CIRP
The Freshman Survey 2008

U of California-San Diego
3,776 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
Freshman Survey 2008

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: 64.3%

First-Generation: 24.1%

- White/Caucasian: 29.3%
- African American/Black: 1.3%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 1.3%
- Asian American/Asian: 58.8%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 2.8%
- Hispanic: 12.3%
- Other: 5.6%
Freshman Survey 2008

Demographics

Age

- < 16: 0.0%
- 16-17: 2.6%
- 18: 81.4%
- 19: 15.1%
- 20: 0.7%
- 21-24: 0.1%
- 25-29: 0.0%
- 30-39: 0.0%
- 40-54: 0.0%
- 55+: 0.0%

Men: 42.9%
Women: 57.1%
Freshman Survey 2008

Percentage will add to more than 100% if any student marked more than one race/ethnicity.

- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.3%
- Asian: 53.3%
- Black/African American: 1.2%
- Latino/Puerto Rican/Mexican: 12.7%
- White/Caucasian: 23.5%
- Other: 8.9%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (CIRP only): 2.8%

* CIRP Race/Ethnicity: Percentage will add to more than 100% if any student marked more than one race/ethnicity.
Freshman Survey 2008

Percentage

UCSD 08 First-Time Freshmen

2008 CIRP UCSD

Men

Women

44.1%

55.9%

42.9%

57.1%
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Demographics
Disabilities

- Hearing: 0.5%
- Speech: 0.3%
- Orthopedic: 0.5%
- Learning Disability: 3.3%
- Partially Sighted or Blind: 0.7%
- Health-Related: 1.8%
- Other: 1.2%

Student Research & Information,
Student Affairs, UCSD
Freshman Survey 2008

Finances

Family Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0-$39,999</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 - $74,999</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 - $99,000</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 - $149,000</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 - $199,999</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000 +</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finances
Source for College Expenses

86.8%
70.6%
62.1%
46.1%
6.4%
0%
Finances

Level of Concern About Ability to Finance College Education

- None: 24.8%
- Some: 60.1%
- Major: 15.1%
High School
Type of High School Attended

- Public: 81.9%
- Public Charter: 2.2%
- Public Magnet: 5.8%
- Private Religious: 6.5%
- Private Independent: 3.6%
- Home School: 0.0%
High School Average Grade in High School
Freshman Survey 2008

High School Coursework: Total Number of Years Study

- Art/Music (1yr +): 92.1%
- Computer Science (0.5yr +): 39.3%
- History/Government (1yr +): 98.9%
- Biological Science (2yrs +): 59.4%
- Physical Science (2yrs +): 70.8%
- Foreign Language (2yrs +): 97.3%
- Math (3yrs +): 99.3%
- English (4yrs +): 99.1%
High School

Racial Composition: High School and Neighborhood

- Completely non-White: 6.3% (High School), 10.1% (Neighborhood)
- Mostly non-White: 37.7% (High School), 30.5% (Neighborhood)
- Roughly half non-White: 30.1% (High School), 24.3% (Neighborhood)
- Mostly White: 24.0% (High School), 31.7% (Neighborhood)
- Completely White: 2.0% (High School), 3.3% (Neighborhood)
High School

Frequency of Activity During the Past Year as High School Senior

- **Asked teacher for advice after class**
  - Frequently: 31.9%
  - Occasionally: 57.2%

- **Was guest in teacher's home**
  - Frequently: 16.1%
  - Occasionally: 2.1%

- **Tutored another student**
  - Frequently: 25.8%
  - Occasionally: 52.8%

- **Studied with other students**
  - Frequently: 40.7%
  - Occasionally: 52.0%

- **Performed community service for class**
  - Frequently: 17.1%
  - Occasionally: 40.0%

- **Came late to class**
  - Frequently: 14.8%
  - Occasionally: 50.8%

- **Was bored in class**
  - Frequently: 44.1%
  - Occasionally: 51.9%

- **Discussed religion**
  - Frequently: 28.9%
  - Occasionally: 52.5%

- **Discussed politics**
  - Frequently: 38.4%
  - Occasionally: 49.7%

- **Voted in student election**
  - Frequently: 28.1%
  - Occasionally: 48.0%

- **Worked on political campaign**
  - Frequently: 11.3%
  - Occasionally: 28.1%

- **Participated in Political Demonstration**
  - Frequently: 23.7%
  - Occasionally: 2.5%
High School

Frequency of Activity During the Past Year as High School Senior

(continued)

