



Florida State University 2007 FRESHMEN CIRP SURVEY RESULTS



2007 Summer Bridge Program Participants- Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement

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



PROFILE OF 2007 FSU (FIRST-TIME /FULL-TIME) ENTERING FRESHMEN
CIRP RESULTS 2007

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

2007 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 been 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 6,340 students entering FSU in Fall 2007. The number of entering FSU freshmen (first-time, full-time) that returned completed surveys was 3,489. This resulted in a 55 percent response rate.

The majority (66 percent)² of the 2007 FSU freshmen surveyed is 18 years of age; this age pattern approximately reflects the national norm. The FSU freshman class is 81 percent White/Caucasian while the national trend is 74 percent White/Caucasian. Although FSU's racial and ethnic profile reflects national trends, FSU appears to have a lower percent of Asian American freshmen (4%) enrolled and a higher percent other Latinos freshmen (10%) enrollment when compared to the national norm. The predominant religion is Catholicism – 27 percent of FSU freshmen reported they were Roman Catholic.

Academically, 95 percent of 2007 FSU freshmen reported a high school grade point average of "B" or better. Exercise and fitness are important activities to FSU freshmen since almost half (45%) of FSU freshmen reported exercising or playing sports 6 hours or more per week in the last year of high school. A stable trend in low percentage of FSU freshmen engaging in 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 16 questions to the 2007 CIRP in order to assess incoming freshmen's opinions of service learning, diversity, leadership, and their mental health status.

Eighty-three percent (83%) of the FSU 2007 freshmen claimed that they had participated in activities and projects that taught leadership in high school. FSU 2007 freshmen were also very confident in their leadership abilities – 70 percent of them rated their leadership ability as above average. In addition, 89 percent of students indicated that taking service learning courses would increase their satisfaction with attending FSU. 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 Institutions with high selectivity for SAT and ACT scores of the entering class

² The percentages cited in this report reflect the proportion of the 3,489 students who completed the survey

2007 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 6,340 first-time in college students. The number of entering FSU freshmen (first-time, full-time) that returned completed surveys was 3,489. This resulted in a 55 percent response rate.

Survey Results

Demographic Characteristics

Age

The majority (66 percent) of the 2007 FSU incoming class is 18 years of age, while 32 percent are 19 years old; 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 were almost the same for the 2006 freshman class. [See Table 1]

Table 1. Age of Entering Freshmen

Age	FSU 2006 (%)	FSU 2007 (%)	Univ Hi 2006 ³ (%)	Univ Hi 2007(%)	All Public Univ-National Norm 2006 (%)	All Public Univ-National Norm 2007 (%)
Younger than 18	1	2	2	2	2	2
18	67	66	70	70	67	67
19	31	32	28	27	30	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 Term definition: Univ Hi = A public university comparable to FSU.

Race/Ethnicity

The 2007 FSU freshman class has a higher percent of White/Caucasian students than the national norm -- 81 percent compared to 74 percent in all public institutions nationwide. The 6 percent of African American/Black 2007 FSU freshmen almost mirrors the national norm. The percentage of African American/Black students at FSU continues to drop. In 2003, 7 percent of FSU freshmen reported they were African American, 8 percent in 2004, 10 percent in 2005, and 7 percent in 2006. Four percent (4%) of FSU 2007 freshmen reported they were Asian American/Asian compared to 14 percent at all public universities. Ten percent (10%) of FSU freshmen identified themselves as Other Latino compared to 3 percent at all public universities. [See Table 2]

Table 2. Ethnic Composition

Ethnicity	FSU 2006 (%)	FSU 2007 (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm 2006 (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm 2007 (%)
White/Caucasian	82	81	73	74
African American/Black	7	6	7	7
American Indian	2	2	2	2
Asian American/Asian	4	4	13	14
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<1	<1	2	1
Mexican American/Chicano	1	1	5	4
Puerto Rican	2	3	1	1
Other Latino	9	10	4	3
Other	3	2.2	4	3

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 2007 FSU freshmen stated they were Roman Catholic, same as 2006. The distribution for other religions in 2007 is: Baptist (11 percent), Other Christian (11 percent), and Methodist (7 percent). Twenty percent (20%) of the participants indicated no religious preference – while the figure in 2005 and 2006 was 16 percent and 19 percent respectively. This pattern approximates the national norm: Roman Catholic – 26 percent, Baptist – 7 percent, Other Christian – 12 percent, Methodist – 5 percent, and 23 percent indicating no religious preference.

