Texas State University-San Marcos
CIRP Freshman Survey
2019 Results

First-time, Full-time Freshmen

Texas State University-San Marcos
N=1,593

Public 4yr Colleges-medium selectivity
N=8,280

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
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender Identity</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Man / Trans Man</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman / Trans Woman</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparison Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender Identity</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Man / Trans Man</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman / Trans Woman</td>
<td>56.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographics

How many miles is this college from your permanent home?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 or less</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-50</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-100</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101-500</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 500</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Many factors impact incoming students’ college choice, including the benefits they see in attending college and considerations about which particular college to attend.
College Admissions Decisions

To how many colleges *other than this one* did you apply for admission this year?

![Bar chart showing the distribution of the number of colleges applied to, with Your Institution and Comparison Group bars for each category.](chart.png)
College Acceptance

Were you accepted by your first choice college?

- Yes: 80.2%
- No: 19.8%

Is this college your...

- First Choice: 58.6% (Your Institution), 56.3% (Comparison Group)
- Second Choice: 30.6% (Your Institution), 30.3% (Comparison Group)
- Third Choice: 8.0% (Your Institution), 9.2% (Comparison Group)
- Less than Third Choice: 2.9% (Your Institution), 4.2% (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**: 83.8% (Very Important), 12.9% (Somewhat Important)
- **To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas**: 79.6% (Very Important), 19.8% (Somewhat Important)
- **To make me a more cultured person**: 76.5% (Very Important), 22.2% (Somewhat Important)
- **To be able to make more money**: 57.3% (Very Important), 35.0% (Somewhat Important)

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

**Comparison Group**
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important

2019 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**
  - Your Institution: 83.9%
  - Comparison Group: 82.8%
  - Very Important: 14.4%
  - Somewhat Important: 15.6%

- **To get training for a specific career**
  - Your Institution: 82.5%
  - Comparison Group: 81.7%
  - Very Important: 15.6%
  - Somewhat Important: 16.2%

- **To prepare myself for graduate or professional school**
  - Your Institution: 65.1%
  - Comparison Group: 61.5%
  - Very Important: 21.9%
  - Somewhat Important: 24.4%
College Choice

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

- This college has a very good academic reputation
  - Your Institution: 45.8%
  - Comparison Group: 53.5%

- This college’s graduates make a difference in the world
  - Your Institution: 26.3%
  - Comparison Group: 28.9%

- This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools
  - Your Institution: 23.5%
  - Comparison Group: 24.4%

- This college’s graduates get good jobs
  - Your Institution: 45.5%
  - Comparison Group: 47.9%

2019 The Freshman Survey
College Choice

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

- **I was offered financial assistance**
  - Very Important: 44.8%
  - Somewhat Important: 28.5%

- **The cost of attending this college**
  - Very Important: 53.3%
  - Somewhat Important: 35.6%

- **Not offered aid by first choice**
  - Very Important: 14.0%
  - Somewhat Important: 32.2%

- **Could not afford first choice**
  - Very Important: 20.1%
  - Somewhat Important: 19.0%

*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>My parents/relatives wanted me to come here</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to live near home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rankings in national magazines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A visit to this campus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 The Freshman Survey
Economic factors play an important role in students’ decisions about college.
Financing College

Students’ first-year funding sources:

- **Family resources**: 75.9% from Your Institution, 68.3% from Comparison Group
- **Personal resources**: 62.6% from Your Institution, 59.1% from Comparison Group
- **Aid not to be repaid**: 75.3% from Your Institution, 64.7% from Comparison Group
- **Aid to be repaid**: 55.7% from Your Institution, 51.8% from Comparison Group
Financing College

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

- Military grants
- Work-study
- Pell grant
- Need-based grants or scholarships
- Merit-based grants or scholarships

For each category, the bar graphs show the percentage of students in your institution (red) and the comparison group (blue).
Financing College

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

- 20.1% None
- 24.5% Some
- 58.8% Some (Comparison Group)
- 59.9% Some (Comparison Group)
- 21.1% Major
- 15.6% Major

Your Institution

Comparison Group

2019 The Freshman Survey
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

- Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others
- Support your opinions with a logical argument
- Look up scientific research articles and resources
- Take a risk because you felt you had more to gain
- Accept mistakes as part of the learning process
- Take on a challenge that scares you
- Ask questions in class
- Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class
- Evaluate the quality or reliability of information you received
- Seek alternative solutions to a problem
- Analyze multiple sources of information before coming to a conclusion
Pluralistic Orientation measures skills and dispositions appropriate for living and working in a diverse society.

