



Florida State University 2006 FRESHMEN CIRP SURVEY RESULTS



2006 Summer Bridge Program Participants- Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement

Prepared by the Office of Research in the Division of Student Affairs



PROFILE OF 2006 FSU (FIRST-TIME /FULL-TIME) ENTERING FRESHMEN

CIRP RESULTS 2006

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Note: The appendices are available in a separate publication. This report is available in alternative format.

2006 Entering First-Time Full-Time Freshman Class Profile

Executive Summary

Florida State University (FSU) participates in an annual longitudinal study of incoming freshmen administered by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles. The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) collects self-reported information (biographic, demographic, educational, financial, opinions, etc.) from freshman students. Information is also collected from freshmen in public universities and colleges across the United States¹. FSU has participating in the CIRP for over 30 years.

CIRP is administered at a two-day orientation session the summer prior to enrollment at FSU. The Office of Orientation administered the survey to 6,580 students entering FSU in Fall 2006. The number of entering FSU freshmen (first-time, full-time) that returned completed surveys was approximately 4,333. This resulted in a 67% response rate.

The majority (67percent)² of the 2006 FSU freshmen surveyed are 18 years of age; this age pattern exactly reflects the national norm. The FSU freshman class is 82 percent White/Caucasian while the national trend is 73 percent White/Caucasian. The FSU freshman class has the same percentage of African American/Black freshmen enrolled when compared to the national norm – 7 percent. The predominant religion is Catholicism – 27 percent of FSU freshmen reported they were Roman Catholic.

Academically, almost all (98 percent) of FSU freshmen reported a high school grade point average of “B” or better. Exercise and fitness are important activities to FSU freshmen since almost 48 percent of FSU freshmen reported exercising or playing sports 6 hours or more per week in the last year of high school. A stable trend of a low percentage in FSU freshmen engaging in certain behaviors such as smoking cigarettes, drinking beer, and drinking wine or liquor was identified when compared to the prior years beginning with 2001.

Participating institutions are allowed to provide additional institution specific questions. FSU added 18 questions to the 2006 CIRP in order to assess incoming freshmen’s opinions of service learning, diversity, leadership, their mental health status, and other areas of interest.

Seventy-nine percent (79%) of the FSU 2006 freshmen claimed that they had participated in actual activities and projects that taught leadership in high school. FSU 2006 freshmen were also very confident in their leadership abilities – 92 percent of them rated their leadership ability as average or above. In addition, 73 percent of students indicated that taking Service Learning courses would increase their satisfaction with attending FSU for their education. A complete listing of all additional questions can be found in Appendix B.

More information about CIRP may be obtained from the Office of Research in the Division of Student Affairs. Please contact Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones at 850.644.5590 or tbertrand@admin.fsu.edu.

¹ Institution with high selectivity for SAT and ACT scores of the entering class.

² The percentages cited in this report reflect the proportion of the 4,333 students who completed the survey.

2006 Entering First-Time Full-Time Freshman Class Profile

Introduction

Florida State University (FSU) participates in an annual longitudinal study of incoming freshmen administered by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) collects self-reported information (biographic, demographic, educational, financial, opinions, etc.) from freshman students. Information is also collected from freshmen in public universities and colleges across the United States³. FSU has participated in the CIRP for over 30 years.

CIRP is administered at a two-day orientation session the summer prior to enrollment at FSU. The Office of Orientation administered the survey to 6,580 first-time in college students. The number of entering FSU freshmen (first-time, full-time) that returned completed surveys was approximately 4,333. This resulted in a 67 percent response rate.

Survey Results

Demographic Characteristics

Age

The majority (67 percent) of the 2006 FSU incoming class are 18 years of age, while 31 percent are 19 years old; the age pattern of the national norm - 67 percent of all incoming freshmen are 18 years of age while 30 percent are 19 years old. At FSU, the percentages are almost the same for the 2005 freshman class. [See Table 1]

Table 1. Age of Entering Freshmen

Age	FSU 2005 (%)	FSU 2006 (%)	Univ Hi 2005 ² (%)	Univ Hi 2006(%)	All Public Univ-National Norm 2005 (%)	All Public Univ-National Norm 2006 (%)
Younger than 18	2	1	2	2	2	2
18	66	67	72	70	69	67
19	32	31	25	28	29	30
20 or Older	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	1	< 1

Percentages may sum to 100.0+ due to respondents marking more than one category and/or rounding decimals.

³ Institution with high selectivity for SAT and ACT scores of the entering class.

Race/Ethnicity

The 2006 FSU freshman class has a higher percent of White/Caucasian students than the national norm -- 82 percent compared to 73 percent nationwide. The 7 percent of African American/Black 2006 FSU freshmen mirrors the national norm. It is the first time that the percent of African American/Black students at FSU dropped after the tendency of a 1 percent increase each year from 2003 to 2005. In 2005, 10 percent of FSU freshmen reported they were African American/Black; 8 percent in 2004 and 7 percent in 2003. Four percent (4%) of FSU 2006 freshmen reported they were Asian American/Asian compared to 13 percent at all public universities. Nine percent (9%) of FSU freshmen identified themselves as Other Latino compared to 4 percent at all public universities. [See Table 2]

². Term definition: Univ Hi = A public university comparable to FSU.

Table 2. Ethnic Composition

Ethnicity	FSU 2005 (%)	FSU 2006 (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm 2005 (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm 2006 (%)
White/Caucasian	77	82	73	73
African American/Black	10	7	9	7
American Indian	1	2	2	2
Asian American/Asian	4	4	13	13
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	< 1	1	2
Mexican American/Chicano	1	1	3	5
Puerto Rican	2	2	1	1
Other Latino	9	9	2	4
Other	2	3	3	4

Percentages may sum to 100.0+ due to respondents marking more than one category and/or rounded decimals.

Religion

Twenty-seven percent (27%) of the 2006 FSU freshmen stated they were Roman Catholic; in 2005, the proportion was 28 percent. The distribution for other religions in 2006 is: Baptist (12 percent), Other Christian (11 percent), and Methodist (8 percent). Nineteen percent (19%) of the participants indicated no religious preference -- 3 percent increase compared to 2005 (16 percent). This pattern approximates the national norm: Roman Catholic – 26 percent, Baptist – 8 percent, Other Christian – 13 percent, Methodist – 5 percent, and 22 percent indicating no religious preference.

