

**Texas State First-Time Freshmen:
Results of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP)
2007 Freshman Survey**

Background

Texas State University-San Marcos has participated in the CIRP Freshman Survey for five years, in the fall semesters of 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007. New freshmen complete surveys in their first discussion group meetings during PAWS Preview. In the fall of 2007, surveys were completed by 2,377 students or 76 percent of the 3,117 new freshmen enrolled at Texas State. This report focuses on the responses of a subset of 2,366 new students who enrolled as first-time, full-time freshmen at Texas State.

Demographic Profile of Respondents

Race/Ethnicity:	%*	Age:	%
White/Caucasian	74%	17 or younger	2%
African American/Black	6%	18	64%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3%	19	34%
Asian American/Asian	2%	20 or older	< 1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1%		
Mexican American/Chicano	20%		
Puerto Rican	2%		
Other Latino	4%		
Other	4%		
		Sex:	%
		Male	40%
		Female	60%

*Percentages add to more than 100 because students were permitted to mark more than one category.

Selected Findings

- More than half (52%) of Texas State freshmen come from homes 101 to 500 miles from campus; 43 percent come from homes within 100 miles and only 4 percent come from homes more than 500 miles away from campus.
- Most freshmen are Christian in religious preference, with 26 percent Roman Catholic, 16 percent Baptist, 10 percent Methodist, and 28 percent reporting some other Christian religious preference. Sixteen percent of freshmen report no religious preference. Thirty-three percent of freshmen consider themselves to be Born-Again Christians, and 10 percent of freshmen consider themselves to be Evangelical.
- The high school racial composition was mostly white for 41 percent of freshmen and roughly half non-white for 34 percent. Nineteen percent of freshmen come from mostly non-white, three percent from completely white, and three percent from completely non-white high schools.
- Thirty-six percent of freshmen noted the good academic reputation of Texas State as a very important reason for attending; 37 percent also noted its good reputation for social activities as a very important reason influencing their decision to attend.

- Slightly more than one in ten (12%) freshmen previously received special tutoring or remedial work in mathematics. Thirty percent anticipate needing special tutoring or remedial work in mathematics while in college.
- Seventy-nine percent of freshmen took AP courses in high school, and 60 percent took AP exams.
- Nearly half (49%) of freshmen report being frequently bored in class during their last year of high school, and 25 percent report studying or doing homework for one hour or less per week as high school seniors.
- Seventy-nine percent of freshmen frequently or occasionally performed volunteer work in the year preceding college enrollment; 54 percent report performing community service as part of a high school class on a frequent or occasional basis.
- Fifty-eight percent of freshmen frequently or occasionally drank beer during the past year; 65 percent drank wine or liquor. Eight percent of freshmen frequently smoked cigarettes during the past year.
- Nearly one quarter (23%) of freshmen report working more than 20 hours per week for pay during their last year of high school.
- Less than half (45%) of freshmen estimate chances as very good that they will be satisfied with their college.
- Although 74 percent of freshmen report socializing with someone of another racial/ethnic group during the year prior to college, only 56 percent estimate chances as very good that they will socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group while enrolled in college.

Texas State Survey Questions

Texas State developed 18 local questions that were appended to the survey. Important findings from these survey results include:

- About half (51%) of freshmen would like to find out about University programs and events via e-mail messages.
- Sixty-eight percent of freshmen are very likely or likely to get involved in student organizations. Ten percent do not plan to participate in student organizations.
- Seventy-two percent of freshmen indicate they are very likely or likely to attend or participate in Texas State athletic events.
- Forty-eight percent of freshmen have a job or definitely plan to work during their freshman year.
- Thirty-six percent of freshmen expect to spend 10 or fewer hours per week preparing for classes.