California State University-Chico
CIRP Freshman Survey
2015 Results

First-time, Full-time Freshmen

California State University-Chico
N=341

Public 4yr Colleges-high selectivity
N=3,546

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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- Academic Self-Concept
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**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

- Male: 27.3%
- Female: 72.7%

Comparison Group

- Male: 54.3%
- Female: 45.7%
Demographics

Race/Ethnicity

- African American/ Black: 4.4%
- American Indian/ Alaska Native: 0.0%
- Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander: 7.0%
- Latino: 32.8%
- White/ Caucasian: 67.2%
- Other Race/ Ethnicity: 1.2%
- Two or More Races/ Ethnicities: 12.0%

Comparison Group:
- African American/ Black: 6.1%
- American Indian/ Alaska Native: 0.1%
- Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander: 5.8%
- Latino: 3.4%
- White/ Caucasian: 42.5%
- Other Race/ Ethnicity: 0.6%
- Two or More Races/ Ethnicities: 16.8%
Demographics

How many miles is this college from your permanent home?

- 5 or less: 11.7% (Your Institution), 1.7% (Comparison Group)
- 6-10: 4.1% (Your Institution), 2.3% (Comparison Group)
- 11-50: 8.5% (Your Institution), 7.0% (Comparison Group)
- 51-100: 10.9% (Your Institution), 8.5% (Comparison Group)
- 101-500: 42.5% (Your Institution), 27.6% (Comparison Group)
- Over 500: 22.3% (Your Institution), 52.9% (Comparison Group)
Demographics

From what kind of high school did you graduate?

- Public school (not charter or magnet): 85.9%
- Public charter school: 6.7%
- Public magnet school: 2.3%
- Private religious/parochial school: 2.3%
- Private independent college-prep school: 10.8%
- Home school: 0.0%

Your Institution: Dark blue
Comparison Group: Orange
Many factors impact incoming students’ college choice, including the benefits they see in attending college and considerations about which specific college to attend.
College Admissions Decisions

To how many colleges *other than this one* did you apply for admission this year?
Were you accepted by your first choice college?

- Yes: 61.3%
- No: 38.7%

Is this college your...

- First Choice: 82.4%
- Second Choice: 32.3%
- Third Choice: 13.0%
- Less than Third Choice: 16.1%

Comparison Group:

- Your Institution
- Comparison Group
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>90.8%</td>
<td>84.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas</td>
<td>81.7%</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To make me a more cultured person</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be able to make more money</td>
<td>83.7%</td>
<td>54.7%</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: 89.9% (Very Important), 20.7% (Somewhat Important)
- To get training for a specific career: 87.0% (Very Important), 11.8% (Somewhat Important)
- To prepare myself for graduate or professional school: 64.5% (Very Important), 34.0% (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>50.6%</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college has a good reputation for its social activities</td>
<td>48.1%</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college’s graduates get good jobs</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The percentage of students that graduate from this college</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Very Important* *Somewhat Important*
College Choice

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

**I was offered financial assistance**
- Your Institution: 26.6% Very Important, 44.2% Somewhat Important
- Comparison Group: 26.6% Very Important, 43.6% Somewhat Important

**The cost of attending this college**
- Your Institution: 34.3% Very Important, 54.5% Somewhat Important
- Comparison Group: —

**Not offered aid by first choice**
- Your Institution: 29.3% Very Important, 54.2% Somewhat Important
- Comparison Group: 18.8% Very Important, 8.4% Somewhat Important

**Could not afford first choice**
- Your Institution: —
- Comparison Group: 19.6% Very Important, 6.2% Somewhat Important
College Choice

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

- **My parents/relatives wanted me to come:**
  - Very Important: 22.9%
  - Somewhat Important: 42.5%

- **I wanted to live near home:**
  - Very Important: 22.4%
  - Somewhat Important: 42.2%

- **Rankings in national magazines:**
  - Very Important: 14.5%
  - Somewhat Important: 31.5%

- **A visit to the campus:**
  - Very Important: 51.9%
  - Somewhat Important: 45.2%

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

**Comparison Group**
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
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: 69.7% (Your Institution), 36.2% (Comparison Group)
- Personal resources: 56.0% (Your Institution), 26.8% (Comparison Group)
- Aid not to be repaid: 70.4% (Your Institution), 76.2% (Comparison Group)
- Aid to be repaid: 53.9% (Your Institution), 17.6% (Comparison Group)
- Other sources: 9.7% (Your Institution), 4.0% (Comparison Group)
Financing College

Did you receive any of the following forms of financial aid?
Financing College

Do you have any concern about your ability to finance your college education?
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
- Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry
- Probability & Statistics
- Calculus
- AP Probability & Statistics
- AP Calculus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algebra II</td>
<td>99.7%</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
<td>94.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability &amp; Statistics</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculus</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP Probability &amp; Statistics</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP Calculus</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>57.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Have you *had* any special tutoring or remedial work in any of the following subjects?
High School Experiences

