

Your First College Year: Detailed Summary

Survey of First Time College Freshmen After Their First Year (Spring 2011)

Data compiled by the Cooperative Institutional Research Program at the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA

- Number of Responses: CofC: 226 Public 4yr Colleges: 1823 All 4yr Colleges/Universities: 6720
- CofC Response Rate: 12% Margin of Error: 6.13%

I. Satisfaction

1a. Satisfaction with Academics and Faculty

Satisfaction with Academics and Faculty (Very Satisfied + Satisfied)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
Class size	87.5%	77.3%	71.9%
Overall quality of instruction	81.7%	78.6%	78.3%
Your overall academic experience	79.7%	80.3%	80.4%
General education and core curriculum courses	76.0%	75.4%	74.6%
Amount of contact with faculty	71.5%	65.7%	64.4%
Relevance of coursework to future career plans	63.9%	62.6%	63.4%
Relevance of coursework to everyday life	60.7%	58.4%	56.9%
First-year programs (e.g., first-year seminar)	58.9%	59.6%	59.4%
Racial/ethnic diversity of faculty	50.9%	59.3%	57.9%
Financial aid package	35.9%	51.5%	50.3%

CofC Freshmen respondents were...

- much more satisfied with their class size than either comparison group
- slightly more satisfied with their amount of contact with faculty than either comparison group
- slightly less satisfied with the racial/ethnic diversity of faculty than either comparison group
- much less satisfied with their financial aid package than either comparison group

1b. Satisfaction with Social Aspects

Social Aspects (Very satisfied + Satisfied)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
Interaction with other students	78.1%	74.9%	75.2%
Overall college experience	77.6%	76.2%	77.5%
Institutional respect for the expression of diverse beliefs	77.4%	79.3%	79.1%
Availability of campus social activities	74.0%	74.1%	73.7%
Your social life	72.7%	68.4%	68.7%
Orientation for new students	67.0%	65.4%	64.5%
Overall sense of community among students	65.9%	67.0%	68.3%
Opportunities for community service	59.1%	61.3%	63.3%
Racial/ethnic diversity of student body	45.3%	60.0%	60.3%

CofC Freshmen respondents were...

- much less satisfied with the racial/ethnic diversity of the student body than either comparison group

1c. Satisfaction with College Facilities and Services

Facilities and Services (Very Satisfied + Satisfied)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
Library facilities	94.2%	82.9%	83.3%
Computer facilities/ labs	79.1%	80.5%	77.7%
Laboratory facilities and equipment	78.8%	77.4%	73.2%
Academic advising	77.7%	68.4%	67.0%
Classroom facilities	76.1%	76.4%	75.1%
Computer assistance	69.0%	68.4%	66.1%
Student housing (e.g., res. Halls)	52.1%	59.7%	61.9%
Student health services	50.0%	58.9%	54.0%
Financial aid office	42.7%	52.1%	49.6%
Student psychological services	36.7%	46.8%	44.7%

CofC Freshmen respondents were...

- much more satisfied with library facilities than either of the comparison groups
- much more satisfied with academic advising than either of the comparison groups
- slightly less satisfied with student housing than either of the comparison groups
- slightly less satisfied with student health services than were freshmen respondents from other Public 4yr Colleges
- slightly less satisfied with the financial aid office than either of the comparison groups
- much less satisfied with student psychological services than were freshmen respondents from other Public 4yr Colleges, and a little less satisfied than were freshmen respondents from All 4yr Colleges/Universities

II. Supportive Campus Environment

2a. Feelings About Campus Community

Campus Community (Strongly Agree + Agree)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
If asked, I would recommend this college to others	93.8%	91.3%	91.3%
People at this college are supportive of me	89.8%	86.3%	87.6%
I feel I am a member of this college	88.0%	87.2%	88.3%
I see myself as part of the campus community	83.2%	80.9%	83.7%
The admission/recruitment materials portrayed this campus accurately	83.1%	84.8%	82.8%
I have been able to find a balance between academics and extracurricular activities	81.4%	80.0%	79.2%
I feel valued at this institution	80.5%	79.0%	78.3%
I feel a sense of belonging to this campus	80.1%	78.9%	81.7%
I am interested in seeking information about current social and political issues	66.3%	56.4%	61.9%

2b. Feelings on Faculty and Staff Support

Faculty and Staff Support (Strongly Agree + Agree)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
Faculty believe in my potential to succeed academically	91.6%	88.6%	87.4%
Faculty encouraged me to meet with them outside of class	89.0%	76.5%	79.1%
Faculty empower me to learn here	88.9%	88.4%	85.0%
At least one staff member has taken an interest in my development	87.1%	83.5%	82.7%
At least one faculty member has taken an interest in my development	86.3%	82.6%	80.6%
Faculty showed concern about my progress	70.7%	68.3%	68.4%

CofC freshmen respondents were...

