 10,366 | 21 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 441 | 39 | 12,390 | 25 | | | |
| | | | Done or in progress | 373 | 34 | 25,765 | 47 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,127 | 100 | 52,092 | 100 | | | |
| i. Participate in a mock or practice interview | CWPmock (Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.") | | Have not decided | 200 | 18 | 5,872 | 12 | 22% | 30% *** ▽ | -.17 |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 271 | 24 | 17,060 | 33 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 405 | 36 | 12,709 | 25 | | | |
| | | | Done or in progress | 249 | 22 | 16,440 | 30 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,125 | 100 | 52,081 | 100 | | | |
| j. Participate in a career fair | CWPcareerfair (Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.") | | Have not decided | 192 | 17 | 5,479 | 11 | 24% | 37% *** ▽ | -.28 |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 253 | 22 | 16,359 | 31 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 410 | 36 | 10,216 | 21 | | | |
| | | | Done or in progress | 271 | 24 | 20,031 | 37 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,126 | 100 | 52,085 | 100 | | | |
| k. Complete a paid internship | CWPpaid (Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.") | | Have not decided | 242 | 22 | 6,415 | 13 | 15% | 30% *** ▼ | -.35 |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 238 | 21 | 18,101 | 34 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 478 | 43 | 11,483 | 23 | | | |
| | | | Done or in progress | 170 | 15 | 16,114 | 30 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,128 | 100 | 52,113 | 100 | | | |
| l. Network with alumni or professionals in a field related to your career interests | CWPalumni (Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.") | | Have not decided | 238 | 21 | 6,743 | 14 | 18% | 31% *** ▽ | -.29 |
| | | | Do not plan to do | 160 | 14 | 10,510 | 20 | | | |
| | | | Plan to do | 520 | 46 | 17,862 | 35 | | | |
| | | | Done or in progress | 204 | 18 | 16,907 | 31 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,122 | 100 | 52,022 | 100 | | | |
| **6. If you are currently working for pay, to what extent is this work related to your career plans?** | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CWPworkpay | 0 | Not at all | 194 | 18 | 7,450 | 14 | 2.1 | 2.3 *** ▽ | -.13 |
| | | 1 | Very little | 109 | 10 | 5,186 | 10 | | | |
| | | 2 | Some | 167 | 15 | 8,258 | 15 | | | |
| | | 3 | Quite a bit | 128 | 11 | 6,877 | 13 | | | |
| | | 4 | Very much | 250 | 22 | 12,989 | 25 | | | |
| | | — | Not working for pay | 268 | 24 | 11,121 | 22 | | | |
| | | | Total | 1,116 | 100 | 51,881 | 100 | | | |

**7. Is there anything this institution could do better to help students develop their career plans or gain work-related skills (such as coursework, resources, etc.)? Please describe.**