Biographical Information

Parental Information

When asked if both parents were alive and living with each other, 69 percent of the FSU respondents indicated "Yes", while 28 percent responded both parents were alive but divorced or living apart. FSU freshmen have parents that are more likely to be divorced or living apart than the national average of 24 percent. [See Table 3]

Table 3. Parents Living Arrangements

Are Your Parents:	FSU (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm (%)
Living with each other	69	73
Divorced or living apart	28	24
One or both deceased	3	3

Percentages may sum to 100 + due to respondents marking more than one category and/or rounded decimals.

Parents' Education Levels

Thirty-one percent (31%) of FSU entering freshmen's fathers have college degrees compared to the national norm of 30 percent. Twenty-six percent (26%) of FSU freshman fathers have graduate degrees compared to 25 percent of the national norm. Thirty-six percent (36%) of FSU respondents' mothers have college degrees which is two percent (2%) higher than the national norm. Nineteen percent (19%) of FSU respondents' mothers have graduate degrees which mirrors the national norm. [See Figures 1 and 2]

Figure 1. Highest Level of Father's Education

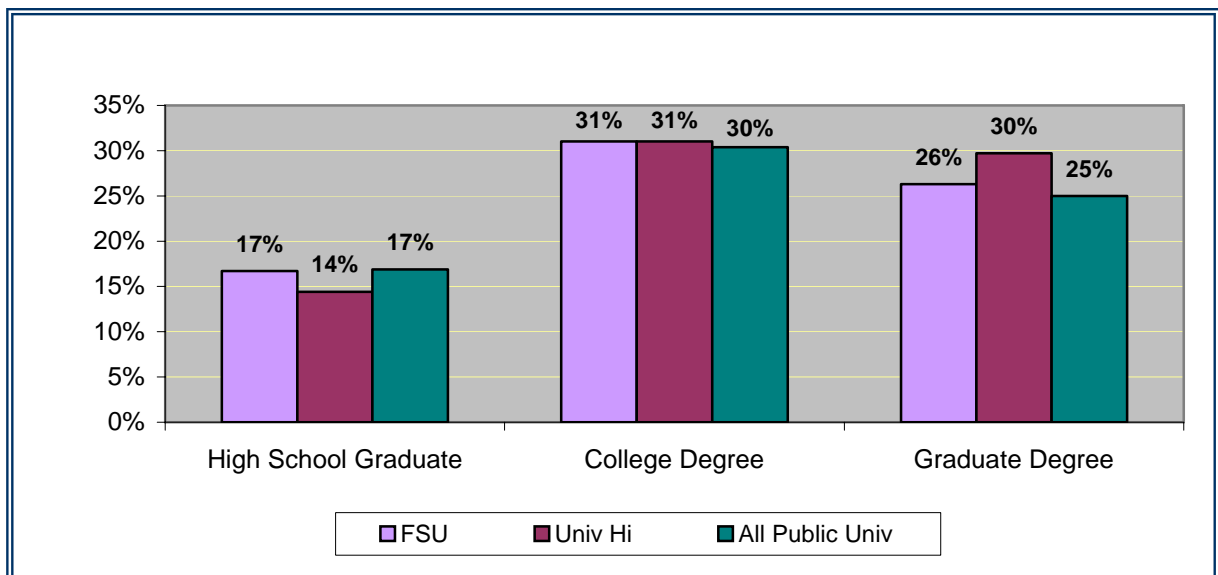
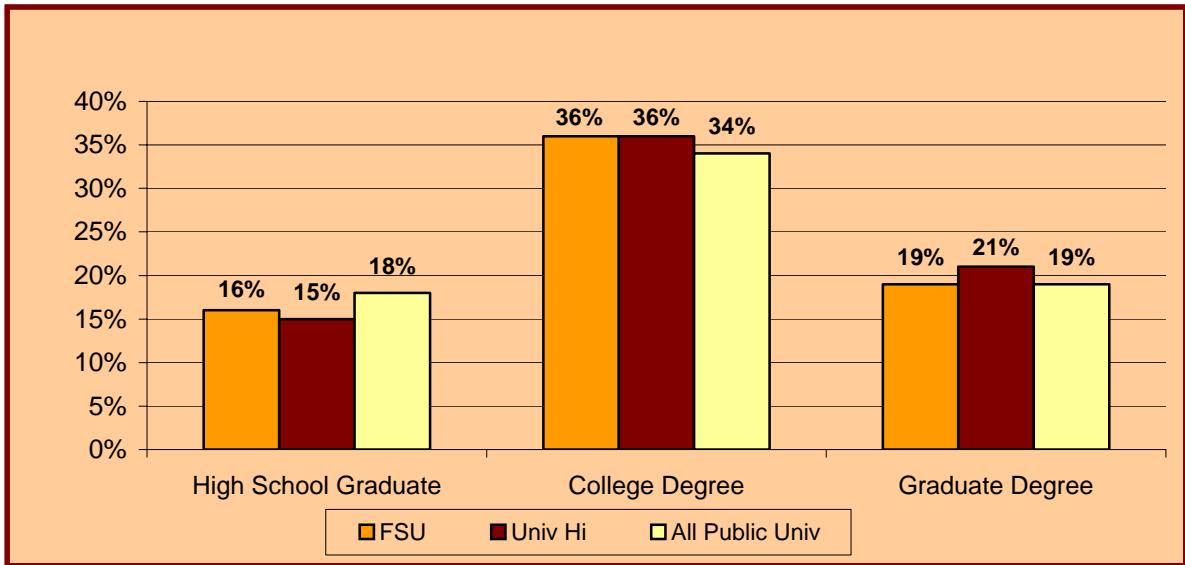


Figure 2.

