Reed College
CIRP Freshman Student Survey
Fall 2009

248 Responses / 68% Response Rate
Executive Summary

Office of Institutional Research
Jon W. Rivenburg, Director
Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) 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

The CIRP Freshman Survey is a product of the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA.

The following results are from the HERI CIRP Reed College Freshman Survey report.
Reed College CIRP Freshman Student Survey
Fall 2009

Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey

- 44th 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
- Diversity
- Self-ratings
- Habits of Mind
- Political and Social Views
- Values
- Degree Aspirations
- Expectations
Demographics

Native English Speakers: 90.7%
First-Generation: 4.1%

- Women: 54.4%
- Men: 45.6%

US Citizen: 92.7%
Permanent Resident: 0.4%
Neither: 6.9%
Demographics
Race / Ethnicity

- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.0%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 8.9%
- Black/African American: 1.2%
- Latino/Puerto Rican/Mexican: 3.2%
- White/Caucasian: 66.8%
- Other: 1.6%
- Two or more race/ethnicity: 18.2%
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Finances
Family Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0-$39,999</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 - $74,999</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 - $99,000</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 - $149,000</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 - $199,999</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000+</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Finances
Source for College Expenses

- Family Resources: 90.4%
- Student Resources: 76.2%
- Aid-not to be Repaid: 58.4%
- Aid-to be Repaid: 59.3%
- Other: 9.2%
Finances
Level of Concern About Ability to Finance College Education

- None: 28.0%
- Some: 56.1%
- Major: 15.9%
High School
Type of High School Attended

- Public: 54.7%
- Public Charter: 2.0%
- Public Magnet: 7.7%
- Private Religious: 3.2%
- Private Independent: 30.8%
- Home School: 1.6%
High School
Average Grade in High School

- A or A+: 36.8%
- A-: 32.8%
- B+: 19.4%
- B: 8.9%
- B-: 2.0%
- C+: 0.0%
- C: 0.0%
- D: 0.0%
High School Tutoring or Remedial Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Have Had</th>
<th>Will Need</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
High School
Racial Composition: High School and Neighborhood

- Completely non-White: 2.0% (High School), 5.3% (Neighborhood)
- Mostly non-White: 10.2% (High School), 8.1% (Neighborhood)
- Roughly half non-White: 22.0% (High School), 12.6% (Neighborhood)
- Mostly White: 61.8% (High School), 59.8% (Neighborhood)
- Completely White: 4.1% (High School), 14.2% (Neighborhood)
High School

Frequency of Activity During the Past Year as High School Senior

- asked teacher for advice after class: 25.9% (occasionally), 57.5% (frequently)
- was a guest in a teacher’s home: 23.9% (occasionally), 5.3% (frequently)
- tutored another student: 20.6% (occasionally), 53.2% (frequently)
- studied with other students: 33.6% (occasionally), 52.2% (frequently)
- performed community service for class: 15.0% (occasionally), 30.8% (frequently)
High School Frequency of Activity During the Past Year as High School Senior

- Came late to class: 51.4% occasionally, 20.2% frequently
- Was bored in class: 49.0% occasionally, 46.2% frequently
- Discussed religion: 38.9% occasionally, 57.5% frequently
- Discussed politics: 25.1% occasionally, 74.1% frequently
- Voted in student election: 50.6% occasionally, 19.8% frequently
- Participated in political demonstration: 44.5% occasionally, 7.3% frequently
High School
Frequency of Activity During the Past Year as High School Senior

- Socialized with another racial/ethnic group: 79.0%
- Performed volunteer work: 35.1%
- Attended a religious service: 10.5%
- Smoked cigarettes: 9.3%
- Drank wine or liquor: 13.0%
- Drank beer: 12.6%

