California State University-Los Angeles
CIRP Freshman Survey
2014 Results

First-time, Full-time Freshmen
California State University-Los Angeles
N=2,387

Public 4yr Colleges-low selectivity
N=14,801

Higher Education Research Institute, University of California at Los Angeles
The CIRP Freshman Survey (TFS) collects important information on what your incoming students are like before they experience college. Key sections of the survey examine:

- College admissions decisions
- Financing college
- High school experiences and behaviors
- Knowledge, skills and abilities
- Expectations for college-major and career
- Expectations for college life
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  - Reasons for Attending This College

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  - Pluralistic Orientation
  - Academic Self-Concept
  - Civic Engagement
  - Health and Wellness

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Expectations for College-Major and Career

Expectations for College Life
A Note about CIRP Constructs

We use the CIRP Constructs throughout this PowerPoint to help summarize important information about your students from the TFS.

Constructs statistically aggregate the results from CIRP questions that tap into key aspects of the college experience. They focus on student traits and institutional practices contributing to students’ academic and social development.
Demographics

SEX

Your Institution

60.7% Male
39.3% Female

Comparison Group

57.1% Male
42.9% Female
Demographics

Race/Ethnicity

- African American/Black: 2.7%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.2%
- Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 15.3%
- Latino: 70.1%
- White/Caucasian: 23.8%
- Other Race/Ethnicity: 1.9%
- Two or More Races/Ethnicities: 6.7%

Comparison Group:
- African American/Black: 20.5%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.2%
- Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 13.2%
- Latino: 24.8%
- White/Caucasian: 2.9%
- Other Race/Ethnicity: 14.6%

Your Institution:
- African American/Black: 0.2%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.2%
- Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 3.2%
- Latino: 1.9%
- White/Caucasian: 2.9%
- Other Race/Ethnicity: 6.7%
- Two or More Races/Ethnicities: 14.6%
Demographics

How many miles is this college from your permanent home?

- 5 or less: Your Institution 14.0%, Comparison Group 11.4%
- 6-10: Your Institution 31.8%, Comparison Group 15.7%
- 11-50: Your Institution 42.2%, Comparison Group 42.1%
- 51-100: Your Institution 4.4%, Comparison Group 12.8%
- 101-500: Your Institution 6.5%, Comparison Group 13.6%
- Over 500: Your Institution 1.1%, Comparison Group 4.5%
Demographics

From what kind of high school did you graduate?

- Public school (not charter or magnet): 78.1% (Your Institution), 77.5% (Comparison Group)
- Public charter school: 9.4% (Your Institution), 9.8% (Comparison Group)
- Public magnet school: 7.4% (Your Institution), 5.6% (Comparison Group)
- Private religious/parochial school: 3.4% (Your Institution), 5.2% (Comparison Group)
- Private independent college-prep school: 1.6% (Your Institution), 1.8% (Comparison Group)
- Home school: 0.1% (Your Institution), 0.2% (Comparison Group)
Many factors impact incoming students’ college choice, including the benefits they see in attending college and considerations about which specific college to attend.
To how many colleges *other than this one* did you apply for admission this year?

- **Your Institution**
- **Comparison Group**
Were you accepted by your first choice college?

- Yes: 52.1%
- No: 47.9%

Pie chart showing the distribution of responses. The majority accepted by their first choice, with a smaller percentage not accepting by their first choice.
College Choice

In deciding to *go to college*, how important to you was each of the following reasons?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To be able to get a better job</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
<td>88.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas</td>
<td>84.9%</td>
<td>74.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To make me a more cultured person</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be able to make more money</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
<td>82.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Very Important**
- **Somewhat Important**

To be able to get a better job
To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas
To make me a more cultured person
To be able to make more money
College Choice

In deciding to *go to college*, how important to you was each of the following reasons?

**Your Institution**
- To learn more about things that interest me: 88.6%
- To get training for a specific career: 82.8%
- To prepare myself for graduate or professional school: 76.3%

**Comparison Group**
- To learn more about things that interest me: 88.1%
- To get training for a specific career: 84.6%
- To prepare myself for graduate or professional school: 68.6%

*Your Institution*
- Very Important: 10.8%
- Somewhat Important: 16.0%

*Comparison Group*
- Very Important: 10.8%
- Somewhat Important: 13.8%
- Somewhat Important: 19.4%

*Your Institution*
- Very Important: 13.8%
- Somewhat Important: 19.4%

*Comparison Group*
- Very Important: 21.7%
- Somewhat Important: 21.7%
College Choice

How important was each reason in your decision to attend *this college*?

