CIRP
The Freshman Survey
2008

National Results
240579 Responses
Executive Summary
The Freshman Survey

- Administered to all incoming first-time, first-year college students
- Comprehensive survey that examines characteristics and expectations of incoming students upon entering college
- First part of a longitudinal assessment program
  - Freshman Survey ➔ Your First College Year ➔ College Senior Survey
CIRP
The Freshman Survey

- 43rd year
- Over 13 million students
- Over 1,900 schools
- Largest and longest running study of higher education
Presentation Summary

- Demographics
- Finances
- High School
- Admissions
- College Choice
- Pluralistic Orientation
- Self-ratings
- Habits of Mind
- Political Views
- Values
- Degree Aspirations
- Expectations
Demographics

Native English Speakers: 91.2%
First-Generation: 24.8%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Citizen</td>
<td>96.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Resident</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White/Caucasian</td>
<td>71.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American/Black</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American/Asian</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographics

69.5% Men
54.6% Women

Age

- < 16: 0.0%
- 17: 1.6%
- 18: 69.5%
- 19: 27.3%
- 20: 1.0%
- 21-24: 0.5%
- 25-29: 0.1%
- 30-39: 0.0%
- 40-54: 0.0%
- 55+: 0.0%
Demographics
Disabilities

- Hearing: 0.6%
- Speech: 0.3%
- Orthopedic: 0.5%
- Learning Disability: 3.3%
- Partially Sighted or Blind: 1.4%
- Health-Related: 1.4%
- Other: 1.3%
Finances

Family Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0-$39,999</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 - $74,999</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 - $99,000</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 - $149,000</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 - $199,999</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000 +</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finances
Source for College Expenses

- Family Resources: 79.6%
- Student Resources: 64.7%
- Aid-not to be Repaid: 69.3%
- Aid-to be Repaid: 49.4%
- Other: 6.4%

CIRP Freshman Survey 2008
Finances

Level of Concern About Ability to Finance College Education

- None: 35.9%
- Some: 53.2%
- Major: 10.9%
High School
Type of High School Attended

- Public: 77.8%
- Public Charter: 1.9%
- Public Magnet: 3.4%
- Private Religious: 10.5%
- Private Independent: 5.8%
- Home School: 0.6%
High School
Average Grade in High School

- A or A+: 22.3%
- A-: 24.9%
- B+: 21.0%
- B: 20.1%
- B-: 6.9%
- C+: 3.4%
- C: 1.3%
- D: 0.1%
High School
Coursework: Total Number of Years Study

- Art/Music (1yr +) 82.3%
- Computer Science (0.5yr +) 60.8%
- History/Government (1yr +) 98.9%
- Biological Science (2yrs +) 49.5%
- Physical Science (2yrs +) 61.8%
- Foreign Language (2yrs +) 92.9%
- Math (3yrs +) 98.5%
- English (4yrs +) 97.9%
High School

Racial Composition: High School and Neighborhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial Composition</th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completely non-White</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly non-White</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roughly half non-White</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly White</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completely White</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CIRP Freshman Survey 2008
High School

Frequency of Activity During the Past Year as High School Senior

- Asked teacher for advice after class: 58.6% (Frequently), 28.0% (Occasionally)
- Was guest in teacher's home: 18.2% (Frequently), 3.2% (Occasionally)
- Tutored another student: 45.2% (Frequently), 11.1% (Occasionally)
- Studied with other students: 58.1% (Frequently), 29.6% (Occasionally)
- Performed community service for class: 42.6% (Frequently), 15.7% (Occasionally)
- Came late to class: 51.3% (Frequently), 9.1% (Occasionally)
- Was bored in class: 56.2% (Frequently), 39.5% (Occasionally)
- Discussed religion: 50.2% (Frequently), 31.8% (Occasionally)
- Discussed politics: 50.3% (Frequently), 35.6% (Occasionally)
- Voted in student election: 49.9% (Frequently), 22.6% (Occasionally)
- Worked on political campaign: 9.3% (Frequently), 2.5% (Occasionally)
- Participated in Political Demonstration: 22.6% (Frequently), 3.1% (Occasionally)
High School

Frequency of Activity During the Past Year as High School Senior (continued)

