



Florida State University 2008 FRESHMEN

CIRP SURVEY RESULTS

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



**PROFILE OF 2008 FSU (FIRST-TIME, FULL-TIME) ENTERING FRESHMEN
CIRP RESULTS 2008**

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

2008 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 New Student and Family Programs administered the survey to 5,355 students entering FSU in fall 2008. The number of entering FSU freshmen (first-time, full-time) that returned completed surveys was 3,064. This resulted in a 57 percent response rate.

The majority (67 percent)² of the 2008 FSU freshmen surveyed is 18 years of age; this age pattern approximately reflects the national norm (70%). The FSU freshman class is 80 percent White/Caucasian while the national trend is 71 percent White/Caucasian. Although FSU's racial and ethnic profile reflects national trends, FSU appears to have a lower percent of Asian American freshmen (3%) enrolled and a higher percent Other Latino freshmen (10%) enrollment when compared to the national norm of 15% and 4% respectively. The predominant religion is Catholicism – 26 percent of FSU freshmen reported they were Roman Catholic.

Academically, 98 percent of 2008 FSU freshmen reported a high school grade point average of "B" or better, 3 percent increase from 2007. Exercise and fitness are important activities to FSU freshmen since almost half (48%) 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 2008 CIRP in order to assess incoming freshmen's opinions of service learning, diversity, leadership, and their mental health status.

Eighty-three percent (85%) of the FSU 2008 freshmen claimed that they had participated in activities and projects that taught leadership in high school. FSU 2008 freshmen were also very confident in their leadership abilities – 72 percent of them rated their leadership ability as above average. In addition, 88 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 3,064 students who completed the survey

2008 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 States. FSU has participated in the CIRP for over 30 years.

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Survey Results

Demographic Characteristics

Age

The majority (67 percent) of the 2008 FSU incoming class is 18 years of age, while 32 percent are 19 years old; the national norm - 70 percent of all incoming freshmen are 18 years of age while 28 percent are 19 years old. At FSU, the percentages were almost the same for the 2007 freshman class. [See Table 1]

Table 1. Age of Entering Freshmen

Age	FSU 2008 (%)	FSU 2007 (%)	Univ Hi ³ 2008(%)	Univ Hi 2007(%)	All Public Univ-National Norm 2008 (%)	All Public Univ-National Norm 2007 (%)
Younger than 18	2	2	2	2	2	2
18	67	66	73	70	70	67
19	32	32	25	27	28	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

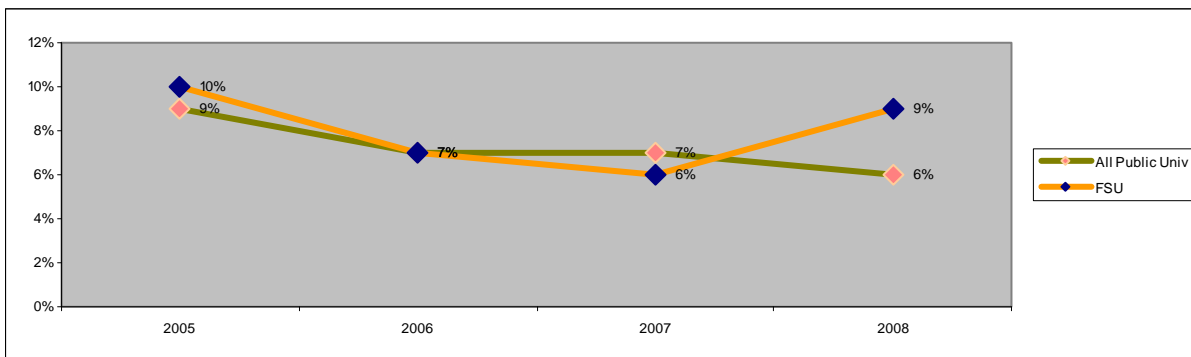
The 2008 FSU freshman class has a higher percent of White/Caucasian students than the national norm -- 80 percent compared to 71 percent in all public institutions nationwide. The 9 percent of African American/Black 2008 FSU freshmen is 3 percent higher than the national norm. Three percent (3%) of FSU 2008 freshmen reported they were Asian American/Asian compared to 15 percent at all public universities. Ten percent (10%) of FSU freshmen identified themselves as Other Latino compared to 4 percent at all public universities. The percentage of African American /Black students at FSU starts to increase after a trend of decreasing from 2006. In 2005, 10 percent of FSU freshmen reported they were African American, 7 percent in 2006, and 6 percent in 2007. [See Table 2 and Figure 1]

Table 2. Ethnic Composition

Ethnicity	FSU 2008 (%)	FSU 2007 (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm 2008 (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm 2007 (%)
White/Caucasian	80	81	71	74
African American/Black	9	6	6	7
American Indian	2	2	2	2
Asian American/Asian	3	4	15	14
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<1	<1	2	1
Mexican American/Chicano	1	1	7	4
Puerto Rican	2	3	1	1
Other Latino	10	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.