Biographical Information

Parental Information

When asked if both parents were alive and living with each other, 70 percent of the FSU respondents indicated "Yes", while 27 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 23 percent. [See Table 3]

Table 3. Parents Living Arrangements

Are Your Parents:	FSU (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm (%)
Living with each other	70	73
Divorced or living apart	27	23
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-three percent (33%) of FSU 2007 entering freshmen's fathers have college degrees compared to the national norm of 31 percent. Twenty-six percent (26%) of FSU freshman fathers have graduate degrees compared to 27 percent of the national norm. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of FSU respondents' mothers have college degrees, one percent (1%) higher than the national norm. Nineteen percent (19%) of FSU respondents' mothers have graduate degrees, slightly lower than the national average of 20 percent. [See Figures 1 and 2]

Figure 1. Highest Level of Father's Education

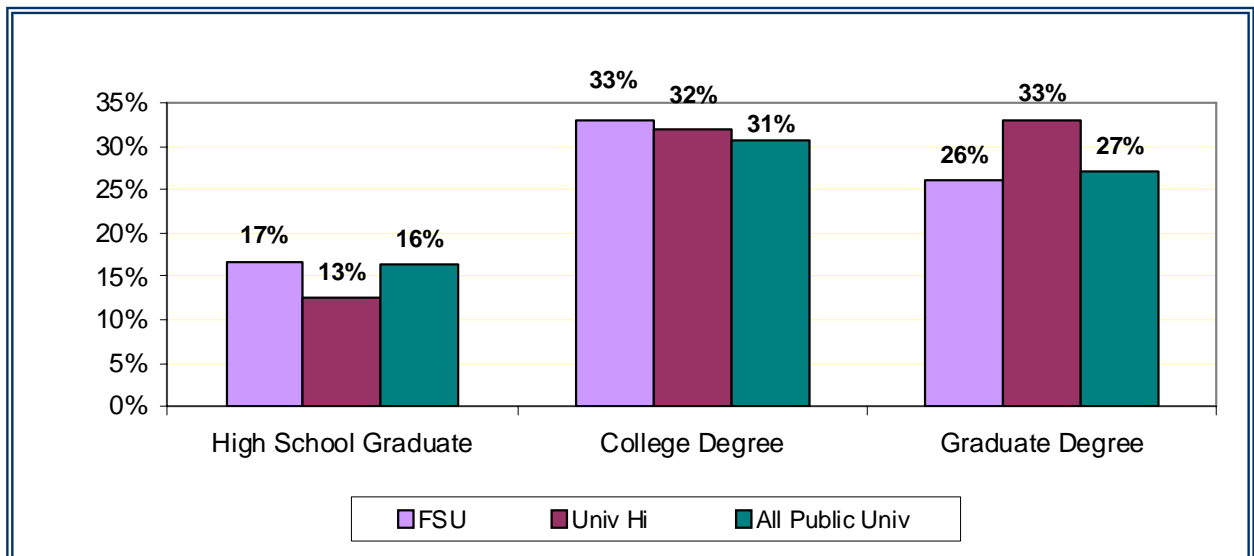
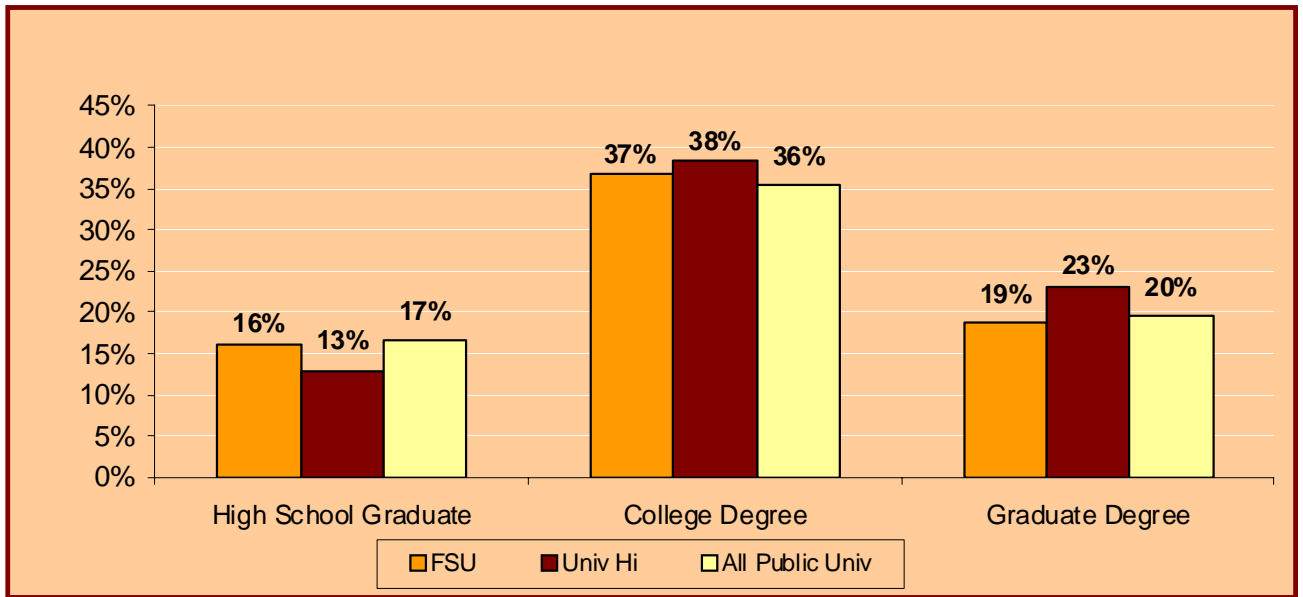