Highest Level of Mother's Education



Distance from Home

A higher percentage of FSU freshmen are farther away from their permanent homes than the national norm. The majority (72 percent) of freshmen have permanent homes between 101-500 miles from FSU; nationally, about 39 percent of students claimed their permanent homes to be 101-500 miles from the universities they attend. Eighteen percent (18 percent) of FSU freshmen stated their homes were more than 500 miles from the university compared to 10 percent of the national norm. [See Table 4]

Table 4. Distance from Home

FSU (%)	Number of Miles	All Public Univ-National Norm (%)
10	0-100	51
72	101-500	39
18	> 500	10

Education and Financial Information

High School Grades

A slightly higher percent of FSU 2006 freshmen (98 percent) reported their grade point average in high school as "B" or better when compared to freshmen in all public universities. Nationally, approximately 93 percent of the freshmen reported their average grade in high school as "B" or better [See Table 5].

Table 5. High School Grade Point Average

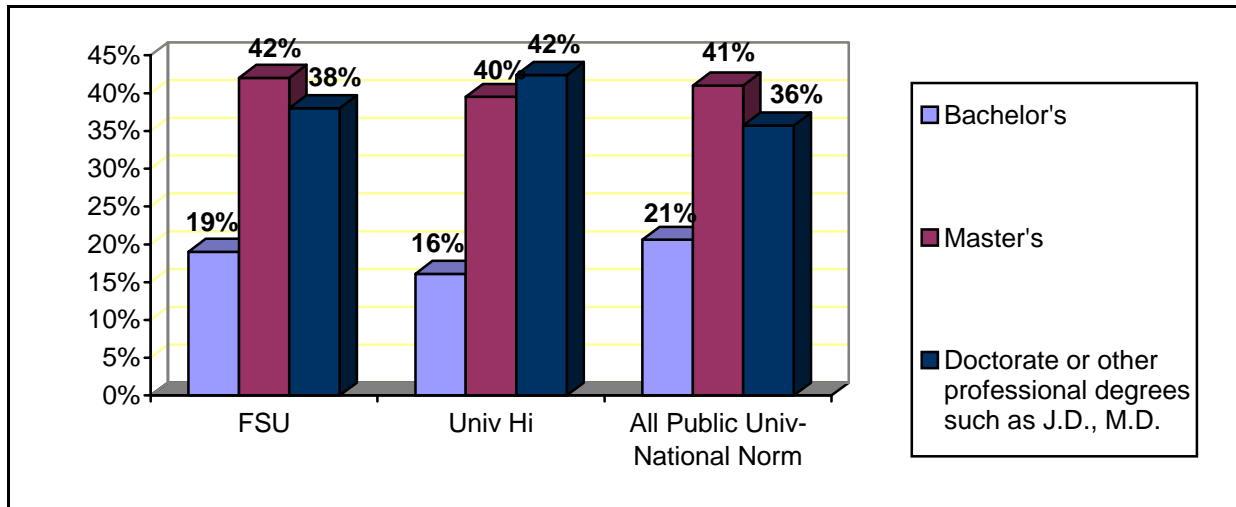
GPA	FSU (%)	Univ Hi (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm (%)
"B" or Better	98	97	93

FSU 2006 freshmen are more confident in their academic ability than their peers in all public universities. Seventy-five percent (75%) of students reported there was a "very good" chance that they would make at least a "B" average throughout college, compared to the national norm of 61 percent. Additionally, 88 percent of FSU entering freshmen rated themselves as "above average" in academic ability, compared to the national norm of 76 percent.

Degree Aspirations

Forty-two percent (42%) of FSU freshmen indicated the highest degree they intended to obtain at *any* institution was a Masters degree, 38 percent indicated a Doctorate degree or other professional degree (such as M.D., J.D., etc.), and 19 percent indicated a Bachelors degree. The national norm shows 41 percent aspire to a Masters degree, 36 percent indicated a Doctorate degree or other professional degrees, and 21 percent indicated a Bachelors degree. [See Figure 3]

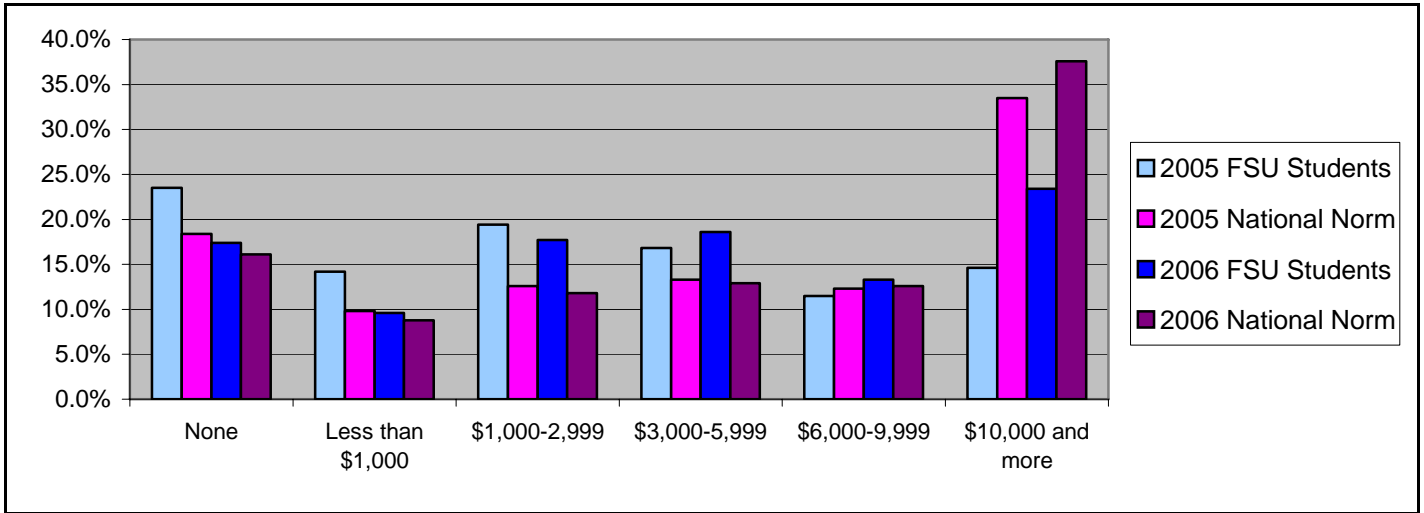
Figure 3. Highest Degree Planned at Any Institution