- Blogged: 20.0% (Frequently), 52.0% (Occasionally)
- Used internet to read blogs: 14.5% (Frequently), 32.1% (Occasionally)
- Used internet for research or homework: 25.1% (Frequently), 22.8% (Occasionally)
- Used internet to read news sites: 22.8% (Frequently), 43.6% (Occasionally)
- Felt overwhelmed: 28.2% (Frequently), 42.9% (Occasionally)
- Felt depressed: 6.9% (Frequently), 43.8% (Occasionally)
- Drank beer: 7.4% (Frequently), 30.6% (Occasionally)
- Drank wine or liquor: 6.8% (Frequently), 37.2% (Occasionally)
- Smoked cigarettes: 4.4% (Frequently), 11.4% (Occasionally)
- Attended a religious service: 4.4% (Frequently), 38.7% (Occasionally)
- Performed volunteer work: 21.0% (Frequently), 29.1% (Occasionally)
- Played musical instrument: 23.6% (Frequently), 27.0% (Occasionally)
- Socialized with another racial/ethnic group: 14.5% (Frequently), 69.8% (Occasionally)
High School Behavior: How Students Spend Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>&lt; 1 hr</th>
<th>1 to 5 hrs</th>
<th>6 + hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studying / Homework</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Teacher Outside Class</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Groups</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Work</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading for Pleasure</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work for Pay</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household / Childcare Duties</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CIRP Freshman Survey 2008
High School

Behavior: How Students Spend Time

(continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>&lt; 1 hr</th>
<th>1 to 5 hrs</th>
<th>6 + hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partying</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watching TV</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise / Sports</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socializing w/ Friends</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing Video / Computer Games</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Social Network</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CIRP Freshman Survey 2008
Admissions
Number of Applications Submitted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Applications Submitted</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-10</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11+</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College Choice

College Attending is

- 1st Choice: 60.7%
- 2nd Choice: 26.1%
- 3rd Choice: 8.6%
- Less than 3rd Choice: 4.6%

Accepted by First Choice

- Yes: 77.8%
- No: 22.2%
College Choice
How important was each reason in your decision to come here?

- **Parents wanted me to come here**: 41.0%
- **Relatives wanted me to come here**: 22.7%
- **My teacher advised me**: 31.4%
- **Advice of high school counselor**: 31.2%
- **Private college counselor advice**: 14.6%
- **Very good academic reputation**: 64.7%
- **Graduates go to good grad schools**: 39.6%
- **Graduates get good jobs**: 54.2%

**Very Important** vs **Somewhat Important**
College Choice

How important was each reason in your decision to come here? (continued)

- Cost to attend: Very Important 39.9%, Somewhat Important 35.7%
- Offered financial assistance: Very Important 43.0%, Somewhat Important 25.6%
- Not offered aid by first-choice: Very Important 8.5%, Somewhat Important 14.7%
- Couldn't afford 1st choice: Very Important 11.2%, Somewhat Important 11.8%
- Athletic dept. recruited me: Very Important 8.4%, Somewhat Important 8.5%
- Rankings in national magazines: Very Important 17.6%, Somewhat Important 35.7%
- Information from a website: Very Important 42.6%, Somewhat Important 18.9%
- Reputation for social activities: Very Important 38.4%, Somewhat Important 44.6%
### College Choice

**How important was each reason in your decision to come here? (continued)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wanted to live near home</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A visit to campus</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious affiliation/orientation</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of school</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admitted early action/decision</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CIRP Freshman Survey 2008*
How many miles is this college from your permanent home?

- 5 or fewer: 5.4%
- 6 to 10: 5.8%
- 11 to 50: 24.3%
- 51 to 100: 17.3%
- 101 to 500: 33.0%
- 500+: 14.1%
College Residential Plans

- Home with Family/Relatives: 14.7%
- Other Home/Apt/Room: 4.2%
- College Residence Hall: 77.7%
- Fraternity/Sorority: 0.5%
- Other Campus Housing: 2.5%
- Other: 0.3%
Pluralistic Orientation

- 5 new items for 2008
- Assess students’ self perception of their tolerance, ability to work cooperatively, and ability to debate constructively
Pluralistic Orientation

Compared to the average person your age, rate yourself on your...

- Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people: 46.7% highest 10%, 32.0% above average
- Ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues: 40.8% highest 10%, 22.6% above average
- Openness to having my own views challenged: 40.0% highest 10%, 18.5% above average
- Tolerance of others with different beliefs: 44.8% highest 10%, 28.4% above average
- Ability to see the world from someone else's perspective: 46.3% highest 10%, 19.0% above average
Self-ratings

Traits: Compared to the average person your age, rate yourself on your...