Figure 2. Highest Level of Mother's Education



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 has permanent homes between 101-500 miles from FSU; nationally, 38 percent of students claimed their permanent homes to be 101-500 miles from the universities they attend. Nineteen percent (19 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	52
72	101-500	38
19	> 500	10

Education and Financial Information

High School Grades

A slightly higher percent of FSU 2007 freshmen (95 percent) reported their grade point average in high school as "B" or better when compared to freshmen in all public universities—91 percent. [See Table 5]

Table 5. High School Grade Point Average

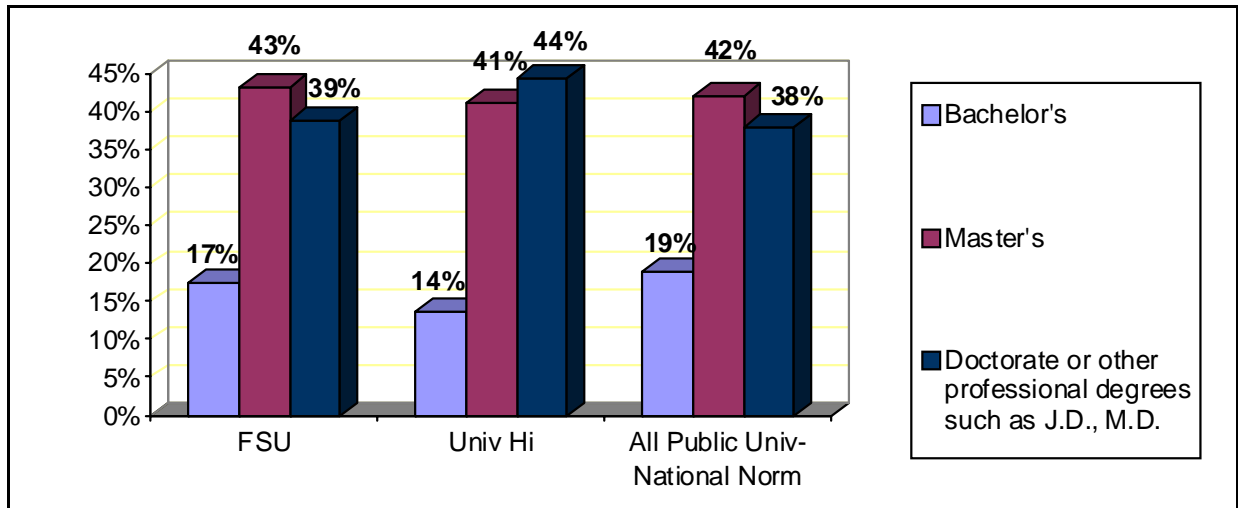
GPA	FSU (%)	Univ Hi (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm (%)
“B” or Better	95	97	91

FSU 2007 freshmen are more confident in their academic ability than their peers in all public universities. Seventy-four percent (74%) 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 65 percent. Additionally, 88 percent of FSU entering freshmen rated themselves as “above average” in academic ability, compared to the national norm of 79 percent.

