

Highlights

from CIRP Survey of the 2004 Class

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Student Affairs Assessment Report

September 2005

This report highlights information provided by the autumn 2004 Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Survey of Entering Freshmen. Ohio State has participated in the survey since 1972, with participation funded by the Office of Enrollment Management. In Autumn 2004, 3,536 of the 5,980 entering freshmen (59.1%) completed the survey. Information in this newsletter refers to 2004 unless otherwise noted.

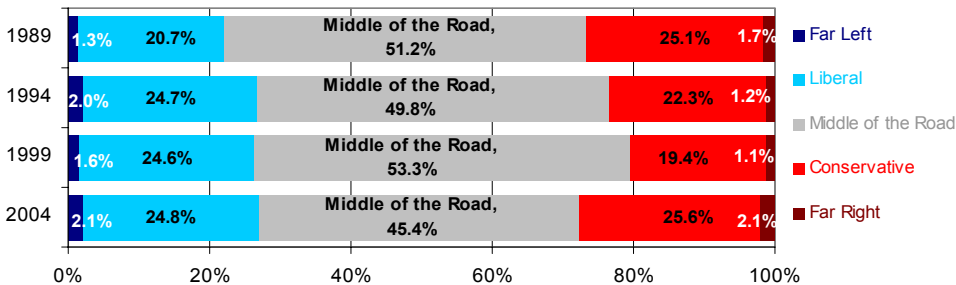
Selections in this newsletter primarily include topics of particular interest to student affairs professionals. The entire instrument can be viewed at

http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/sa_assessment.asp

The Incoming Freshmen Autumn 2004

Political Opinions

Results reflect that, similar to a national trend, entering students at OSU are becoming more polarized in their political views. In 1999, 53.3% identified their views as ‘middle of the road’ compared to only 45.4% in 2004.



The following questions were asked in a manner that forced students to choose a position by offering only four response options. Response options included disagree strongly, disagree somewhat, agree somewhat or agree strongly.

Less than half of incoming students agree(% agreeing)

- ⇒ Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America (25.3%).
- ⇒ The death penalty should be abolished (29.7%).
- ⇒ Marijuana should be legalized (33.8%).
- ⇒ The federal military spending should be increased (37.4%).
- ⇒ If two people really like each other, it’s all right to have sex even if they’ve known each other for only a very short time (41.7%).

More than half of incoming students agree ...(% agreeing)

- ⇒ The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns (75.7%).
- ⇒ Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished (58.3%).
- ⇒ Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status (55.3%).
- ⇒ Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now (52.7%).
- ⇒ Abortion should be legal (51.1%).

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Findings

Background

Demographics

- ⇒ 76.0% come from households where their parents live together, 20.9% have parents who are separated or divorced, and 3.1% have one or both parents who are deceased.
- ⇒ 13.6% are from a family in which neither parent attended college and 26.3% are from a family in which neither parent has a college degree.
- ⇒ 91.5% plan to live in a dormitory in the fall quarter; 6.3% will live with family.
- ⇒ 11.3% live outside of Ohio and 55.5% are more than 100 miles from home.
- ⇒ 99.1% graduated from high school in the same year they began college. Less than 1% took time away from school following high school.
- ⇒ 84.2% attended public high school, 12.2% a private religious or parochial school, and 0.2% were home schooled.

Financial Profile

- ⇒ The median parental income last year was more than \$75,000; 6.2% earned \$25,000 or less and 7% earned \$200,000 or more.
- ⇒ 70.8% worked while in high school; 29.7% worked more than 15 hours per week.
- ⇒ 52.8% indicate there is a very good chance they will work during college to help pay for expenses; 3.1% indicate there is a very good chance they will work full-time during college.
- ⇒ 33.7% have no concern about their ability to finance college education; 10.9% have a major concern.
- ⇒ 8.5% receive no financial support from their family.
- ⇒ 84.9% receive at least some aid that does not need to be repaid (grants, scholarships, military funds). 61.1% have student loans.

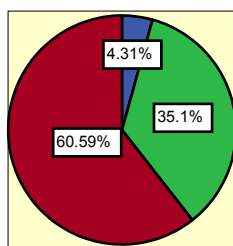
High School Activities

(Students were asked to indicate which activities they did during the past year *Occasionally, Frequently or Not at all*):

- ⇒ 11.4% did not study with other students; 26.6% did frequently.
- ⇒ 15.6% did not discuss politics; 30.2% did frequently.
- ⇒ 3.6% did not socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group; 58.0% did frequently.

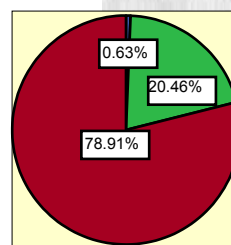
In comparison to the results from previous CIRP surveys, engagement patterns for high school activities among incoming students remain relatively stable, with the exception of usage of Internet for research or homework.

CIRP 1999 and CIRP 2004: Use Internet for Research or Homework



CIRP 1999

As reflected in the adjacent charts, incoming students in 2004 were more likely to have frequently used the Internet for research or homework during high school than previous students.