Financial Assistance

Most (83 percent) FSU freshmen plan to use parental, other relatives or friends' assistance to finance their first year's education, approximately reflecting the national norm (84 percent). However, FSU freshmen are less likely to rely on large amounts — \$10,000 or more — from parents, other relatives or friends' resources; 23 percent of FSU freshmen stated they expected financial assistance of \$10,000 or more from these resources while 38 percent of the national average reported the same expectation. [See Figure 4]

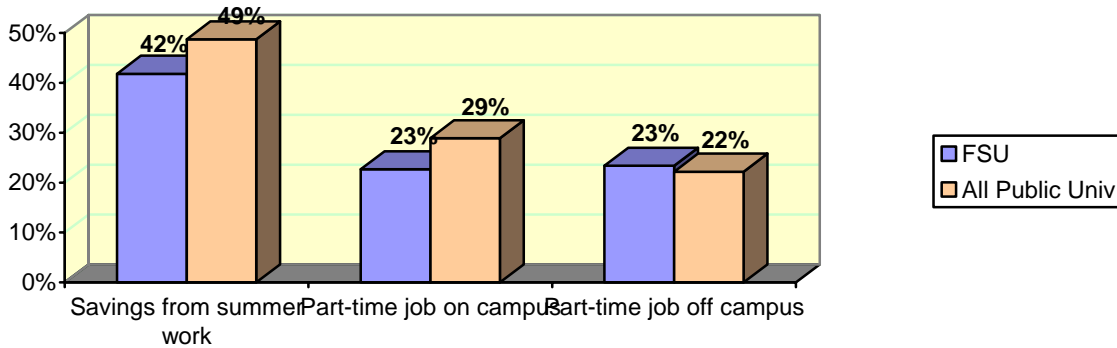
Figure 4. Amount of First Year Expenses Expected to be Paid by Family or Friends



Percentages may sum to 100+ due to respondents marking more than one category and/or rounded decimals.

FSU freshmen were slightly less likely to rely on themselves to cover their first year's educational expenses compared to their peers in all public universities -- 42 percent of FSU freshmen expected financial assistance from their summer work savings compared with 49 percent of the national norm. Forty-six percent (46%) of the respondents claimed that they would expect to cover their first year's educational expenses by working on or off campus, while the national norm of all public universities is 51 percent. [See Figure 5]

Figure 5. First Year Expenses Expected to Be Paid by Student's Own Resources

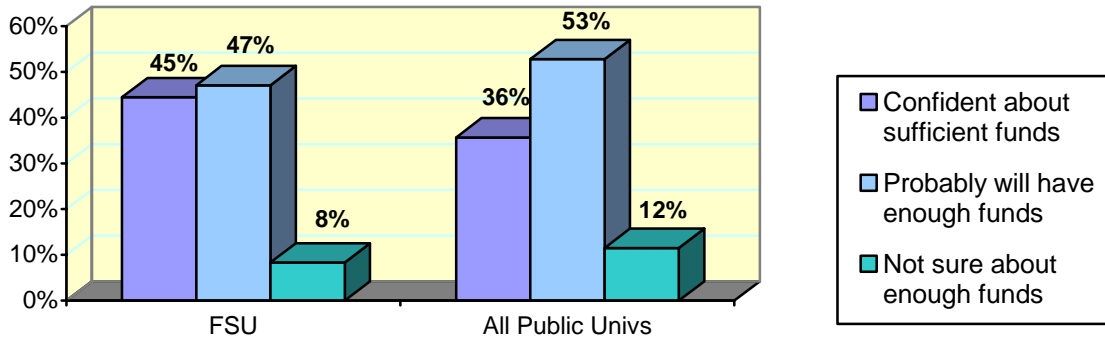


Financial Concern

A higher percentage of FSU students (45 percent) responded they were confident that they would have sufficient funds to finance their college education, compared to 36 percent in all public universities. Eight percent (8 percent) of the FSU 2006 freshmen surveyed were not sure if they would have enough funds to complete college – 4 percent lower than the national norm (12 percent). [See Figure 6]

Figure 6.

Financial Concern



Interests and Beliefs

Typical Week Activity in High School

The CIRP also asked FSU freshmen to report their study patterns and involvement in social activities during their last year of high school. The majority of 2006 FSU freshmen (69 percent) reported spending **5 hours or less** per week studying or doing homework while 77 percent reported spending **6 hours or more** per week socializing with friends. More than half of the students (55 percent) reported spending **one or more hours** a week volunteering. [See Table 6]

Table 6. Weekly Time Spent

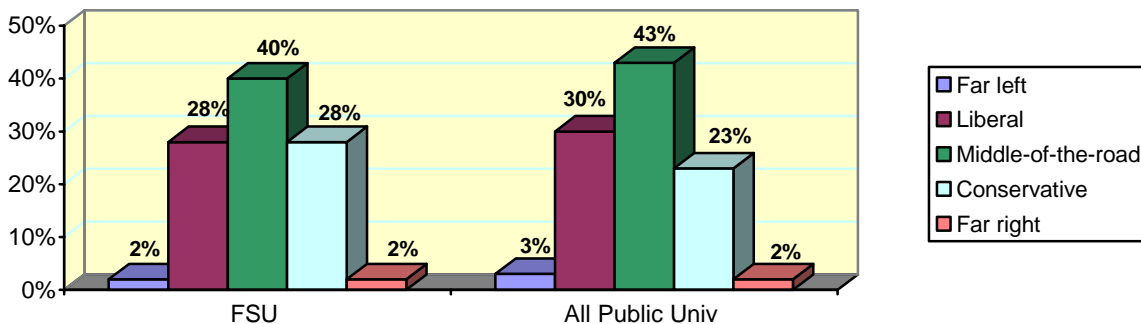
	Less than 5 hours		More than 5 hours	
	FSU (%)	All Public Univs (%)	FSU (%)	All Public Univs (%)
Studying/homework	69	65	31	35
Socializing with friends	23	27	77	73
Volunteer work	88	91	12	9

Social and Political Views

Forty percent (40%) of the 2006 FSU freshmen claimed that their political views were “middle-of-the-road”. The students who indicated their political views as Liberal and Conservative mirror each other with 28 percent. [See Figure 7]

Figure 7.