- much more likely to agree that faculty encouraged them to meet outside of class than either of the two comparison groups
- slightly more likely to agree that at least one faculty member had taken an interest in their development than freshmen respondents from All 4yr Colleges and Universities

2c. Feelings of Racial Tension and Diversity on Campus

Racial Tension and Diversity (Strongly Agree + Agree)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
My college experiences have exposed me to diverse opinions, cultures, and values	81.4%	87.6%	88.8%
In class, I have heard faculty express stereotypes based on race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation	22.6%	27.4%	24.4%
There is a lot of racial tension on this campus	13.3%	8.4%	9.2%
I have felt discriminated against at this institution because of my race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation	11.0%	10.2%	10.6%

CofC freshman were

- more likely to agreed there is a lot of racial tension on campus than did freshmen respondents from other Public 4yr Colleges
- slightly less likely than both comparison groups to agree that their college experiences have exposed them to diverse opinions, cultures, and values

III. Self-Reported Ratings of Student Abilities

3a. Intellectual Abilities

Self-Rating (Highest 10% + Above Average)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
Drive to Achieve	77.1%	72.7%	74.4%
Academic Ability	70.9%	67.2%	71.5%
Leadership Ability	61.7%	55.3%	59.0%
Creativity	61.0%	54.7%	56.2%
Competitiveness	58.9%	53.1%	54.8%
Self Confidence (Intellectual)	58.1%	56.1%	59.9%
Writing Ability	56.9%	51.6%	56.5%
Computer Skills	42.7%	43.9%	42.9%
Mathematical Ability	41.7%	42.9%	48.2%
Public Speaking Ability	35.7%	34.5%	40.8%
Artistic Ability	34.4%	29.3%	32.6%

CofC Freshmen respondents...

- rate themselves as having a little more leadership ability than do freshmen respondents from other Public 4yr Colleges
- rate themselves as having a little more creativity than do freshmen respondents from other Public 4yr Colleges
- rate themselves as being a little more competitive than do freshmen respondents from other Public 4yr Colleges
- rate themselves as having a little more writing ability than do freshmen respondents from other Public 4yr Colleges
- rate themselves as having a little less mathematical ability than do freshmen respondents from All 4yr Colleges/Universities
- rate themselves as having a little less public speaking ability than do freshmen respondents from All 4yr Colleges/Universities
- rate themselves as having a little more artistic ability than do freshmen respondents from other Public 4yr Colleges

3b. Interpersonal Abilities

Self-Rating (Highest 10% + Above Average)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr College/ Universities
Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people	79.5%	74.7%	77.3%
Tolerance of others with different beliefs	78.4%	75.0%	76.9%
Ability to see the world from someone else's perspective	74.2%	70.6%	72.8%
Cooperativeness	73.0%	72.0%	72.8%
Understanding of Others	70.6%	69.1%	70.5%
Ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues	62.7%	60.4%	63.2%
Openness to having my own views challenged	61.5%	59.0%	61.7%
Self Confidence (Social)	45.3%	41.6%	44.8%

3c. Personal Abilities

Self-Rating (Highest 10% + Above Average)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
Self-Understanding	59.3%	55.1%	59.9%
Physical Health	46.9%	42.9%	47.1%
Emotional Health	44.0%	44.0%	47.7%
Risk Taking	39.0%	35.4%	37.6%
Spirituality	36.9%	41.6%	42.2%

IV. Experiences with Academics & Campus Life

4a. Faculty

Since entering this college how often do/have you... (Frequently + Occasionally)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
Felt that faculty encouraged me to ask questions and participate in discussions	96.5%	95.1%	94.7%
Felt that faculty provided me with feedback that helped me assess my progress in class	93.8%	91.5%	91.2%
Received from your professor advice or guidance about your educational program	73.0%	70.5%	68.0%
Worked on a professor's research project	15.1%	27.7%	19.9%

- CofC freshmen respondents spent much less time working on a professor's research project than freshmen respondents from other Public 4yr Colleges

4b. Classroom Environment

Since entering this college how often do/have you... (Frequently + Occasionally)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
Contributed to class discussions	96.4%	95.0%	94.5%
Ask questions in class	93.0%	91.0%	89.1%
Felt my contributions were valued in class	91.6%	92.1%	90.9%
Worked with classmates on group projects during class	90.7%	90.6%	85.3%
Instant messaged/texted during class	82.3%	80.4%	81.0%
Made a presentation in class	80.9%	88.6%	87.6%
Skipped class	72.1%	62.1%	66.1%
Witnessed academic dishonesty/cheating	50.0%	47.7%	48.4%
Turned in course assignments late	36.3%	34.1%	32.1%
Fell asleep in class	28.4%	29.9%	39.7%