Degree Aspirations

Forty-three percent (43%) of FSU freshmen indicated the highest degree they intended to obtain at *any* institution was a Master’s degree, 39 percent indicated a Doctorate or other professional degrees (such as M.D., J.D., etc.), and 17 percent indicated a Bachelor’s degree. The national norm shows 42 percent aspired to a Master’s degree, 38 percent indicated a Doctorate degree or other professional degrees, and 19 percent indicated a Bachelor’s degree. [See Figure 3]

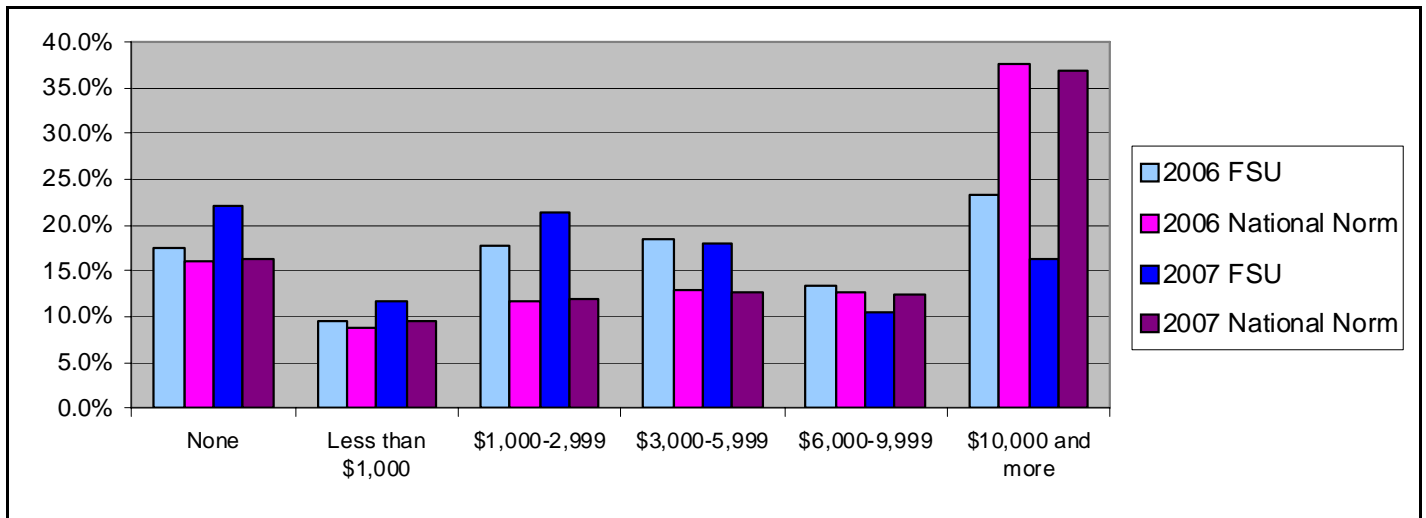
Figure 3. Highest Degree Planned at Any Institution



Financial Assistance

Most (78 percent) FSU freshmen planned to use parental, relatives or spouse’s assistance to finance their first year’s education compared to the national norm of 84 percent. Meanwhile, FSU freshmen are less likely to rely on large amounts — \$10,000 or more — from parents, other relatives or spouses’ resources; 16 percent of FSU freshmen stated they expected financial assistance of \$10,000 or more from these resources while 37 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 Spouse

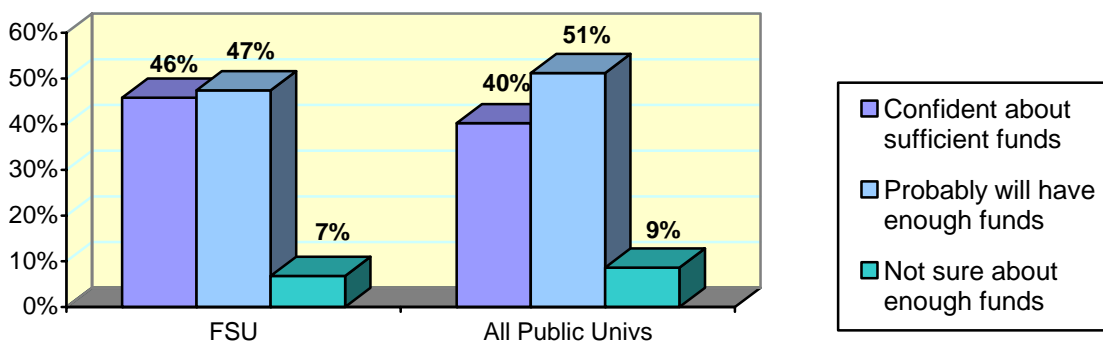


Percentages may sum to 100+ due to respondents marking more than one category and/or rounded decimals.

