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 did well academically in high school, although they may not have spent much time studying.

Results

Average Grade in High School:
- 49% A or A+
- 33% A-
- 13% B+
- 5% B
- 1% B-
- <1% C or C+

Father’s highest education level:
- 27% Graduate degree or some graduate school
- 38% College degree
- 17% Some college
- 19% No college

Mother’s highest education level:
- 18% Graduate degree or some graduate school
- 42% College degree
- 21% Some college
- 19% No college

Students rated themselves “above average” or “highest 10%” as compared with the average person of their age in:
- 88% Academic ability
- 86% Drive to achieve
- 71% Self-confidence (Intellectual)
- 46% Computer skills
- 65% Mathematical ability
- 49% Writing ability

Years of studying these subjects in high school:
- 99% Mathematics (3 years)
- 99% History/American Government (1 year)
- 98% English (4 years)
- 98% Foreign language (2 years)
- 93% Art and/or music (1 year)
- 83% Computer Science (1/2 year)
- 70% Physical Science (2 years)
- 43% Biological Science (2 years)

Time spent in an average week in their last year of high school studying or doing homework:
- 2% None
- 10% Less than one hour
- 21% 1 to 2 hours
- 31% 3 to 5 hours
- 21% 6 to 10 hours
- 9% 11 to 15 hours
- 7% 16 or more hours

Time spent in an average week in their last year of high school talking with teachers outside of class:
- 9% None
- 42% Less than one hour
- 33% 1 to 2 hours
- 12% 3 to 5 hours
- 3% 6 to 10 hours
- 1% 11 to 15 hours
- 1% 16 or more hours

Advanced Placement courses taken in high school:
- 7% None
- 47% 1 to 4 courses
- 35% 5 to 9 courses

Advanced Placement exams taken in high school:
- 20% None
- 52% 1 to 4 exams
- 22% 5 to 9 exams

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

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