CIRP
The Freshman Survey
2008

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
2262 Responses
Executive Summary
CIRP
The Freshman Survey at UNCG

- Administered to all incoming first-time, first-year college students
- Comprehensive survey that examines characteristics and expectations of incoming students upon entering college
- Approximately 91% of SOAR participants completed the CIRP
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: 94.6%
First-Generation: 20.1%

White/Caucasian: 70.7%
African American/Black: 22.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native: 3.7%
Asian American/Asian: 4.3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.6%
Hispanic: 4.7%
Other: 3.1%
Demographics

- **Age Distribution**
  - < 16: 0.0%
  - 17: 0.0%
  - 18: 1.5%
  - 19: 0.7%
  - 20: 24.5%
  - 21-24: 0.3%
  - 25-29: 0.0%
  - 30-39: 0.0%
  - 40-54: 0.0%
  - 55+: 0.0%

- **Gender Distribution**
  - Women: 69.7%
  - Men: 30.3%
Demographics

Disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Disability</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially Sighted or Blind</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health-Related</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finances
Family Income

- $0-$39,999: 27.9%
- $40,000 - $74,999: 33.9%
- $75,000 - $99,000: 14.5%
- $100,000 - $149,000: 13.1%
- $150,000 - $199,999: 6.3%
- $200,000+: 4.4%
Source for College Expenses

- **Family Resources**: 80.8%
- **Student Resources**: 58.9%
- **Aid-not to be Repaid**: 62.3%
- **Aid-to be Repaid**: 48.1%
- **Other**: 5.5%
Finances

Level of Concern About Ability to Finance College Education

None
31.3%

Some
57.5%

Major
11.2%
High School
Type of High School Attended

- Public: 88.2%
- Public Charter: 1.2%
- Public Magnet: 4.9%
- Private Religious: 3.0%
- Private Independent: 2.0%
- Home School: 0.7%
High School
Average Grade in High School

- A or A+: 19.4%
- A-: 26.3%
- B+: 23.1%
- B: 22.0%
- B-: 6.8%
- C+: 1.8%
- C: 0.7%
- D: 0.0%
High School
Coursework: Total Number of Years Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art/Music (1yr +)</td>
<td>79.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science (0.5yr +)</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History/Government (1yr +)</td>
<td>99.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Science (2yrs +)</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science (2yrs +)</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language (2yrs +)</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math (3yrs +)</td>
<td>98.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English (4yrs +)</td>
<td>98.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
High School
Racial Composition: High School and Neighborhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completely non-White</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly non-White</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roughly half non-White</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly White</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completely White</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: High School, Neighborhood
High School

Frequency of Activity During the Past Year as High School Senior

- Asked teacher for advice after class
  - Frequently: 58.7%
  - Occasionally: 30.2%
- Was guest in teacher's home
  - Frequently: 18.8%
  - Occasionally: 2.4%
- Tutored another student
  - Frequently: 45.7%
  - Occasionally: 9.7%
- Studied with other students
  - Frequently: 62.7%
  - Occasionally: 23.8%
- Performed community service for class
  - Frequently: 37.4%
  - Occasionally: 13.7%
- Came late to class
  - Frequently: 52.3%
  - Occasionally: 10.3%
- Was bored in class
  - Frequently: 50.2%
  - Occasionally: 47.3%
- Discussed religion
  - Frequently: 51.0%
  - Occasionally: 36.4%
- Discussed politics
  - Frequently: 51.0%
  - Occasionally: 36.7%
- Voted in student election
  - Frequently: 52.7%
  - Occasionally: 21.7%
- Worked on political campaign
  - Frequently: 7.2%
  - Occasionally: 1.6%
- Participated in Political Demonstration
  - Frequently: 2.7%
  - Occasionally: 25.9%
High School
Frequency of Activity During the Past Year as High School Senior
(continued)

- Blogged: Frequently 21.2%, Occasionally 13.2%
- Used internet to read blogs: Frequently 32.1%, Occasionally 22.1%
- Used internet for research or homework: Frequently 61.6%, Occasionally 36.4%
- Used internet to read news sites: Frequently 47.9%, Occasionally 33.6%
- Felt overwhelmed: Frequently 54.9%, Occasionally 36.6%
- Felt depressed: Frequently 47.3%, Occasionally 9.0%
- Drank beer: Frequently 21.4%, Occasionally 4.1%
- Drank wine or liquor: Frequently 31.9%, Occasionally 4.5%
- Smoked cigarettes: Frequently 11.4%, Occasionally 5.8%
- Attended a religious service: Frequently 48.3%, Occasionally 35.4%
- Performed volunteer work: Frequently 57.0%, Occasionally 26.7%
- Played musical instrument: Frequently 24.9%, Occasionally 18.4%
- Socialized with another racial/ethnic group: Frequently 82.6%, Occasionally 15.6%
High School Behavior: How Students Spend Time

