

2001 CIRP Survey of New Students

Local Results

The following tables are based on responses of incoming students on the 2001 CIRP Survey. The survey was completed by 239 incoming students. The data was analyzed locally which will differ slightly from the analysis from the Higher Education Research Institute.

Although this information is valuable and provides a glimpse into some characteristics of the incoming class, please keep in mind that not all students completed the survey. These data, therefore, are not intended to represent or profile the entire incoming class. If you have questions about any of the information contained in this report, please contact Mary Ann Weaver at (765) 983-1589 or weavema@earlham.edu.

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Gender

Gender	%
Male	41
Female	59

Race/Ethnicity

Ethnicity	%
White/Caucasian	78
African American/Black	5
American Indian	0
Asian American/Asian	4
Mexican American/Chicano	1
Puerto Rican	1
Other Latino	1
Other	8

English as Native Language

Response	%
Yes	91
No	9

High School Graduation

Date	%
2000	81
Before 2000	16
Other	3

"Did your high school require community service for graduation?"

Response	%
Yes	34
No	66

Number of Miles from Home

Miles	%
5 or less	3
6 to 10	1
11 to 50	5
51 to 100	8
101 to 500	39
More than 500	42

Political Views

Political Views	%
Far left	15
Liberal	57
Middle of the road	18
Conservative	5
Far right	1

Average Grade in High School

Grade	%
'A' Average	43
'B' Average	53
'C' Average	4

SAT/ACT Scores (rounded)

Test	Average Score
SAT Verbal	623
SAT Math	591
ACT	25

"Is this college your...?"

Choice	%
First choice	67
Second choice	22
Third choice	8
Less than third choice	3

The percentage of Earlham College freshmen who consider their present school as their top pick (67%) is less than last year (78%)

"To how many colleges other than this one did you apply for admission this year?"

Number	%
None	17
1-3	34
4-6	34
7 or more	15

Housing Plans for Fall Semester

Living Situation	%
With Parents or Relatives	1
Other private home, apartment or room	0
College Dormitory	97
Fraternity or sorority house	0
Other campus student housing	1
Other	1

Student and Parent Religious Affiliation

Religion	Student (%)	Father (%)	Mother (%)
Baptist	2	3	6
Buddhist	3	3	3
Episcopal	3	3	4
Islamic	3	3	3
Jewish	3	4	5
Lutheran	3	4	3
Methodist	4	6	7
Presbyterian	2	3	3
Quaker	12	9	12
Roman Catholic	4	9	9
Seventh Day Adventist	1	0	1
United Church of Christ	1	3	3
Other Christian	9	13	10
Other Religion	12	8	11
None	38	29	20

Parent Status

Status	%
Both alive and living with each other	68
Both alive, divorced or living apart	30
One or both deceased	2

Parents' Highest Education Level

Education	Father (%)	Mother (%)
Grammar school or less	1	0
Some high school	4	4
High school graduate	12	8
Post-Secondary School other than college	2	4
Some college	13	12
College degree	20	23
Some graduate school	6	7
Graduate degree	42	42

Student Estimate of Parents' Income

Income	%
Less than \$6,000	3
\$6,000 to \$9,999	2
\$10,000 to \$14,999	3
\$15,000 to \$19,999	4
\$20,000 to \$24,999	5
\$25,000 to \$29,999	7
\$30,000 to \$39,999	9
\$40,000 to \$49,999	10
\$50,000 to \$59,999	11
\$60,000 to \$74,999	13
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14
\$100,000 to \$149,999	8
\$150,000 to \$199,999	6
\$200,000 or more	5

Financial Worry

Level of Concern	%
None (confident will have sufficient funds)	32
Some (will probably have enough)	57
Major (not sure will have enough to complete)	11

Students' Probable Major Field of Study

Probable Major	%
English	7
Fine Arts	5
Language/Literature	5
Philosophy	4
Theology or Religion	2
Biology	5
Engineering	1
Health Professions	2
Math or Computer Science	1
Physical Science	1
Anthropology and Sociology	5

Business Administration	1
Economics	1
Education	3
History	2
Political Science	8
Psychology	5
Other Social Sciences	3.3
Other Fields	2
Undecided	12

Highest Degree Planned to Obtain (Overall)

Degree	(%)
No Response	4
None	1
Vocational Certificate	1
Associate's (A.A. or Equivalent)	0
Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)	19
Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)	32
Ph.D. or Ed.D.	32
M.D., D.O., D.D.S., or D.V.M.	5
LL.B. or J.D. (Law)	4
B.D. or M.DIV. (Divinity)	1
Other	2

"Rate yourself on each of the following traits as compared with the average person your age."