Figure 1. African American Students Enrollment Trend



Religion

Twenty-six percent (26%) of the 2008 FSU freshmen stated they were Roman Catholic. The distribution for other main religions in 2008 is: Baptist (11 percent), Other Christian (11 percent), and Methodist (8 percent). Twenty-one percent (21%) of the participants indicated no religious preference – while the figure in 2006 and 2007 was 19 percent and 20 percent respectively. Roman Catholic and Other Christian believers approximate the national norm: Roman Catholic – 25 percent and Other Christian – 12 percent. Baptist (6%) and Methodist (4%) at all public universities are nearly half less than those of FSU 2008 freshmen. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the freshmen at all public universities indicated no religious preference.

Biographical Information

Parental Information

When asked if both parents were alive and living with each other, 71 percent of the FSU respondents indicated “Yes”, while 26 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 22 percent. [See Table 3]

Table 3. Parents Living Arrangements

Are Your Parents:	FSU (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm (%)
Living with each other	71	75
Divorced or living apart	26	22
One or both deceased	4	3

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

Parents' Education Levels

Thirty-two percent (32%) of FSU 2008 entering freshmen's fathers have college degrees compared to the national norm of 30 percent. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of FSU freshman fathers have graduate degrees and exactly reflected the national norm. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of FSU respondents' mothers have college degrees, two percent (2%) higher than the national norm. Twenty percent (20%) of FSU respondents' mothers have graduate degrees which mirrored the national average. [See Figures 2 and 3]

Figure 2. Highest Level of Father's Education

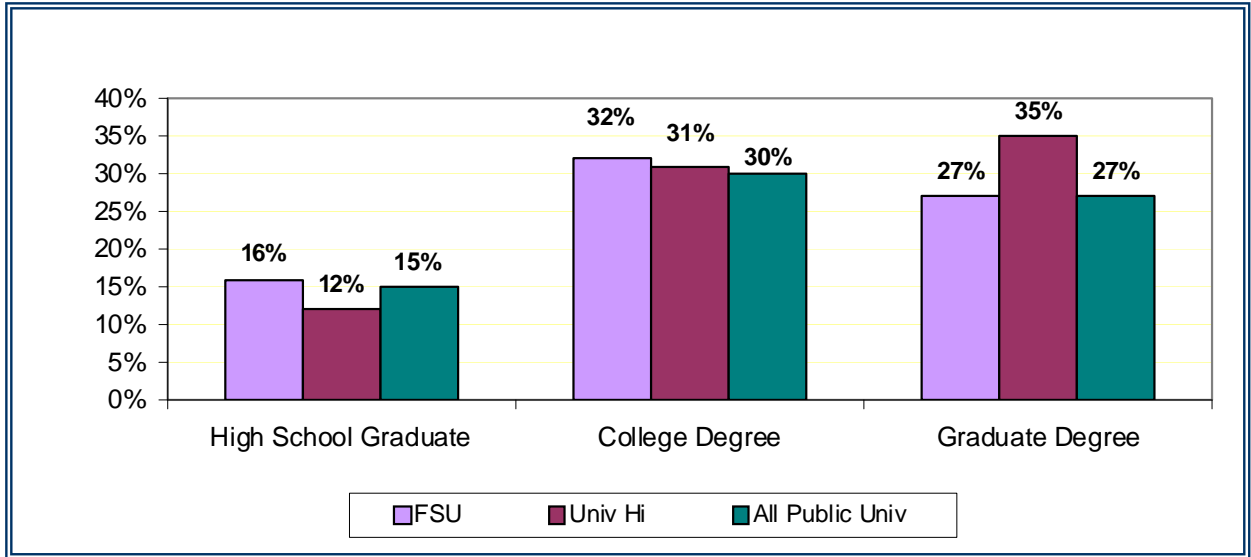
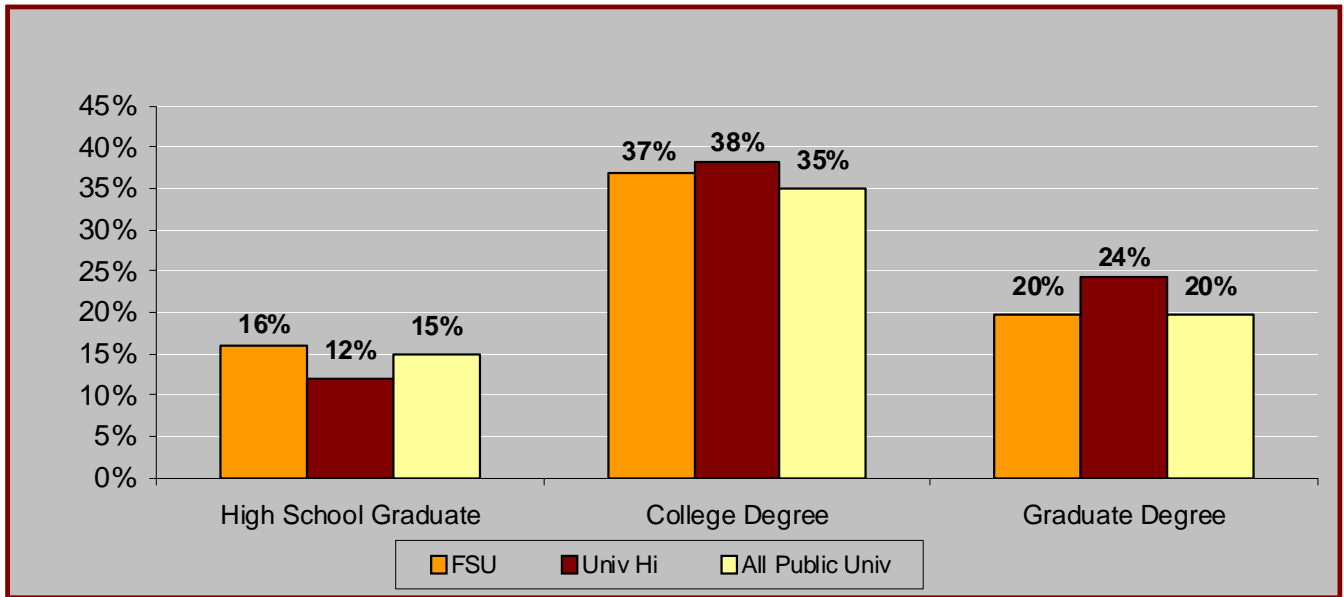