Financial Concern

A higher percentage of FSU students (46 percent) responded they were confident that they would have sufficient funds to finance their college education, compared to 40 percent in all public universities. Seven percent (7%) of the FSU 2007 freshmen surveyed were not sure if they would have enough funds to complete college, slightly lower than national average of 9%. [See Figure 5]

Figure 5. Financial Concern



Interests and Beliefs

Typical Weekly Activity in High School

The CIRP also asked FSU freshmen to report study patterns and involvement in social activities during their last year of high school. The majority of 2007 FSU freshmen (68 percent) reported spending **5 hours or less** per week studying or doing homework while 76 percent reported spending **6 hours or more** per week socializing with

friends. Almost half of the students (47 percent) reported spending *one to five hours* a week volunteering. [See Table 6]

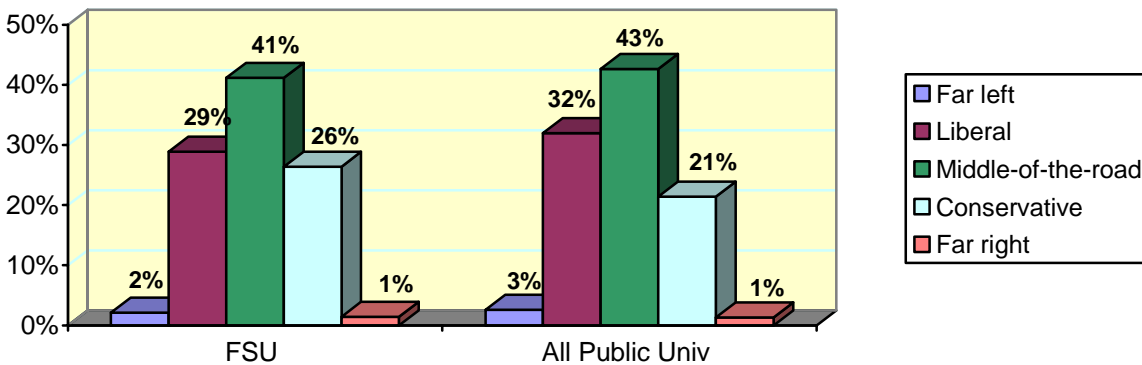
Table 6. Weekly Time Spent

	Less than 5 hours		More than 5 hours	
	FSU (%)	All Public Univs (%)	FSU (%)	All Public Univs (%)
Studying/homework	68	62	32	38
Socializing with friends	24	27	76	73
Volunteer work	88	91	12	9

Social and Political Views

Forty-one percent (41%) of the 2007 FSU freshmen claimed that their political views were “middle-of-the-road”. The students who indicated their political views as liberal were slightly higher (29%) compared to conservatives at 26 percent. [See Figure 7]