- CofC freshmen respondents worked with classmates on group projects during class a little more often than freshmen respondents from All 4yr Colleges/Universities
- CofC freshmen respondents skipped class much less often than freshmen respondents from other Public 4yr Colleges, and a little less often than those from All 4yr Colleges/Universities
- CofC freshmen respondents fell asleep in class much less often than freshmen respondents from All 4yr Colleges/Universities

4c. Study Habits

Since entering this college how often do/have you... (Frequently + Occasionally)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
Seek feedback on your academic work	96.4%	95.1%	95.1%
Discussed course content with students outside of class	96.0%	95.3%	95.7%
Revise your papers to improve your writing	92.5%	94.5%	94.4%
Worked with classmates on group projects outside of class	89.4%	85.7%	86.5%
Applied concepts from courses to everyday life	88.9%	89.5%	88.2%
Felt that your courses inspired you to think in new ways	88.2%	88.7%	89.0%
Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class	87.1%	84.0%	85.7%
Look up scientific research articles and resources	86.3%	85.6%	85.6%
Turned in course assignments that did not reflect your best work	70.8%	72.0%	73.1%

4d. Elements of Campus Life

Since entering this college how often do/have you... (Frequently + Occasionally)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
Integrate skills and knowledge from different sources and experience	99.1%	97.7%	98.0%
Accept mistakes as part of the learning process	97.8%	97.5%	97.4%
Felt family support to succeed	96.9%	92.0%	91.0%
Seek alternative solutions to a problem	96.0%	95.3%	95.8%
Evaluate the quality or reliability of information you received	92.5%	94.3%	94.5%
Support your opinions with a logical argument	91.6%	91.1%	93.2%
Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others	91.1%	92.6%	94.2%
Take a risk because you felt you had more to gain	87.6%	85.4%	87.4%
Received advice/counseling from another student	71.3%	73.9%	75.6%
Felt lonely or homesick	68.6%	61.3%	64.3%
Went home for the weekend	62.9%	81.2%	72.9%
Had difficulty getting along with your roommate(s)/housemate(s)	61.1%	44.9%	46.1%
Felt isolated from campus life	46.5%	57.3%	54.4%
Felt worried about your health	44.0%	42.6%	44.9%
Felt unsafe on this campus	43.8%	23.6%	25.7%
Felt that your job responsibilities interfered with your schoolwork	27.0%	34.1%	30.2%
Felt that your family responsibilities interfered with your schoolwork	25.7%	38.7%	32.8%

CofC Freshmen respondents...

- worked with classmates on group projects during class a little more often than freshmen respondents from All 4yr Colleges/Universities
- made a presentation in class a little less often than either of the comparison groups
- skipped class much less often than freshmen respondents from other Public 4yr Colleges and a little less often than those from All 4yr Colleges/Universities
- had much more difficulty getting into courses they needed than either comparison group
- fell asleep during class much less often than freshmen respondents from All 4yr Colleges/Universities
- worked on a professor's research project much less often than freshmen respondents from other Public 4yr Colleges

4e. College Facilities and Departments

Since entering this college, how often have you... (Frequently + Occasionally)	CofC	Public 4yr Colleges	All 4yr Colleges/ Universities
Used academic advising	97.8%	90.0%	89.0%
Accessed your campus library resources electronically	94.3%	88.4%	87.5%
Used the institution's website to learn about campus resources	91.6%	89.0%	86.6%
Use the institution's course catalog (paper or online)	91.6%	88.8%	87.5%
Used student health services	57.9%	49.3%	52.6%
Received tutoring	45.2%	39.3%	40.4%
Used study skills advising	35.9%	38.9%	37.9%
Used financial aid advising	32.7%	42.7%	38.4%
Used career services	30.5%	28.6%	29.6%
Used Writing center	21.7%	38.5%	33.2%
Used student psychological services	11.5%	11.9%	14.3%
Used disability resource center	6.2%	6.4%	7.6%

CofC Freshmen respondents...

- used academic advising a little more often than either comparison group
- accessed their campus library resources electronically a little more often than either comparison group
- used the institution's website to learn about campus resources a little more often than freshmen respondents from All 4yr Colleges/Universities
- used student health services a little more often than freshmen respondents of other Public 4yr Colleges
- received tutoring a little more often than freshmen respondents of other Public 4yr Colleges
- used financial aid advising much less often than freshmen respondents of other Public 4yr Colleges and a little less often than All 4yr Colleges/Universities
- used the Writing Center much less often than either comparison group