**Construct Items**

- Ability to see the world from someone else's perspective
- Tolerance of others with different beliefs
- Openness to having my views challenged
- Ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues
- Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people
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

- Demonstrated for a cause
- Performed volunteer work
- Publicly communicated your opinion about a cause
- Helped raise money for a cause or campaign
- Influencing social values
- Keeping up to date with political affairs
Health and Wellness

Students’ emotional well-being can affect many important aspects of the student experience including academic performance and persistence.

In the past year, how often have you:

- Felt overwhelmed by all I had to do
  - Your Institution: 52.9%
  - Comparison Group: 44.9%

- Felt depressed
  - Your Institution: 41.3%
  - Comparison Group: 25.1%
College Preparation

These items illustrate students’ academic preparation.
Summer Bridge Program

Did you participate in a bridge program at this institution this summer?

- **Yes**: 2.8% for Your Institution, 97.2% for Comparison Group
- **No**: 3.5% for Your Institution, 96.5% for Comparison Group

2019 The Freshman Survey
Previous College Coursework

Have taken courses for credit at **this** institution prior to this term

- **Yes**: 7.7%
- **Yes**: 6.5%

Have taken courses, whether for credit or not for credit, at **any other** institution since leaving high school

- **Yes**: 27.9%
- **Yes**: 15.6%
Science/Research Self-Efficacy

How confident are you that you can do the following?

- Understand scientific concepts
  - Absolutely Confident: 14.1%
  - Very Confident: 30.1%
  - Absolutely Confident: 15.3%
  - Very Confident: 26.7%

- Use technical science skills (use of tools, instruments, and/or techniques)
  - Absolutely Confident: 15.5%
  - Very Confident: 21.8%
  - Absolutely Confident: 17.0%
  - Very Confident: 22.7%

- Explain the results of a study
  - Absolutely Confident: 17.9%
  - Very Confident: 32.5%
  - Absolutely Confident: 16.9%
  - Very Confident: 33.2%
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>Your Group</th>
<th>Comp Inst</th>
<th>Comp Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History or Political Science</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics or Computer Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and Security</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non-technical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 The Freshman Survey
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>22.6%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Law</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>6.3%</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>1.0%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>Health Professional</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>Homemaker/Stay-at-Home Parent</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>Information Technology Professional</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business (Admin Assistant)</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>Military</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Faculty</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>Research Scientist</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor (MD or DDS)</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>Service Industry</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (elementary/secondary)</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>Skilled worker</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>Social/Non-Profit Services</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations: Time-to-Degree

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

- 1 year: 0.1%
- 2 years: 2.8%
- 3 years: 11.9%
- 4 years: 76.4%
- 5 years: 81.6%
- 6+ years: 0.1%

Do not plan to graduate from this college: 1.0%
Expectations: Degree Aspirations

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

- None: 0.8% (Your Institution) 0.9% (Comparison Group)
- Vocational certificate: 0.2% (Your Institution) 0.2% (Comparison Group)
- Associate (A.A. or equivalent): 0.6% (Your Institution) 0.7% (Comparison Group)
- Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., B.D., etc.): 36.8% (Your Institution) 35.7% (Comparison Group)
- Master's degree (M.A., M.S., M.B.A., etc.): 35.0% (Your Institution) 39.9% (Comparison Group)
- J.D. (Law): 2.4% (Your Institution) 2.5% (Comparison Group)
- M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M., etc. (Medical): 8.8% (Your Institution) 6.0% (Comparison Group)
- Ph.D.: 7.6% (Your Institution) 7.7% (Comparison Group)
- Professional Doctorate (Ed.D., Psy.D., etc.): 7.4% (Your Institution) 5.7% (Comparison Group)
- Other: 0.5% (Your Institution) 0.7% (Comparison Group)
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:

<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>44.3%</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in a study abroad program</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your Institution
- Very Good Chance: Red
- Some Chance: Pink

Comparison Group
- Very Good Chance: Blue
- Some Chance: Purple
Expectations for College Life

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

- Participate in student clubs/groups: 36.5% (Your Institution) vs. 49.7% (Comparison Group)
- Take a course exclusively online: 40.7% (Your Institution) vs. 41.3% (Comparison Group)
- Work on a professor’s research project: 11.3% (Your Institution) vs. 16.9% (Comparison Group)

*2019 The Freshman Survey*
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:
    - Very Good Chance: 1.4%
    - Some Chance: 7.3%
  - Comparison Group:
    - Very Good Chance: 2.2%
    - Some Chance: 7.7%

- Transfer to another college before graduating
  - Your Institution:
    - Very Good Chance: 5.0%
    - Some Chance: 18.3%
  - Comparison Group:
    - Very Good Chance: 4.7%
    - Some Chance: 17.1%
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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