Figure 3. Highest Level of Mother's Education



Distance from Home

A higher percentage of FSU freshmen are farther away from their permanent homes than the national norm. The majority (73 percent) of freshmen have permanent homes between 101-500 miles from FSU; nationally, 46 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 11 percent of the national norm. [See Table 4]

Table 4. Distance from Home

FSU (%)	Number of Miles	All Public Univ-National Norm (%)
9	0-100	44
73	101-500	46
18	> 500	11

Education and Financial Information

High School Grades

A slightly higher percent of FSU 2008 freshmen (98 percent) reported their grade point average in high school as “B” or better when compared to freshmen in all public universities—95 percent. [See Table 5]

Table 5. High School Grade Point Average

GPA	FSU (%)	Univ Hi (%)	All Public Univ – National Norm (%)
“B” or Better	98	99	95

FSU 2008 freshmen are more confident in their academic ability than their peers in all public universities. Seventy-six percent (76%) 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, 90 percent of FSU entering freshmen rated themselves as “above average” in academic ability, 11 percent higher compared to the national norm of 79 percent.

College Selection

With respect to college selection, a higher percentage (71 percent) of FSU 2008 incoming students indicated that FSU was their first college choice compared to the national norm of 62 percent. As for the reasons influencing college selection, FSU 2008 freshmen rated academic reputation, job opportunity after graduation, social activities, campus visiting, and financial assistance as the five top reasons determining their college selection. Compared to all public universities, FSU freshmen shared the same top reasons for college selection with a more positive view of their institution than peer institution students. The majority (seventy percent) of FSU freshmen reported selecting their college because of its very good academic reputation. Fifty-five percent of FSU freshmen regarded a “good reputation for its social activities” as influencing their college selection compared to the national average of forty-two percent. Forty-eight percent of FSU freshmen indicated a visit to campus was the reason for choosing their current college, eleven percent higher than the national average of 37 percent. [See Figure 4 and 5]