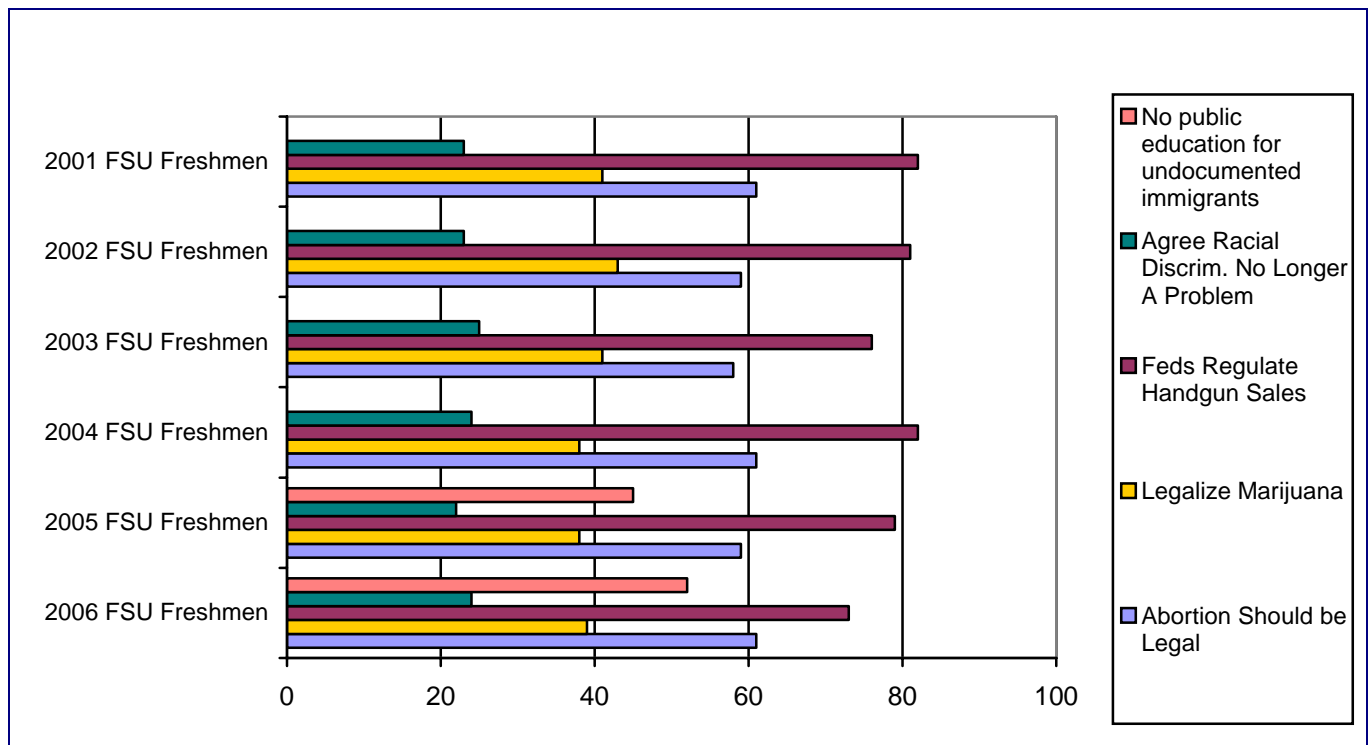
Political Views



The 2006 FSU freshmen also responded to questions about social and political concerns. For example, 61 percent of FSU students indicated that abortion should be legal; this percent increased slightly from 59 percent in last year (2005). Thirty-nine percent (39%) of FSU freshmen indicated that they thought marijuana should be legalized, one percent higher than last year. In 2006, 73 percent of the FSU freshmen thought the federal government should have more control of handguns compared to 79 percent in 2005 and 82 percent in 2004.

Twenty-four percent (24%) of FSU freshmen indicated that they thought racial discrimination was no longer a major problem in 2006; this figure was 22 percent in 2005, 24 percent in 2004 and 25 percent in 2003. The biggest change of the agreement percentage between 2005 and 2006 was students' view on education of undocumented immigrants. In 2005, 45 percent of FSU freshmen agreed that undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education, while this percentage increased to 52 in 2006. [See Figure 8]

