

Grand Valley State University

Gender differences in responses to the 2007 CIRP Freshman Survey

	Male	Female
How old will you be on December 31 of this year?		
18	65.9%	78.9%
19	33.0%	19.4%
What was your average grade in high school?		
A or A-	49.5%	63.2%
How many miles is this college from your permanent home?		
Over 100	46.2%	52.3%
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	58.2%	36.9%
Drive to Achieve	74.3%	80.7%
Emotional Health	70.4%	57.2%
Leadership Ability	68.1%	60.4%
Mathematical Ability	58.8%	39.1%
Physical Health	71.9%	52.1%
Public Speaking Ability	37.1%	31.1%
Intellectual Self-Confidence	70.7%	54.3%
Social Self-Confidence	63.5%	51.9%
Self Understanding	64.4%	55.9%
Understanding of Others	61.3%	68.5%
Writing Ability	43.6%	52.9%
Students report they "frequently" did the following in the past year:		
Revise papers to improve writing	39.4%	63.6%
Take a risk because they felt there was more to gain	41.3%	29.7%
Sought feedback on academic work	38.7%	50.8%
For the activities below, indicate which ones you did during the past year.		
Tutored another student	50.3%	57.2%
Drank beer	25.8%	17.2%
Felt overwhelmed by all I had to do	11.1%	28.0%
Performed volunteer work	83.8%	90.7%
Played a musical instrument	45.6%	38.0%
Asked a teacher for advice after class	16.8%	22.7%
Voted in a student election	15.0%	20.0%
Came late to class	63.2%	56.6%
Used the Internet for research or homework	74.8%	84.3%
Used the Internet to read news sites	44.8%	37.5%
Used the Internet to read blogs	30.6%	40.3%

	Male	Female
Performed community services as part of a class	53.6%	63.7%
Discussed politics	31.8%	23.3%
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	18.1%	9.2%
Partying		
-- none	32.3%	40.5%
Volunteer work		
-- none	33.5%	17.2%
Student Clubs / Groups		
-- none	42.6%	24.4%
Watching TV		
-- 6 hours or more	28.1%	17.2%
Playing video games		
-- none	14.5%	58.4%
-- 6 hours or more	16.4%	2.0%
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 academic reputation	60.2%	75.1%
This college's graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools	23.8%	33.5%
This college's graduates get good jobs	46.5%	57.3%
I wanted to go to a school about the size of this college	31.9%	46.9%
Information from a website	10.1%	15.3%
A visit to the campus	38.9%	48.8%
Please indicate the importance to you personally of each of the following: (% "Essential" or "Very Important")		
Influencing social values	35.6%	40.4%
Being very well off financially	74.6%	70.8%
Helping others who are in difficulty	59.0%	74.0%
Becoming successful in a business of my own	41.0%	27.7%
Participating in a community action program	16.2%	27.5%
Helping to promote racial understanding	25.5%	30.8%
Improving my understanding of other countries and cultures	38.0%	48.5%
Do you have any concern about your ability to finance your college education?		
None (I am confident that I will have sufficient funds)	42.6%	32.6%
Student estimates chances are "very good"		

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that he/she will:		
Get a job to help pay for college expenses	57.6%	67.8%
Communicate regularly with professors	28.4%	35.5%
Be satisfied with your college?	55.2%	65.4%
Participate in volunteer or community service work?	11.9%	28.3%
Socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group?	63.0%	72.7%
Participate in student clubs/groups?	31.1%	46.1%
Participate in a study abroad program?	13.1%	29.2%
Have a roommate of different race/ethnicity	16.6%	25.2%

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Student agrees "strongly" or "somewhat":		
There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals	62.9%	53.8%
The death penalty should be abolished	28.5%	39.5%
Marijuana should be legalized	32.1%	23.6%
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships	38.7%	21.6%
Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America	26.0%	15.3%
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society	25.1%	16.4%
Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	46.0%	64.2%
Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished	67.1%	56.6%
The federal government is not doing enough to control environmental pollution	64.8%	79.8%
The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns	64.8%	79.8%