This final question asked students to respond in an open text box. Comments were recorded for 117 first-year student(s) and 362 senior(s). Responses are provided in your NSSE26 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[f] | | Standard deviation[g] | | DF[h] | Sig.[i] | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | *Comparisons with:* | | |
| | Cal State LA | Cal State LA | Career Prep | Cal State LA | Career Prep | Cal State LA | Career Prep | Career Prep | | |
| CWPidea | 466 | 2.70 | 2.84 | .048 | .004 | 1.05 | 1.02 | 471 | .004 | -.14 |
| CWPrelevant | 465 | 2.92 | 3.07 | .046 | .004 | .98 | .90 | 470 | .001 | -.17 |
| CWPquestions | 462 | 2.78 | 2.81 | .050 | .004 | 1.08 | 1.04 | 468 | .616 | -.02 |
| CWPdescribe | 465 | 2.70 | 2.87 | .046 | .004 | .99 | .94 | 470 | .000 | -.17 |
| CWPfeedback | 464 | 2.53 | 2.47 | .053 | .005 | 1.14 | 1.20 | 471 | .265 | .05 |
| CWPmentor | 465 | 1.93 | 1.97 | .063 | .006 | 1.37 | 1.40 | 471 | .467 | -.03 |
| CWPfamily | 456 | 2.58 | 2.52 | .058 | .005 | 1.24 | 1.15 | 461 | .316 | .05 |
| CWPinterfac | 438 | 1.79 | 1.87 | .059 | .005 | 1.23 | 1.24 | 443 | .168 | -.07 |
| CWPinteradvis | 437 | 1.93 | 1.81 | .062 | .005 | 1.29 | 1.27 | 443 | .054 | .09 |
| CWPcocurr | 360 | 1.52 | 1.63 | .072 | .006 | 1.36 | 1.34 | 364 | .127 | -.08 |
| CWPintern | 335 | 1.49 | 1.69 | .075 | .007 | 1.38 | 1.40 | 339 | .009 | -.14 |
| CWPwork | 355 | 1.70 | 2.01 | .074 | .006 | 1.39 | 1.40 | 359 | .000 | -.22 |
| CWPfairs | 378 | 1.65 | 1.64 | .068 | .006 | 1.32 | 1.28 | 383 | .848 | .01 |
| CWPjobsalary | 412 | 2.22 | 2.41 | .064 | .005 | 1.31 | 1.21 | 416 | .004 | -.15 |
| CWPability | 445 | 2.66 | 3.10 | .054 | .004 | 1.15 | .95 | 448 | .000 | -.46 |
| CWPimpact | 446 | 2.72 | 2.87 | .054 | .004 | 1.15 | 1.10 | 451 | .004 | -.14 |
| CWPsociety | 440 | 2.73 | 2.88 | .055 | .004 | 1.16 | 1.11 | 445 | .007 | -.14 |
| CWPobstacle | 457 | 2.62 | 2.77 | .048 | .004 | 1.02 | .96 | 462 | .002 | -.15 |
| CWPhabits | 453 | 2.79 | 3.01 | .051 | .004 | 1.08 | .93 | 457 | .000 | -.24 |
| CWPnetwork | 441 | 2.16 | 2.27 | .057 | .005 | 1.20 | 1.15 | 446 | .046 | -.10 |
| CWPcommunicate | 449 | 2.40 | 2.67 | .052 | .004 | 1.11 | 1.02 | 453 | .000 | -.27 |
| CWPtech | 446 | 2.51 | 2.69 | .053 | .004 | 1.11 | 1.03 | 451 | .001 | -.18 |
| CWPdiverse | 454 | 2.88 | 3.24 | .050 | .004 | 1.06 | .88 | 458 | .000 | -.41 |
| CWPethics | 449 | 2.64 | 2.93 | .052 | .004 | 1.10 | .97 | 453 | .000 | -.29 |
| CWPanalyze | 463 | 2.64 | 2.81 | .042 | .004 | .91 | .90 | 469 | .000 | -.19 |
| CWPresearch | 464 | 2.51 | 2.47 | .045 | .004 | .97 | 1.01 | 471 | .336 | .04 |
| CWPpractice | 463 | 2.43 | 2.51 | .046 | .004 | .98 | .99 | 469 | .090 | -.08 |
| CWPobserve | 463 | 2.22 | 2.10 | .049 | .004 | 1.05 | 1.08 | 469 | .013 | .11 |
| CWPconnect | 462 | 2.59 | 2.66 | .043 | .004 | .92 | .93 | 468 | .102 | -.08 |