- **Studying / Homework:**
  - <1 hr: 18%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 59%
  - 6+ hrs: 23%

- **See Teacher Outside Class:**
  - <1 hr: 43%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 49%
  - 6+ hrs: 11%

- **Student Groups:**
  - <1 hr: 41%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 53%
  - 6+ hrs: 9%

- **Volunteer Work:**
  - <1 hr: 53%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 10%
  - 6+ hrs: 37%

- **Reading for Pleasure:**
  - <1 hr: 53%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 36%
  - 6+ hrs: 9%

- **Work for Pay:**
  - <1 hr: 31%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 10%
  - 6+ hrs: 59%

- **Household / Childcare Duties:**
  - <1 hr: 31%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 13%
  - 6+ hrs: 55%
High School

Behavior: How Students Spend Time

(continued)

- Partyng
  - < 1 hr: 13%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 21%
  - 6 + hrs: 54%

- Watching TV
  - < 1 hr: 25%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 26%
  - 6 + hrs: 54%

- Exercise / Sports
  - < 1 hr: 5%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 26%
  - 6 + hrs: 39%

- Socializing w/ Friends
  - < 1 hr: 33%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 36%
  - 6 + hrs: 64%

- Playing Video / Computer Games
  - < 1 hr: 22%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 8%
  - 6 + hrs: 32%

- Online Social Network
  - < 1 hr: 18%
  - 1 to 5 hrs: 32%
  - 6 + hrs: 50%
Admissions
Number of Applications Submitted

- 18.2% submitted 0 applications
- 17.5% submitted 1 application
- 22.4% submitted 2 applications
- 18.7% submitted 3 applications
- 12.3% submitted 4 applications
- 5.9% submitted 5 applications
- 2.4% submitted 6 applications
- 2.1% submitted 7-10 applications
- 0.4% submitted 11+ applications
College Choice

College Attending is

1st Choice: 57.6%
2nd Choice: 33.4%
3rd Choice: 6.9%
Less than 3rd Choice: 2.0%

Accepted by First Choice

Yes: 76.2%
No: 23.8%
## College Choice

### How important was each reason in your decision to come here?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents wanted me to come here</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relatives wanted me to come here</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My teacher advised me</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice of high school counselor</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private college counselor advice</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very good academic reputation</td>
<td></td>
<td>67.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates go to good grad schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>38.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates get good jobs</td>
<td></td>
<td>34.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CIRP Freshman Survey 2008
College Choice

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

(continued)

- Cost to attend: 38.3% Very Important, 43.2% Somewhat Important
- Offered financial assistance: 25.7% Very Important, 35.0% Somewhat Important
- Not offered aid by first-choice: 13.6% Very Important, 6.6% Somewhat Important
- Couldn't afford 1st choice: 10.9% Very Important, 10.2% Somewhat Important
- Athletic dept. recruited me: 4.1% Very Important, 2.8% Somewhat Important
- Rankings in national magazines: 32.7% Very Important, 14.5% Somewhat Important
- Information from a website: 21.8% Very Important, 43.8% Somewhat Important
- Reputation for social activities: 43.6% Very Important, 43.8% Somewhat Important
College Choice
How important was each reason in your decision to come here? (continued)

- **Wanted to live near home**: 36.7% Very Important, 23.9% Somewhat Important
- **A visit to campus**: 34.5% Very Important, 43.4% Somewhat Important
- **Religious affiliation/orientation**: 22.6% Very Important, 4.1% Somewhat Important
- **Size of school**: 42.7% Very Important, 36.6% Somewhat Important
- **Admitted early action/decision**: 15.6% Very Important, 14.9% Somewhat Important

Legend:
- **Very Important**
- **Somewhat Important**
How many miles is this college from your permanent home?

- 5 or fewer: 3.2%
- 6 to 10: 7.0%
- 11 to 50: 31.4%
- 51 to 100: 28.5%
- 101 to 500: 26.8%
- 500+: 3.1%
College Residential Plans

- Home with Family/Relatives: 13.0%
- Other Home/Apt/Room: 4.5%
- College Residence Hall: 80.9%
- Fraternity/Sorority: 0.0%
- Other Campus Housing: 1.4%
- Other: 0.1%
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: 36.5% (Above Average), 45.7% (Highest 10%)
- Ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues: 24.3% (Above Average), 41.1% (Highest 10%)
- Openness to having my own views challenged: 19.2% (Above Average), 38.5% (Highest 10%)
- Tolerance of others with different beliefs: 30.0% (Above Average), 43.4% (Highest 10%)
- Ability to see the world from someone else's perspective: 19.2% (Above Average), 47.5% (Highest 10%)
Self-ratings