- Self-Understanding: 38.8%
- Academic Ability: 50.7%
- Intellectual Self-Confidence: 40.9%
- Writing Ability: 35.4%
- Math Ability: 31.6%
- Computer Skills: 31.8%
- Artistic Ability: 23.4%
- Creativity: 40.1%
- Cooperativeness: 50.7%
- Understanding of Others: 46.4%

Highest 10% & Above Average

CIRP Freshman Survey 2008
Self-ratings

Traits: Compared to the average person your age, rate yourself on your…

(continued)

- Leadership Ability: 39.5% (Highest 10%), 22.3% (Above Average)
- Drive to Achieve: 42.3% (Highest 10%), 32.9% (Above Average)
- Social Self-Confidence: 35.4% (Highest 10%), 17.1% (Above Average)
- Public Speaking Ability: 26.1% (Highest 10%), 11.6% (Above Average)
- Popularity: 30.9% (Highest 10%), 8.5% (Above Average)
- Emotional Health: 34.7% (Highest 10%), 19.8% (Above Average)
- Physical Health: 35.6% (Highest 10%), 20.2% (Above Average)
- Spirituality: 25.9% (Highest 10%), 14.0% (Above Average)
Habits of Mind

- Behaviors and traits that have been identified as contributing towards success
  - in coursework
  - foundation for life-long learning
Habits of Mind

Learning Behavior: How often in past year did you?

- Take notes in class: 65.8%
- Support your opinions with a logical argument: 57.9%
- Ask questions in class: 53.9%
- Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others: 51.7%
- Revise your papers to improve your writing: 46.6%
- Seek feedback on your academic work: 47.7%

"Frequently"
Habits of Mind
Learning Behavior: How often in past year did you?
(continued)

- Accept mistakes as part of the learning process: 51.6%
- Seek alternative solutions to a problem: 44.3%
- Take a risk because you felt you had more to gain: 40.0%
- Evaluate the quality or reliability of information you received: 37.0%
- Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class: 31.4%
- Look up scientific research articles and resources: 22.1%

"Frequently"
Social and Political Views

How would you characterize your political views?

- Liberal: 31.0%
- Middle of the Road: 43.3%
- Conservative: 20.7%
- Far Left: 3.2%
- Far Right: 1.8%
Social and Political Views

Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions

Disagree Strongly: 19.0%
Disagree Somewhat: 41.5%
Agree Somewhat: 34.0%
Agree Strongly: 5.4%
Social and Political Views

Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus

- Disagree Strongly: 23.0%
- Disagree Somewhat: 36.5%
- Agree Somewhat: 31.1%
- Agree Strongly: 9.3%
Social and Political Views

Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished

- Disagree Strongly: 8.9%
- Disagree Somewhat: 43.5%
- Agree Somewhat: 32.5%
- Agree Strongly: 15.0%
Values

Please indicate the importance to you personally of each of the following

- Becoming an authority in my field: 39.3% Very Important, 20.9% Essential
- Obtaining recognition from colleagues in field: 39.8% Very Important, 17.7% Essential
- Becoming successful in own business: 23.7% Very Important, 19.7% Essential
- Becoming a community leader: 11.0% Very Important, 25.2% Essential
- Making theoretical contribution to science: 14.9% Very Important, 6.5% Essential
- Writing original works: 9.7% Very Important, 6.8% Essential
- Becoming accomplished in performing arts: 8.6% Very Important, 8.0% Essential
- Creating artistic works: 9.7% Very Important, 7.2% Essential
- Influencing the political structure: 15.3% Very Important, 6.9% Essential
- Keeping up to date with political affairs: 27.5% Very Important, 12.0% Essential

CIRP Freshman Survey 2008
Values

Please indicate the importance to you personally of each of the following (con’t)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Essential %</th>
<th>Very Important %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Being very well off financially</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising a family</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping others who are in difficulty</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing a meaningful philosophy of life</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influencing social values</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving my understanding of other countries/cultures</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping to promote racial understanding</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming involved in programs to clean the environment</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopting &quot;green&quot; practices to protect the environment</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in community action program</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Degree Aspirations

- Bachelor's: 69.7%
- Master's: 19.4%
- PhD or EdD: 42.4%
- MD, DO, DDS or DVM: 18.0%
- JD: 4.1%
- From This College: 22.6%
- From Any College: 3.3% 1.7% 0.6% 0.6% 4.1%
Expectations
“Very Good Chance” Student Will…

Communicate regularly with professors 36.4%
Work on a professor's research project 29.8%
Need extra time to complete degree requirements 6.4%
Transfer to another college before graduating 7.6%
Get tutoring help in specific courses 31.6%
Make at least a "B" average 62.3%
Be satisfied with college 55.3%
Participate in study abroad 29.6%
Discuss course content with students outside of class 46.9%
Change major 13.4%
Change career choice 13.1%
Expectations

“Very Good Chance” Student Will… (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work full time</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get a job to pay expenses</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play varsity/intercollegiate athletics</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in student government</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in community service</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in student clubs/groups</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join fraternity/sorority</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in student protests or demonstrations</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have roommate of different race/ethnicity</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socialize with someone from another racial group</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek personal counseling</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For more information about CIRP Surveys

The Freshmen Survey
Your First College Year Survey
College Senior Survey

heri@ucla.edu
(310) 825-1925

www.heri.ucla.edu