

Selected Findings from 2012 CIRP

Rachael Dykstra, Institutional Analysis

The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey was administered at GVSU during orientation in the summer of 2012. 3,992 students attended freshman orientation and a total of 2,639 students participated in the survey, however many students did not complete the survey. Average student response for the first page of the survey was 2,228 and by the last page of the survey the average student response was 1,153.

Following are some highlights in GVSU responses compared to peers nationwide. The nationwide peers are from public 4 year colleges that have also participated in the 2012 CIRP. A four-year college is defined as an institution that awards master and/or bachelor level degrees.

Effect size determines the practical significance of the mean difference between GVSU and the peer group. It helps to measure the size of the relationship. A larger effect size generally indicates a practical significance. Generally, an effect size of 0.2 is considered small, 0.5 medium and 0.8 large. A positive sign indicates that GVSU's mean is greater than the mean of the peer group. In this report, the effect size is listed for relationships that are statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). A few of the effects will be listed as an odds ratio (OR) which compares the probability of GVSU responses to that of all public 4 year schools. For example, if the odds ratio is 0.45 then the given response is 45% as likely at GVSU as it is in the larger group.

College Choice

	GVSU Percentage	National Norm	Effect Size
This college was first choice	77.0%	67.7%	OR=1.17
College has a good reputation	70.9%	66.3%	0.13
College has a good reputation for social activities	50.8%	35.1%	0.39
Parents wanted me to come here	9.3%	14.0%	-0.15
Wanted to live near home	15.9%	20.1%	-0.09
Visit to campus was very important reason to choose this college	55.3%	39.8%	0.35
Percentage of students that graduate from this college was very important reason to choose this college	36.9%	27.5%	0.24

Financing College

	GVSU Percentage	National Norm	Effect Size
Expect family resources to cover 10,000 or more of educational expenses	17.0%	17.3%	
Expects more than \$6,000 in aid which need not be repaid	16.0%	27.5%	OR=0.54
Expects more than \$6,000 in aid which must be repaid	23.1%	15.8%	OR=1.61
No concern about ability to finance education	27.6%	41.8%	OR=0.63

Some concern about ability to finance education	61.6%	48.3%	OR=1.33
Very good or some chance that they will get a job to help pay for college	89.3%	68.9%	0.5

Civic Engagement

	GVSU Percentage	National Norm	Effect Size
Frequently discussed politics	24.8%	29.9%	-0.14
Frequently or occasionally communicated my opinion about a cause	45.4%	40.7%	0.09
Frequently or occasionally helped raised money for a cause or campaign	63.8%	56.0%	0.17
Essential or very important to participate in a community action program	32.9%	25.5%	0.21
Essential or very important to keep up to date with political affairs	31.9%	34.3%	-0.06
Very good chance that student will participate in student government	5.8%	6.9%	-0.14
Very good chance that student will participate in volunteer or community service work	31.6%	27.5%	0.12

Diversity

	GVSU Percentage	National Norm	Effect Size
High school was completely or mostly white	74.9%	54.6%	OR=1.43
Neighborhood where I grew up was mostly or completely white	82.0%	67.7%	OR=1.24
Socialized with someone of another ethnic group frequently in the last year	59.4%	73.7%	-0.3
Agrees strongly or somewhat that racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America	23.7%	27.1%	
Essential or very important to help promote racial understanding	30.1%	30.1%	
Essential or very important to improve my understanding of other countries and cultures	45.5%	48.2%	
Very good chance they will socialize with someone of another ethnic group	51.6%	63.4%	-0.22

Health and Wellness

	GVSU Percentage	National Norm	Effect Size
Frequently smoked cigarettes in last year	1.8%	2.7%	-0.07
Frequently or occasionally drank beer in last year	19.9%	26.2%	-0.15

Frequently or occasionally drank wine or liquor in last year	26.5%	30.4%	-0.11
Frequently felt overwhelmed by all I had to do	31.6%	27.6%	0.11
Very good chance seek personal counseling	13.1%	9.2%	0.21

Career Planning

	GVSU Percentage	National Norm	Effect Size
Bachelor's highest degree planned	26.2%	23.6%	OR=1.13
Master's highest degree planned	40.7%	45.4%	OR=0.88
Very important to make me a more cultured person	48.6%	44.8%	0.1
Very important to be able to make more money	72.1%	71.9%	
Very important to learn more about the things that interest me	80.8%	78.3%	0.09
Very important to prepare myself for graduate or professional school	64.1%	55.8%	0.16
Essential or very important to become an authority in my field	54.2%	59.9%	-0.12
Essential or very important to be very well off financially	81.7%	79.6%	0.16
Very good chance to change major field	11.5%	12.3%	
Very good chance to change career choice	12.2%	10.3%	0.08

Study Habits

	GVSU Percentage	National Norm	Effect Size
Frequently bored in class	39.5%	39.9%	
Frequently studied with other students	33.6%	32.8%	
Frequently used the internet for research or homework	83.3%	82.0%	
Studied 11 hours or more during last year of high school	11.0%	16.0%	-0.18

Political Views

	GVSU Percentage	National Norm	Effect Size
Agrees strongly or somewhat that Abortion should be legal	49.8%	54.8%	-0.12
Agrees strongly or somewhat that the death penalty should be abolished	34.8%	28.8%	0.21
Agrees strongly or somewhat that wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now	61.1%	58.3%	0.07

Agrees strongly or somewhat that same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	70.7%	68.0%	0.06
Agrees strongly or somewhat that a national health care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical costs	55.3%	50.7%	0.11