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

- Self-Understanding: 38.7%
- Academic Ability: 57.2%
- Intellectual Self-Confidence: 39.4%
- Writing Ability: 29.3%
- Math Ability: 30.9%
- Computer Skills: 34.2%
- Artistic Ability: 26.7%
- Creativity: 39.3%
- Cooperativeness: 50.2%
- Understanding of Others: 48.2%

Legend:
- Highest 10%
- Above Average
Self-ratings

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

- Leadership Ability: 37.3% (Above Average), 20.2% (Highest 10%)
- Drive to Achieve: 43.1% (Above Average), 30.8% (Highest 10%)
- Social Self-Confidence: 35.4% (Above Average), 17.4% (Highest 10%)
- Public Speaking Ability: 25.6% (Above Average), 10.0% (Highest 10%)
- Popularity: 27.5% (Above Average), 9.8% (Highest 10%)
- Emotional Health: 31.3% (Above Average), 18.9% (Highest 10%)
- Physical Health: 29.7% (Above Average), 15.0% (Highest 10%)
- Spirituality: 29.9% (Above Average), 16.5% (Highest 10%)
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: 68.5%
- Support your opinions with a logical argument: 56.7%
- Ask questions in class: 55.4%
- Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others: 48.2%
- Revise your papers to improve your writing: 40.6%
- Seek feedback on your academic work: "Frequently"
### Habits of Mind

#### Learning Behavior: How often in past year did you?

(continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accept mistakes as part of the learning process</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek alternative solutions to a problem</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take a risk because you felt you had more to gain</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate the quality or reliability of information you received</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look up scientific research articles and resources</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Frequently"
Social and Political Views

How would you characterize your political views?

- Liberal: 30.7%
- Middle of the Road: 45.1%
- Conservative: 19.6%
- Far Left: 3.3%
- Far Right: 1.3%
Social and Political Views

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

- Disagree Strongly: 18.9%
- Disagree Somewhat: 39.9%
- Agree Somewhat: 35.5%
- Agree Strongly: 5.8%
Social and Political Views

Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus

- Disagree Strongly: 22.5%
- Disagree Somewhat: 37.1%
- Agree Somewhat: 31.3%
- Agree Strongly: 9.1%
Social and Political Views

Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished

- Disagree Strongly: 14.2%
- Disagree Somewhat: 45.8%
- Agree Somewhat: 28.0%
- Agree Strongly: 12.1%
## Values

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Becoming an authority in my field</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtaining recognition from colleagues in field</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming successful in own business</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming a community leader</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making theoretical contribution to science</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing original works</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming accomplished in performing arts</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating artistic works</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influencing the political structure</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping up to date with political affairs</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CIRP Freshman Survey 2008
Values

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

- Being very well off financially: 33.4% Essential, 43.8% Very Important
- Raising a family: 32.1% Essential, 46.0% Very Important
- Helping others who are in difficulty: 33.0% Essential, 44.3% Very Important
- Developing a meaningful philosophy of life: 21.4% Essential, 33.6% Very Important
- Influencing social values: 13.2% Essential, 35.9% Very Important
- Improving my understanding of other countries/cultures: 22.2% Essential, 35.0% Very Important
- Helping to promote racial understanding: 15.7% Essential, 32.7% Very Important
- Becoming involved in programs to clean the environment: 7.0% Essential, 22.3% Very Important
- Adopting "green" practices to protect the environment: 16.9% Essential, 29.0% Very Important
- Participate in community action program: 8.1% Essential, 23.9% Very Important
# Degree Aspirations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Level</th>
<th>From This College</th>
<th>From Any College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD or EdD</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD, DO, DDS or DVM</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JD</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*From This College vs. From Any College*
Expectations
“Very Good Chance” Student Will…

- Communicate regularly with professors: 39.4%
- Work on a professor's research project: 45.4%
- Need extra time to complete degree requirements: 6.1%
- Transfer to another college before graduating: 8.8%
- Get tutoring help in specific courses: 43.5%
- Make at least a "B" average: 55.7%
- Be satisfied with college: 58.8%
- Participate in study abroad: 29.0%
- Discuss course content with students outside of class: 50.2%
- Change major: 11.7%
- Change career choice: 10.6%
Expectations

“Very Good Chance” Student Will… (continued)

- Work full time: 5.3%
- Get a job to pay expenses: 48.4%
- Play varsity/intercollegiate athletics: 7.9%
- Participate in student government: 6.7%
- Participate in community service: 32.5%
- Participate in student clubs/groups: 51.5%
- Join fraternity/sorority: 13.7%
- Participate in student protests or demonstrations: 8.4%
- Have roommate of different race/ethnicity: 33.3%
- Socialize with someone from another racial group: 78.6%
- Seek personal counseling: 9.3%
For additional information about the CIRP at UNCG:

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For more information about CIRP Surveys

The Freshmen Survey

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