Area	Highest 10%	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Lowest 10%	Mean*
Academic ability	17	59	20	3	1	2.20
Artistic ability	9	37	32	17	5	2.70
Competitiveness	11	23	34	25	7	2.92
Cooperativeness	20	56	22	1	1	2.05
Creativity	22	48	24	5	1	2.14
Drive to achieve	18	46	27	7	2	2.25
Emotional health	14	36	38	12	0	2.41
Leadership ability	20	41	30	8	1	2.27
Mathematical ability	7	23	41	26	3	2.94
Physical health	13	38	43	6	0	2.43
Popularity	7	29	50	12	2	2.72
Public speaking ability	13	30	34	19	4	2.72
Self-confidence (intellectual)	18	44	30	7	1	2.27
Self-confidence (social)	12	35	38	13	2	2.55

Self-understanding	22	44	28	6	0	2.19
Spirituality	15	35	28	15	7	2.65
Understanding of others	23	50	25	1	1	2.04
Writing ability	17	43	29	9	2	2.34
Computer Skills	5	18	51	23	3	3.01

*Lower means indicate a higher rating in comparison to peers.

Activities Engaged in by Students in the Past Year

Activity	Frequently (%)	Occasionally (%)	Not at All (%)	Mean*
Attended religious service	32	42	26	1.94
Was bored in class	34	56	10	1.76
Participated in demonstrations	12	41	47	2.37
Tutored another student	14	43	43	2.29
Studied with other students	30	56	14	1.83
Was a guest in a teacher's home	10	34	56	2.48
Smoked cigarettes	10	20	70	2.61
Drank beer	7	46	47	2.41
Drank wine or liquor	9	58	33	2.25
Felt overwhelmed	32	58	10	1.77

Felt depressed	12	57	31	2.19
Performed volunteer work	31	57	12	1.80
Played a musical instrument	25	27	48	2.23
Asked a teacher for advice	32	53	15	1.82
Overslept	4	30	66	2.63
Discussed politics	46	44	10	1.68
Voted in a student election	23	49	28	2.04
Socialized with different ethnic groups	72	24	4	1.31
Came late to class	11	55	34	2.23
Attended a public concert	34	58	8	1.74
Visited an art gallery/museum	20	67	13	1.93
Discussed religion	40	52	8	1.67
Communicated via e-mail	77	18	5	1.31
Used the internet for research	64	31	5	1.41
Participated in internet chat rooms	12	28	60	2.50
Other internet use	54	36	10	1.55
Performed community service for class	17	31	52	2.36
Used a personal computer	78	16	6	1.26

* Lower means indicate a higher frequency of participation in given activity.

Hours Spent in Certain Activities in the Past Year

Activity	Percentage of Students Reporting Each Range of Hours								
	None	<1 hr	1-2	3-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	>20	Mean
Studying/Homework	2	5	13	23	27	16	9	5	1.70
Socializing with friends	1	1	5	17	29	17	17	13	1.74
Talking with teachers outside of class	4	32	35	19	7	2	0	1	1.21
Exercising/sports	5	10	18	23	20	9	7	8	1.96
Partying	25	17	16	20	13	5	2	2	1.78
Working (for pay)	43	3	7	6	12	12	10	7	2.61
Volunteer work	20	24	26	15	9	3	1	2	1.56
Student clubs	18	13	28	18	11	8	2	2	1.71
Watching TV	14	22	21	25	10	4	3	1	1.61
Child care	21	18	31	17	7	0	2	2	1.52
Reading	10	18	28	25	12	4	2	1	1.48
Video games	44	24	15	5	5	4	2	1	1.59
Prayer/meditation	40	26	19	9	3	1	1	1	1.27

**"In deciding to go to college, how important to you
was each of the following reasons?"**

Reason	Very Important (%)	Somewhat Important (%)	Not Important (%)	Mean*
My parents wanted me to go	23	41	36	2.14
I could not find a job	4	6	90	2.91
Wanted to get away from home	20	49	31	2.11
To be able to get a better job	41	30	22	1.79
To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas	83	15	2	1.17
To improve my reading and study skills	44	43	13	1.69
There was nothing better to do	6	9	85	2.82
To make me a more cultured person	65	29	6	1.40
To be able to make more money	33	36	31	1.97
To learn more about things that interest me	91	7	2	1.08
To prepare myself for graduate or professional school	54	33	13	1.58
A mentor/role model encouraged me to go	8	33	58	2.48
To get training for a specific career	38	31	31	1.91

*Lower means indicate greater importance.