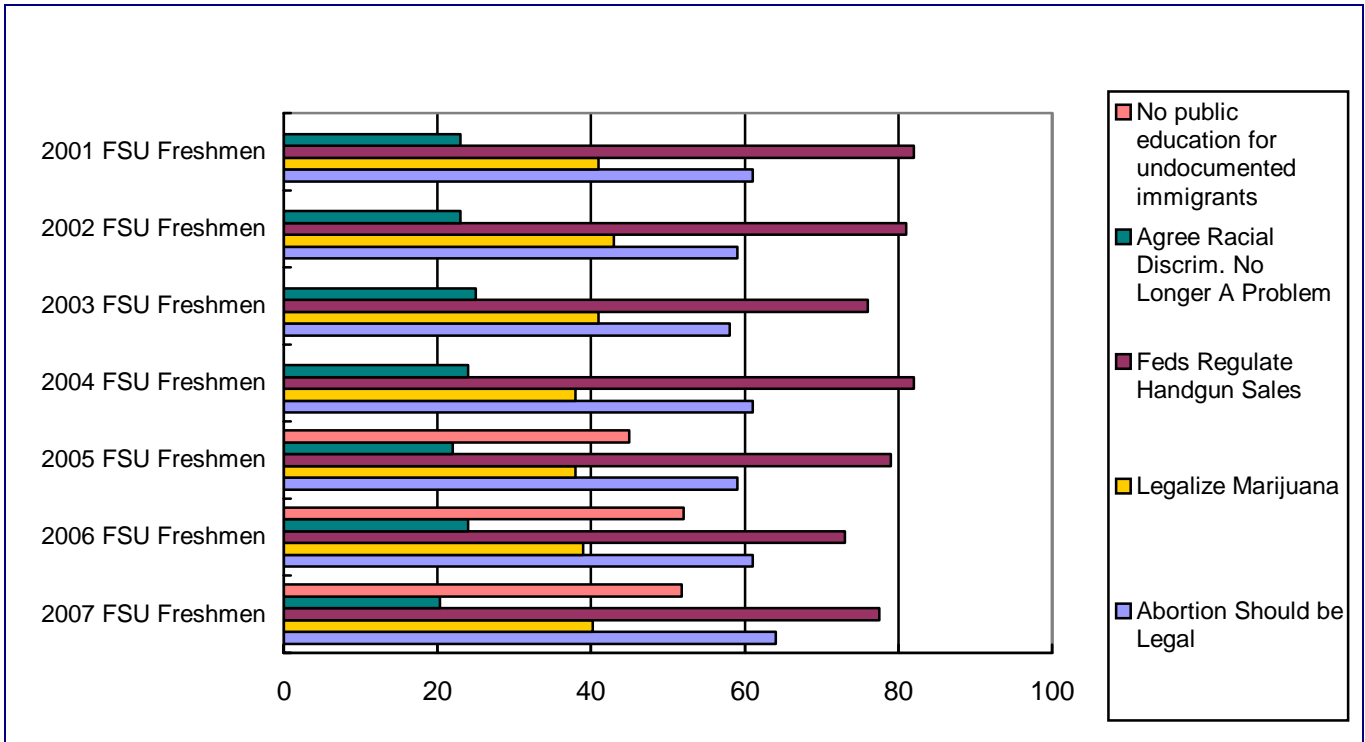
Figure 7. Political Views



The 2007 FSU freshmen also responded to questions about social and political concerns. The views of students in FSU freshmen class on political issues have stayed relatively the same over the period 2001 to 2007. For example, 64 percent of FSU students indicated that abortion should be legal; this percent increased slightly from 61 percent in 2006. Forty percent (40%) of FSU freshmen indicated that they thought marijuana should be legalized, one percent higher than last year. In 2007, 78 percent of the FSU freshmen thought the federal government should have more control of handguns compared to 73 percent in 2006 and 79 percent in 2005.

Twenty percent (20%) of FSU freshmen indicated that they thought racial discrimination was no longer a major problem in 2007; this figure was 24 percent in 2006, 22 percent in 2005 and 24 percent in 2004. 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, and remained the same in 2007. [See Figure 8]

