

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. To view the entire 2006 CIRP report visit: http://studentaffairs.fsu.edu/research_RD/Documents/CIRP%20Report%202006.pdf.

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.