Reasons influencing students' decision to attend Earlham College

Reason	Very Important (%)	Somewhat Important (%)	Not Important (%)	Mean*
My relatives wanted me to come here	5	25	69	2.66
My teacher advised me	5	28	65	2.62
This college has a good academic reputation	60	36	2	1.41
This college has a good reputation for social activities	36	40	23	1.86
I was offered financial assistance	45	28	25	1.79
This college offers special education programs	30	35	33	2.03
This college has low tuition	4	15	79	2.78
High school counselor advised me	3	10	85	2.70
Private college counselor advised me	4	22	72	2.85
I wanted to live near home	3	14	81	2.81
Not offered aid by first choice	5	10	83	2.81
This college's graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools	31	33	35	2.03

This college's graduates get good jobs	35	34	30	1.96
I was attracted by the religious affiliation/orientation of the college	12	33	49	2.33
Wanted to go to a school about this size	55	33	10	1.54
Not accepted anywhere else	3	6	89	2.89
Rankings in national magazines	5	30	63	2.59
I was admitted through and Early Action or Early Decision program	8	40	50	2.43
Information from a website	12	11	74	2.65

*Lower means indicate greater importance.

Ratings of Likelihood of Certain Events in College

Activity	Very Good Chance (%)	Some Chance (%)	Very Little Chance (%)	No Chance (%)	Mean*
Change major field	23	45	22	9	2.14
Change career choice	26	49	17	7	1.99
Graduate with honors	20	63	14	2	1.96
Be elected to a student office	8	37	42	11	2.50
Get a job to help pay for college expenses	48	30	16	5	1.74
Work full time while attending college	2	11	40	46	3.26
Join a social fraternity, sorority or club	2	3	15	80	3.69
Play varsity/intercollegiate athletics	25	22	25	26	2.46
Make at least a "B" average	63	33	3	1	1.36
Need extra time to complete your degree requirements	6	32	47	13	2.62
Get a bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)	77	17	4	1	1.25
Participate in protests or demonstrations	31	38	20	9	2.01
Drop out of this college	2	10	44	43	3.21

temporarily (excluding transferring)					
Drop out permanently (excluding transferring)	3	25	0	70	3.61
Transfer to another college before graduating	5	24	47	24	2.86
Be satisfied with your college	58	37	3	0	1.41
Participate in volunteer or community service work	50	34	14	2	1.63
Seek personal counseling	9	35	40	6	2.59

*Lower means indicate increased chance that event will occur.

Ratings of Importance of Life Objectives

Objective	Essential (%)	Very Important (%)	Somewhat Important (%)	Not Important (%)	Mean*
Becoming accomplished in performing arts	7	12	35	45	3.20
Becoming an authority in my field	17	33	36	12	2.43
Obtaining recognition for contributions to my special field	8	31	42	17	2.70
Influencing the political structure	14	22	38	25	2.76
Influencing social values	16	39	30	13	2.40
Raising a family	20	36	27	15	2.50
Having administrative responsibility for the work of others	4	10	35	50	3.33
Being very well off financially	15	16	42	25	2.79
Helping others who are in difficulty	36	36	25	2	1.91
Theoretically contributing to science	3	13	25	58	3.39
Writing original works	10	17	28	42	3.07
Creating artistic work	11	21	28	38	2.95

Becoming successful in own business	10	11	26	51	3.22
Becoming involved in environmental clean-up programs	15	27	37	18	2.59
Developing a meaningful life philosophy	32	35	22	9	2.06
Participating in a community action program	14	30	34	20	2.61
Helping to promote racial understanding	21	35	33	9	2.31
Keeping up to date with political affairs	20	33	32	13	2.41
Becoming a community leader	10	30	40	18	2.69
Integrating spirituality into my life	26	21	27	25	2.50

*Lower means indicate greater importance.

Views on Social Issues

Issue	Agree Strongly (%)	Agree Somewhat (%)	Disagree Somewhat (%)	Disagree Strongly (%)	Mean*
Too much concern for the rights of criminals	5	25	41	29	2.94
Abortion should be legal	54	25	9	10	1.72
The death penalty should be abolished	45	20	18	13	1.96
Casual sex is acceptable	19	36	25	15	2.45
Marijuana should be legalized	25	38	17	17	2.30
Laws should prohibit homosexual relationships	5	1	10	81	3.67
Employers should be allowed to require drug testing of employees or applicants	18	35	32	11	2.49
Government should do more to control handguns	63	21	8	5	1.58
Racial discrimination no longer a problem in US	1	6	31	59	3.47
An individual can do little to create changes in society	5	12	31	50	3.26
Wealthy people should pay more taxes	35	36	21	4	1.99

Colleges should prohibit racist/sexist speech on campus	23	33	28	12	2.55
Same sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	69	17	8	3	1.54
Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished	9	16	51	17	2.65
Married women should stay at home	4	6	13	77	3.64

*Lower means indicate stronger agreement.

This report was prepared by Jamie Miller and Mary Ann Weaver - Fall, 2001

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