- This college has a very good academic reputation: 43.2% Very Important, 48.0% Somewhat Important
- This college has a good reputation for its social activities: 29.2% Very Important, 38.9% Somewhat Important
- This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools: 25.0% Very Important, 24.8% Somewhat Important
- This college’s graduates get good jobs: 38.0% Very Important, 40.4% Somewhat Important
- The percentage of students that graduate from this college: 28.5% Very Important, 29.8% Somewhat Important

*Your Institution* and *Comparison Group*:

- Very Important, Somewhat Important

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College Choice

How important was each reason in your decision to attend this college?

1. I was offered financial assistance
   - Your Institution: 43.4%
   - Comparison Group: 45.0%
   - Very Important: 33.9%
   - Somewhat Important: 29.3%

2. The cost of attending this college
   - Your Institution: 54.8%
   - Comparison Group: 56.1%
   - Very Important: 34.2%
   - Somewhat Important: 32.2%

3. Not offered aid by first choice
   - Your Institution: 15.3%
   - Comparison Group: 13.9%
   - Very Important: 30.9%
   - Somewhat Important: 24.3%

4. Could not afford first choice
   - Your Institution: 20.5%
   - Comparison Group: 21.7%
   - Very Important: 26.6%
   - Somewhat Important: 20.5%
College Choice

How important was each reason in your decision to attend this college?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My parents wanted me to come here</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to live near home</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rankings in national magazines</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33.2%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A visit to the campus</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financing College

Economic factors play an important role in students’ decisions about college.
Financing College

The percentage of students with at least some funds from these various sources.

- **Family resources**: 68.3% (Your Institution), 67.8% (Comparison Group)
- **Personal resources**: 61.6% (Your Institution), 58.6% (Comparison Group)
- **Aid not to be repaid**: 77.2% (Your Institution), 66.2% (Comparison Group)
- **Aid to be repaid**: 42.0% (Your Institution), 46.5% (Comparison Group)
- **Other sources**: 11.3% (Your Institution), 8.1% (Comparison Group)
Financing College

Do you have any concern about your ability to finance your college education?

- None: 9.7%
- Some: 61.1%
- Major: 29.3%

Your Institution: 24.9%
Comparison Group: 58.4%

16.7%
High School Experiences

Understanding students’ established behaviors in high school helps foster skills, knowledge and abilities in the curriculum and co-curriculum.
High School Experiences
Please mark which of the following courses you have completed?

- Algebra II: 99.6%
- Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry: 71.8%
- Probability & Statistics: 21.5%
- Calculus: 11.0%
- AP Probability & Statistics: 9.4%
- AP Calculus: 16.5%

Comparison Group:
- Algebra II: 98.6%
- Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry: 73.5%
- Probability & Statistics: 27.3%
- Calculus: 15.8%
- AP Probability & Statistics: 12.7%
- AP Calculus: 17.8%

Your Institution vs. Comparison Group
High School Experiences

Have you *had* any remedial work in any of the following subjects?
High School Experiences

Do you feel you *will need* any remedial work in any of the following subjects?

- **English**: 20.7% (Your Institution), 12.5% (Comparison Group)
- **Reading**: 18.3% (Your Institution), 9.5% (Comparison Group)
- **Mathematics**: 34.9% (Your Institution), 26.1% (Comparison Group)
- **Writing**: 29.5% (Your Institution), 16.5% (Comparison Group)
Habits of Mind is a unified measure of the behaviors and traits associated with academic success. These learning behaviors are seen as the foundation for lifelong learning.

Construct Items

- Support your opinion with logical argument
- Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others
- Seek alternative solutions to a problem
- Evaluate the quality or reliability of information you received
- Ask questions in class
- Take a risk because you felt you had more to gain
- Seek feedback on academic work
- Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class
- Accept mistakes as part of the learning process
- Revise your papers to improve your writing
- Look up scientific research articles and resources
Pluralistic Orientation measures skills and dispositions appropriate for living and working in a diverse society.

