

ORAP Research Bulletin

Office of Research, Assessment & Planning
Adelphi University

March 2009

CIRP Survey of Freshmen: Trends

The Higher Education Research Institute's (HERI) Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) survey is administered nationwide, each fall semester, to incoming college freshmen. The survey is designed to obtain a wide range of demographic data as well as information on students' high school background, career plans, educational aspirations, financial concerns, and attitudes on social issues. Adelphi University has administered the CIRP survey to entering freshmen during summer orientation every year since 1966 (with the exception of 2007).

The responses of Adelphi's freshmen are compared with nationally normed responses of freshmen attending similar institutions. Adelphi's most recent results are compared to those private universities across the country that administered the CIRP survey in 2008 and a subset of 10 private institutions of medium-selectivity. (HERI categorizes Adelphi as a private institution of medium selectivity.) This Bulletin highlights results from the survey.

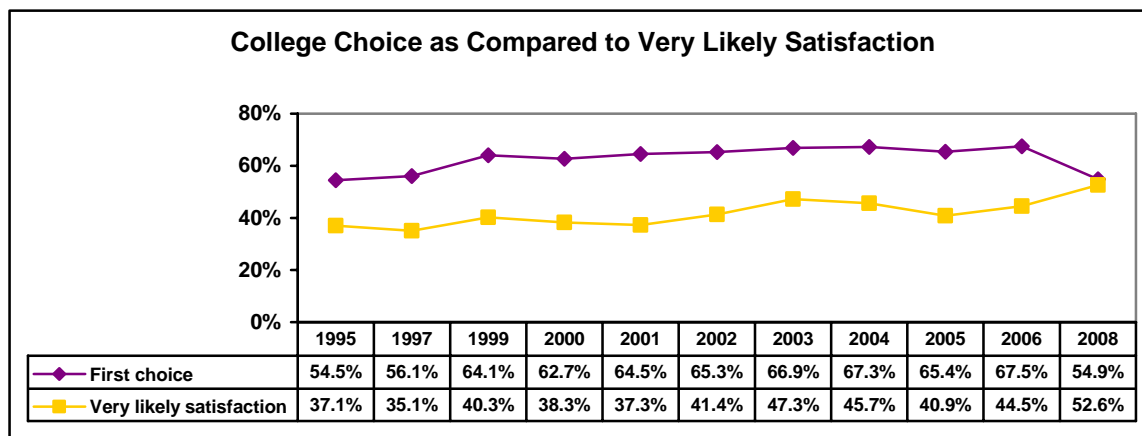
Demographic Characteristics

Demographically, Adelphi freshmen were much more likely to live 50 or fewer miles from the University than freshmen at medium-selectivity universities and all private universities (79.8%, 47.6%, and 24.7%, respectively). Adelphi entrants also had a lower parental income with 34.6 percent of Adelphi freshmen estimating their parental income to be more than \$100,000, compared with 40.9 percent at medium-selectivity universities and 56.8 percent at all private universities. Adelphi freshmen were also more likely to be the first generation in their families to attend college.

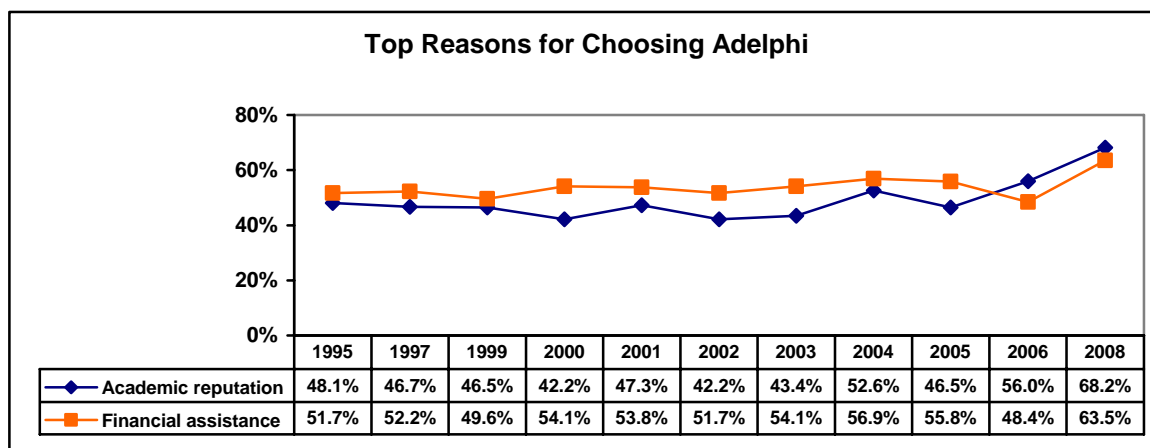
	Adelphi	Medium Selectivity	All Private Universities
Permanent home within 50 miles of college	79.8%	47.6%	24.7%
Parental income more than \$100,000	34.6%	40.9%	56.8%
Father (high school diploma or less)	33.6%	27.2%	14.9%
Mother (high school diploma or less)	32.0%	25.3%	14.1%

College Choice

While the proportion of Adelphi's respondents who reported that Adelphi was their first choice (54.9%) is the lowest it has been since 1995 (54.5%), the proportion that indicated they would "very likely" "be satisfied with this college" is at its highest ever (52.6%). The figure below details the trends for these two items:



In 2008, the top five reasons for choosing Adelphi, in order, were 'academic reputation,' 'financial assistance,' 'college's graduates get good jobs,' 'cost of attending,' and 'a visit to campus.' Historically, financial assistance has been the number one reason provided by respondents; however in 2006, academic reputation became the top reason and remained so.