- Blogged: 18.7% Frequently, 24.1% Occasionally
- Used internet to read blogs: 16.1% Frequently, 34.9% Occasionally
- Used internet for research or homework: 31.0% Frequently, 49.8% Occasionally
- Used internet to read news sites: 7.2% Frequently, 57.9% Occasionally
- Felt overwhelmed: 22.9% Frequently, 50.3% Occasionally
- Felt depressed: 3.8% Frequently, 30.9% Occasionally
- Drank beer: 17.5% Frequently, 80.9% Occasionally
- Drank wine or liquor: 1.1% Frequently, 7.1% Occasionally
- Smoked cigarettes: 32.2% Frequently, 32.6% Occasionally
- Attended a religious service: 46.6% Frequently, 46.7% Occasionally
- Performed volunteer work: 24.4% Frequently, 32.0% Occasionally
- Played musical instrument: 17.5% Frequently, 80.9% Occasionally
- Socialized with another racial/ethnic group: 18.7% Frequently, 24.1% Occasionally
High School Behavior: How Students Spend Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>6%</th>
<th>1 to 5 hrs</th>
<th>6+ hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studying / Homework</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Teacher Outside Class</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Groups</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Work</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading for Pleasure</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work for Pay</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household / Childcare Duties</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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>54%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watching TV</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise / Sports</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socializing w/ Friends</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing Video / Computer Games</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Social Network</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Admissions
Number of Applications Submitted

- 0.6%
- 0.6%
- 2.1%
- 8.8%
- 13.3%
- 14.4%
- 15.1%
- 36.3%
- 8.7%
- 0%
- 20%
- 40%
- 60%
- 80%
- 100%

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7-10 11+
Freshman Survey 2008

College Choice

College Attending is

1st Choice
30.6%

2nd Choice
38.1%

3rd Choice
21.8%

Less than 3rd Choice
9.4%

Accepted by First Choice

No
60.3%

Yes
39.7%
College Choice

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

- Parents wanted me to come here: 43.7% Very Important, 14.5% Somewhat Important
- Relatives wanted me to come here: 20.8% Very Important, 3.8% Somewhat Important
- My teacher advised me: 30.7% Very Important, 6.2% Somewhat Important
- Advice of high school counselor: 27.9% Very Important, 7.9% Somewhat Important
- Private college counselor advice: 12.2% Very Important, 2.8% Somewhat Important
- Very good academic reputation: 75.2% Very Important
- Graduates go to good grad schools: 46.0% Very Important, 37.8% Somewhat Important
- Graduates get good jobs: 53.4% Very Important, 34.9% Somewhat Important
College Choice

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

(continued)

- Cost to attend: 40.1% Very Important, 31.8% Somewhat Important
- Offered financial assistance: 23.5% Very Important, 29.2% Somewhat Important
- Not offered aid by first-choice: 13.3% Very Important, 10.2% Somewhat Important
- Couldn't afford 1st choice: 12.4% Very Important, 9.7% Somewhat Important
- Athletic dept. recruited me: 5.4% Very Important, 3.5% Somewhat Important
- Rankings in national magazines: 44.3% Very Important, 38.4% Somewhat Important
- Information from a website: 24.5% Very Important, 42.8% Somewhat Important
- Reputation for social activities: 20.9% Very Important, 49.8% Somewhat Important
College Choice

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

(continued)

- **Wanted to live near home**: 24.5% Very Important, 11.9% Somewhat Important
- **A visit to campus**: 40.5% Very Important, 27.7% Somewhat Important
- **Religious affiliation/orientation**: 13.2% Very Important, 2.3% Somewhat Important
- **Size of school**: 41.7% Very Important, 18.1% Somewhat Important
- **Admitted early action/decision**: 7.3% Very Important, 2.5% Somewhat Important

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

- Home with Family/Relatives: 6.1%
- Other Home/Apt/Room: 3.1%
- College Residence Hall: 86.2%
- Fraternity/Sorority: 0.0%
- Other Campus Housing: 4.1%
- Other: 0.5%
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
  - Highest 10%: 36.8%
  - Above Average: 46.4%

- Ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues
  - Highest 10%: 26.3%
  - Above Average: 41.1%

- Openness to having my own views challenged
  - Highest 10%: 21.8%
  - Above Average: 42.0%

- Tolerance of others with different beliefs
  - Highest 10%: 38.1%
  - Above Average: 44.2%

- Ability to see the world from someone else's perspective
  - Highest 10%: 23.2%
  - Above Average: 50.9%


[Graph showing the above data]
Self-ratings

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

- Self-Understanding
  - Highest 10%: 39.8%
  - Above Average: 53.4%
- Academic Ability
  - Highest 10%: 30.2%
  - Above Average: 42.2%
- Intellectual Self-Confidence
  - Highest 10%: 19.7%
  - Above Average: 35.3%
- Writing Ability
  - Highest 10%: 12.1%
  - Above Average: 39.0%
- Math Ability
  - Highest 10%: 22.3%
  - Above Average: 30.6%
- Computer Skills
  - Highest 10%: 7.8%
  - Above Average: 26.9%
- Artistic Ability
  - Highest 10%: 6.9%
  - Above Average: 39.1%
- Creativity
  - Highest 10%: 12.8%
  - Above Average: 49.9%
- Cooperativeness
  - Highest 10%: 24.8%
  - Above Average: 46.9%
- Understanding of Others
  - Highest 10%: 24.1%
  - Above Average: 46.9%
Self-ratings

