Colorado State University-Fort Collins
CIRP Freshman Survey
2018 Results

First-time, Full-time Freshmen

Colorado State University-Fort Collins
N=865

Public Universities-medium selectivity
N=18,469

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**

**Gender Identity**

**Your Institution**

- Man: 35.8%
- Woman: 63.6%
- Trans Man: 0.5%
- Trans Woman: 0.1%
- Genderqueer*: 0.0%
- Different Identity: 0.0%

**Comparison Group**

- Man: 46.6%
- Woman: 52.9%
- Trans Man: 0.4%
- Trans Woman: 0.1%
- Genderqueer*: 0.0%
- Different Identity: 0.0%

*Genderqueer/Gender Non-conforming*
Demographics

Race/Ethnicity

- **African American/Black**: Your Institution 1.3%, Comparison Group 8.1%
- **American Indian/Alaska Native**: Your Institution 0.0%, Comparison Group 0.3%
- **Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander**: Your Institution 4.1%, Comparison Group 10.4%
- **Latino**: Your Institution 5.3%, Comparison Group 11.8%
- **White/Caucasian**: Your Institution 74.5%, Comparison Group 52.8%
- **Other Race/Ethnicity**: Your Institution 0.1%, Comparison Group 0.8%
- **Two or More Races/Ethnicities**: Your Institution 14.7%, Comparison Group 15.8%

2018 The Freshman Survey
Demographics

How many miles is this college from your permanent home?

- 5 or less: Your Institution 5.6% / Comparison Group 6.3%
- 6-10: Your Institution 3.4% / Comparison Group 9.8%
- 11-50: Your Institution 11.6% / Comparison Group 31.3%
- 51-100: Your Institution 28.4% / Comparison Group 12.0%
- 101-500: Your Institution 13.3% / Comparison Group 26.4%
- Over 500: Your Institution 37.8% / Comparison Group 14.2%

2018 The Freshman Survey
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?

- None: 12.2% (Your Institution), 12.4% (Comparison Group)
- 1: 13.9% (Your Institution), 10.8% (Comparison Group)
- 2: 15.4% (Your Institution), 14.7% (Comparison Group)
- 3: 16.1% (Your Institution), 16.7% (Comparison Group)
- 4: 10.5% (Your Institution), 11.9% (Comparison Group)
- 5: 9.4% (Your Institution), 9.0% (Comparison Group)
- 6: 6.8% (Your Institution), 6.3% (Comparison Group)
- 7 - 8: 7.8% (Your Institution), 9.4% (Comparison Group)
- 9 - 10: 3.8% (Your Institution), 4.5% (Comparison Group)
- 11 or more: 4.2% (Your Institution), 4.3% (Comparison Group)
College Acceptance

Were you accepted by your first choice college?

- Yes: 85.3%
- No: 14.7%

Is this college your...

- First Choice: 68.1%
- Second Choice: 21.1%
- Third Choice: 7.2%
- Less than Third Choice: 3.6%

Your Institution

Comparison Group
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: Your Institution: 86.5% (Very Important), Comparison Group: 86.2% (Very Important)
- To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas: Your Institution: 77.4% (Very Important), Comparison Group: 75.7% (Very Important)
- To make me a more cultured person: Your Institution: 55.7% (Very Important), Comparison Group: 52.8% (Somewhat Important)
- To be able to make more money: Your Institution: 70.8% (Very Important), Comparison Group: 77.1% (Very Important)

2018 The Freshman Survey
In deciding to go to college, how important to you was each of the following reasons?

- To learn more about things that interest me: 87.5% Very Important, 11.2% Somewhat Important
- To get training for a specific career: 84.8% Very Important, 14.1% Somewhat Important
- To prepare myself for graduate or professional school: 55.5% Very Important, 26.9% Somewhat Important

Comparison Group:
- To learn more about things that interest me: 80.8% Very Important, 17.3% Somewhat Important
- To get training for a specific career: 79.7% Very Important, 18.6% Somewhat Important
- To prepare myself for graduate or professional school: 62.9% Very Important, 24.3% Somewhat Important
College Choice

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

- **This college has a very good academic reputation**: 58.4% (Your Institution) 58.3% (Comparison Group)
- **This college’s graduates make a difference in the world**: 42.6% (Your Institution) 42.7% (Comparison Group)
- **This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools**: 28.2% (Your Institution) 28.2% (Comparison Group)
- **This college’s graduates get good jobs**: 49.8% (Your Institution) 50.1% (Comparison Group)

Your Institution
- Very Important: Red
- Somewhat Important: Blue

Comparison Group
- Very Important: Black
- Somewhat Important: Purple

2018 The Freshman Survey
College Choice

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

Your Institution
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important

Comparison Group
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important

I was offered financial assistance:
- Very Important: 35.4%
- Somewhat Important: 32.1%

The cost of attending this college:
- Very Important: 46.2%
- Somewhat Important: 28.9%

Not offered aid by first choice:
- Very Important: 51.9%
- Somewhat Important: 34.5%

Could not afford first choice:
- Very Important: 14.5%
- Somewhat Important: 16.6%
College Choice

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

- **My parents/relatives wanted me to come**: 38.9% Very Important, 28.1% Somewhat Important
- **I wanted to live near home**: 39.8% Very Important, 31.8% Somewhat Important
- **Rankings in national magazines**: 58.3% Very Important, 37.6% Somewhat Important
- **A visit to this campus**: 42.3% Very Important, 34.1% Somewhat Important