CIRP 2004

■ Frequently

■ Occasionally

■ Not at all

Findings

High School Activities, continued

Use of Time: Students were asked how much time they spent on various activities during a typical week in their last year at high school:

- ⇒ 12.6% spent over 10 hours studying and/or doing homework per week, 2.3% spent over 20 hours and 2.4% reported that they didn't spend any time studying and/or doing homework.
- ⇒ In general, students spent little time talking with teachers outside of class. 9.5% of the students didn't talk with teachers outside of class.
- ⇒ 15.1% spent over 20 hours per week socializing with friends; 0.2% didn't socialize with friends.
- ⇒ 78.4% of the students spent less than 5 hours partying, 22.5% didn't party, about 10% of the student partied more than 10 hours a week.
- ⇒ 66.5% report spending more than 3 hours per week participating in exercise or sports; only 3.2% didn't participate.

Goals

Academic

- ⇒ 82.6% indicate OSU was their first choice of colleges to attend.
- ⇒ Reasons for attending college that were rated very important by the most students include: To learn more about things (77.8%), To get training for a specific career (77.6%), and To be able to get a better job (74.0%). Only 35.4% rated "parents wanting them to go" as very important.
- ⇒ 77.2% plan to continue school after earning a Bachelor's degree; 50.7% plan to continue at OSU.
- ⇒ 41.5% plan to earn a master's degree, 17.1% a doctorate, 12.8% a medical degree, 5.0% a law degree.

Career and Life Goals: Students were asked to indicate the importance of different life and career goals as Not important, Somewhat important, Very important or Essential:

Popular Student Goals

(% Essential)

- ⇒ Raising family (40.6%)
- ⇒ Being financially well off (34.6%)
- ⇒ Becoming authority in one's field (19.5%)
- ⇒ Helping others in difficulty (17.6%)

Less Popular Student Goals

(% Essential)

- ⇒ Achieving in a performing art (2.9%)
- ⇒ Be involved in environmental clean-up (3.4%)
- ⇒ Write original works (3.8%)
- ⇒ Create artistic work (3.8%)

Wellness

Self Rating of Personal Traits:

Students were asked to indicate, compared to the average person their age, whether they thought they were in the bottom 10%, below average, average, above average or top 10% based on the following characteristics:

Strengths

(% who rated themselves in the top 10%)

- ⇒ Drive to achieve (33.8%)
- ⇒ Academic ability (27.7%)
- ⇒ Leadership ability (23.3%)
- ⇒ Mathematic ability (23.0%)
- ⇒ Kindness (22.8%)

Weaknesses

(% who rated themselves in the top 10%)

- ⇒ Artistic ability (5.6%)
- ⇒ Time management (8.7%)
- ⇒ Religiousness (8.9%)
- ⇒ Computer skills (9.0%)
- ⇒ Spirituality (9.8%)

Findings

Health (During the past year)

- ⇒21.2% frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do.
- ⇒5.0% frequently felt depressed.
- ⇒13.8% frequently stayed up all night.
- ⇒8.3% report that they did not maintain a healthy diet; 39.3% frequently did.

Alcohol & Tobacco (During the past year)

- ⇒85.9% did not smoke cigarettes at all; 3.3% did frequently.
- ⇒56.7% did not drink beer at all; 8.0% did frequently.
- ⇒54.7% did not drink wine or liquor at all; 5.5% did frequently.

Religion & Spirituality (During the past year)

- ⇒18.3% did not attend religious services; 43.3% did frequently. 9.9% did not discuss religion/spirituality with friends, family, or in class; 39.3% frequently discussed religion/spirituality with at least one of the three groups.

Future Actions

Students were asked to predict the likelihood of future engagement in college-related activities, using the following scale: No chance, Little chance, Some chance, Very good chance.

Future Actions that are Likely to Occur

(% Very good chance)

- ⇒ Make at least a “B” Average (70.4%).
- ⇒ Be satisfied with college (66.2%).
- ⇒ Socializing with different ethnic groups (65.0%).
- ⇒ Participate in student clubs/groups (53.5%).
- ⇒ Communicate regularly with professors (38.6%).
- ⇒ Strengthen religious beliefs/convictions (22.6%).
- ⇒ Participate in study abroad program (22.1%).

Future Actions that are Unlikely to Occur

(% No chance)

- ⇒ Transfer to another college (43.6%).
- ⇒ Work full-time while attending college (33.2%).
- ⇒ Join a social fraternity or sorority (26.1%).
- ⇒ Take part in students protests (22.1%).
- ⇒ Participate in student government (20.01%).
- ⇒ Seek personal counseling (11.8%).
- ⇒ Change major field (10.1%).

Community Service/Volunteer activities

The 2004 CIRP data revealed the following findings regarding student involvement in community service and/or volunteer activities:

- ⇒31.1% of the students are from high schools that require community service for graduation.
- ⇒During high school, 13.5% of the students performed community service as part of class frequently, 40.8% did so occasionally and 45.7% never did community service as part of class.
- ⇒93.4% of the students participated in some type of community service/volunteer activities during high school. Some of the relatively common community service/volunteer activities students were involved with are tutoring (51.0%), service to one’s own religious community (34.1%), and community improvement/construction (28.2%).
- ⇒71% of the students said that there is some chance or very good chance that they will participate in volunteer/community service work.

As with all surveys, the findings from the CIRP survey are limited due to the non-response bias and lack of control for this bias. It is possible that students who completed the survey are different from students who did not.

Upcoming Issues

- Drug and Alcohol Use
- National Survey Data
- Race and Ethnicity Terminology
- Regional Campus Student Profile

Student Affairs Assessment
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