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

- Leadership Ability: 36.5% (above average), 20.4% (highest 10%)
- Drive to Achieve: 41.9% (above average), 37.5% (highest 10%)
- Social Self-Confidence: 34.6% (above average), 14.3% (highest 10%)
- Public Speaking Ability: 26.4% (above average), 11.6% (highest 10%)
- Popularity: 28.6% (above average), 5.6% (highest 10%)
- Emotional Health: 34.6% (above average), 21.6% (highest 10%)
- Physical Health: 35.2% (above average), 18.1% (highest 10%)
- Spirituality: 26.3% (above average), 13.7% (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: 67.8%
- Support your opinions with a logical argument: 58.7%
- Ask questions in class: 46.3%
- Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others: 58.0%
- Revise your papers to improve your writing: 45.5%
- Seek feedback on your academic work: 47.4%

Frequently
Habits of Mind

Learning Behavior: How often in past year did you?

(continued)

- Accept mistakes as part of the learning process: 54.4%
- Seek alternative solutions to a problem: 46.4%
- Take a risk because you felt you had more to gain: 37.5%
- Evaluate the quality or reliability of information you received: 40.0%
- Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class: 34.6%
- Look up scientific research articles and resources: 25.2%
Social and Political Views

How would you characterize your political views?

- Liberal: 42.7%
- Middle of the Road: 40.0%
- Conservative: 14.0%
- Far Right: 0.8%
- Far Left: 2.5%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
Social and Political Views

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

- Disagree Strongly: 16.9%
- Disagree Somewhat: 40.3%
- Agree Somewhat: 36.7%
- Agree Strongly: 6.0%
Social and Political Views

Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus

- Disagree Strongly: 27.8%
- Disagree Somewhat: 39.4%
- Agree Somewhat: 26.6%
- Agree Strongly: 6.1%
Social and Political Views

Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished

- Disagree Strongly: 7.5%
- Disagree Somewhat: 33.6%
- Agree Somewhat: 36.6%
- Agree Strongly: 22.2%
Freshman Survey 2008

Values

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

- Becoming a community leader: 26.8%
- Becoming an authority in my field: 39.6%
- Obtaining recognition from colleagues in field: 42.9%
- Becoming successful in own business: 26.6%
- Making theoretical contribution to science: 21.9%
- Writing original works: 9.2%
- Becoming accomplished in performing arts: 10.2%
- Creating artistic works: 9.3%
- Influencing the political structure: 15.4%
- Keeping up to date with political affairs: 30.1%
Values

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

- Being very well off financially
  - Essential: 43.3%
  - Very Important: 38.0%

- Raising a family
  - Essential: 42.6%
  - Very Important: 31.8%

- Helping others who are in difficulty
  - Essential: 42.4%
  - Very Important: 31.1%

- Developing a meaningful philosophy of life
  - Essential: 29.0%
  - Very Important: 32.6%

- Influencing social values
  - Essential: 33.4%
  - Very Important: 11.8%

- Improving my understanding of other countries/cultures
  - Essential: 30.5%
  - Very Important: 25.0%

- Helping to promote racial understanding
  - Essential: 36.1%
  - Very Important: 21.6%

- Becoming involved in programs to clean the environment
  - Essential: 27.6%
  - Very Important: 10.8%

- Adopting "green" practices to protect the environment
  - Essential: 39.5%
  - Very Important: 14.6%

- Participate in community action program
  - Essential: 42.4%
  - Very Important: 33.4%
Degree Aspirations

Bachelor's: 71.8%
Master's: 16.1%
PhD or EdD: 35.9%
MD, DO, DDS or DVM: 28.4%
JD: 21.4%

From This College
From Any College
Expectations

“Very Good Chance” Student Will...

- Communicate regularly with professors: 33.3%
- Work on a professor's research project: 30.3%
- Need extra time to complete degree requirements: 7.2%
- Transfer to another college before graduating: 4.7%
- Get tutoring help in specific courses: 36.5%
- Make at least a "B" average: 53.8%
- Be satisfied with college: 51.9%
- Participate in study abroad: 38.7%
- Discuss course content with students outside of class: 59.6%
- Change major: 24.5%
- Change career choice: 20.4%
Expectations
“Very Good Chance” Student Will... (continued)

- Work full time: 5.7%
- Get a job to pay expenses: 50.9%
- Play varsity/intercollegiate athletics: 10.9%
- Participate in student government: 10.6%
- Participate in community service: 36.1%
- Participate in student clubs/groups: 57.6%
- Join fraternity/sorority: 6.8%
- Participate in student protests or demonstrations: 6.5%
- Have roommate of different race/ethnicity: 54.9%
- Socialize with someone from another racial group: 74.9%
- Seek personal counseling: 15.1%
For more information about
CIRP Surveys

The Freshmen Survey
Your First College Year Survey
College Senior Survey

srandi@ucsd.edu

studentresearch.ucsd.edu