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2018 The Freshman Survey
Economic factors play an important role in students’ decisions about college.
Financing College

Students’ first year funding sources:

- Family resources: 77.2% (Your Institution), 67.2% (Comparison Group)
- Personal resources: 59.2% (Your Institution), 58.9% (Comparison Group)
- Aid not to be repaid: 68.7% (Your Institution), 69.7% (Comparison Group)
- Aid to be repaid: 42.5% (Your Institution), 40.1% (Comparison Group)
Financing College

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

- Military grants: 2.8% (Your Institution), 2.2% (Comparison Group)
- Work-study: 13.5%, 13.8%
- Pell grant: 15.4%
- Need-based grants or scholarships: 31.8%
- Merit-based grants or scholarships: 60.2%, 54.7%
Financing College

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Major</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your Institution</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparison Group</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>56.1%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

- Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry: 80.3% (Your Institution), 77.5% (Comparison Group)
- Probability and Statistics: 25.7% (Your Institution), 27.4% (Comparison Group)
- Calculus: 29.3% (Your Institution), 25.7% (Comparison Group)
- AP Probability and Statistics: 20.5% (Your Institution), 20.1% (Comparison Group)
- AP Calculus: 30.2% (Your Institution), 28.3% (Comparison Group)
- AP Computer Science A: 3.9% (Your Institution), 3.7% (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 opinions 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
- Take on a challenge that scares you
- Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class
- Analyze multiple sources of information before coming to a conclusion
- Look up scientific research articles and resources
- Accept mistakes as part of the learning process
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
- Critical thinking skills
- Ability to manage your time effectively
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: 46.6%
  - Comparison Group: 40.5%
- **Felt depressed**
  - Your Institution: 21.2%
  - Comparison Group: 16.0%
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: 91.1%
  - 1 to 2: 8.2%
  - 3 to 4: 2.2%
  - 5 to 6: 0.2%
  - 7 or more: 0.0%

- **Comparison Group**
  - Zero: 95.3%
  - 1 to 2: 2.2%
  - 3 to 4: 0.5%
  - 5 to 6: 1.1%
  - 7 or more: 0.5%
AP Coursework

Please mark which of the following courses you have completed.

- AP Biology: 23.0%
- AP Chemistry: 14.7%
- AP Physics: 18.3%
- AP Environmental Science: 13.9%

Comparison Group:
- AP Biology: 21.6%
- AP Chemistry: 13.5%
- AP Physics: 15.5%
- AP Environmental Science: 15.7%
Science/Research Self-Efficacy

How confident are you that you can do the following?

Understanding scientific concepts: 41.5% Very Confident, 25.7% Absolutely Confident

Using technical science skills (use of tools, instruments, and/or techniques): 32.2% Very Confident, 24.7% Absolutely Confident

Explaining the results of a study: 42.7% Very Confident, 24.0% Absolutely Confident
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 Inst</th>
<th>Your Group</th>
<th>Comp Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History or Political Science</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics or Computer Science</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and Security</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non-technical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations: Major

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

- Pre-Med: 20.0% (Your Institution), 22.9% (Comparison Group)
- Pre-Law: 3.5% (Your Institution), 7.5% (Comparison Group)
## 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>3.8%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business (Admin Assistant)</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Faculty</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor (MD or DDS)</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (elementary/secondary)</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>8.8%</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
- Comparison Group
Expectations: Degree Aspirations

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

- None: 0.6% (Your Institution), 0.6% (Comparison Group)
- Vocational certificate: 0.4% (Your Institution), 0.1% (Comparison Group)
- Associate (A.A. or equivalent): 1.0% (Your Institution), 0.9% (Comparison Group)
- Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., B.D., etc.): 30.5% (Your Institution), 25.9% (Comparison Group)
- Master's degree (M.A., M.S., M.B.A., etc.): 32.9% (Your Institution), 38.4% (Comparison Group)
- J.D. (Law): 2.8% (Your Institution), 4.4% (Comparison Group)
- M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M., etc. (Medical): 15.4% (Your Institution), 11.7% (Comparison Group)
- Ph.D.: 11.7% (Your Institution), 10.9% (Comparison Group)
- Professional Doctorate (Ed.D., Psy.D., etc.): 3.9% (Your Institution), 6.3% (Comparison Group)
- Other: 0.8% (Your Institution), 0.8% (Comparison Group)

2018 The Freshman Survey
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: 40.3%
  - Comparison Group: 42.6%

- Participate in a study abroad program
  - Your Institution: 36.5%
  - Comparison Group: 28.9%
Expectations for College Life

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

- Get tutoring help in specific courses
  - Your Institution: 42.5% Very Good Chance, 36.2% Some Chance
  - Comparison Group: 43.3% Very Good Chance, 45.6% Some Chance

- Take a course exclusively online
  - Your Institution: 18.5% Very Good Chance, 32.8% Some Chance
  - Comparison Group: 11.2% Very Good Chance, 30.0% Some Chance

- Work on a professor’s research project
  - Your Institution: 28.2% Very Good Chance, 21.1% Some Chance
  - Comparison Group: 43.7% Very Good Chance, 43.1% Some Chance

2018 The Freshman Survey
Expectations for College Life

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take a leave of absence from this college temporarily</td>
<td>2.5% 8.0%</td>
<td>2.8% 8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to another college before graduating</td>
<td>3.1% 14.4%</td>
<td>5.7% 18.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018 The Freshman Survey
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
Staff Climate Survey
The Faculty Survey

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