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

# NSSE 2026 Career & Workforce Preparation

## Detailed Statistics[e]

## California State University, Los Angeles

## First-Year Students

| Variable name | N | Mean | | Standard error[f] | | Standard deviation[g] | | DF[h] | Sig.[i] | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | *Comparisons with:* | | |
| | Cal State LA | Cal State LA | Career Prep | Cal State LA | Career Prep | Cal State LA | Career Prep | Career Prep | | |
| CWPcourse | 462 | 9% | 13% | .013 | .001 | -- | -- | -- | .004 | -.15 |
| CWPprofile | 463 | 13% | 21% | .015 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.23 |
| CWPtalk | 460 | 9% | 18% | .014 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.27 |
| CWPfaculty | 462 | 16% | 27% | .017 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.27 |
| CWPinterview | 463 | 6% | 14% | .011 | .001 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.28 |
| CWPmajor | 460 | 9% | 18% | .014 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.24 |
| CWPmeetstaff | 463 | 18% | 25% | .018 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.18 |
| CWPresume | 459 | 16% | 23% | .017 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.19 |
| CWPmock | 461 | 23% | 12% | .020 | .001 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | .29 |
| CWPcareerfair | 462 | 12% | 20% | .015 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.22 |
| CWPpaid | 460 | 8% | 6% | .012 | .001 | -- | -- | -- | .306 | .05 |
| CWPalumni | 462 | 7% | 10% | .012 | .001 | -- | -- | -- | .028 | -.11 |
| CWPworkpay | 215 | 1.69 | 1.67 | .098 | .008 | 1.44 | 1.47 | 217 | .861 | .01 |

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

NSSE national survey of student engagement

# NSSE 2026 Career & Workforce Preparation

## Detailed Statistics[e]

## California State University, Los Angeles

## Seniors

| Variable name | N | Mean | | Standard error[f] | | Standard deviation[g] | | DF[h] | Sig.[i] | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | *Comparisons with:* | | |
| | Cal State LA | Cal State LA | Career Prep | Cal State LA | Career Prep | Cal State LA | Career Prep | Career Prep | | |
| CWPidea | 1142 | 2.83 | 2.96 | .031 | .003 | 1.06 | 1.03 | 1,167 | .000 | -.13 |
| CWPrelevant | 1,144 | 3.18 | 3.15 | .028 | .003 | .93 | .92 | 1,170 | .253 | .03 |
| CWPquestions | 1,145 | 2.83 | 2.83 | .033 | .004 | 1.11 | 1.10 | 1,171 | .900 | .00 |
| CWPdescribe | 1,144 | 3.01 | 3.11 | .028 | .003 | .95 | .90 | 1,168 | .000 | -.12 |
| CWPfeedback | 1,145 | 2.60 | 2.59 | .036 | .004 | 1.22 | 1.25 | 1,173 | .947 | .00 |
| CWPmentor | 1,145 | 1.97 | 2.12 | .044 | .005 | 1.49 | 1.46 | 1,170 | .001 | -.10 |
| CWPfamily | 1,118 | 2.42 | 2.49 | .038 | .004 | 1.26 | 1.19 | 1,142 | .071 | -.06 |
| CWPinterfac | 1,090 | 2.19 | 2.13 | .039 | .004 | 1.28 | 1.27 | 1,115 | .111 | .05 |
| CWPinteradvis | 1,054 | 1.96 | 1.78 | .041 | .004 | 1.34 | 1.31 | 1,077 | .000 | .14 |
| CWPcocurr | 885 | 1.57 | 1.61 | .048 | .005 | 1.43 | 1.39 | 904 | .439 | -.03 |
| CWPintern | 887 | 1.93 | 2.35 | .050 | .005 | 1.49 | 1.46 | 906 | .000 | -.29 |
| CWPwork | 1,015 | 2.44 | 2.62 | .044 | .004 | 1.40 | 1.29 | 1,034 | .000 | -.14 |
| CWPfairs | 969 | 1.82 | 1.59 | .044 | .005 | 1.37 | 1.33 | 990 | .000 | .17 |
| CWPjobsalary | 1,052 | 2.45 | 2.48 | .039 | .004 | 1.27 | 1.22 | 1,074 | .422 | -.03 |
| CWPability | 1,097 | 2.85 | 3.18 | .033 | .003 | 1.08 | .92 | 1,115 | .000 | -.36 |
| CWPimpact | 1,105 | 2.85 | 2.94 | .035 | .004 | 1.16 | 1.10 | 1,128 | .020 | -.07 |
| CWPsociety | 1,104 | 2.89 | 2.97 | .035 | .004 | 1.16 | 1.11 | 1,127 | .024 | -.07 |
| CWPobstacle | 1,116 | 2.72 | 2.79 | .032 | .003 | 1.06 | 1.03 | 1,141 | .033 | -.07 |
| CWPhabits | 1,125 | 3.08 | 3.28 | .028 | .003 | .94 | .85 | 1,146 | .000 | -.24 |
| CWPnetwork | 1,097 | 2.31 | 2.38 | .037 | .004 | 1.24 | 1.19 | 1,121 | .097 | -.05 |
| CWPcommunicate | 1,112 | 2.71 | 2.94 | .032 | .003 | 1.07 | .97 | 1,133 | .000 | -.24 |
| CWPtech | 1,107 | 2.77 | 2.93 | .032 | .003 | 1.06 | .98 | 1,129 | .000 | -.17 |
| CWPdiverse | 1,112 | 3.15 | 3.41 | .029 | .003 | .97 | .81 | 1,130 | .000 | -.31 |
| CWPethics | 1,113 | 2.90 | 3.12 | .031 | .003 | 1.03 | .92 | 1,134 | .000 | -.24 |
| CWPanalyze | 1,140 | 3.06 | 3.16 | .027 | .003 | .91 | .85 | 1,164 | .000 | -.12 |
| CWPresearch | 1,137 | 2.72 | 2.68 | .030 | .003 | 1.02 | 1.03 | 1,165 | .154 | .04 |
| CWPpractice | 1,133 | 2.79 | 2.75 | .029 | .003 | .98 | .98 | 1,160 | .240 | .03 |
| CWPobserve | 1,127 | 2.46 | 2.35 | .034 | .004 | 1.13 | 1.16 | 1,155 | .002 | .09 |
| CWPconnect | 1,135 | 2.86 | 2.86 | .029 | .003 | .98 | .95 | 1,160 | .900 | .00 |

