University of California-San Diego CIRP First Year Student Survey 2020 Results

First-time, Full-time Students

University of California-San Diego
N=3,148

Public Universities
N=5,769

UC San Diego Institutional Research Office and Higher Education Research Institute, UCLA
The CIRP First Year Survey (TFS) collects important information on what your incoming students are like before they experience college. Key sections of the survey examine the following:

- College admissions decisions
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A Note about CIRP Constructs

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

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

Gender Identity

- Man/Trans Man: 40.8%
- Woman/Trans Woman: 55.7% (Your Institution), 55.5% (Comparison Group)
- Non-binary: 0.9%
- Genderqueer/Gender non-conforming: 0.8%
- Identity not listed above: 2.4% (Your Institution), 2.5% (Comparison Group)

Your Institution | Comparison Group
Demographics

Race/Ethnicity

- **African American/Black**: 1.5% (Your Institution), 5.1% (Comparison Group)
- **Native American/Alaska Native**: 0.0% (Your Institution), 0.1% (Comparison Group)
- **Asian/Pacific Islander**: 55.0% (Your Institution), 39.0% (Comparison Group)
- **Latina/o/x**: 13.3% (Your Institution), 9.5% (Comparison Group)
- **White**: 15.8% (Your Institution)
- **Other Race/Ethnicity**: 1.0% (Your Institution), 0.9% (Comparison Group)
- **Two or More Races/Ethnicities**: 13.4% (Your Institution), 12.8% (Comparison Group)
Demographics

How many miles is this college from your permanent home?

- 5 or less: 1.7% (Your Institution), 2.4% (Comparison Group)
- 6-10: 4.7% (Your Institution), 4.9% (Comparison Group)
- 11-50: 18.6% (Your Institution), 24.5% (Comparison Group)
- 51-100: 17.0% (Your Institution), 16.5% (Comparison Group)
- 101-500: 33.5% (Your Institution), 29.2% (Comparison Group)
- Over 500: 24.5% (Your Institution), 22.5% (Comparison Group)
Many factors impact incoming students’ college choice, including the benefits they see in attending college and considerations about which particular college to attend.
College Choice

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

- None: 0.8% (Your Institution), 0.6% (Comparison Group)
- 1: 2.4% (Your Institution), 2.7% (Comparison Group)
- 2: 0.9% (Your Institution), 3.7% (Comparison Group)
- 3: 3.2% (Your Institution), 6.4% (Comparison Group)
- 4: 4.8% (Your Institution), 8.1% (Comparison Group)
- 5: 7.5% (Your Institution), 8.7% (Comparison Group)
- 6: 7.8% (Your Institution), 8.1% (Comparison Group)
- 7-8: 26.9% (Your Institution), 21.9% (Comparison Group)
- 9-10: 20.0% (Your Institution), 16.4% (Comparison Group)
- 11 or more: 27.5% (Your Institution), 21.6% (Comparison Group)
Were you accepted by your first-choice college?

- Yes: 39.8%
- No: 60.2%

Is this college your...

- First Choice: 31.5% (Your Institution), 42.5% (Comparison Group)
- Second Choice: 33.9% (Your Institution), 30.9% (Comparison Group)
- Third Choice: 21.4% (Your Institution), 16.4% (Comparison Group)
- Less than Third Choice: 13.2% (Your Institution), 10.3% (Comparison Group)

2020 CIRP First Year and Transfer Student Survey
Institutional Research
In deciding to go to college, how important to you was each of the following reasons?

- **To be able to get a better job**: Your Institution - 83.2%, Comparison Group - 83.8%
- **To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas**: Your Institution - 79.4%, Comparison Group - 78.2%
- **To make me a more cultured person**: Your Institution - 57.8%, Comparison Group - 55.8%
- **To be able to make more money**: Your Institution - 68.9%, Comparison Group - 68.0%
In deciding to *go to college*, how important to you was each of the following reasons?