Legend:
- Occasionally
- Frequently
High School

Frequency of Activity During the Past Year as High School Senior

- Played a musical instrument: 40.1% (40.1% occasionally, 0% frequently)
- Felt depressed: 19.0% (19.0% occasionally, 0% frequently)
- Felt overwhelmed: 36.3% (36.3% occasionally, 31.5% frequently)
- Used internet to read news sites: 61.7% (31.5% occasionally, 31.5% frequently)
- Used internet for research or homework: 85.0% (14.6% occasionally, 70.4% frequently)
- Used internet to read blogs: 33.6% (33.6% occasionally, 0% frequently)
High School
Hours spent in a typical week during last year in high school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>&lt; 1 hr</th>
<th>1-5 hrs</th>
<th>6-10 hrs</th>
<th>&gt; 10 hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studying/homework</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socializing with friends</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking with teachers outside of class</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise or sports</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partying</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working (for pay)</td>
<td>63.0%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer work</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student clubs/groups</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watching TV</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household/childcare duties</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading for pleasure</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing video/computer games</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online social networks (MySpace, Facebook, etc.)</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Admissions
Number of Applications Submitted to Other Colleges

- 0 applications: 12.1%
- 1 application: 4.5%
- 2 applications: 4.9%
- 3 applications: 5.3%
- 4 applications: 10.1%
- 5 applications: 10.9%
- 6 applications: 10.1%
- 7-10 applications: 29.1%
- 11+ applications: 13.0%
College Choice

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

- Parents wanted me to come here: 28.7%
- Relatives wanted me to come here: 10.1%
- Teacher advised me: 3.3%
- High school counselor advised me: 23.5%
- Private college counselor advised me: 6.6%

- Somewhat important
- Very important
College Choice

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

- **very good academic reputation**: 86.7%
- **graduates go to good grad schools**: 49.4%
- **graduates get good jobs**: 32.8%
- **rankings in national magazines**: 6.6%
- **information from website**: 26.2%
- **reputation for social activities**: 36.4%

Categories:
- somewhat important
- very important
College Choice
How important was each reason in your decision to come here?

- Cost to attend: 24.4% (8.9% somewhat important, 28.9% very important)
- Offered financial assistance: 17.5%
- Not offered aid by first choice: 3.3% (0.8% somewhat important, 0.8% very important)
- Couldn’t afford first choice: 2.9%
- Athletic department recruited me: 0.4% (0.4% somewhat important, 0.4% very important)
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College Choice

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

- **wanted to live near home**: 7.7% important, 2.0% very important
- **a visit to campus**: 56.3% important, 21.1% very important
- **religious affiliation/orientation**: 8.6% important, 7.4% very important
- **size of school**: 49.0% important, 38.5% very important
- **admitted through early action/decision**: 26.7% important, 4.5% very important
- **ability to take online courses**: 0.4% important, 0.0% very important

somewhat important vs. very important
How many miles is this college from your permanent home?

- 5 or fewer: 1.6%
- 6 to 10: 1.2%
- 11 to 50: 3.6%
- 51 to 100: 0.8%
- 101 to 500: 14.9%
- 500+: 77.8%
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Where do you plan to live during the fall term?

- With family/relatives: 0.0%
- Other home/apt/room: 0.4%
- College residence hall: 98.8%
- Fraternity/sorority: 0.0%
- Other campus housing: 0.8%
- Other: 0.0%
## Diversity

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Highest 10%</th>
<th>Above Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>Lowest 10%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ability to see the world from someone else’s perspective</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tolerance of others with different beliefs</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Openness to having my views challenged</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to discuss/negotiate controversial issues</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Self-ratings

Compared to the average person your age, rate yourself on your self-understanding, academic ability, intellectual self-confidence, writing ability, math ability, computer skills.

- **Self-understanding**: 39.9% above average, 32.7% highest 10%
- **Academic ability**: 36.7% above average, 61.3% highest 10%
- **Intellectual self-confidence**: 41.1% above average, 42.3% highest 10%
- **Writing ability**: 42.3% above average, 42.7% highest 10%
- **Math ability**: 37.5% above average, 25.4% highest 10%
- **Computer skills**: 35.5% above average, 11.7% highest 10%
Self-ratings
Compared to the average person your age, rate yourself on your…

- Leadership ability: 41.1% above average, 21.0% highest 10%
- Drive to achieve: 39.9% above average, 41.5% highest 10%
- Social self-confidence: 34.3% above average, 12.5% highest 10%
- Public speaking ability: 38.7% above average, 25.4% highest 10%
- Popularity: 26.4% above average, 4.5% highest 10%
- Understanding of others: 46.4% above average, 26.6% highest 10%
Self-ratings
Compared to the average person your age, rate yourself on your...

