University of California-San Diego
CIRP Freshman Survey
2015 Results

First-time, Full-time Freshmen
University of California-San Diego
N= 4,277

Public Universities-high selectivity
N= 16,980
The CIRP Freshman Survey (TFS) collects important information on what UC San Diego incoming students are like before they experience college. Key sections of the survey examine:

- College admissions decisions
- Financing college
- High school experiences and behaviors
- Knowledge, skills and abilities
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- Expectations for college life
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A Note about CIRP Constructs

We use the CIRP Constructs throughout this PowerPoint to help summarize important information about our students from the TFS.

Constructs statistically aggregate the results from CIRP questions that tap into key aspects of the college experience. They focus on student traits and institutional practices contributing to students’ academic and social development.
Demographics

SEX

UCSD

- Male: 48.2%
- Female: 51.8%

Public Univ-Hi

- Male: 52.1%
- Female: 47.9%
Demographics

SEX

![Bar chart showing the percentage of men and women in the UCSD 2015 First-Time Freshmen population]

- Men: 51.8%
- Women: 51.2%
- Men: 48.2%
- Women: 48.8%
Demographics

Race/Ethnicity

- African American/ Black: 1.0% (UCSD), 4.1% (Public Univ-Hi)
- American Indian/ Alaska Native: 0.1% (UCSD), 0.1% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander: 58.8% (UCSD), 9.8% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Latino: 17.8% (UCSD), 7.2% (Public Univ-Hi)
- White/ Caucasian: 57.4% (UCSD)
- Other Race/ Ethnicity: 1.1% (UCSD), 0.8% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Two or More Races/ Ethnicities: 11.3% (UCSD), 12.5% (Public Univ-Hi)
Demographics

Race/Ethnicity

- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.1%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 58.8%
- Black/African American: 1.0%
- Latino/Puerto Rican/Mexican: 9.8%
- White/Caucasian: 17.9%
- Other: 1.1%
- Two or More Ethnicities: 11.3%
- UCSD 2015 First-Time Freshmen

2015 CIRP UCSD (Mark all that apply)
Demographics

How many miles is this college from your permanent home?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>UCSD</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 or less</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-100</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101-500</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 500</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographics

From what kind of high school did you graduate?

- Public school (not charter or magnet): 76.3% UCSD, 71.5% Public Univ-Hi
- Public charter school: 4.7% UCSD, 4.1% Public Univ-Hi
- Public magnet school: 4.1% UCSD, 4.6% Public Univ-Hi
- Private religious/parochial school: 7.2% UCSD, 9.5% Public Univ-Hi
- Private independent college-prep school: 7.5% UCSD, 9.9% Public Univ-Hi
- Home school: 0.2% UCSD, 0.4% Public Univ-Hi
College Admissions Decisions

Many factors impact incoming students’ college choice, including the benefits they see in attending college and considerations about which specific college to attend.
College Admissions Decisions

To how many colleges other than this one did you apply for admission this year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Colleges</th>
<th>Percentage UCSD</th>
<th>Percentage Public Univ-Hi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 or more</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2015 CIRP Freshman Survey
Student Research & Information
Were you accepted by your first choice college?

- Yes: 33.5%
- No: 66.5%

College Acceptance

Is this college your...

- First Choice:
  - Yes: 26.8%
  - UCSD: 56.1%
- Second Choice:
  - Yes: 32.5%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 25.2%
- Third Choice:
  - Yes: 24.8%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 11.5%
- Less than Third Choice:
  - Yes: 15.8%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 7.2%
In deciding to go to college, how important to you was each of the following reasons?

- **To be able to get a better job**: 82.2% (Very Important), 13.6% (Somewhat Important)
- **To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas**: 69.3% (Very Important), 28.1% (Somewhat Important)
- **To make me a more cultured person**: 50.3% (Very Important), 40.5% (Somewhat Important)
- **To be able to make more money**: 65.3% (Very Important), 30.2% (Somewhat Important)

(College Choice diagram showing the percentages for each reason.)
College Choice

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

- To learn more about things that interest me: UCSD 82.3%, Public Univ-Hi 85.8%
- To get training for a specific career: UCSD 67.5%, Public Univ-Hi 68.0%
- To prepare myself for graduate or professional school: UCSD 60.6%, Public Univ-Hi 61.3%
College Choice

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>UCSD</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This college has a very good academic reputation</td>
<td>76.7%  88.6%</td>
<td>22.0%  19.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college has a good reputation for its social activities</td>
<td>19.6%  47.9%</td>
<td>36.2%  38.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools</td>
<td>48.7%  36.2%</td>
<td>33.6%  38.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college’s graduates get good jobs</td>
<td>38.6%  53.7%</td>
<td>54.0%  71.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The percentage of students that graduate from this college</td>
<td>71.6%  20.4%</td>
<td>23.9%  40.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0%  10%  20%  30%  40%  50%  60%  70%  80%  90%  100%