Figure 4. College Choice

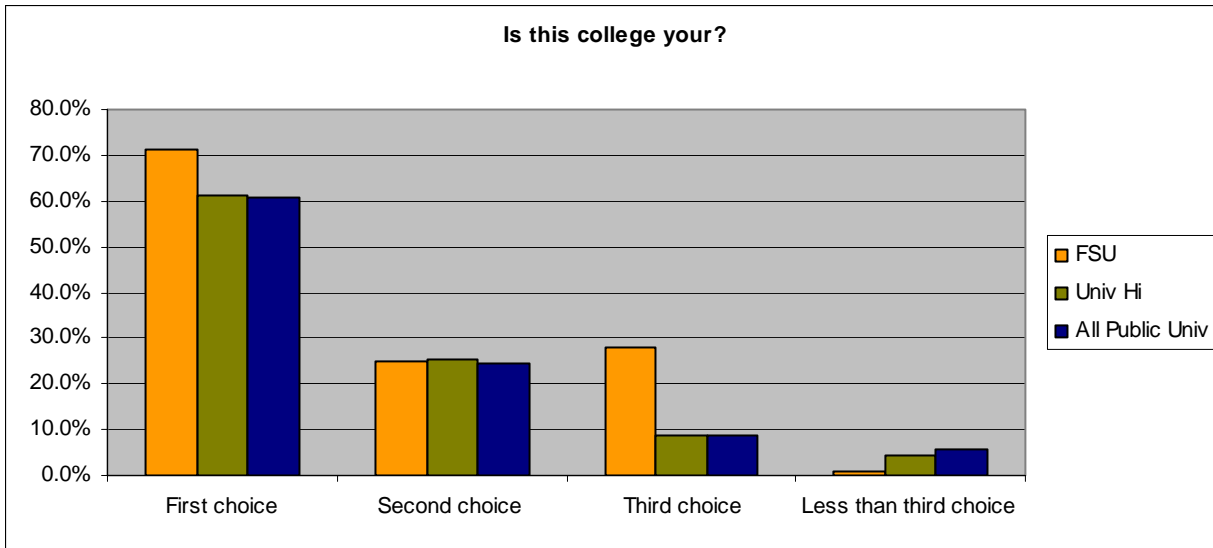
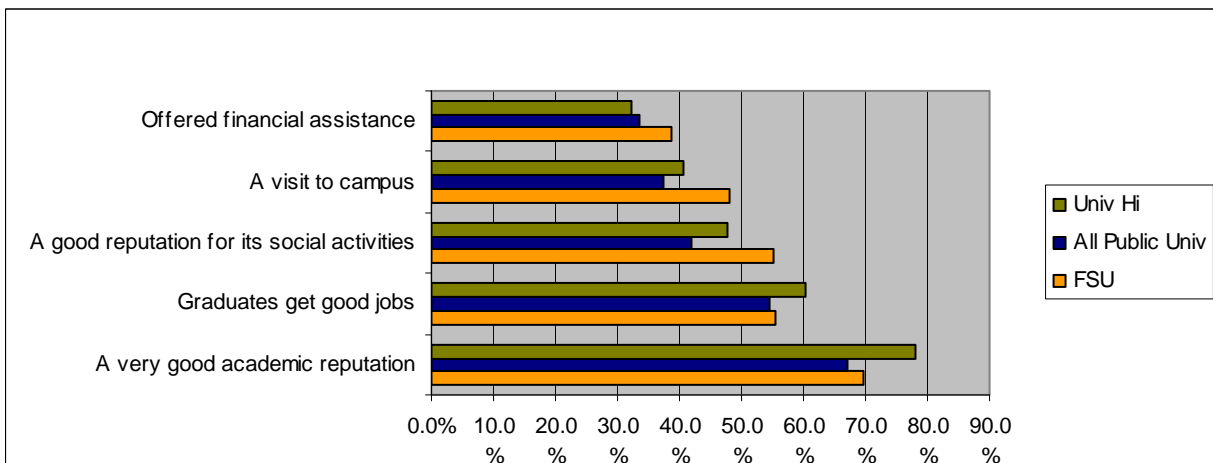


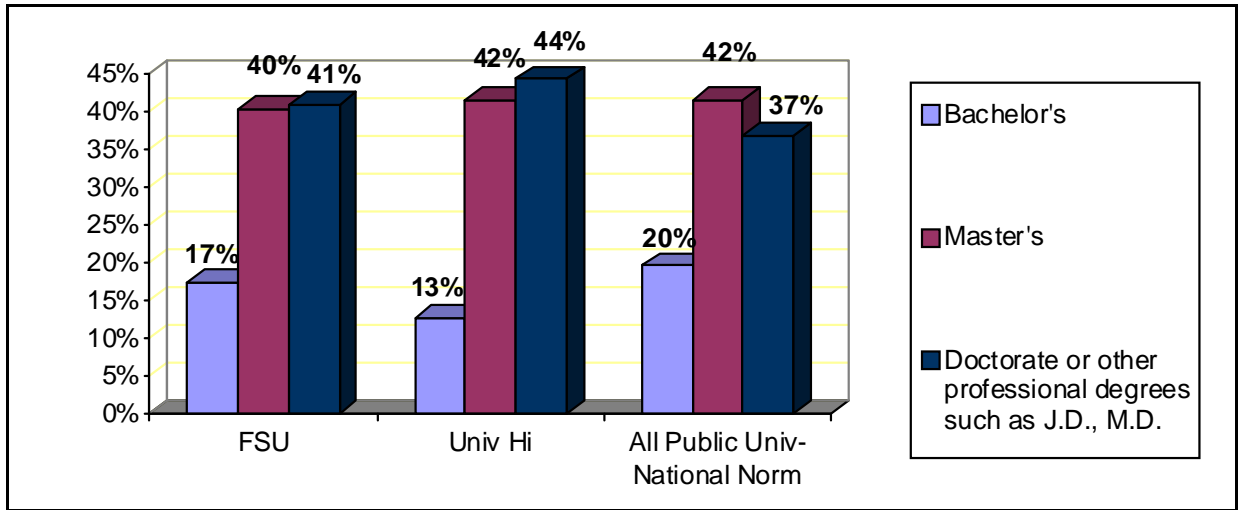
Figure 5. Top 5 Reasons for College Selection