Figure 8. Social and Political Beliefs



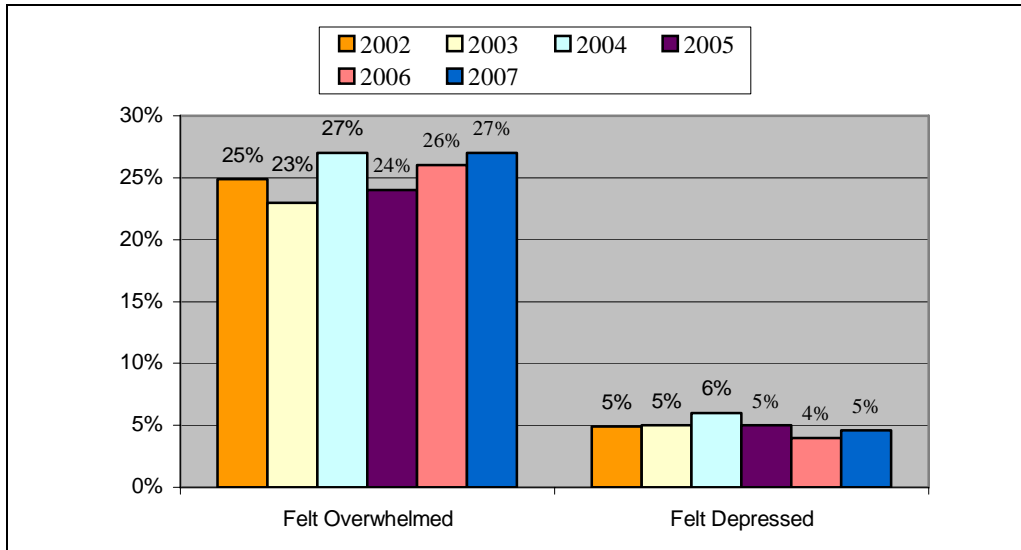
Wellness

Emotional Health

When asked if they had felt “overwhelmed by all they had to do in the past year,” 27 percent of 2007 FSU freshmen responded “yes” as compared to 26 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 and 26 percent in 2006. Similarly, the percent reporting depression is slightly higher – 5 percent of the FSU freshman class in 2007 stated they had felt depressed in the past year compared to 4 percent in 2006. [See Figure 9]

Results from FSU additional items regarding mental health are provided on page. 14.

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



Physical Health

The number of hours that 2007 FSU freshmen exercised reflected those of 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 1 percentage point difference of freshmen in all public universities. About 23 percent of FSU freshmen indicated they had spent between 3 to 5 hours in a typical week exercising or playing sports and 19 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 from 2005.

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

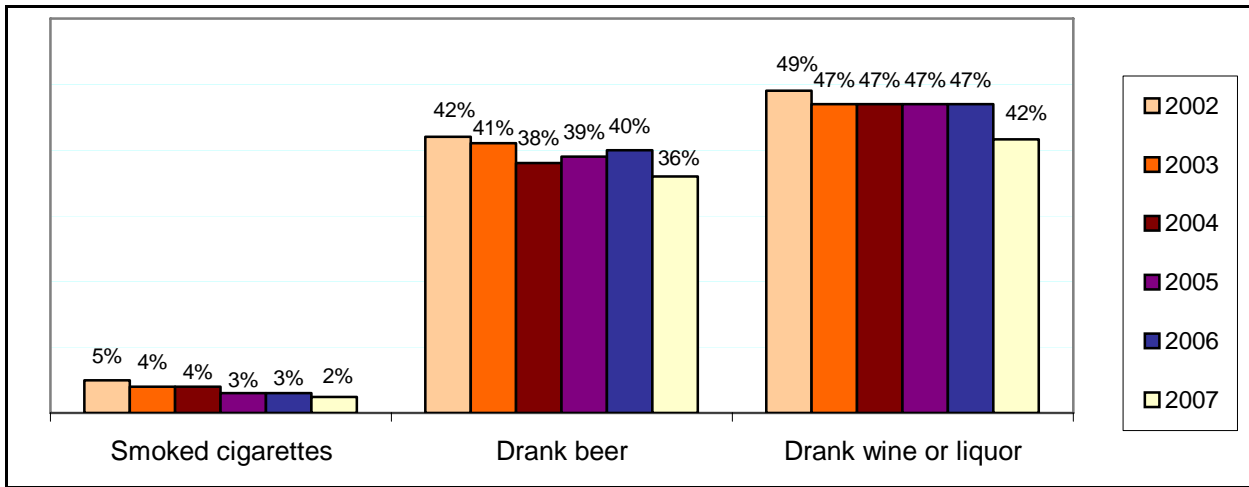
HOURS	FSU 2007 (%)	All Public Universities-National Norm 2007 (%)
None	5	4
<1	10	9
1 to 2	17	15
3 to 5	23	21
6 to 10	19	20
11 to 15	12	14
16 to 20	7	8
>20	8	9

Alcohol and Tobacco Use

Figure 10 shows a declining trend of FSU freshmen engaging in smoking cigarettes, drinking beer, and drinking wine or liquor. In 2001, 7 percent of students stated that they had used tobacco products while 2 percent

responded that they had done so in 2007. Similarly, 47 percent of the students in 2001 responded that they had consumed beer in the last year as compared to 36 percent in 2007. The percentage of students who responded that they had consumed wine or liquor did not change from 2003 to 2006 – 47 percent, but declined by nearly 5 percent in 2007-- 42%. Compared to their peers in all public universities, FSU 2007 freshmen are generally consuming less cigarettes, beer, and wine or liquor. [See Figure 10]

Figure 10. Alcohol & Tobacco Consumption



FSU Additional Questions

FSU added 16 questions to the 2007 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

Ninety-three percent (93%) of students agreed that service-learning courses (SLc) help prepare them to become active citizens in their communities. Similarly, 89 percent of students indicated that taking service-learning courses would increase their satisfaction with attending FSU for their education. However, when asked if they wanted to take at least one service-learning course, only 31 percent stated "Yes." [See Figures 11 and 12]

