University of California-San Diego
CIRP Freshman Survey
2016 Results

First-time, Full-time Freshmen

University of California-San Diego
N=4,590

Public Universities-high selectivity
N=16,622
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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A Note about CIRP Constructs

We use the CIRP Constructs throughout this PowerPoint to help summarize important information about UC San Diego 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**

**UC San Diego**
- Male: 53.9%
- Female: 46.1%

**Public Univ-Hi**
- Male: 53.1%
- Female: 46.9%
Demographics

SEX

* For federal reporting of the demographic 'sex', students who report gender identities as female or trans-female are reported as women; students who report gender identities as male or trans-male are reported as men. Students who report gender identities as Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming or different identity are reported according to their sex assigned at birth: males reported as men; females reported as women. For more information, see https://lgbt.ucsd.edu/education/FAQs.html
Demographics

Race/Ethnicity

- African American/Black: 1.2% (UC San Diego)
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.1% (UC San Diego)
- Asian/Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 53.6% (UC San Diego)
- Latino: 15.8% (UC San Diego)
- White/Caucasian: 55.7% (UC San Diego)
- Other Race/Ethnicity: 0.7% (UC San Diego)
- Two or More Races/Ethnicities: 11.6% (UC San Diego)

- Public Univ-Hi:
  - African American/Black: 4.7%
  - American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.1%
  - Asian/Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 22.9%
  - Latino: 5.8%
  - White/Caucasian: 10.2%
  - Other Race/Ethnicity: 0.6%
  - Two or More Races/Ethnicities: 10.2%
**Demographics**

**Race/Ethnicity**

![Bar chart showing race/ethnicity demographics for UCSD 2016 First-Time Freshmen.](chart)

- **American Indian/Alaska Native:** 0.1%
- **Asian/Pacific Islander:** 53.6%
- **Black/African American:** 1.2%
- **Latino/Puerto Rican/Mexican:** 15.8%
- **White/Caucasian:** 17.0%
- **Other/Two or More Ethnicities:** 12.3%
Demographics

How many miles is this college from your permanent home?

- 5 or less: 1.7% UC San Diego, 2.3% Public Univ-Hi
- 6-10: 2.3% UC San Diego, 2.6% Public Univ-Hi
- 11-50: 13.4% UC San Diego, 17.4% Public Univ-Hi
- 51-100: 19.1% UC San Diego, 16.7% Public Univ-Hi
- 101-500: 36.8% UC San Diego, 40.0% Public Univ-Hi
- Over 500: 26.8% UC San Diego, 20.9% 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.
To how many colleges *other than this one* did you apply for admission this year?
Were you accepted by your first choice college?

- Yes: 61.3%
- No: 38.7%

College Acceptance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choice</th>
<th>UC San Diego</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Choice</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
<td>53.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Choice</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Choice</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than Third Choice</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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: 82.8% (UC San Diego) 85.9% (Public Univ-Hi)
- To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas: 74.3% (UC San Diego) 77.0% (Public Univ-Hi)
- To make me a more cultured person: 53.7% (UC San Diego) 54.9% (Public Univ-Hi)
- To be able to make more money: 66.7% (UC San Diego) 67.3% (Public Univ-Hi)

UC San Diego: Very Important, Somewhat Important
Public Univ-Hi: Very Important, Somewhat Important
In deciding to **go to college**, how important to you was each of the following reasons?

- **To learn more about things that interest me**: 83.3%
- **To get training for a specific career**: 71.3%
- **To prepare myself for graduate or professional school**: 65.1%

**UC San Diego**
- Very Important: 15.6%
- Somewhat Important: 24.8%
- Public Univ-Hi
  - Very Important: 85.7%
  - Somewhat Important: 27.1%
College Choice

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

- This college has a very good academic reputation: 76.6%
- This college’s graduates make a difference in the world: 85.9%
- This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools: 51.6%
- This college’s graduates get good jobs: 54.5%

UC San Diego
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important

Public Univ-Hi
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
College Choice

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

- I was offered financial assistance
- The cost of attending this college
- Not offered aid by first choice
- Could not afford first choice

UC San Diego
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important

Public Univ-Hi
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important

20.9%  32.6%
17.9%  29.4%
38.0%  33.6%
12.9%  10.8%
9.2%   8.1%
9.6%   9.3%
10.2%  11.4%
0%     50%  100%
College Choice

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

- My parents/relatives wanted me to come here
- I wanted to live near home
- Rankings in national magazines
- A visit to this campus

UC San Diego
- Very Important: 43.9%
- Somewhat Important: 25.8%

Public Univ-Hi
- Very Important: 44.9%
- Somewhat Important: 28.0%
Financing College

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

Students’ first-year funding sources:

- **Family resources**: 83.1% (UC San Diego), 79.3% (Public Univ-Hi)
- **Personal resources**: 55.1% (UC San Diego), 56.5% (Public Univ-Hi)
- **Aid not to be repaid**: 57.0% (UC San Diego), 55.8% (Public Univ-Hi)
- **Aid to be repaid**: 38.7% (UC San Diego), 41.9% (Public Univ-Hi)
Financing College

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

- Military grants
- Work-study
- Pell grant
- Need-based grants or scholarships
- Merit-based grants or scholarships

2016 CIRP Freshman Survey
Financing College

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

- None: 27.5%
- Some: 58.1%
- Major: 14.4%

UC San Diego Public Univ-Hi
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**
  - UC San Diego: 97.1%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 98.7%

- **Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry**
  - UC San Diego: 95.8%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 97.2%

- **Probability & Statistics**
  - UC San Diego: 36.5%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 39.8%

- **Calculus**
  - UC San Diego: 65.1%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 59.1%

- **AP Probability & Statistics**
  - UC San Diego: 81.6%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 42.5%

- **AP Calculus**
  - UC San Diego: 76.2%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 41.5%

- **AP Computer Science A**
  - UC San Diego: 19.3%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 14.8%
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 a 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
- Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class
- Accept mistakes as part of the learning process
- Look up scientific research articles and resources
- Analyze multiple sources of information before coming to a conclusion
- Take on a challenge that scares you
Pluralistic Orientation measures skills and dispositions appropriate for living and working in a diverse society.

