

## Significant Facts...

- 70% of freshmen are first-generation college students
- 64% like to live on campus
- 80% intended to obtain a graduate degree
- 46% chose Coppin as their first college

# PROFILE OF FALL 2005 COPPIN FRESHMAN

*In fall 2005, the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) conducted the 2005 Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey. The survey, which was completed by 225 full-time, first-time freshmen, covers a broad array of educational topics including expectations of college, secondary school experience, degree goals and career plans, college finances, attitudes, values, and life goals, and reasons for attending college. What follows are the significant and striking responses by CSU freshmen compared to their peers at comparable HBCU institutions. From a policy and efficiency perspective, the results are useful for planning programs and learning opportunities, informing key constituents (such as parents, legislators, and donors) about CSU students and their needs, as well as inform teaching and research across the University. The entire result of the freshman survey is provided in <http://www.coppin.edu/oir/surveys/cirp05.pdf>*

## I. GENERAL OVERVIEW

A higher proportion of CSU 2005 freshman is 18 years or under compared to our peer group (88% vs. 74%). About seven out of ten of the freshmen are first-generation college students (both parents had no college or university experience), while two-thirds came from home where one of the parents had no college or university experience. Typically, CSU freshman tend to be closer to home—75% are 100 miles or less from their permanent residence vs. 41% for peers. Nearly 33% of CSU freshman plan on living with their family or with relatives while at college. About 64% intended to live in university housing.

## II. COLLEGE CHOICE, ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

The highest rated reasons for deciding to go to college were (1) make more money, (2) learn more about things that interest them and (3) be able to get a better job. Responses by CSU students were similar to those of the peer group. Close to 80% of CSU freshman intended to obtain a graduate degree, compared to nearly 77% of students at the other schools.

In terms of college choice, 46% of freshman said that CSU was their first choice for a college or university. Eight percent applied to one other place and 12% to two other places. Students at peer institutions were more likely than those at CSU to have applied to three or more other colleges or universities. Among reasons given for selecting CSU were (1) cost of attendance, (2) graduates get good jobs, (3) offered financial aid, (4) very good academic reputation. The five top ranked reasons for peer institutions were similar to Coppin's.

Eighty-four percent of CSU freshmen estimated their parents' total annual income was under \$75,000. Freshmen were asked how much of their first year expenses they expected to cover from various sources. Percentages reporting "none" or "less than \$1,000" were:

Family Resources (parents, relatives, spouse)	59% CSU	63% Peer Schools
Student's Resources	85% CSU	87% Peer Schools
Grants and Scholarships	32% CSU	36% Peer Schools
Loans	59% CSU	49% Peer Schools

About one-fourth of CSU freshmen were confident that they will have sufficient funds to complete their college education; a proportion less than the 30% of students at peer institutions. Nearly 44% of the freshmen said the chances are "very good" that they will get a job to help pay for colleges expenses vs. 38% of those at peer schools. Nearly 9% of CSU freshman expect to work full time while attending college.

## III. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Relatively few freshmen report higher high school grades--12% said their average grade was A- or higher, vs. 18% for our peer group. CSU freshmen were asked during their last year in high school, how much time did they spend in a typical week engaged in various activities. Percentages of students spending more than five hours are as follows:

Studying/Homework	18% CSU	21% Peer Schools
Exercise or Sports	37% CSU	43% Peer Schools
Partying	18% CSU	22% Peer Schools
Working for Pay	64% CSU	60% Peer Schools
Reading for Pleasure	21% CSU	11% Peer Schools

Respondents were asked to indicate which activities they participated in during their last year in high school.



Percentages of students involved in educational activities are as follows:

Used the Internet for research or homework	75% CSU	71% Peer Schools
Used a personal computer	75% CSU	71% Peer Schools
Socialized with someone from other race	74% CSU	71% Peer Schools
Tutored another students	49% CSU	55% Peer Schools
Asked teacher for advice after class	33% CSU	29% Peer Schools

#### IV. LIFESTYLE AND SOCIAL/POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS

Most CSU freshmen come from Maryland and the surrounding states and, according to the survey, Christianity is the Religious preference for 88% of them. Freshmen were provided with a list of life objectives. The five objectives most likely to be considered “essential” or “very important” by CSU freshmen are listed below. They are the same “top five” as students at peer institutions, although the order and the percents differ.

1. Being Very Well Off Financially  
86% CSU                      89% Peer Schools
2. Becoming an Authority in My Field  
77% CSU                      71% Peer Schools
3. Helping Others Who Are in Difficulty  
76% CSU                      73% Peer Schools
4. Raising a Family  
72% CSU                      74% Peer Schools
5. Obtaining recognition from colleagues  
66% CSU                      62% Peer Schools

Students were asked about their views on social and political issues. The proportion of CSU students who said that they “strongly” or “somewhat” agree with some current issues are provided below:

1. Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem  
16% CSU                      16% Peer Schools
2. Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status  
60% CSU                      40% Peer Schools
3. Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished  
25% CSU                      30% Peer Schools

4. A national health care plan is needed  
84% CSU                      85% Peer Schools
5. Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to education  
42% CSU                      38% Peer Schools
6. Through hard work, everybody can succeed in America  
87% CSU                      81% Peer Schools

#### V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The freshman survey serves CSU in two primary ways. First, it informs campus administrators and decision makers about the characteristics of freshmen students at CSU. Second, many units in campus will find the information useful for planning and academic programming. For instance, several units with questions about first generation student needs and traits can use the data for more targeted programs to provide a better university experience for these students (which translates into gains for all students).

In the future, OIR will merge this data with other campus data to create a longitudinal data file for specialized and policy studies. The entire result of the freshman survey is provided in <http://ww.coppin.edu/oir/surveys/cirp05.pdf>

Comments on the *OIRbits* and ways in which it might be improved are always welcome. Appreciation is extended to Dr. Joanne Christopher-Hicks for her support. Special thanks to Mrs. Darlene Sommers, Administrative Assistant, Office of Institutional Research.

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