

# Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey

**Survey Population:** Incoming First-Year Students

**Frequency and Method:** Administered annually during First-Year Orientation using a Scantron form. Since this is an Orientation event that is attended by nearly all first-year students, we have been able to achieve response rates in excess of 90%. In addition, most students provide us with their identification number, allowing us to link these responses to future survey responses such as the senior survey and alumni surveys.

**Affiliations:** The survey is administered through the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) of UCLA.

**History:** Dickinson College has been administering this survey for over 45 years. Although some questions have changed, been added or removed, the overall survey instrument has remained fairly consistent. We have electronic data for the CIRP (back to 1995), and for previous years there are hardcopy files and reports in the IR Office.

**Description:** From their website: Each year, approximately 700 two-year colleges, four-year colleges and universities administer the Freshman Survey to over 400,000 entering students during orientation or registration. The survey covers a wide range of student characteristics: parental income and education, ethnicity, and other demographic items; financial aid; secondary school achievement and activities; educational and career plans; and values, attitudes, beliefs, and self-concept. Published annually in "The American Freshman," the results from these surveys continue to provide a comprehensive portrait of the changing character of entering students and American society at large. (<http://www.heri.ucla.edu/cirpoverview.php>).

**Reports and Data:** Each year the data are added to the existing file in order to examine trends and compare the responses to other recent FY classes. The trend charts and summative comments are created and archived each year and are available upon request.

[\(Link to PDF of the survey\)](#)