Figure 8. Social and Political Beliefs

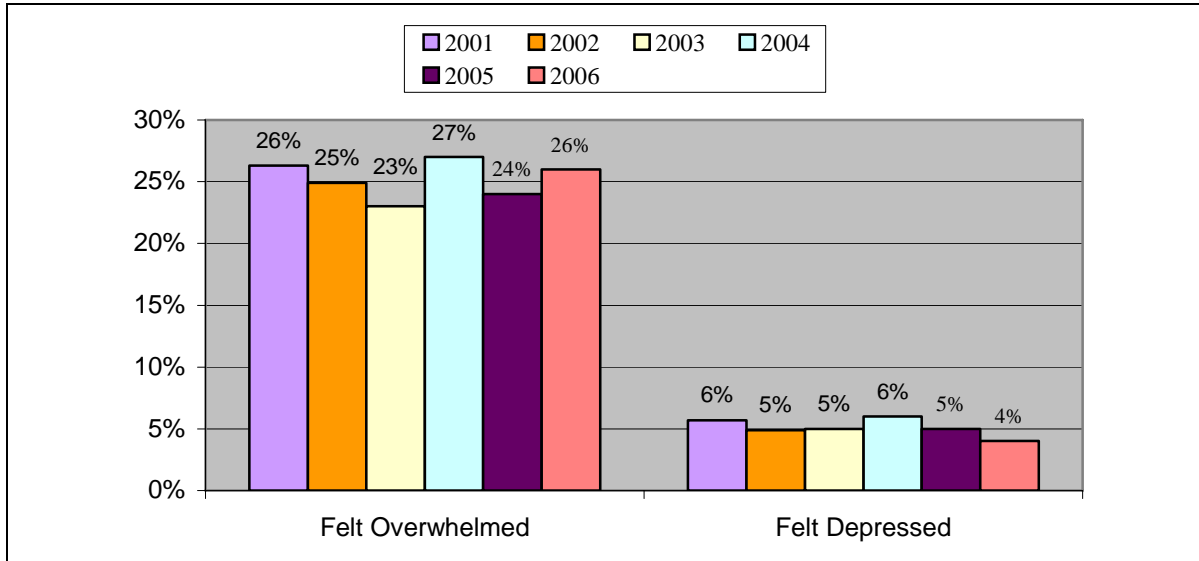


Wellness

Emotional Health

When asked if they had felt “overwhelmed by all they had to do in the past year,” 26 percent of FSU freshmen responded “yes” as compared to 28 percent of the freshmen at all public universities. Compared to prior freshman classes, 26 percent of the FSU freshmen in 2001 stated they had felt overwhelmed in the last year compared to 25 percent in 2002, 23 percent in 2003 and 27 percent in 2004, and 24 percent in 2005. Similarly, the percent reporting depression is still a little bit lower - 4 percent of the FSU freshman class in 2006 stated they had felt depressed in the past year compared to 5 percent in 2005. [See Figure 9]

Figure 9. Felt Overwhelmed/ Felt Depressed in the Last Year



Fitness

The number of hours that 2006 FSU freshmen exercised reflected freshmen nationally. FSU freshmen responses for the number of hours spent during a typical week the last year in high school on exercising or playing sports were almost within 1 percentage point of the freshmen in all public universities. About 22 percent of FSU freshmen indicated they had spent between 3 to 5 hours in a typical week exercising or playing sports and 20 percent indicated they had spent 6 to 10 hours a week. About 12 percent of FSU freshmen stated they had spent between 11 to 15 hours a week exercising or playing sports [see Table 7]. There was little change in this field between 2005 freshmen and 2006 freshmen.

Table 7. Number of Hours Spent Exercising or Engaging in Sports
FSU Freshmen Compared to National Norm

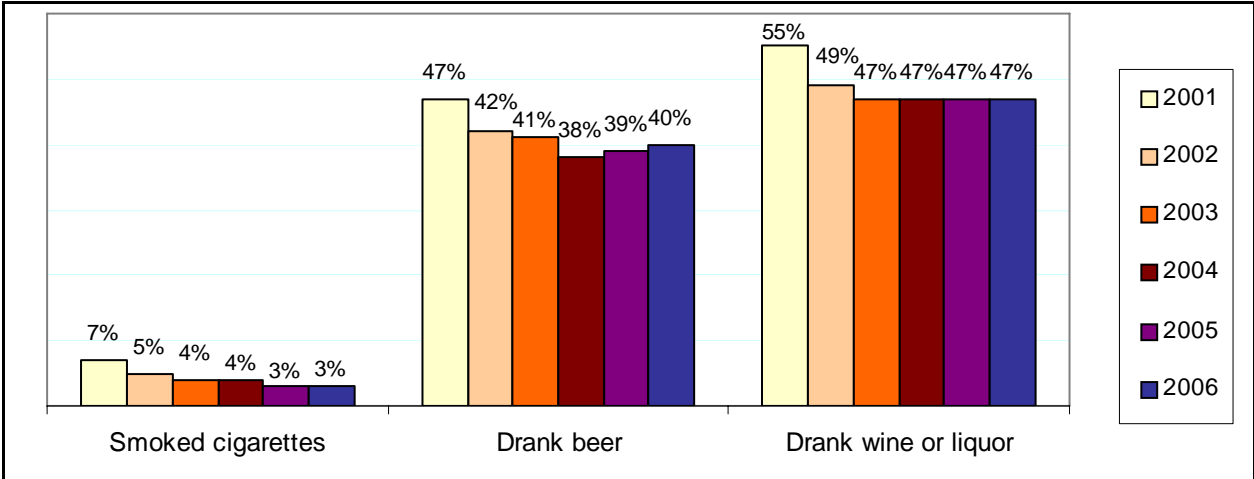
HOURS	FSU 2006 (%)	All Public Universities- National Norm 2006 (%)
None	4	5
<1	10	10
1 to 2	16	16
3 to 5	22	21
6 to 10	20	20
11 to 15	12	13
16 to 20	7	7
>20	9	8

Alcohol and Tobacco Use

Figure 10 shows a declining trend in FSU freshmen engaging in certain behaviors such as smoking cigarettes, drinking beer, and drinking wine or liquor in the past few years. In 2001, 7 percent of students stated that they had

used tobacco products while 3 percent responded that they had done so in 2006. Similarly, 47 percent of the students in 2001 responded that they had consumed beer in the last year as compared to 40 percent in 2006. The percentage of students who responded that they had consumed wine or liquor doesn't change from 2003 to 2006 – 47 percent. Compared to their peers in all public universities, FSU 2006 freshmen are generally two percent lower in consuming cigarettes, beer, and wine or liquor. [See Figure 10]

Figure 10. Alcohol & Tobacco Consumption



FSU Additional Questions

FSU added 18 questions to the 2006 CIRP in order to assess incoming freshmen's opinions of service learning, diversity concerns, leadership, mental health status, and other areas of interest. A complete listing of all additional questions can be found in Appendix B.

