

Grand Valley State University

Gender differences in responses to the 2005 CIRP Freshman Survey

	Male	Female
How old will you be on December 31 of this year?		
18	64.3%	76.9%
19	34.1%	21.8%
What was your average grade in high school?		
A or A-	43.9%	60.1%
How many miles is this college from your permanent home?		
Over 100	42.3%	50.3%
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%	35.5%
Courage	62.8%	44.8%
Drive to Achieve	68.3%	77.4%
Emotional Health	60.9%	51.6%
Generosity	61.2%	70.6%
Mathematical Ability	56.4%	38.8%
Physical Health	67.5%	47.5%
Intellectual Self-Confidence	67.9%	51.7%
Time Management	32.1%	40.7%
Understanding of Others	58.0%	66.6%
For the activities below, indicate which ones you did during the past year.		
Drank beer	30.3%	21.8%
Felt overwhelmed by all I had to do	10.9%	26.2%
Used the Internet for research or homework	75.2%	84.5%
Discussed religion/spirituality with friends	23.8%	32.8%
Which of these community service / volunteer activities did you participate in during high school?		
None	14.0%	3.8%
Tutoring/teaching	37.0%	50.8%
Child care	13.3%	51.5%
Elder care	11.2%	19.5%
Service to relig. community	30.7%	42.3%
Other community service	41.1%	51.8%

	Male	Female
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	22.9%	9.2%
Partying		
-- none	28.8%	38.8%
Volunteer work		
-- none	35.6%	18.2%
Student Clubs / Groups		
-- none	47.1%	30.5%
Watching TV		
-- 6 hours or more	30.6%	16.9%
Playing video games		
-- none	15.0%	54.5%
-- 6 hours or more	16.5%	1.5%
Student met or exceeded recommended years of high school study in;		
Foreign Language (2 years)	80.8%	88.1%
Physical Science (2 years)	64.5%	53.7%
Arts and/or Music (1 year)	61.5%	78.0%
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	50.2%	63.2%
To make me a more cultured person	24.2%	36.8%
To learn more about things that interest me	70.3%	80.9%
To prepare myself for graduate or professional school	41.7%	54.0%
To get training for a specific career	73.7%	82.4%
To find my purpose in life	36.2%	51.0%
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	45.0%	61.7%
This college's graduates get good jobs	36.7%	47.8%
I wanted to go to a school about the size of this college	29.1%	45.3%
A visit to the campus	40.3%	53.0%

	Male	Female
Please indicate the importance to you personally of each of the following: (% "Essential" or "Very Important")		
Influencing social values	25.9%	36.5%
Being very well off financially	75.9%	67.7%
Helping others who are in difficulty	51.5%	68.6%
Becoming successful in a business of my own	38.8%	28.1%
Becoming a community leader	32.4%	22.1%
Improving my understanding of other countries and cultures	30.8%	41.3%
Do you have any concern about your ability to finance your college education?		
None (I am confident that I will have sufficient funds)	35.1%	26.2%
Student estimates chances are "very good" that he/she will:		
Work full-time while attending college?	59.4%	68.7%
Be satisfied with your college?	50.3%	62.2%
Participate in volunteer or community service work?	8.8%	26.0%
Socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group?	58.6%	69.1%
Participate in student clubs/groups?	20.6%	35.3%
Strengthen your religious beliefs/convictions?	17.4%	27.1%
Participate in a study abroad program?	11.3%	25.7%
Student agrees "strongly" or "somewhat":		
The death penalty should be abolished	31.7%	39.5%
Marijuana should be legalized	30.7%	20.4%
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships	40.8%	27.7%
Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America	25.3%	17.2%
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society	25.7%	16.3%
Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	43.1%	56.1%
The activities of married women are best confined to the home and family	22.3%	12.9%
If two people really like each other, it's all right for them to have sex even if they've known each other for only a very short time	44.0%	23.0%
The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns	67.3%	85.0%