UCSD: Very Important: blue, Somewhat Important: yellow
Public Univ-Hi: Very Important: blue, Somewhat Important: yellow
College Choice

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>UCSD</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was offered financial assistance</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cost of attending this college</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not offered aid by first choice</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could not afford first choice</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Very Important | Somewhat Important |

UCSD

2015 CIRP Freshman Survey
Student Research & Information
College Choice

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

- **My parents/relatives wanted me to come**:
  - Very Important: 13.8%
  - Somewhat Important: 46.1%

- **I wanted to live near home**:
  - Very Important: 15.4%
  - Somewhat Important: 24.2%

- **Rankings in national magazines**:
  - Very Important: 30.6%
  - Somewhat Important: 47.1%

- **A visit to the campus**:
  - Very Important: 37.5%
  - Somewhat Important: 36.7%
Financing College

Economic factors play an important role in students’ decisions about college.
# Financing College

The percentage of students with at least some funds from these various sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>UCSD (%)</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family resources</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>80.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal resources</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>51.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid not to be repaid</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>54.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid to be repaid</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sources</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2015 CIRP Freshman Survey
Student Research & Information
Financing College

Did you receive any of the following forms of financial aid?

- Military grants: 2.1% (UCSD), 1.7% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Work-study: 27.8% (UCSD), 22.2% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Pell grant: 28.4% (UCSD), 20.8% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Need-based grants or scholarships: 36.9% (UCSD), 33.3% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Merit-based grants or scholarships: 30.9% (UCSD), 41.7% (Public Univ-Hi)
Financing College

Do you have any concern about your ability to finance your college education?

- None: 32.3%
- Some: 55.1%
- Major: 12.6%

UCSD

Public Univ-Hi

2015 CIRP Freshman Survey
Student Research & Information
High School Experiences

Understanding students’ established behaviors in high school helps foster skills, knowledge and abilities in the curriculum and co-curriculum.
High School Experiences
Please mark which of the following courses you have completed?

- Algebra II: 95.0% (UCSD), 98.5% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry: 95.1% (UCSD), 97.3% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Probability & Statistics: 38.1% (UCSD), 40.6% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Calculus: 59.7% (UCSD), 63.6% (Public Univ-Hi)
- AP Probability & Statistics: 41.8% (UCSD), 43.1% (Public Univ-Hi)
- AP Calculus: 83.2% (UCSD), 80.4% (Public Univ-Hi)
High School Experiences

Have you had any special tutoring or remedial work in any of the following subjects?
High School Experiences

Do you feel you will need any special tutoring or remedial work in any of the following subjects?

- English: 16.6% (UCSD), 9.1% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Reading: 13.4% (UCSD), 5.4% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Mathematics: 19.8% (UCSD), 18.5% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Social Studies: 9.7% (UCSD), 4.3% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Science: 17.0% (UCSD), 13.6% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Foreign Language: 15.4% (UCSD), 11.6% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Writing: 25.6% (UCSD), 12.8% (Public Univ-Hi)
Habits of Mind

Habits of Mind is a unified measure of the behaviors and traits associated with academic success. These learning behaviors are seen as the foundation for lifelong learning.

Construct Items

- Support your opinion with logical argument
- Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others
- Seek alternative solutions to a problem
- Evaluate the quality or reliability of information you received
- Ask questions in class
- Take a risk because you felt you had more to gain
- Seek feedback on academic work
- Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class
- Accept mistakes as part of the learning process
- Revise your papers to improve your writing
- Look up scientific research articles and resources
Pluralistic Orientation measures skills and dispositions appropriate for living and working in a diverse society.

Construct Items
- Tolerance of others with different beliefs
- Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people
- Ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues
- Openness to having my views challenged
- Ability to see the world from someone else's perspective
Self-awareness and confidence in academic environments help students learn by encouraging their intellectual inquiry. *Academic Self-Concept* is a unified measure of students’ beliefs about their abilities and confidence in academic environments.

### Construct Items
- Self-rated academic ability
- Self-rated mathematical ability
- Self-rated self-confidence (intellectual)
- Self-rated drive to achieve
Civic Engagement

Engaged citizens are a critical element in the functioning of our democratic society. Civic Engagement measures the extent to which students are motivated and involved in civic, electoral and political activities.

Construct Items

- Publicly communicated your opinion about a cause
- Worked on a local, state, or national political campaign
- Demonstrated for a cause
- Keeping up to date with political affairs
- Influencing social values
- Helped raise money for a cause or campaign
- Performed volunteer work
Health and Wellness

Students’ physical and emotional well-being can affect many important aspects of the student experience including academic performance and persistence. These items gauge student behaviors, attitudes and experiences related to health and wellness.

