

## 2011 CIRP The Freshman Survey Preliminary Observations

*Listed below are several notes about Allegheny's Fall 2011 new freshmen.*

<b><i>Fall 2011</i></b>	<b><i>Fall 2010</i></b>	<b><i>Fall 2009</i></b>	<b><i>Fall 2004</i></b>	<b><i>Fall 2000</i></b>
40% reported an average high school grade of A or A+.	39%	38%	43%	39%
92% studied with other students at least occasionally in their last year of high school.	91%	90%	91%	91%
In that last year of high school, 96% performed volunteer work.	95%	91%	89%	87%
85% frequently used the Internet for research or homework in their last year of high school.	86%	86%	81%	74%
About seven out of ten did <b>not</b> drink alcohol in their last year of high school (71% did not drink wine or liquor, 77% did not drink beer).	68%	68%	68%	60%
		<i>Did not drink wine or liquor</i>		
Nearly one out of three frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do (27%).	34%	24%	20%	23%
93% intend to obtain a degree beyond a bachelor's degree.	92%	91%	93%	93%
16% expect to be a physician; 23% expect to earn a medical degree.	17%	20%	15%	18%
25% report that they are undecided about a probable career.	21%	23%	21%	20%
7% are undecided about a probable major.	9%	9%	12%	12%
More than eight out of ten new students expect to make at least a "B" average at Allegheny. (86%)	82%	87%	77%	81%
80% expect to socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group.	80%	83%	71%	75%
79% expect to be satisfied with college.	77%	77%	69%	64%
70% expect to participate in student clubs/groups.	66%	66%	54%	57%
65% expect to communicate regularly with their professors.	61%	68%	54%	56%
56% expect to study abroad.	49%	48%	40%	n/a
The majority of the new, first-year students chose Allegheny College for the following reasons:				
Very good academic reputation (83%)	81%	84%	84%	79%
Graduates get good jobs (66%)	62%	74%	70%	68%
Campus Visit (70%)	68%	74%	62%	n/a
Offered financial assistance (66%)	66%	66%	64%	52%
Graduates are admitted to top graduate/professional schools (58%)	58%	62%	59%	59%
College Size (51%)	56%	61%	50%	51%
Allegheny was the first-choice college for nearly two-thirds of the Fall 2011 new freshmen. (65%).	69%	70%	79%	80%

*The response rates to this survey declined dramatically, from more than 80% in 2000 and 2004 to approximately 54% in 2009, 63% in 2010, and 58% in 2011.*

**Fall 2011 continued**

**Fall 2009    Fall 2008    Fall 2004    Fall 2000**

Compared to first-year students at nonsectarian, very-highly selective, four-year colleges, a larger percentage of Allegheny's new students rated themselves as at least “above average” on 22 of the 24 characteristics queried. This is consistent with data from previous years’ surveys. In particular, this year eight (or more) out of ten 2011 Allegheny freshmen rated themselves as “above average” or in the “highest 10%”, for the following characteristics:

Academic Ability (88%)	90%	90%	91%	89%
Drive To Achieve (87%)	83%	83%	83%	81%
Tolerance Of Others With Different Views (85%)	84%	84%		
Ability To Work Cooperatively With Diverse People (83%)	84%	86%		

In addition, a majority of this year’s new students rated themselves as “above average” or in the “highest 10%”, for the following characteristics: *cooperativeness* (79%); *ability to see the world from someone else’s perspective* (78%); *ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues* (78%); *leadership* (75%); *understanding of others* (73%); *intellectual self-confidence* (69%); *openness to having their views challenged* (68%); *self-understanding* (66%); *creativity* (64%); *competitiveness* (58%); *physical health* (61%); *writing ability* (62%); *emotional health* (57%); *social self-confidence* (53%).

76% of new students reported helping others in difficulty is “very important” or “essential” to them.	75%	72%	64%	60%
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Seven out of ten new students specified raising a family is “very important” or “essential” to them (71%).	70%	72%	72%	70%
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Nearly three-fourths of new students reported being well off financially is “very important” or “essential” to them (74%).	66%	72%	71%	71%
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*Improving their understanding of other countries and cultures; becoming an authority in their field; adopting “green” practices to protect the environment; obtaining recognition from colleagues; and developing a meaningful philosophy of life* were each reported by a majority of this new class, to be “essential” or “very important” objectives (62%, 59%, 54%, 54%, and 52% respectively).

More than six out of ten new first-year students expect to get a job to help pay for expenses (63%).	68%	63%	57%	50%
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11% have a major concern about financing their college education.	13%	11%	10%	14%
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Parents' Income before taxes:

26%	< \$50,000	29%	20%	25%	27%
32%	\$50,000 – \$99,999	30%	37%	43%	48%
20%	\$100,000 – \$149,999	22%	22%	19%	16%
14%	\$150,000 – \$249,999	13%	13%	9%	10%
9%	≥\$250,000	6%	8%	4%	