

Grand Valley State University

Gender differences in responses to the 2006 CIRP Freshman Survey

	Male	Female
How old will you be on December 31 of this year?		
18	64.5%	75.6%
19	33.9%	22.0%
What was your average grade in high school?		
A or A-	45.4%	61.6%
How many miles is this college from your permanent home?		
Over 100	48.3%	54.1%
Rate yourself on each of the following traits as compared with the average person your age. We want the most accurate estimate of how you see yourself. (% "Above Average" or "Highest 10%")		
Computer Skills	54.1%	32.4%
Drive to Achieve	69.9%	79.3%
Emotional Health	67.9%	56.4%
Mathematical Ability	59.3%	40.4%
Physical Health	71.6%	50.9%
Intellectual Self-Confidence	71.7%	55.1%
Understanding of Others	63.8%	68.3%
For the activities below, indicate which ones you did during the past year.		
Drank beer	27.9%	16.5%
Felt overwhelmed by all I had to do	11.8%	28.0%
Used the Internet for research or homework	72.5%	83.9%
During your last year in high school, how much time did you spend during a typical week doing the following activities?		
Studying/homework		
-- less than 1 hour	18.3%	9.2%
Partying		
-- none	28.0%	40.5%
Volunteer work		
-- none	32.6%	19.8%
Student Clubs / Groups		
-- none	43.8%	26.1%
Watching TV		
-- 6 hours or more	26.2%	18.4%
Playing video games		
-- none	15.2%	58.6%
-- 6 hours or more	17.1%	2.4%

	Male	Female
Student met or exceeded recommended years of high school study in;		
Foreign Language (2 years)	85.3%	90.8%
Physical Science (2 tears)	66.8%	59.1%
Arts and/or Music (1 year)	63.2%	77.3%
In deciding to go to college, how important to you was each of the following reasons?		
To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas	50.6%	65.2%
To make me a more cultured person	27.3%	38.9%
To learn more about things that interest me	70.7%	79.2%
To prepare myself for graduate or professional school	48.1%	58.8%
To get training for a specific career	69.1%	78.2%
Below are some reasons that might have influenced your decision to attend this particular college. How important was each reason in your decision to come here?		
This college has a good reputation for its social activities	31.1%	36.7%
This college's graduates get good jobs	41.4%	54.9%
I wanted to go to a school about the size of this college	32.4%	48.6%
A visit to the campus	38.5%	50.5%
Please indicate the importance to you personally of each of the following: (% "Essential" or "Very Important")		
Influencing social values	32.8%	39.3%
Being very well off financially	78.2%	72.2%
Helping others who are in difficulty	55.6%	72.5%
Becoming successful in a business of my own	41.8%	29.9%
Improving my understanding of other countries and cultures	40.2%	46.9%
Do you have any concern about your ability to finance your college education?		
None (I am confident that I will have sufficient funds)	35.8%	27.5%
Student estimates chances are "very good" that he/she will:		
Be satisfied with your college?	52.0%	64.2%
Participate in volunteer or community service work?	10.6%	29.4%
Socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group?	61.5%	72.6%
Participate in student clubs/groups?	30.1%	46.1%
Participate in a study abroad program?	12.9%	28.9%

	Male	Female
Student agrees "strongly" or "somewhat":		
The death penalty should be abolished	30.5%	37.5%
Marijuana should be legalized	29.0%	18.9%
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships	40.8%	25.1%
Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America	22.8%	16.7%
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society	26.5%	16.5%
Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	42.6%	59.0%
The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns	59.8%	79.6%