Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Incoming Freshman Survey, 2006: Academic Expectations

Background
The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) incoming freshman survey, coordinated through the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA, is the nation’s oldest longitudinal study of the American higher education system.

In 2006, all incoming freshmen at Texas A&M were asked to complete the survey during their New Student Conference session. Of the 7,476 students in the population, 4,561 completed at least a portion of the instrument for a response rate of 61%.

Overall, students taking the CIRP feel prepared for the academic expectations at Texas A&M. While they believe they may need to change their study habits, they also believe their grades will be fairly high and they will be successful after graduation.

Results

Reasons students noted as “very important” in influencing attendance at Texas A&M:
- 85% This college has a very good academic reputation
- 76% This college’s graduates get good jobs
- 48% This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools
- 24% Rankings in national magazines

Students “agree” or “strongly agree”:
- 93% believe participation in student organizations and activities will develop skills in addition to what they learn in the classroom
- 84% expect to meet professors outside of class to talk about grades, course assignments, make-up works, etc.
- 82% expect to change study habits to succeed academically at Texas A&M
- 75% feel academically prepared for college work
- 75% believe it is important to limit outside of classroom/co-curricular involvement during the freshman year to adjust to academic demands
- 29% expect to socialize with professors outside of class (have a soft drink, snack, etc.)

On average, time per week they expect to put towards academics (study time, class projects, homework):
- 33% 1-20 hours
- 35% 21-30 hours
- 32% 31 or more hours

Over the upcoming year, number of major papers (5 or more pages per paper) they expect to write:
- 1% None
- 18% 1 or 2
- 81% 3 or more

Over the upcoming year, number of essay exams they expect to take:
- 2% None
- 20% 1 to 2
- 78% 3 or more

Chances are “very good” that they will:
- 69% Make at least a “B” average
- 45% Communicate regularly with professors
- 15% Change major field
- 6% Need extra time to complete degree requirements

Highest degree they intend to obtain:
- 38% Master’s degree
- 25% Bachelor’s degree
- 18% M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M.
- 13% Ph.D. or Ed.D.

Highest degree they intend to obtain at Texas A&M:
- 54% Bachelor’s degree
- 31% Master’s degree
- 8% M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M.
- 5% Ph.D. or Ed.D.

For more information visit http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/cirp.html or http://studentlifestudies.tamu.edu/

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