Service Learning

Seventy-four percent (74%) of students *strongly agree or agree* that Service Learning courses (SLc) help prepare them to become active citizens in their communities. Similarly, 73 percent of students indicated that taking Service Learning courses will increase their satisfaction with attending FSU for their education. However, when they were asked if they wanted to take at least one Service Learning course, only 38 percent stated "Yes." [See Figures 11 and 12]

Figure 11. Service Learning

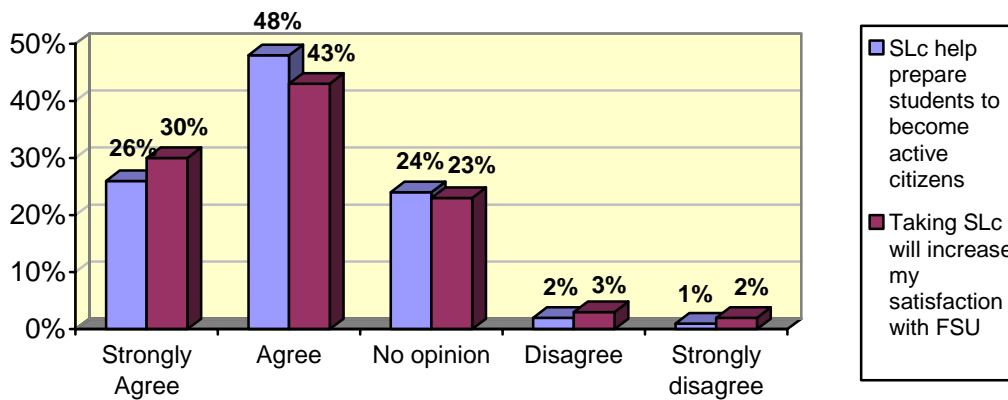
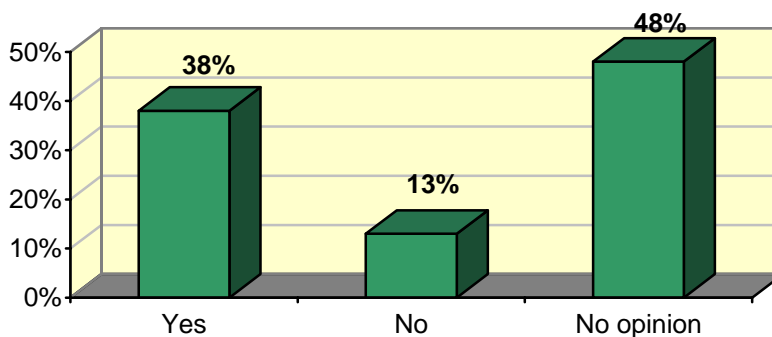


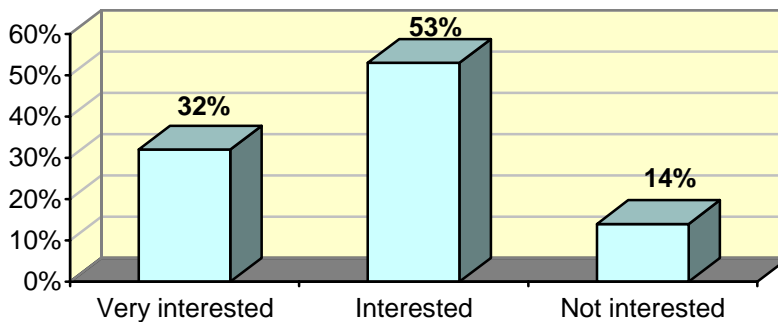
Figure 12. Willingness to Take Service Learning Course



Diversity

The majority (91 percent) of FSU 2006 freshmen indicated that they have worked with people from diverse cultural or ethnic backgrounds in the past. When they were asked to rate their interest in learning about students with diverse cultural/ethnic background, 89 percent of them stated they were either *very interested* or *interested*. [See Figure 13]

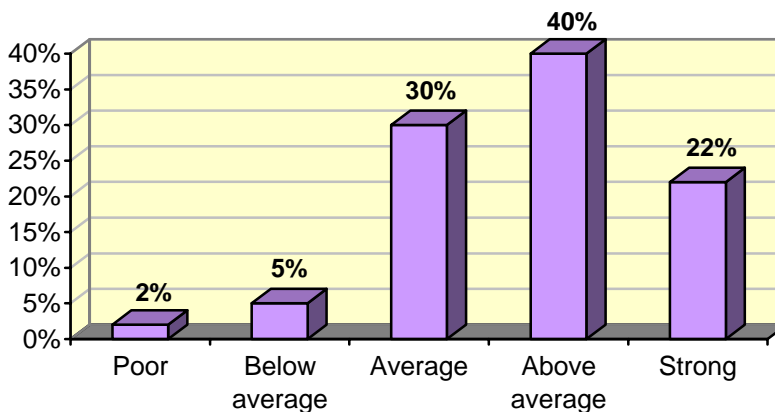
Figure 13. Interest in Learning about Diverse Students



Leadership

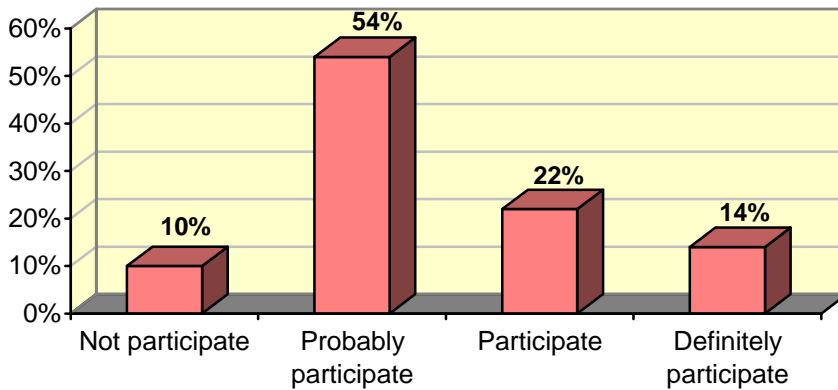
FSU 2006 freshmen were confident in their leadership abilities – 92 percent of them rated their leadership ability as average or above. [See Figure 14]

Figure 14. Self-rating of Leadership Abilities



Seventy-nine percent (79%) of the FSU 2006 freshmen claimed that they had participated in actual activities and projects that taught leadership in high school. Fifty-four percent (54%) of the respondents stated that they “probably” would participate in leadership knowledge and skills development at FSU if they were given the chance, while 14 percent of the students indicated that they would “definitely” participate. [See Figure 15]

Figure 15. Chance of Participating in Leadership Development at FSU



Students were asked why they thought leadership was important to them. Among the choices given, most (44%) of the students indicated the main reason as leadership “provides practical skills (public speaking, team-building, etc.)”. There were six percent (6%) of students who claimed that leadership “isn’t important to me”. [See Table 8]