- **To learn about things that interest me**
  - Your Institution: 84.9%
  - Comparison Group: 85.4%

- **To get training for a specific career**
  - Your Institution: 71.9%
  - Comparison Group: 73.4%

- **To prepare myself for graduate or professional school**
  - Your Institution: 66.8%
  - Comparison Group: 65.5%

- **To please my family**
  - Your Institution: 35.4%
  - Comparison Group: 31.8%
College Choice

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This college has a very good academic reputation</td>
<td>78.3%</td>
<td>81.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college’s graduates make a difference in the world</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college’s graduates get good jobs</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your Institution
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important

Comparison Group
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important

2020 CIRP First Year and Transfer Student Survey
College Choice

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was offered financial assistance</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40.6%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cost of attending this college</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not offered aid by first choice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could not afford first choice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2020 CIRP First Year and Transfer Student Survey
Institutional Research
College Choice

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My parents/relatives wanted me to come here</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to live near home</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rankings in national magazines</td>
<td>50.1%</td>
<td>45.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A visit to this campus</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2020 CIRP First Year and Transfer Student Survey
Institutional Research
Economic factors play an important role in students’ decisions about college.
Financing College

Students’ first-year funding sources:

- **Family resources**: 77.5% (Your Institution), 75.5% (Comparison Group)
- **Personal resources**: 50.9% (Your Institution), 50.2% (Comparison Group)
- **Aid not to be repaid**: 50.8% (Your Institution), 55.7% (Comparison Group)
- **Aid to be repaid**: 29.8% (Your Institution), 30.0% (Comparison Group)
Financing College

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

- Military grants: 3.3% for Your Institution, 3.0% for Comparison Group
- Work-study: 22.8% for Your Institution, 21.2% for Comparison Group
- Pell grant: 27.3% for Your Institution, 24.4% for Comparison Group
- Need-based grants or scholarships: 33.8% for Your Institution, 32.7% for Comparison Group
- Merit-based grants or scholarships: 29.3% for Your Institution, 41.3% for Comparison Group
Financing College

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

- **None**: Your Institution - 33.9%, Comparison Group - 37.4%
- **Some**: Your Institution - 56.8%, Comparison Group - 53.6%
- **Major**: Your Institution - 9.3%, Comparison Group - 9.0%
Understanding students’ established behaviors in high school helps foster skills, knowledge, and abilities in the curriculum and co-curriculum.
Academic Preparation

Please mark which of the following courses you have completed.

- Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry: 93.6% (Your Institution), 91.7% (Comparison Group)
- Probability & Statistics: 38.4% (Your Institution), 39.2% (Comparison Group)
- Calculus: 59.9% (Your Institution), 57.0% (Comparison Group)
- AP Probability & Statistics: 35.5% (Your Institution), 35.9% (Comparison Group)
- AP Calculus: 69.6% (Your Institution), 64.6% (Comparison Group)
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**

- Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others
- Support your opinions with a logical argument
- Look up scientific research articles and resources
- Take a risk because you felt you had more to gain
- Accept mistakes as part of the learning process
- Take on a challenge that scares you
- Ask questions in class
- Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class
- Evaluate the quality or reliability of information you received
- Seek alternative solutions to a problem
- Analyze multiple sources of information before coming to a conclusion

* Includes non-binary, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, identity not listed above
Pluralistic Orientation

*Pluralistic Orientation* measures skills and dispositions appropriate for living and working in a diverse society.

### Construct Items

- Ability to see the world from someone else's perspective
- Tolerance of others with different beliefs
- Openness to having my own views challenged
- Ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues
- Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people

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*Includes non-binary, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, identity not listed above*
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

* Includes non-binary, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, identity not listed above
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

- Demonstrated for a cause (e.g., boycott, rally, protest)
- Performed volunteer work
- Helped raise money for a cause or campaign
- Publicly communicated my opinion about a cause (e.g., blog, email, petition)
- Influencing social values
- Keeping up to date with political affairs

* Includes non-binary, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, identity not listed above
Health and Wellness

Students’ emotional well-being can affect many important aspects of the student experience including academic performance and persistence.

In the past year, how often have you:

- Felt overwhelmed by all I had to do: 38.0% (Your Institution) vs. 17.7% (Comparison Group)
- Felt depressed: 39.7% (Your Institution) vs. 48.5% (Comparison Group)

2020 CIRP First Year and Transfer Student Survey
Institutional Research
These items illustrate students’ academic preparation.
AP Exam Scores

On how many AP exams did you score a 3 or higher?