Degree Aspirations

Forty percent (40%) of FSU freshmen indicated the highest degree they intended to obtain at *any* institution was a Master's degree, 41 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, 37 percent indicated a Doctorate degree or other professional degrees, and 20 percent indicated a Bachelor's degree. [See Figure 6]

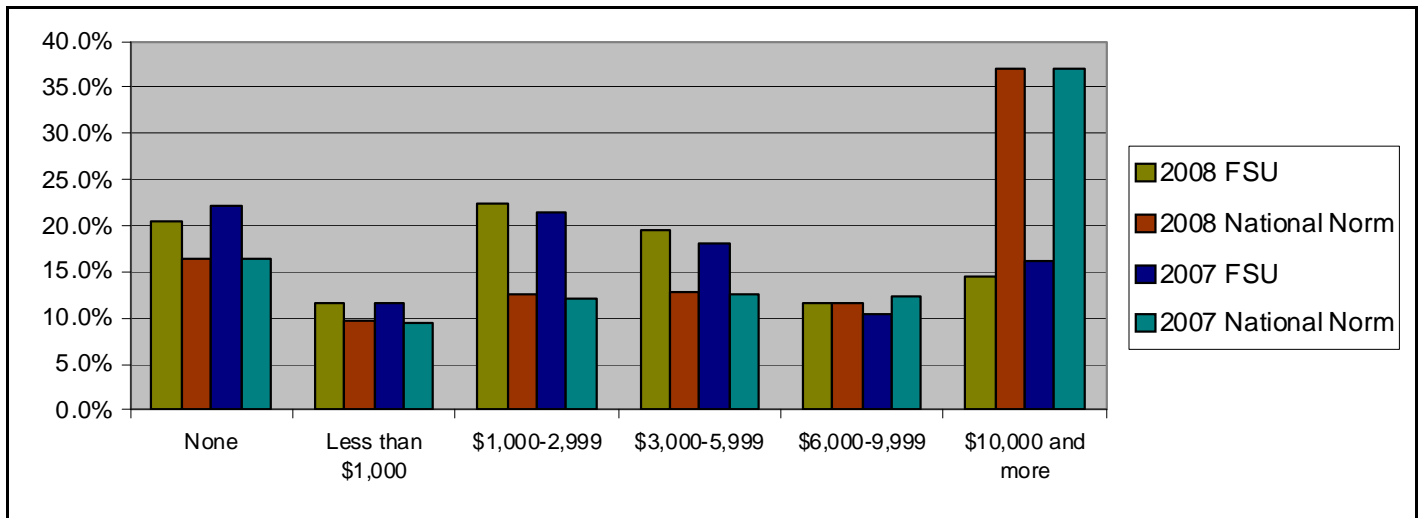
Figure 6. Highest Degree Planned at Any Institution



Financial Assistance

Less (79 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 83 percent. Meanwhile, FSU freshmen are less likely to rely on large amounts — \$10,000 or more — from parents, other relatives or spouse's resources; 15 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 7]

Figure 7. Amount of First Year Expenses Expected to be Paid by Family or Spouse

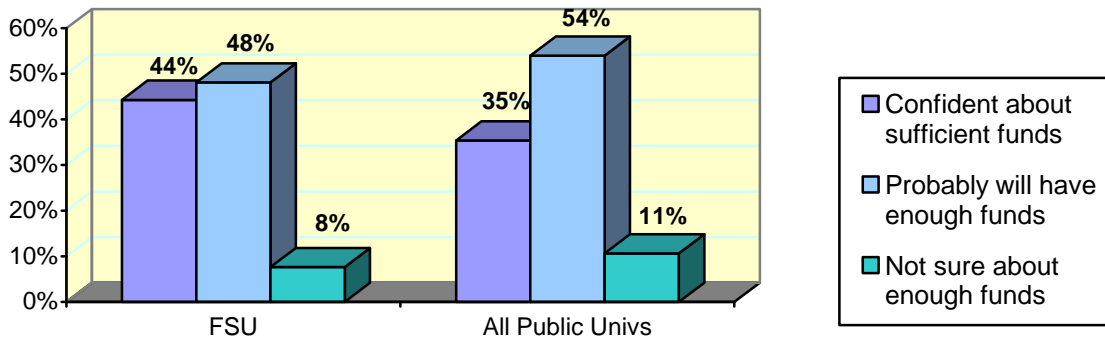


Percentages may sum to 100+ due to respondents marking more than one category and/or rounded decimals.