Figure 11. Service Learning

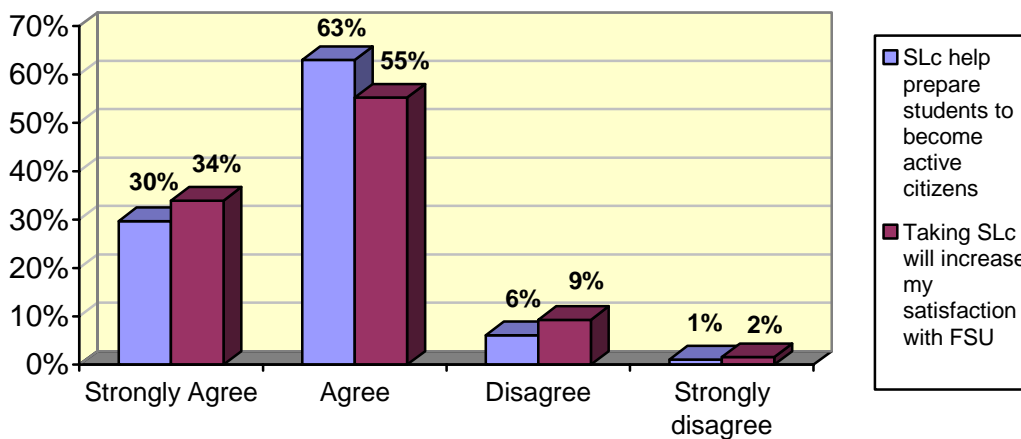
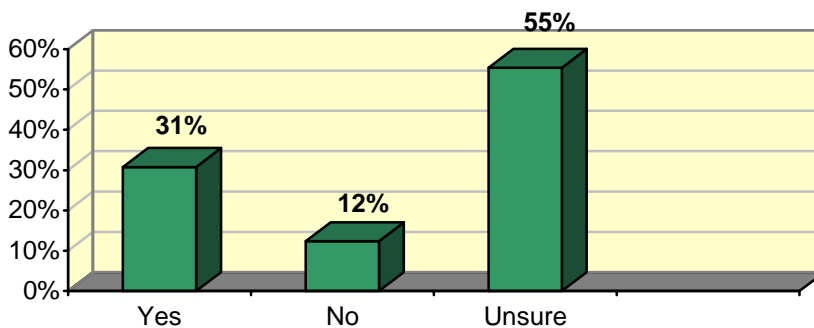


Figure 12. Willingness to Take Service Learning Course



Leadership

FSU 2007 freshmen were confident in their leadership abilities – 70 percent of them rated their leadership ability as average or above. Eighty-three percent (83%) of the FSU 2007 freshmen claimed that they had participated in actual activities and projects that taught leadership in high school. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of the respondents stated they agreed with the statement that developing their leadership skills was important to them. Nearly all of the respondents (97%) agreed that they expected their experience at FSU would improve their leadership skills.

Mental Health

Most (65 percent) of the FSU 2007 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, 46 percent of them indicated “if I wanted help making a personal decision.” Individual counseling and workshops on specific subjects were indicated as the main services for which students would use the University Counseling Center. [See Tables 8 and 9]

Table 8. University Counseling Center Uses

I would use the University Counseling Center at FSU:	Percentage
If I wanted help making a personal decision	46%
If I needed counseling to help me cope with a specific situation (e.g., death of a loved one)	30%
If I needed to talk to someone about a serious psychological problem (e.g., chronic depression)	15%
If I were suicidal	6%
If I needed to talk with someone about alcohol/other drug use or abuse	3%

Table 9. University Counseling Center Services Sought

I would be MOST interested in seeking the following services:	Percentage
Group Therapy	5%
Individual counseling	27%
Couples counseling	2%
Workshops on specific subjects like stress management	18%
None of the above	49%

Conclusion

The majority (66 percent) of the 2007 FSU freshmen surveyed is 18 years of age; this age pattern approximately reflects the national norm. The FSU freshman class is 81 percent White/Caucasian while the national trend is 74 percent White/Caucasian. Although FSU's racial and ethnic profile reflects national trends, FSU appears to have a lower percent of Asian American freshmen enrolled and a higher percent other Latinos freshmen enrollment when compared to the national norm. The predominant religion is Catholicism – 27 percent of FSU freshmen reported they were Roman Catholic.

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