Montclair State University
CIRP Freshman Survey
2016 Results

First-time, Full-time Freshmen

Montclair State University
N=2,710

Public 4yr Colleges-medium selectivity
N=9,913

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
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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**
- Male: 62.6%
- Female: 37.4%

**Comparison Group**
- Male: 55.6%
- Female: 44.4%
Demographics

Race/Ethnicity

- African American/Black: 12.5%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 8.5%
- Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 6.7%
- Latino: 20.9%
- White/Caucasian: 45.9%
- Other Race/Ethnicity: 2.5%
- Two or More Races/Ethnicities: 11.4%

Your Institution
Comparison Group
Demographics

How many miles is this college from your permanent home?

- 5 or less: Your Institution = 11.6%, Comparison Group = 12.1%
- 6-10: Your Institution = 20.3%, Comparison Group = 17.3%
- 11-50: Your Institution = 47.8%, Comparison Group = 35.3%
- 51-100: Your Institution = 14.0%, Comparison Group = 11.6%
- 101-500: Your Institution = 4.8%, Comparison Group = 17.9%
- Over 500: Your Institution = 1.5%, Comparison Group = 5.8%
College Admissions Decisions

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?

- **None**: 9.1% (Your Institution), 10.0% (Comparison Group)
- **1**: 8.3% (Your Institution), 8.2% (Comparison Group)
- **2**: 12.2% (Your Institution), 11.4% (Comparison Group)
- **3**: 17.4% (Your Institution), 16.9% (Comparison Group)
- **4**: 14.3% (Your Institution), 13.2% (Comparison Group)
- **5**: 12.0% (Your Institution), 10.4% (Comparison Group)
- **6**: 10.1% (Your Institution), 8.4% (Comparison Group)
- **7-8**: 8.8% (Your Institution), 12.0% (Comparison Group)
- **9-10**: 4.6% (Your Institution), 5.6% (Comparison Group)
- **11 or more**: 3.2% (Your Institution), 3.7% (Comparison Group)
### College Acceptance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Level</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Choice</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Choice</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Choice</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than Third</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Were you accepted by your first choice college?**

- Yes: 83.2%
- No: 16.8%
College Choice

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

- 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

<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>12.5%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas</td>
<td>79.8%</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To make me a more cultured person</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be able to make more money</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your Institution
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
Comparison Group
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
College Choice

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

- **To learn more about things that interest me**: 84.4% Very Important, 15.4% Somewhat Important
- **To get training for a specific career**: 83.3% Very Important, 16.3% Somewhat Important
- **To prepare myself for graduate or professional school**: 65.8% Very Important, 23.5% Somewhat Important

**Your Institution**
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important

**Comparison Group**
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
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>This college has a very good academic reputation</td>
<td>36.8% 37.4%</td>
<td>58.8% 56.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college’s graduates make a difference in the world</td>
<td>42.1% 41.6%</td>
<td>33.2% 31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college’s graduates get good jobs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend:**
- **Very Important**
- **Somewhat Important**

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College Choice

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was offered financial assistance</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cost of attending this college</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not offered aid by first choice</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could not afford first choice</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Your Institution*  
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important

*Comparison Group*  
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important

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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/relatives wanted me to come here</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to live near home</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rankings in national magazines</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A visit to this campus</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important

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Financing College

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

Students’ first-year funding sources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family resources</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
<td>63.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal resources</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid not to be repaid</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid to be repaid</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financing College
Did you receive any of the following forms of financial aid?

- Military grants: 1.4% (Your Institution), 1.5% (Comparison Group)
- Work-study: 19.0% (Your Institution), 13.4% (Comparison Group)
- Pell grant: 29.4% (Your Institution), 34.6% (Comparison Group)
- Need-based grants or scholarships: 32.9% (Your Institution), 30.9% (Comparison Group)
- Merit-based grants or scholarships: 33.1% (Your Institution), 32.3% (Comparison Group)
Financing College

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>None</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Major</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>60.2%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your Institution | Comparison Group
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.
Habits of Mind

*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 a 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
- Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class
- Accept mistakes as part of the learning process
- Look up scientific research articles and resources
- Analyze multiple sources of information before coming to a conclusion
- Take on a challenge that scares you
Pluralistic Orientation

*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

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All FTFT</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>49.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>49.8</td>
<td>49.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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
- 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 I had to do
  - Your Institution: 37.3%
  - Comparison Group: 43.2%

- Felt depressed
  - Your Institution: 10.1%
  - Comparison Group: 12.9%

- Felt depressed
  - Your Institution: 38.0%
  - Comparison Group: 40.5%
College Preparation

These items illustrate students’ academic preparation.
Summer Bridge Program

How many weeks this summer did you participate in a bridge program at this institution?