Financial Concern

A higher percentage of FSU students (44 percent) responded they were confident that they would have sufficient funds to finance their college education, compared to 35 percent in all public universities. Eight percent (8%) of the FSU 2008 freshmen surveyed were not sure if they would have enough funds to complete college, slightly lower than national average of 11%. [See Figure 8]

Figure 8. 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 2008 FSU freshmen (64 percent) reported spending *5 hours or less* per week studying or doing homework while 75 percent reported spending *6 hours or more* per week socializing with friends. Almost half of the students (46 percent) reported spending *one to five hours* a week volunteering. [See Table 6]

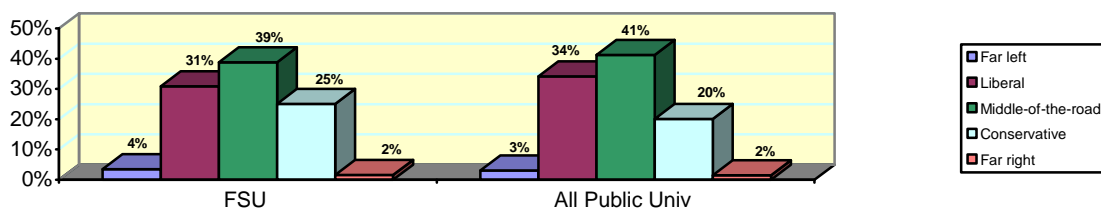
Table 6. Weekly Time Spent

	Less than 5 hours		More than 5 hours	
	FSU (%)	All Public Univs (%)	FSU (%)	All Public Univs (%)
Studying/homework	64	59	36	41
Socializing with friends	25	28	75	72
Volunteer work	86	90	14	10

Social and Political Views

Thirty-nine percent (39%) of the 2008 FSU freshmen claimed that their political views were “middle-of-the-road”. The students who indicated their political views as liberal were slightly higher (31%) compared to conservatives at 25 percent. [See Figure 9]

Figure 9. Political Views

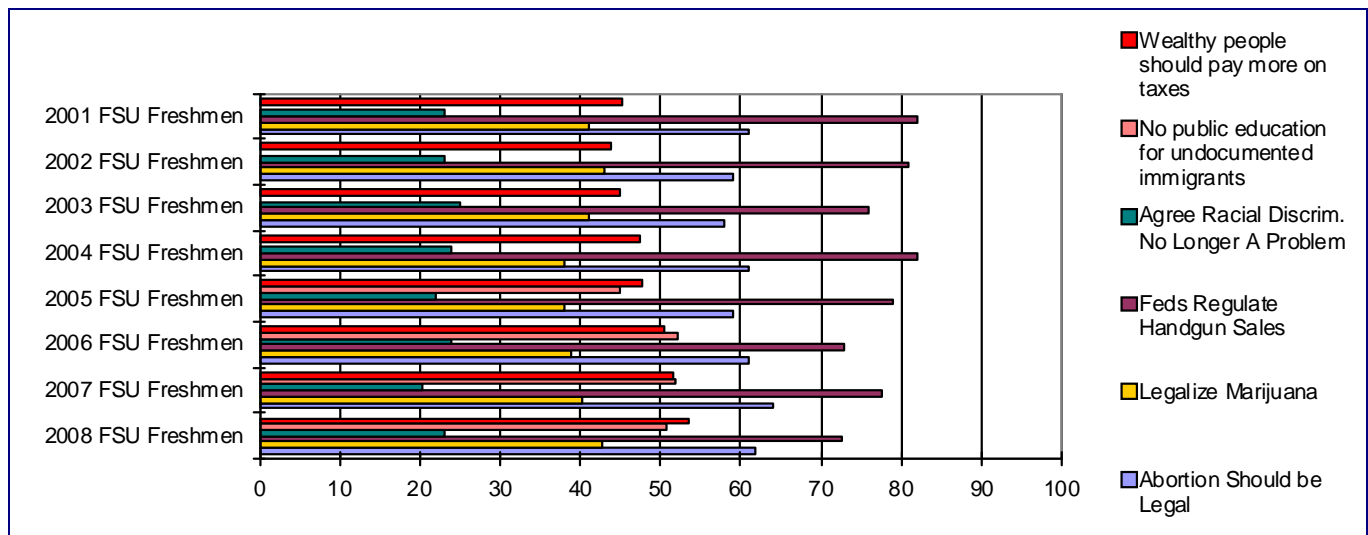


The 2008 FSU freshmen also responded to questions about social and political concerns. The views of students in FSU freshmen class on political issues have stayed relatively the same over the period 2001 to 2008. For example, 62 percent of FSU students indicated that abortion should be legal; this percent decreased slightly from 64 percent in 2007. Forty-three percent (43%) of FSU freshmen indicated that they thought marijuana should be legalized, three percent higher than last year. In 2008, 73 percent of the FSU freshmen thought the federal government should have more control of handguns compared to 78 percent in 2007.

