Dominican University
CIRP Freshman Survey
2016 Results

OIE Data Dialogue
March 29, 2017

Higher Education Research Institute, University of California at Los Angeles
The CIRP Freshmen Survey (TFS) provides data on incoming college students’ background characteristics, high school experiences, attitudes, behaviors, and expectations for college. Since 1966, over 15 million students at over 1,900 institutions have participated in the survey. DU has participated in it since 1972.

Key sections of the survey we’ll examine today:

- College admissions decisions
- Concerns about financing college
- Self-efficacy and perceived skills and abilities
- Expectations for college life
At DU, the CIRP Freshman Survey is administered electronically during SOAR. As a result, response rates are very high; reaching 97% for the Fall 2016 incoming class.

First-time, Full-time Freshmen

Dominican University
N=478

Comparison Group
Catholic 4-yr Colleges of medium selectivity
N=2,223
College Admissions Decisions:

Students’ reasons for choosing to go to college and items that impacted their decision to attend Dominican
College Choice

In deciding to go to college, how important to you was each of the following reasons?

- To be able to get a better job: 94.1% (Dominican Freshmen), 89.4% (Comparison Group)
- To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas: 87.9% (Dominican Freshmen), 77.2% (Comparison Group)
- To make me a more cultured person: 71.3% (Dominican Freshmen), 67.8% (Comparison Group)
- To be able to make more money: 85.9% (Dominican Freshmen), 77.5% (Comparison Group)
In deciding to **go to college**, how important to you was each of the following reasons?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Dominican Freshmen</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To learn more about things that interest me</td>
<td>92.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get training for a specific career</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>85.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To prepare myself for graduate or professional school</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
<td>65.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College Choice: Why Dominican?

How important was each reason in your decision to attend *this college*?

- **This college has a very good academic reputation**: 66.1% (Dominican Freshmen), 65.9% (Comparison Group)
- **This college's graduates make a difference in the world**: 44.9% (Dominican Freshmen), 38.5% (Comparison Group)
- **This college's graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools**: 36.9% (Dominican Freshmen), 34.7% (Comparison Group)
- **This college's graduates get good jobs**: 59.0% (Dominican Freshmen), 61.0% (Comparison Group)
College Choice: Why Dominican?

How important was each reason in your decision to attend this college?

- My parents/relatives wanted me to come here: 24.0% (Dominican Freshmen) vs. 18.1% (Comparison Group)
- I wanted to live near home: 47.2% (Dominican Freshmen) vs. 34.5% (Comparison Group)
- Rankings in national magazines: 17.6% (Dominican Freshmen) vs. 13.4% (Comparison Group)
- A visit to this campus: 56.4% (Dominican Freshmen) vs. 52.8% (Comparison Group)
College Choice: Why Dominican - Financial Factors

How important was each reason in your decision to attend this college?

* A total of 61.1% of respondents indicated the DU was NOT their first choice school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Dominican Freshmen</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was offered financial assistance</td>
<td>81.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cost of attending this college</td>
<td>75.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not offered aid by first choice*</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could not afford first choice*</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financing College
Do you have any concern about your ability to finance your college education?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financing Level</th>
<th>Dominican Freshmen</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some</td>
<td>66.9%</td>
<td>59.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College Preparation:

These items illustrate students’ perceptions of their academic preparation and readiness for college.
**Academic Self-Concept**

How would you rate yourself compared with the average person your age?

### Mathematical Ability
- Dominican Freshmen: 29.8%
- Comparison Group: 11.5%

### Writing Ability
- Dominican Freshmen: 27.6%
- Comparison Group: 9.7%

### Overall Academic Ability
- Dominican Freshmen: 45.0%
- Comparison Group: 16.8%
Self-Confidence

How would you rate yourself compared with the average person your age?

![Bar Chart]

- **Intellectual Self-Confidence**
  - Dominican Freshmen: 32.5%
  - Comparison Group: 15.6%

- **Social Self-Confidence**
  - Dominican Freshmen: 33.8%
  - Comparison Group: 14.7%

- **Spirituality**
  - Dominican Freshmen: 24.4%
  - Comparison Group: 16.1%

Dominican Freshmen:
- Highest 10%
- Above Average

Comparison Group:
- Highest 10%
- Above Average

(Top values for each category indicate the percentage of participants rating themselves at the highest level and above average.)
Science/Research Self-Efficacy
How confident are you that you can do the following?

Understand scientific concepts
- Dominican Freshmen: 17.7% Absolutely Confident, 27.5% Very Confident
- Comparison Group: 15.5% Absolutely Confident, 30.0% Very Confident

Use technical science skills (use of tools, instruments, and/or techniques)
- Dominican Freshmen: 19.9% Absolutely Confident, 25.8% Very Confident
- Comparison Group: 16.5% Absolutely Confident, 29.0% Very Confident

Explain the results of a study
- Dominican Freshmen: 20.1% Absolutely Confident, 35.5% Very Confident
- Comparison Group: 15.8% Absolutely Confident, 36.7% Very Confident
Expectations for College Life

How likely are Dominican freshmen to participate in specific activities and practices while in college?
Expectations for College Life
What is your best guess as to the chances that you will:

- Participate in volunteer or community service work: 43.7% (Dominican Freshmen), 37.9% (Comparison Group)
- Participate in a study abroad program: 38.5% (Dominican Freshmen), 33.2% (Comparison Group)
- Get tutoring help in specific courses: 49.5% (Dominican Freshmen), 31.7% (Comparison Group)
Communicate regularly with your professors: 56.7% (Dominican Freshmen) vs. 41.8% (Comparison Group).

Take a course exclusively online: 8.4% (Dominican Freshmen) vs. 3.2% (Comparison Group).

Work on a professor’s research project: 28.3% (Dominican Freshmen) vs. 18.4% (Comparison Group).
Expectations for College Life
What is your best guess as to the chances that you will:

Just over 30% of DU students think that there is at least some chance that they will transfer to another college before graduating.
Discussion

What are the implications of these data for:

- Curriculum
- Policy
- Programs
- Services