- **Your Institution:**
  - Zero: 98.1%
  - 1 to 2: 0.4%
  - 3 to 4: 0.3%
  - 5 to 6: 1.1%
  - 7 or more: 0%

- **Comparison Group:**
  - Zero: 94.8%
  - 1 to 2: 1.7%
  - 3 to 4: 1.7%
  - 5 to 6: 1.7%
  - 7 or more: 0.1%
Science/Research Self-Efficacy

How confident are you that you can do the following?

- Understand scientific concepts
- Use technical science skills (use of tools, instruments, and/or techniques)
- Explain the results of a study

**Your Institution**
- Absolutely Confident
- Very Confident

**Comparison Group**
- Absolutely Confident
- Very Confident

- Understand scientific concepts: 12.2% Absolutely Confident, 24.9% Very Confident, 15.5% Very Confident
- Use technical science skills (use of tools, instruments, and/or techniques): 18.7% Absolutely Confident, 24.4% Very Confident, 20.5% Very Confident
- Explain the results of a study: 14.3% Absolutely Confident, 31.0% Very Confident, 16.7% Very Confident
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>Comp Group</th>
<th>Your Inst</th>
<th>Comp Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Life Sciences</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History or Political Science</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics or Computer Science</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and Security</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Science</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non-technical</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations: Major
Do you consider yourself Pre-Med or Pre-Law?

- Pre-Med: 13.9% (Your Institution) vs. 17.1% (Comparison Group)
- Pre-Law: 6.3% (Your Institution) vs. 5.5% (Comparison Group)
### Expectations: Career

Please indicate your intended career.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Your Inst</th>
<th>Comp Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture/Natural Resources</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business (Admin Assistant)</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Faculty</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor (MD or DDS)</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (elementary/secondary)</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Your Inst</th>
<th>Comp Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Professional</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homemaker/Stay-at-Home Parent</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology Professional</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Scientist</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Industry</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled worker</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/Non-Profit Services</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations: Time-to-Degree

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

- **Your Institution**
  - 1 year: 0.0%
  - 2 years: 0.2%
  - 3 years: 1.2%
  - 4 years: 86.9%
  - 5 years: 8.9%
  - 6+ years: 1.7%

- **Comparison Group**
  - 1 year: 0.0%
  - 2 years: 1.2%
  - 3 years: 3.0%
  - 4 years: 85.7%
  - 5 years: 6.6%
  - 6+ years: 1.8%

Do not plan to graduate from this college:
- **Your Institution**: 1.0%
- **Comparison Group**: 1.7%

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Expectations: Degree Aspirations
What is the highest academic degree that you intend to attain?

- None: 1.4%, 0.6%
- Vocational certificate: 0.4%, 0.2%
- Associate (A.A. or equivalent): 0.5%, 0.5%
- Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., B.D., etc.): 30.2%, 29.2%
- Master's degree (M.A., M.S., M.B.A., etc.): 42.9%, 43.5%
- J.D. (Law): 2.1%, 2.4%
- M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M., etc. (Medical): 5.8%, 7.1%
- Ph.D.: 9.7%, 10.0%
- Professional Doctorate (Ed.D., Psy.D., etc.): 5.6%, 5.5%
- Other: 1.3%, 0.9%

Your Institution
Comparison Group

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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
- Participate in a study abroad program
- Get tutoring help in specific courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participate in volunteer or community service work</td>
<td>40.8% 32.2%</td>
<td>24.0% 40.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in a study abroad program</td>
<td>27.5% 24.2%</td>
<td>27.8% 33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get tutoring help in specific courses</td>
<td>35.6% 43.9%</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Very Good Chance
- Some Chance
Expectations for College Life

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

- Communicate regularly with your professors: 36.4% Very Good Chance, 47.6% Some Chance
- Take a course exclusively online: 8.4% Very Good Chance, 26.7% Some Chance
- Work on a professor’s research project: 21.7% Very Good Chance, 39.6% Some Chance

Your Institution
- Very Good Chance
- Some Chance

Comparison Group
- Very Good Chance
- Some Chance

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Expectations for College Life

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

- Take a leave of absence from this college temporarily
  - Your Institution: 15.7% (Very Good Chance), 6.2% (Some Chance)
  - Comparison Group: 9.1% (Very Good Chance), 3.2% (Some Chance)

- Transfer to another college before graduating
  - Your Institution: 22.1% (Very Good Chance), 7.8% (Some Chance)
  - Comparison Group: 21.8% (Very Good Chance), 7.0% (Some Chance)
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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