Twenty-three percent (23%) of FSU freshmen indicated that they thought racial discrimination was no longer a major problem in 2007; this figure was 20 percent in 2007. 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 2007, and remained almost the same in 2008 (51%). [See Figure 10]

Fifty-four percent (54%) of the 2008 freshmen believed that wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now, compared to 52% in 2007, 51% in 2006, and 48% in 2005.

Figure 10. Social and Political Beliefs



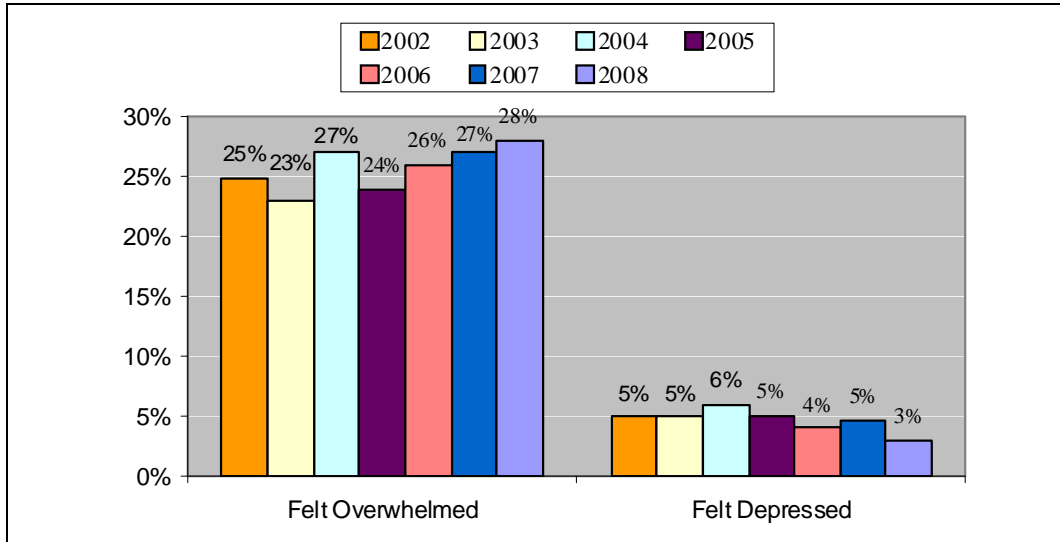
Wellness

Emotional Health

When asked if they had felt “overwhelmed by all they had to do in the past year,” 28 percent of 2008 FSU freshmen responded “yes” as compared to 27 percent of the freshmen at all public universities. Compared to prior freshman classes, 24 percent of the FSU freshmen in 2005 stated they had felt overwhelmed in the last year, 26 percent in 2006, and 27 percent in 2007. The percent reporting depression is slightly lower – 3 percent of the FSU freshman class in 2008 stated they had felt depressed in the past year compared to 5 percent in 2007. [See Figure 11]

Results from FSU additional items regarding mental health are provided on page 15.

Figure 11. Felt Overwhelmed/ Felt Depressed in the Last Year



Physical Health

The numbers of hours that 2008 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. Twenty-three percent (23%) of FSU freshmen indicated they had spent between 3 to 5 hours in a typical week exercising or playing sports and 22 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 2007.

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

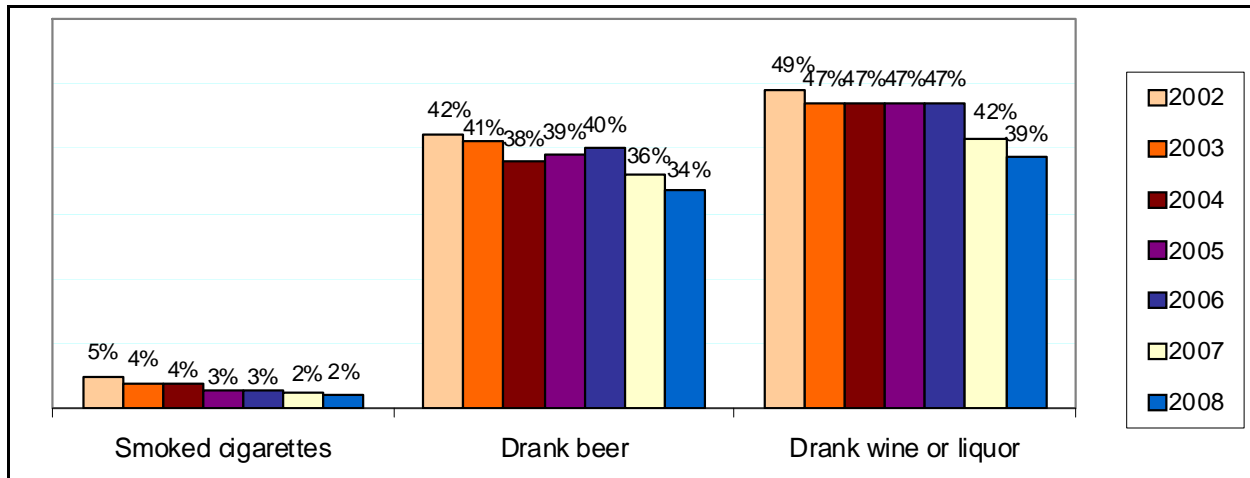
HOURS	FSU 2008 (%)	All Public Universities-National Norm 2008 (%)
None	4	4
<1	9	9
1 to 2	16	15
3 to 5	23	20
6 to 10	22	21
11 to 15	12	14
16 to 20	7	8
>20	7	9