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

# NSSE 2026 Career & Workforce Preparation

## Detailed Statistics[e]

## California State University, Los Angeles

## Seniors

| Variable name | N | Mean | | Standard error[f] | | Standard deviation[g] | | DF[h] | Sig.[i] | Effect size[d] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cal State LA | Cal State LA | Career Prep | Cal State LA | Career Prep | Cal State LA | Career Prep | *Comparisons with:* Career Prep | | |
| CWPcourse | 1132 | 23% | 26% | .013 | .001 | -- | -- | -- | .036 | -.06 |
| CWPprofile | 1125 | 26% | 32% | .013 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.15 |
| CWPtalk | 1125 | 27% | 35% | .013 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.16 |
| CWPfaculty | 1128 | 35% | 46% | .014 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.24 |
| CWPinterview | 1125 | 23% | 35% | .013 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.27 |
| CWPmajor | 1127 | 23% | 35% | .013 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.26 |
| CWPmeetstaff | 1128 | 29% | 38% | .013 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.21 |
| CWPresume | 1128 | 34% | 47% | .014 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.26 |
| CWPmock | 1126 | 22% | 30% | .012 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.17 |
| CWPcareerfair | 1127 | 24% | 37% | .013 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.28 |
| CWPpaid | 1129 | 15% | 30% | .011 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.35 |
| CWPalumni | 1124 | 18% | 31% | .012 | .002 | -- | -- | -- | .000 | -.29 |
| CWPworkpay | 850 | 2.13 | 2.32 | .053 | .006 | 1.53 | 1.49 | 868 | .000 | -.13 |

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

## 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..

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.