![Bar chart showing the percentage of students feeling overwhelmed and depressed.](chart)

- Felt overwhelmed by all you had to do:
  - UCSD: 56.7%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 45.9%

- Felt depressed:
  - UCSD: 8.8%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 6.7%
College Preparation

These items illustrate students’ academic preparation at this institution.
Placement Tests

At this institution, which course placement tests have you taken in the following subject areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>UCSD</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summer Bridge Program

How many weeks this summer did you participate in a bridge program at this institution?

- **95.7%** participated for Zero weeks.
- **96.3%** participated for 0% weeks.

Percentage breakdown by number of weeks:
- 0% weeks: 95.7% (UCSD), 96.3% (Public Univ-Hi)
- 1 to 2 weeks: 1.1% (UCSD), 1.0% (Public Univ-Hi)
- 3 to 4 weeks: 1.9% (UCSD), 0.5% (Public Univ-Hi)
- 5 to 6 weeks: 1.2% (UCSD), 2.0% (Public Univ-Hi)
- 7 or more weeks: 0.1% (UCSD), 0.2% (Public Univ-Hi)
Expectations for College: Major and Career

Understanding students’ intended majors and career aspirations helps them plot an intentional and meaningful course of study.
## Expectations: Major
Please indicate your intended major.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>UCSD</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
<th>UCSD</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Life Sciences</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History or Political Science</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations: Major

Do you consider yourself Pre-Med or Pre-Law?

- Pre-Med: 27.1% (UCSD), 25.9% (Public Univ-Hi)
- Pre-Law: 3.8% (UCSD), 6.1% (Public Univ-Hi)
## Expectations: Career

**Please indicate your intended career.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>UCSD</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
<th>UCSD</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture/Natural Resources</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>Health Professional</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>Homemaker/Stay-at-Home Parent</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>Information Technology Professional</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business (Admin Assistant)</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>Military</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Faculty</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>Research Scientist</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor (MD or DDS)</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>Service Industry</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (elementary/secondary)</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>Skilled worker</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>Social/Non-Profit Services</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations: Time to Degree

How many years do you expect it will take you to graduate from this college?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>UCSD</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
<td>87.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6+</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do not plan to graduate from this college: 0.5% for UCSD, 0.1% for Public Univ-Hi.
Expectations: Degree Aspirations

What is the highest academic degree that you intend to attain?

- None: 0.4%
- Vocational certificate: 0.2%
- Associate (A.A. or equivalent): 0.0%
- Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.): 12.1%
- Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.): 38.8%
- Ph.D. or Ed.D.: 40.3%
- J.D. (Law): 16.7%
- J.D. (Law): 18.1%
- B.D. or M.DIV. (Divinity): 2.6%
- B.D. or M.DIV. (Divinity): 4.8%
- Other: 0.0%
- Other: 0.1%
- Other: 0.5%
- Other: 0.4%

2015 CIRP Freshman Survey
Student Research & Information
Expectations for College Life

Understanding students’ expectations helps provide opportunities for students to grow intellectually, interpersonally and affectively.
Expectations for College Life
What is your best guess as to the chances that you will:

- Participate in volunteer or community service work
  - UCSD: 46.6%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 40.3%

- Participate in a study abroad program
  - UCSD: 33.4%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 35.9%

- Discuss course content with students outside of class
  - UCSD: 60.4%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 28.3%
Expectations for College Life

What is your best guess as to the chances that you will:

- Communicate regularly with your professors
  - UCSD: 52.2%, Very Good Chance: 39.3%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 48.5%, Very Good Chance: 49.9%

- Take a course exclusively online at this institution
  - UCSD: 24.8%, Some Chance: 5.3%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 21.4%, Some Chance: 4.4%

- Work on a professor’s research project
  - UCSD: 37.0%, Very Good Chance: 36.3%
Expectations for College Life

What is your best guess as to the chances that you will:

- Take a leave of absence from this college temporarily
  - UCSD
    - Very Good Chance: 2.0%
    - Some Chance: 8.5%
  - Public Univ-Hi
    - Very Good Chance: 1.3%
    - Some Chance: 4.8%

- Transfer to another college before graduating
  - UCSD
    - Very Good Chance: 3.9%
    - Some Chance: 17.8%
  - Public Univ-Hi
    - Very Good Chance: 1.7%
    - Some Chance: 8.4%
The more you get to know your students, the better you can understand their needs.

For more information about CIRP Surveys at UCSD

The Freshmen Survey
Your First College Year Survey
College Senior Survey

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studentresearch.ucsd.edu