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 2008. Similarly, 47 percent of the students in 2001 responded that they had consumed beer in the last year as compared to 34 percent in 2008. 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 8 percent in 2008 – 39%. Compared to their peers in all public universities, FSU 2008 freshmen are generally consuming less cigarettes, beer, and wine or liquor. [See Figure 12]

Figure 12. Alcohol & Tobacco Consumption



FSU Additional Questions

FSU added 16 questions to the 2008 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 percent (90%) of students agreed that service learning courses (SLC) help prepare them to become active citizens in their communities. Similarly, 88 percent of students indicated that taking service learning courses would increase their satisfaction while attending FSU for their education. However, when asked if they wanted to take at least one service-learning course, only 35 percent stated "Yes." [See Figures 13 and 14]

Figure 13. Service Learning

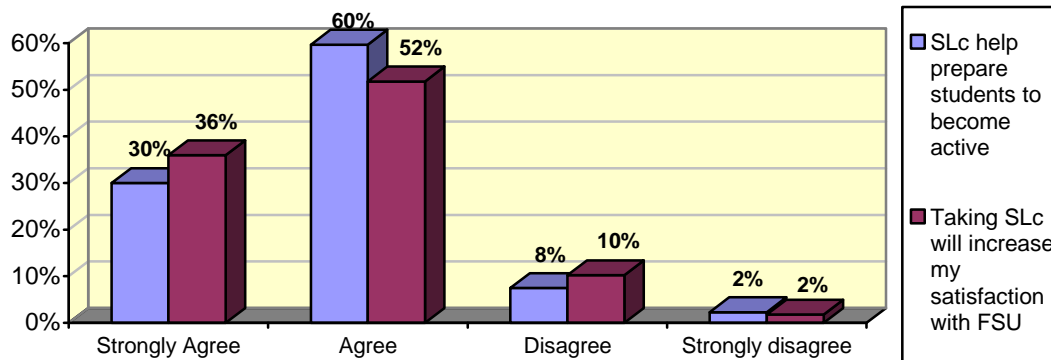
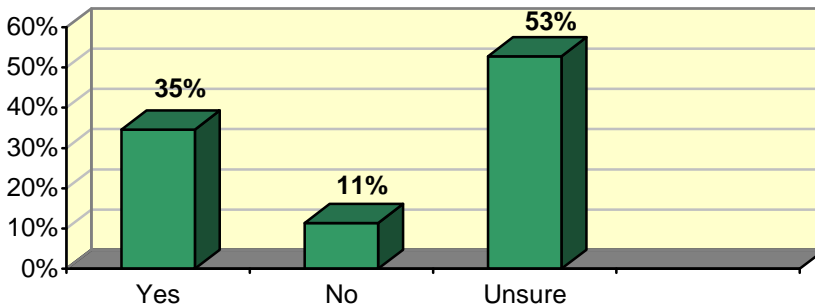


Figure 14. Willingness to Take Service Learning Course



Leadership

FSU 2008 freshmen were confident in their leadership abilities – 72 percent of them rated their leadership ability as average or above. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the FSU 2008 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 (62 percent) of the FSU 2008 freshmen claimed never having had counseling prior to their enrollment at FSU. When the students were asked in what situation they would use the University Counseling Center at FSU, 43 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. The students who claimed no interest in the services provided by the University Counseling Center decreased 10 percent compared to the figure of 2007. [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	43%
If I needed counseling to help me cope with a specific situation (e.g., death of a loved one)	33%
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	4%
Individual counseling	34%
Couples counseling	3%
Workshops on specific subjects like stress management	20%
None of the above	39%

Conclusion

The majority (67 percent) of the 2008 FSU freshmen surveyed is 18 years of age; this age pattern approximately reflects the national norm. The FSU freshman class is 80 percent White/Caucasian while the national trend is 71 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 – 26 percent of FSU freshmen reported they were Roman Catholic.

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