![Bar chart showing the distribution of AP exam scores for Your Institution and Comparison Group.](chart.png)

- None: 11.2% (Your Institution), 17.0% (Comparison Group)
- 1-2: 14.3% (Your Institution), 14.6% (Comparison Group)
- 3-4: 21.3% (Your Institution), 18.2% (Comparison Group)
- 5-6: 21.9% (Your Institution), 19.1% (Comparison Group)
- 7-8: 17.4% (Your Institution), 16.1% (Comparison Group)
- 9 or more: 13.9% (Your Institution), 15.0% (Comparison Group)
### Previous College Coursework

**Have taken courses for credit at this institution prior to this term**

- **Your Institution:** 11.5%
- **Comparison Group:** 10.3%

**Have taken courses, whether for credit or not for credit, at any other institution since leaving high school**

- **Your Institution:** 20.8%
- **Comparison Group:** 19.8%
Science/Research Self-Efficacy

How confident are you that you can do the following?

Understand scientific concepts
- Absolutely Confident: 23.5%
- Very Confident: 40.7%

Use technical science skills (use of tools, instruments, and/or techniques)
- Absolutely Confident: 27.0%
- Very Confident: 40.0%

Explain the results of a study
- Absolutely Confident: 19.0%
- Very Confident: 42.2%

Your Institution
- Absolutely Confident: 23.5%
- Very Confident: 40.7%

Comparison Group
- Absolutely Confident: 27.0%
- Very Confident: 40.0%
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>Your Inst</th>
<th>Comp Inst</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History or Political Science</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics or Computer Science</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and Security</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Science</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non-technical</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expectations: Major

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

- Pre-Med: 27.3% for Your Institution, 25.5% for Comparison Group
- Pre-Law: 4.4% for Your Institution, 5.4% for Comparison Group
## Expectations: Career

Please indicate your intended career.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artistic</th>
<th><strong>Your Inst</strong></th>
<th><strong>Comp Group</strong></th>
<th>Homemaker/Stay-at-Home Parent</th>
<th><strong>Your Inst</strong></th>
<th><strong>Comp Group</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>Information Technology Professional</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business (Admin Assistant)</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>Military</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educators</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Administrator</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>Research Scientist</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor (MD or DDS or DVM)</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>Social/Welfare/Rec Worker</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>Skilled worker</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer or Forester</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>Other choice</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professional</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2020 CIRP First Year and Transfer Student Survey
Institutional Research
Expectations: Time-to-Degree

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

- 1 year: 0.1%
- 2 years: 1.5%
- 3 years: 1.5%
- 4 years: 85.8%
- 5 years: 83.8%
- 6+ years: 2.1%
- Do not plan to graduate from this college: 0.7%

Your Institution

Comparison Group

2020 CIRP First Year and Transfer Student Survey
Institutional Research
Expectations: Degree Aspirations

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

[Graph showing percentage of students aspiring to different degrees, with labels for each degree level: None, Vocational certificate, Associate (A.A., A.S., or equivalent), Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., B.D., etc.), Master's degree (M.A., M.S., M.B.A., etc.), J.D. (Law), M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M., etc. (Medical), Ph.D., Professional Doctorate (Ed.D., Psy.D., etc.), Other.]

2020 CIRP First Year and Transfer Student Survey
Institutional Research

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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
  - Your Institution: 46.3%
  - Comparison Group: 50.8%
- Participate in student clubs/groups
  - Your Institution: 64.9%
  - Comparison Group: 68.5%
Expectations for College Life

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

1. Participate in a study abroad program
   - Your Institution: 28.7% Very Good Chance, 38.5% Some Chance
   - Comparison Group: 33.7% Very Good Chance, 36.0% Some Chance

2. Take a course exclusively online
   - Your Institution: 62.6% Very Good Chance, 23.6% Some Chance
   - Comparison Group: 58.7% Very Good Chance, 23.8% Some Chance

3. Work on a professor’s research project
   - Your Institution: 37.1% Very Good Chance, 48.0% Some Chance
   - Comparison Group: 38.4% Very Good Chance, 46.4% Some Chance
Expectations for College Life

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

- Vote in a local, state, or national election
- Participate in student protests or demonstrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Your Institution</th>
<th>Comparison Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vote in a local, state, or national election</td>
<td>67.9%</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote in a local, state, or national election</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote in a local, state, or national election</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote in a local, state, or national election</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The more you get to know your students, the better you can understand their needs.

For more information about UC San Diego Institutional Research Surveys

The First Year/Transfer Student Survey
Your First College Year Survey
College Senior Survey
UC Undergraduate Experiences Survey
Post-Baccalaureate Survey

Contact
wbarmstrong@ucsd.edu
https://ir.ucsd.edu/undergrad/surveys