- 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
Academic Self-Concept

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

Bar chart showing Academic Self-Concept scores for All FTFT, Men, and Women. The scores are as follows:
- All FTFT: 52.7 (UC San Diego), 54.3 (Public Univ-Hi)
- Men: 55.0 (UC San Diego), 56.4 (Public Univ-Hi)
- Women: 50.7 (UC San Diego), 52.4 (Public Univ-Hi)
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
- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All FTFT</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>50.7</td>
<td>53.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54.7</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>53.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

- Felt overwhelmed by all I had to do:
  - UC San Diego: 54.9%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 55.5%

- Felt depressed:
  - UC San Diego: 12.0%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 9.6%

- Occasionally:
  - UC San Diego: 40.6%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 37.3%
College Preparation

These items illustrate students’ academic preparation.
Summer Bridge Program

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

- Zero: 95.6%
- 1 to 2: 0.8%
- 3 to 4: 1.3%
- 5 to 6: 2.4%
- 7 or more: 0.0%

UC San Diego
Public Univ-Hi
Science/Research Self-Efficacy

How confident are you that you can do the following?

- **Understand scientific concepts**
  - UC San Diego: 24.6% Absolutely Confident, 38.9% Very Confident
  - Public Univ-Hi: 25.0% Absolutely Confident, 40.1% Very Confident

- **Use technical science skills (use of tools, instruments, and/or techniques)**
  - UC San Diego: 23.2% Absolutely Confident, 32.7% Very Confident
  - Public Univ-Hi: 22.0% Absolutely Confident, 33.1% Very Confident

- **Explain the results of a study**
  - UC San Diego: 19.9% Absolutely Confident, 40.3% Very Confident
  - Public Univ-Hi: 21.9% Absolutely Confident, 43.9% Very Confident
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></th>
<th>UC San Diego</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
<th>UC San Diego</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Life Sciences</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History or Political Science</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations: Major

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

- Pre-Med: 29.4% UC San Diego, 26.8% Public Univ-Hi
- Pre-Law: 5.1% UC San Diego, 6.6% Public Univ-Hi
## Expectations: Career

Please indicate your intended career.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>UC San Diego</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
<th>UC San Diego</th>
<th>Public Univ-Hi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture/Natural Resources</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>Health Professional</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>Homemaker/Stay-at-Home Parent</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>Information Technology Professional</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business (Admin Assistant)</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>Military</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Faculty</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>Research Scientist</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor (MD or DDS)</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>Service Industry</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (elementary/secondary)</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>Skilled worker</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>Social/Non-Profit Services</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations: Time-to-Degree

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

- UC San Diego
- Public Univ-Hi

0% 0.0% 0.1% 0.3% 4.5% 2.8% 4.0% 3.3% 0.7% 1.8% 0.5% 0.2%

1 2 3 4 5 6+ Do not plan to graduate from this college
Expectations: Degree Aspirations

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

- None: 0.3%
- Vocational certificate: 0.2%
- Associate (A.A. or equivalent): 0.0%
- Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., B.D., etc.): 12.0%
- Master's degree (M.A., M.S., M.B.A., etc.): 38.2%
- J.D. (Law): 3.4%
- M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M., etc. (Medical): 17.6%
- Ph.D.: 22.8%
- Professional Doctorate (Ed.D., Psy.D., etc.): 5.0%
- Other: 0.5%

UC San Diego
Public Univ-Hi

2016 CIRP Freshman Survey
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
  - UC San Diego: 45.5%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 40.8%

- Participate in a study abroad program
  - UC San Diego: 36.8%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 34.4%

- Get tutoring help in specific courses
  - UC San Diego: 34.4%
  - Public Univ-Hi: 48.1%
Expectations for College Life

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

- Communicate regularly with your professors: 47.2% Very Good Chance, 41.8% Some Chance, 19.4% Some Chance
- Take a course exclusively online: 3.7% Very Good Chance, 17.7% Some Chance
- Work on a professor’s research project: 47.8% Very Good Chance, 48.3% Some Chance

UC San Diego

Public Univ-Hi

Very Good Chance

Some Chance

2016 CIRP Freshman Survey
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
  - UC San Diego: 1.8% (Very Good Chance), 6.7% (Some Chance)
  - Public Univ-Hi: 1.2% (Very Good Chance), 4.5% (Some Chance)

- Transfer to another college before graduating
  - UC San Diego: 17.6% (Very Good Chance), 3.5% (Some Chance)
  - Public Univ-Hi: 10.4% (Very Good Chance), 2.1% (Some Chance)
The more you get to know your students, the better you can understand their needs.

For more information about CIRP Surveys at UC San Diego

The Freshman Survey
Your First College Year Survey
Diverse Learning Environments Survey
College Senior Survey

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studentresearch.ucsd.edu