***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.

# NSSE 2026 Career & Workforce Preparation Topical Module Thematic Groupings

**California State University, Los Angeles**

**First-Year Students**

## Career Clarity & Planning[a]

*Do students have a clear path forward?*

**57%** can describe the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary for their career plans

**59%** have a clear idea of career plans

**63%** know where to go for career questions

**36%** have a mentor who shares a similar interest or background

**54%** received supportive feedback from faculty or advisors

**68%** say coursework is relevant to their career plans

## Career-Related Course Experiences[b]

*Are careers showing up in the classroom?*

**57%** analyzed a case, scenario, or simulation of a real-life situation

**48%** researched a career interest, a potential employer, or the job market

**45%** learned about a career or industry from practicing professionals

**39%** observed employees in action at a place of work (clinics, offices, schools, etc.)

**52%** connected their learning with how to impact their community and society

## Experiential Learning & Career Preparation[c]

*Are students getting real-world experience?*

**64%** network with alumni or professional in a field related to their career interests

**67%** interview or shadow someone in a career they are considering

**62%** participate in a major or career-related co-curricular activity

**74%** complete a paid internship

**74%** participate in a mock/practice interview

## Motivation & Career Values[a]

*What drives students' career choices?*

**57%** the desire to impact or support their community influenced their career plans

**38%** expected job salary and availability influenced their career plans

**57%** fit to their interests and abilities motivates their career plans

**55%** the desire to make a difference in society motivates their career plans

## Career Confidence & Workforce Readiness[a]

*Are students ready to take on the workforce?*

**61%** confident demonstrating effective work habits

**48%** confident using career-specific technology

**51%** confident overcoming obstacles in finding and using career resources at institution

**35%** confident networking with alumni and professionals

**55%** confident addressing ethical issues in careers

**43%** confident communicating skills to employers

**63%** confident working with people from diverse backgrounds

## Career Services & Institution Support[c]

*Is support present when students need it?*

**67%** completed a career self-assessment

**79%** received resume help

**62%** took a career exploration or development course

**66%** discussed career interests with a faculty member

**61%** participated in a career fair

**79%** met with career advisors, success coaches, or career services staff

NOTES: a. Combination of students responding "very much" or "quite a bit." – b. Combination of students responding "very often" or "often." – c. Combination of students responding "done or in progress" or "plan to do."

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# NSSE 2026 Career & Workforce Preparation Topical Module Thematic Groupings

**California State University, Los Angeles**

**Seniors**

## Career Clarity & Planning[a]

*Do students have a clear path forward?*

**72%** can describe the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary for their career plans

**64%** have a clear idea of career plans

**63%** know where to go for career questions

**40%** have a mentor who shares a similar interest or background

**56%** received supportive feedback from faculty or advisors

**78%** say coursework is relevant to their career plans

## Career-Related Course Experiences[b]

*Are careers showing up in the classroom?*

**73%** analyzed a case, scenario, or simulation of a real-life situation

**57%** researched a career interest, a potential employer, or the job market

**62%** learned about a career or industry from practicing professionals

**49%** observed employees in action at a place of work (clinics, offices, schools, etc.)

**65%** connected their learning with how to impact their community and society

## Experiential Learning & Career Preparation[c]

*Are students getting real-world experience?*

**18%** network with alumni or professional in a field related to their career interests

**23%** interview or shadow someone in a career they are considering

**23%** participate in a major or career-related co-curricular activity

**15%** complete a paid internship

**22%** participate in a mock/practice interview

## Motivation & Career Values[a]

*What drives students' career choices?*

**63%** the desire to impact or support their community influenced their career plans

**47%** expected job salary and availability influenced their career plans

**63%** fit to their interests and abilities motivates their career plans

**64%** the desire to make a difference in society motivates their career plans

## Career Confidence & Workforce Readiness[a]

*Are students ready to take on the workforce?*

**72%** confident demonstrating effective work habits

**60%** confident using career-specific technology

**57%** confident overcoming obstacles in finding and using career resources at institution

**43%** confident networking with alumni and professionals

**65%** confident addressing ethical issues in careers

**57%** confident communicating skills to employers

**76%** confident working with people from diverse backgrounds

## Career Services & Institution Support[c]

*Is support present when students need it?*

**26%** completed a career self-assessment

**34%** received resume help

**23%** took a career exploration or development course

**35%** discussed career interests with a faculty member

**24%** participated in a career fair

**29%** met with career advisors, success coaches, or career services staff

NOTES: a. Combination of students responding "very much" or "quite a bit." – b. Combination of students responding "very often" or "often." – c. Percentage of students responding "done or in progress."

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