Table 8. Importance of Leadership Education

Leadership education is important to me mainly because it:	Percentage
Provide practical skills (public speaking, team-building, etc.)	44%
Prepared me for leadership roles in student government or other campus activities	8%
Will help me land a job after graduation	19%
Will instill a desire to assume leadership positions the rest of my life	22%
<i>It isn't important to me</i>	6%

Mental Health

Most (65 percent) of the FSU 2006 freshmen claimed never having had counseling prior to their enrolment at FSU. When the students were asked in what situation they would use the University Counseling Center at FSU, 38 percent of them indicated “if I wanted help making a personal decision”. [See Table 9]

Table 9. University Counseling Center Uses

I would use the University Counseling Center at FSU:	Percentage
If I wanted help making a personal decision	38%
If I needed counseling to help me cope with a specific situation (e.g., death of a loved one)	32%
If I needed to talk to someone about a serious psychological problem (e.g., chronic depression)	19%
If I were suicidal	8%
If I needed to talk with someone about alcohol/other drug use or abuse	3%

Miscellaneous Category

Please see Figures 16, 17, 18, and 19 for more information. (Percentage may sum to <100 due to some invalid answers)

Figure 16. How often do you plan to communicate with your parent(s) or family members?

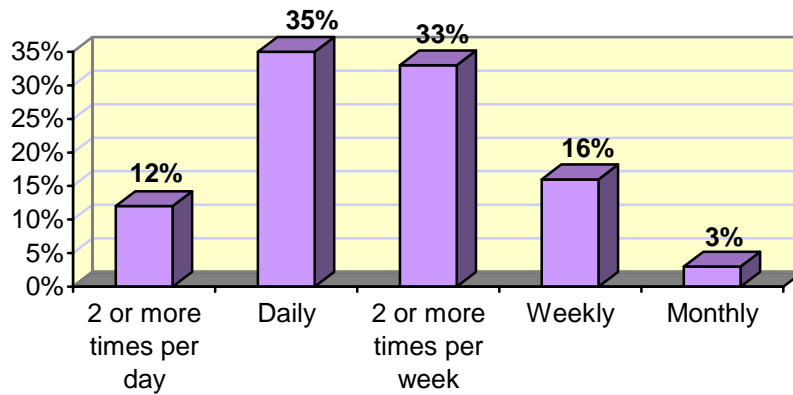


Figure 17. Do you plan to study abroad while enrolled at FSU?

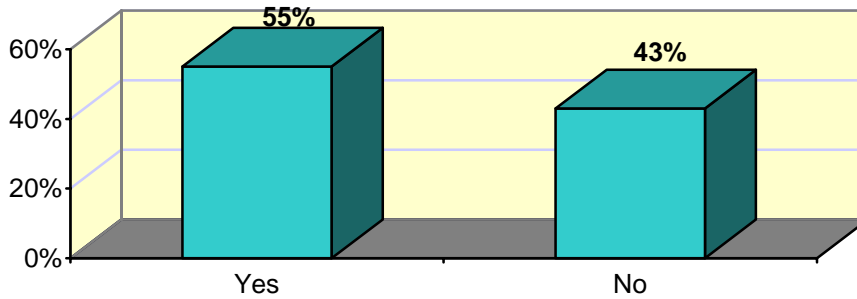


Figure 18. What kind of Personal Computer (PC) do you have?

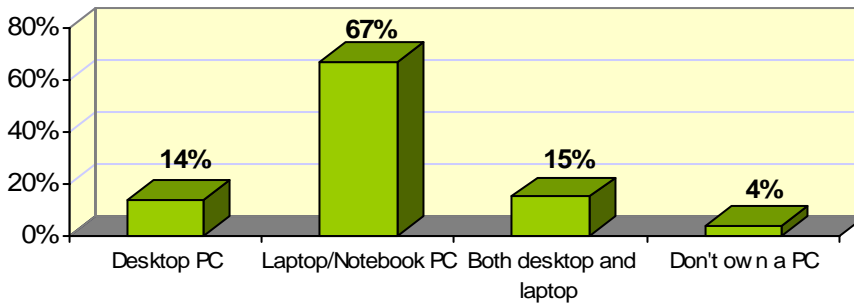
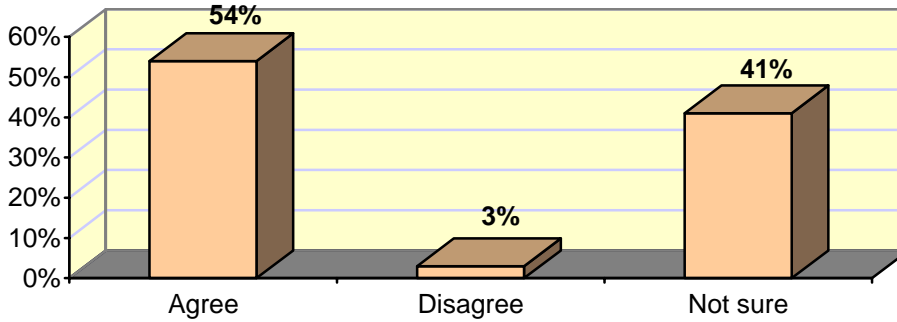


Figure 19. After graduation I plan on giving back to Florida State University.



Conclusion

The majority (67 percent) of the 2006 FSU freshmen are 18 years of age; this age pattern exactly reflects the national norm. The FSU freshman class is 82 percent White/Caucasian while the national trend is 73 percent White/Caucasian. The FSU freshman class has the same percentage of African American/Black freshmen enrolled when compared to the national norm – 7 percent. The predominant religion is Catholicism – 27 percent of FSU freshmen reported they were Roman Catholic.

Academically, the majority (98 percent) of FSU freshmen reported a high school grade point average of “B” or better. Exercise and fitness are important activities to FSU freshmen since almost 48 percent of FSU freshmen reported exercising or playing sports 6 hours or more per week in the last year of high school. A stable trend of low percentage in FSU freshmen engaging in certain behaviors such as smoking cigarettes, drinking beer, and drinking wine or liquor was identified when compared to the prior years beginning with 2001.