

Identifying Existing Items and Scales

It is a common practice in survey development to utilize pre-existing survey items and scales to collect data. When we use existing items and scales, we can feel more confident that they have been carefully developed and tested and that they have performed well over time.

Item Databases

The Ohio State University Office of Academic Affairs has a question database with their survey questions from the various surveys they conduct with their community.

Each year, several offices on campus administer surveys to students, faculty and staff. The primary purpose of the Survey Question Database is to provide the university community and researchers with information about the surveys that have been administered. (["Survey_Question_Database"](#))

The Pew Center has a question database with questions on a number of political, social, and behavioral topics.

We study a wide range of [topics](#) including politics and policy; news habits and media; the internet and technology; religion; race and ethnicity; international affairs; social, demographic and economic trends; science; research methodology and data science; and immigration and migration. (["About Pew Research"](#))

In addition to these publicly available resources, you can also consult the STAIR Office for further guidance. Throughout the year, the STAIR office conducts many surveys with different aims and is aware of many campus surveys.

As such, it is important to coordinate efforts as we try to reduce survey burden on our community, especially if topics have been addressed by other groups on campus. Below are just a few surveys this office oversees:

- **CIRP Freshman Survey:** Administered by the Higher Education Research Institute at the beginning of the semester, this survey asks incoming first year students about their academic preparedness, expectations, and concerns.
- **First Year Check-In:** At the end of first year students' first semester, students are invited to share feedback on their Clark experience thus far as well as the first year intensive course.
- **Graduate Student Survey:** Every two years, all enrolled graduate students are asked to provide feedback on their programs and overall graduate experience.
- **National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE):** Every three years, Clark first year students and seniors are invited to participate in this national survey about participation in programs and activities.
- **Senior survey.** Each year, graduating classes are asked to reflect on their experiences at Clark and share their plans.
- **Alumni survey.** Administered by Higher Education Data Systems (HEDS) consortium, alumni are asked to report on their current activities and reflect on the impact of engagement.