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

- **English**: 18.5% (Your Institution), 10.2% (Comparison Group)
- **Reading**: 15.8% (Your Institution), 5.3% (Comparison Group)
- **Mathematics**: 38.7% (Your Institution), 28.4% (Comparison Group)
- **Social Studies**: 16.1% (Your Institution), 5.5% (Comparison Group)
- **Science**: 26.4% (Your Institution), 17.6% (Comparison Group)
- **Foreign Language**: 13.2% (Your Institution), 16.8% (Comparison Group)
- **Writing**: 24.6% (Your Institution), 13.4% (Comparison Group)
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 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

![Bar chart showing habits of mind by gender and institution comparison.](chart.png)
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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All FTFT</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>49.4</td>
<td>49.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>50.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your Institution  Comparison Group
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: 47.6% (Frequently), 42.6% (Occasionally)
  - Comparison Group: 61.0% (Frequently), 25.7% (Occasionally)

- Felt depressed:
  - Your Institution: 15.7% (Frequently), 43.6% (Occasionally)
  - Comparison Group: 6.6% (Frequently), 27.4% (Occasionally)
College Preparation

These items illustrate students’ academic preparation at this institution.
Placement Tests

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

- **English:** 49.1% (Your Institution), 18.0% (Comparison Group)
- **Reading:** 37.5% (Your Institution), 15.0% (Comparison Group)
- **Mathematics:** 54.4% (Your Institution), 30.7% (Comparison Group)
- **Writing:** 37.5% (Your Institution), 16.3% (Comparison Group)
Summer Bridge Program

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zero</td>
<td>82.4%</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 to 4</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 6</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 or more</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: Your Institution | Comparison Group
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></th>
<th>Your Inst</th>
<th>Comp Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Life Sciences</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History or Political Science</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Your Inst</th>
<th>Comp Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics or Computer Science</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and Security</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Science</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non-technical</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations: Major

Do you consider yourself Pre-Med or Pre-Law?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Med</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Law</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Expectations: Career

Please indicate your intended career.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>Your Inst</th>
<th>Comp Group</th>
<th>Your Inst</th>
<th>Comp Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture/Natural Resources</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business (Admin Assistant)</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Faculty</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor (MD or DDS)</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (elementary/secondary)</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professional</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homemaker/Stay-at-Home Parent</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Technology Professional</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Scientist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Industry</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled worker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/Non-Profit Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations: Time to Degree

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

- 72.6% expect it to take 4 years
- 95.3% expect it to take 5 years
- 22.0% expect it to take 6+ years

Your Institution: 72.6%
Comparison Group: 1.6%

Do not plan to graduate from this college: 0.1%
Expectations: Degree Aspirations

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

- None: 0.9%
- Vocational certificate: 0.5%
- Associate (A.A. or equivalent): 0.0%
- Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.): 25.4%
- Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.): 44.0%
- Ph.D. or Ed.D.: 46.9%
- J.D. (Law): 7.7%
- B.D. or M.DIV. (Divinity): 0.0%
- Other: 0.4%

Comparison Group:
- Vocational certificate: 0.0%
- Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.): 18.6%
- Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.): 46.9%
- Ph.D. or Ed.D.: 18.3%
- J.D. (Law): 7.7%
- B.D. or M.DIV. (Divinity): 0.0%
- Other: 1.2%

Your Institution: Blue bars
Comparison Group: Orange bars
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: Very Good Chance 42.2%, Some Chance 39.3%
  - Comparison Group: Very Good Chance 43.1%, Some Chance 36.2%

- Participate in a study abroad program
  - Your Institution: Very Good Chance 37.2%, Some Chance 34.9%
  - Comparison Group: Very Good Chance 38.9%, Some Chance 27.5%

- Discuss course content with students outside of class
  - Your Institution: Very Good Chance 65.8%, Some Chance 30.9%
  - Comparison Group: Very Good Chance 66.7%, Some Chance 27.2%
Expectations for College Life

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

- Communicate regularly with your professors: 49.5% Very Good Chance, 37.8% Some Chance
- Take a course exclusively online at this institution: 30.4% Very Good Chance, 17.1% Some Chance
- Work on a professor’s research project: 38.9% Very Good Chance, 3.3% Some Chance

Your Institution
- Very Good Chance
- Some Chance

Comparison Group
- Very Good Chance
- Some Chance
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
  - Very Good Chance: 6.6%
  - Some Chance: 12.6%
  - Very Good Chance: 1.7%
  - Some Chance: 4.7%

- Transfer to another college before graduating
  - Very Good Chance: 9.9%
  - Some Chance: 25.7%
  - Very Good Chance: 2.5%
  - Some Chance: 8.0%
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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