- Cooperativeness: 20.6% above average, 40.7% highest 10%
- Emotional Health: 19.4% above average, 31.9% highest 10%
- Physical Health: 11.3% above average, 36.3% highest 10%
- Spirituality: 8.9% above average, 21.5% highest 10%
- Artistic Ability: 15.3% above average, 33.9% highest 10%
- Creativity: 30.8% above average, 47.0% highest 10%
Habits of Mind
In the past year, how frequently did you?

- Seek feedback on academic work: 64.4%
- Revise papers to improve writing: 61.7%
- Seek solutions and explain them to others: 81.5%
- Work with other students on class assignments: 49.0%
- Support opinion with logical argument: 91.1%
- Ask questions in class: 68.0%
Habits of Mind

In the past year, how frequently did you?

- Explore topics not required for class: 75.0%
- Look up scientific research articles: 40.9%
- Seek alternative solutions to a problem: 65.3%
- Take a risk for more gain: 56.0%
- Evaluate quality/reliability of information: 75.3%
Political and Social Views

How would you characterize your political views?

- Liberal: 54.7%
- Middle of the Road: 15.2%
- Far Left: 28.0%
- Conservative: 1.6%
- Far Right: 0.4%
Political and Social Views
Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions

- Disagree Strongly: 13.0%
- Disagree Somewhat: 38.1%
- Agree Somewhat: 40.9%
- Agree Strongly: 8.1%
Political and Social Views

Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus

- Disagree Strongly: 31.5%
- Disagree Somewhat: 39.5%
- Agree Somewhat: 23.8%
- Agree Strongly: 5.2%
Political and Social Views

Dissent is a critical component of the political process

- Disagree Strongly: 0.8%
- Disagree Somewhat: 3.7%
- Agree Somewhat: 21.3%
- Agree Strongly: 74.2%
Values

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

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

- Becoming a community leader
- Becoming successful in my own business
- Obtaining recognition from colleagues in my field
- Becoming an authority in my field

- very important
- essential
Values

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Essential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participating in a community action program</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopting “green” practices to protect the environment</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming involved in programs to clean the environment</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping to promote racial understanding</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving my understanding of other countries/cultures</td>
<td></td>
<td>42.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The percentages represent the distribution of responses to indicate the importance of each activity.
Values

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

- Influencing social values: 17.4% very important, 36.8% essential
- Developing a meaningful philosophy of life: 27.2% very important, 52.4% essential
- Helping others who are in difficulty: 30.2% very important, 32.7% essential
- Raising a family: 19.5% very important, 23.2% essential
- Being very well off financially: 9.8% very important, 22.4% essential
Degree Aspirations

- Bachelor's: 92.9% (From This College: 3.0%)  
- Master's: 28.6% (From Any College: 4.2%)  
- Phd or EdD: 53.4% (From Any College: 0.4%)  
- MD, DO, DDS, or DVM: 7.7% (From Any College: 0.0%)  
- JD: 6.4% (From Any College: 0.0%)
Expectations

“Very Good Chance” Student Will...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expectation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change career choice</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change major</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make at least a &quot;B&quot; average</td>
<td>72.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to another college before graduating</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need extra time to complete degree requirements</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations

“Very Good Chance” Student Will...

- Work on a professor's research project: 32.5%
- Communicate regularly with professors: 82.3%
- Discuss course content with students outside of class: 94.3%
- Socialize with someone from another racial group: 94.0%
- Have roommate of different race/ethnicity: 40.8%
- Participate in student protests or demonstrations: 36.2%
Expectations
“Very Good Chance” Student Will...

- Join fraternity/sorority: 0.0%
- Participate in student clubs/groups: 75.8%
- Participate in community service: 51.0%
- Participate in student government: 10.2%
- Play club, intramural, or recreational sports: 36.7%
- Play intercollegiate athletics: 1.6%
Expectations
“Very Good Chance” Student Will...

- Be satisfied with your college: 85.8%
- Seek personal counseling: 11.8%
- Participate in study abroad: 48.4%
- Get a job to pay expenses: 64.5%
- Work full time while attending college: 4.5%
For more information:

http://www.reed.edu/ir
http://www.heri.ucla.edu