Other trends of interest include:

- 'Financial assistance' was noted as "very important" by 63.5 percent of Adelphi's respondents (the highest proportion for this item ever) and up from 48.4 percent (its lowest proportion ever) in 2006; the 63.5 percent is consistent with our peers at other institutions of medium selectivity (63%) but much higher than our national peers (47.8%).
- The proportion (38.5%) that chose Adelphi because of its 'social reputation' has consistently increased since 2003 (23.2%) and is now consistent with its peers (37.2% for private institutions of medium selectivity and 39.7% nationally).

- In 2008, 58.3 percent of respondents noted ‘graduates get good jobs;’ although it is the largest proportion of respondents ever for that item at Adelphi, it is still below our peers (67.6% for private institutions of medium selectivity and 69.2% nationally).
- The proportion of Adelphi respondents who noted ‘relatives wanted me to come’ as a “very important” reason is at its highest ever (18.9%) and is comparable with peer groups (20.1% at institutions of medium selectivity and 19.2% nationally).
- The rating for ‘rankings in national magazines’ as a “very important” reason in selecting Adelphi has more than tripled in five years, from 5 percent in 2003 to 17.9 percent in 2008; while this proportion is well below our national peers (31.9%), it is similar to other private institutions of medium selectivity (20.7%).

Finances - Concerns and Sources

Freshmen from Adelphi and from other private institutions of medium selectivity were slightly more concerned about financing their education than those nationally.

- Almost 60 percent of respondents from national institutions expected \$10,000 or more of their first year of college costs to come from family (compared to 34.9% at Adelphi).
- The proportions expecting \$10,000 or more from both aid which need not be repaid and aid which must be repaid were higher for those at institutions of medium selectivity (54.5%; 23.2% respectively) than at Adelphi (42.7%; 14.9%) and nationally (46.4%; 16.4%).
- Adelphi freshmen (68.7%) were more likely than their national peers (56.1%) to work for pay during their last year of high school. Additionally, slightly more than half of Adelphi’s respondents indicated it was “very likely” they will get a job to pay college expenses (as compared to 49.9% from respondents at institutions of medium selectivity and 44.8% nationally).

	Adelphi	Medium Selectivity	All Private Universities
“Some” or “major” concern about their ability to finance their college education	67.5%	69.1%	61.1%
Expecting \$10,000 or more in financial assistance from their families for their first year’s educational expenses	34.9%	43.0%	59.5%
Percent receiving aid of \$10,000 or more that need <u>not</u> be repaid (grants, scholarships, military funding, etc.) for their first year’s educational expenses	42.7%	54.5%	46.4%
Percent receiving aid of \$10,000 or more that <u>must</u> be repaid (loans, etc.) for their first year’s educational expenses	14.9%	23.2%	16.4%
Worked for pay during last year in high school	68.7%	66.7%	56.1%
“Very likely” will get a job to pay college expenses	53.8%	49.9%	44.8%

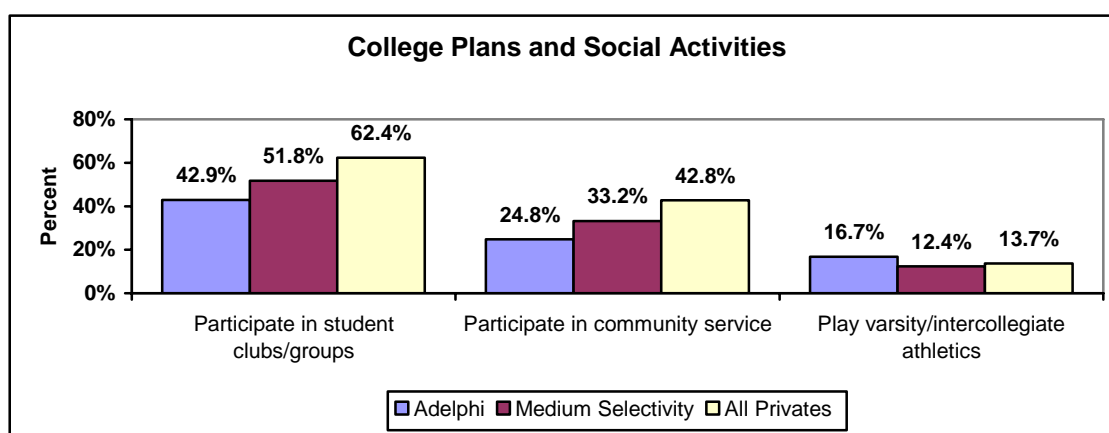
Students' Abilities

Respondents were asked to rate their abilities as either “above average” or “highest 10%” (as compared to the average person of his/her age). Respondents from Adelphi were less confident in their academic, artistic, computer, mathematical, and writing abilities than their peers but rated their understanding of others slightly higher.

	Adelphi	Medium selectivity	All private universities
Academic ability	61.8%	76.2%	87.5%
Artistic ability	28.3%	31.4%	35.1%
Computer skills	33.9%	40.6%	41.8%
Mathematical abilities	34.8%	48.9%	61.8%
Understanding of others	73.2%	69.5%	71.2%
Writing abilities	47.0%	51.2%	58.9%

College Plans and Social Activities

Respondents from Adelphi were less likely than their peers to indicate that participation in student clubs/groups, and community service was “very likely;” but slightly more apt to indicate playing varsity/intercollegiate athletics was “very likely”.



For additional information on this Bulletin's topic or other ORAP projects and reports, contact:

The Office of Research, Assessment and Planning at 516.877.3233

Web site: <http://intranet.adelphi.edu/orap/>