**Construct Items**

- Tolerance of others with different beliefs
- Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people
- Ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues
- Openness to having my views challenged
- Ability to see the world from someone else's perspective
Academic Self-Concept

Self-awareness and confidence in academic environments help students learn by encouraging their intellectual inquiry. *Academic Self-Concept* is a unified measure of students’ beliefs about their abilities and confidence in academic environments.

### Construct Items
- Self-rated academic ability
- Self-rated mathematical ability
- Self-rated self-confidence (intellectual)
- Self-rated drive to achieve
Civic Engagement

Engaged citizens are a critical element in the functioning of our democratic society. *Civic Engagement* measures the extent to which students are motivated and involved in civic, electoral and political activities.

Construct Items

- Publicly communicated your opinion about a cause
- Worked on a local, state, or national political campaign
- Demonstrated for a cause
- Keeping up to date with political affairs
- Influencing social values
- Helped raise money for a cause or campaign
- Performed volunteer work
Health and Wellness

Students’ physical and emotional well-being can affect many important aspects of the student experience including academic performance and persistence. These items gauge student behaviors, attitudes and experiences related to health and wellness.

- Felt overwhelmed by all you had to do
  - Your Institution: 60.6%
  - Comparison Group: 54.3%

- Felt depressed
  - Your Institution: 26.9%
  - Comparison Group: 30.7%

- 7.9% of students in Your Institution and 9.4% in the Comparison Group felt this way occasionally.
Health and Wellness

Do you have any of the following disabilities or medical conditions?

- Learning disability
  - Your Institution: 1.2%
  - Comparison Group: 2.9%

- ADHD
  - Your Institution: 0.8%
  - Comparison Group: 4.6%

- Autism spectrum
  - Your Institution: 0.4%
  - Comparison Group: 0.9%

- Physical disability
  - Your Institution: 3.6%
  - Comparison Group: 3.5%

- Chronic illness
  - Your Institution: 0.9%
  - Comparison Group: 1.4%

- Psychological disorder
  - Your Institution: 2.9%
  - Comparison Group: 4.6%
Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

These items illustrate students’ views of their academic skills and abilities.
High School Experiences

At this institution, which course placement tests have you taken in the following subject areas:

- English: 63.3%
- Reading: 50.9%
- Mathematics: 68.2%
- Writing: 52.9%

Comparison Group:
- English: 50.1%
- Reading: 36.6%
- Mathematics: 56.8%
- Writing: 39.4%
Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Think about your current abilities and tell us how strong or weak you believe you are in each of the following areas:

- General knowledge: 47.1% A Major Strength, 21.3% Somewhat Strong
- Knowledge of a particular field or discipline: 44.1% A Major Strength, 17.1% Somewhat Strong
- Foreign language ability: 30.6% A Major Strength, 22.9% Somewhat Strong

Your Institution
- A Major Strength
- Somewhat Strong

Comparison Group
- A Major Strength
- Somewhat Strong
Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Think about your current abilities and tell us how strong or weak you believe you are in each of the following areas:

Understanding of the problems facing your community:
- Your Institution: 33.1% (A Major Strength), 17.2% (Somewhat Strong)
- Comparison Group: 29.9% (A Major Strength), 14.3% (Somewhat Strong)

Understanding of national issues:
- Your Institution: 25.1% (A Major Strength), 10.8% (Somewhat Strong)
- Comparison Group: 23.2% (A Major Strength), 10.6% (Somewhat Strong)

Understanding of global issues:
- Your Institution: 24.8% (A Major Strength), 10.6% (Somewhat Strong)
- Comparison Group: 21.8% (A Major Strength), 10.4% (Somewhat Strong)
Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Think about your current abilities and tell us how strong or weak you believe you are in each of the following areas:

- Critical thinking skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Ability to manage your time effectively

**Your Institution**
- A Major Strength
- Somewhat Strong

**Comparison Group**
- A Major Strength
- Somewhat Strong

Percentage distribution:

- Critical thinking skills: 41.5% Strong, 18.8% Somewhat Strong, 37.3% Weak
- Problem-solving skills: 41.8% Strong, 20.4% Somewhat Strong, 17.6% Weak
- Ability to manage your time effectively: 35.6% Strong, 17.6% Somewhat Strong, 31.7% Weak
Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Think about your current abilities and tell us how strong or weak you believe you are in each of the following areas:

- Knowledge of people from different races/cultures
- Interpersonal skills

**Your Institution**
- A Major Strength
- Somewhat Strong

**Comparison Group**
- A Major Strength
- Somewhat Strong

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge of people from different races/cultures</th>
<th>Interpersonal skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.2% A Major Strength</td>
<td>13.7% A Major Strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.9% Somewhat Strong</td>
<td>31.8% Somewhat Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.8% Somewhat Strong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations for College: Major and Career

Understanding students’ intended majors and career aspirations helps them plot an intentional and meaningful course of study.
## Expectations: Major

Please indicate your intended major.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Your Inst</th>
<th>Your Group</th>
<th>Comp Inst</th>
<th>Comp Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Life Sciences</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History or Political Science</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fine Arts
Mathematics or Computer Science
Physical Science
Social Science
Justice and Security
Library Science
Other Non-technical
Undecided
Expectations: Major
Do you consider yourself Pre-Med or Pre-Law?

- Pre-Med: 34.0%
- Pre-Law: 14.8%

Comparison Group:
- Pre-Med: 25.7%
- Pre-Law: 8.7%
## Expectations: Career

Please indicate your intended career.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Your Inst</th>
<th>Comp Group</th>
<th></th>
<th>Your Inst</th>
<th>Comp Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture/Natural Resources</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>Health Professional</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>Homemaker/Stay-at-Home Parent</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>Information Technology Professional</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business (Admin Assistant)</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>Military</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Faculty</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>Research Scientist</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor (MD or DDS)</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>Service Industry</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (elementary/secondary)</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>Skilled worker</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>Social/Non-Profit Services</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations: Time to Degree

How many years do you expect it will take you to graduate from this college?

- 40% expect to graduate in 4 years.
- 22% expect to graduate in 5 years.
- 15% expect to graduate in 6 years.
- 3% expect to graduate in 7 years.
- 2% expect to graduate in 8 years.
- 2% expect to graduate in 9 years.
- 5% do not plan to graduate from this college.

The chart compares the expectations of the institution's students with the comparison group.
Expectations: Degree Aspirations

What is the highest academic degree that you intend to attain?

- None
- Vocational certificate
- Associate (A.A. or equivalent)
- Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)
- Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)
- Ph.D. or Ed.D.
- M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M.
- J.D. (Law)
- B.D. or M.DIV. (Divinity)
- Other

Bar chart showing the distribution of degree aspirations between your institution and the comparison group.
Expectations for College Life

Understanding students’ expectations helps provide opportunities for students to grow intellectually, interpersonally and affectively.
Expectations for College Life
What is your best guess as to the chances that you will:

- Participate in volunteer or community service work
  - Your Institution: 29.3%
  - Comparison Group: 48.2%
- Participate in a study abroad program
  - Your Institution: 27.3%
  - Comparison Group: 43.1%
- Discuss course content with students outside of class
  - Your Institution: 50.0%
  - Comparison Group: 44.8%
Expectations for College Life

What is your best guess as to the chances that you will:

- Communicate regularly with your professors: 46.6% Very Good Chance, 36.6% Some Chance
- Take a course exclusively online at this institution: 48.7% Very Good Chance, 33.3% Some Chance
- Work on a professor’s research project: 43.5% Very Good Chance, 37.2% Some Chance
Expectations for College Life

What is your best guess as to the chances that you will:

- Need extra time to complete your degree requirements:
  - Your Institution: 50.1% (Very Good Chance: 12.9%), 36.9% (Some Chance: 3.4%)
  - Comparison Group: 39.5% (Very Good Chance: 10.8%), 19.7% (Some Chance: 9.7%)

- Take a leave of absence from this college temporarily:
  - Your Institution: 12.1% (Very Good Chance: 4.3%), 7.8% (Some Chance: 3.4%)
  - Comparison Group: 11.2% (Very Good Chance: 3.2%), 8.0% (Some Chance: 4.3%)

- Transfer to another college before graduating:
  - Your Institution: 26.6% (Very Good Chance: 11.2%), 15.4% (Some Chance: 12.1%)
  - Comparison Group: 26.6% (Very Good Chance: 11.2%), 15.4% (Some Chance: 12.1%)

Your Institution
- Very Good Chance: No, Some Chance: Yes

Comparison Group
- Very Good Chance: No, Some Chance: Yes
The more you get to know your students, the better you can understand their needs.

For more information about HERI/CIRP Surveys

The Freshman Survey
Your First College Year Survey
Diverse Learning Environments Survey
College Senior Survey
The Faculty Survey

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