

ORAP Research Bulletin

Office of Research, Assessment & Planning
Adelphi University

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Results of the Fall 2005 CIRP Survey of Entering Freshmen

Each fall, the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) survey is administered nationwide 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.

As a participating institution, Adelphi receives a report summarizing the responses of its students as well as a comparison report with nationally normed responses of freshmen attending similar institutions. Adelphi's most recent results are compared to those from 32 private universities across the country that administered the CIRP survey in 2005.

ORAP's analysis of the most recent CIRP data also places these data in longitudinal context. The ensuing report, *Results of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Survey: Fall 1991 to Fall 2005*, is available online at <http://intranet.adelphi.edu/orap/>.

This ORAP Research Bulletin presents highlights from the full report.

How were Adelphi freshmen different from their peers?

Adelphi freshmen were distinct from their private university peers on a number of CIRP survey items. Demographically, Adelphi freshmen were much more likely to come from the local area and (not surprisingly) to live at home rather than in university housing.

	Adelphi	All private universities
Percent whose permanent home was within 50 miles of their college:	72%	22%
Percent residing in a college dormitory for the fall term:	51%	91%

Freshmen in the two groups also differed in regard to family income, resulting in differences related to financing the first year of college education.

	Adelphi	All private universities
Percent estimating parental income at \$100,000 or more:	28%	54%
Percent intending to rely at least partially on their family's resources to fund educational expenses:	75%	87%
Percent expecting \$10,000 or more in financial assistance from their families for their first year in college:	27%	58%
Percent expressing "major" concern about their ability to finance their college education:	19%	11%
Percent noting that offers of financial assistance from the institution were "very important" in selecting their college:	56%	41%

Entering freshmen at Adelphi were more focused than their peers on a particular career. Differences were also found in probable majors and future occupations.

	Adelphi	All private universities
Most important reasons for deciding to attend college:	#1 and #2 (tied): "to get training for a specific career" and "to learn more about things that interest me" (77% marked each as "very important")	#1: "to learn more about things that interest me" (82%) #2: "to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas" (73%)
Most probable majors:	education, professional (at Adelphi, nursing), arts & humanities	business, social sciences, professional
Most probable careers:	health professions*, elementary and secondary education, business	health professions*, business, engineering

* Interest in specific health professions skewed toward nursing at Adelphi and toward M.D./D.D.S. at all private universities.

Adelphi's 2005 entering freshmen were less likely than their peers to have participated in extracurricular activities in high school. They were also less likely to report plans to participate in student clubs or groups while in college.

	Adelphi	All private universities
Percent reporting participation in student clubs or groups while in their last year of high school:	71%	85%
Percent estimating it "very likely" that they would participate in student clubs or groups while in college:	37%	58%

Of particular concern, the proportion of new freshmen expecting to be satisfied with Adelphi was considerably lower than for entrants to all private universities.

	Adelphi	All private universities
Percent believing there is a “very good chance” that they will be satisfied with their college:	41%	63%

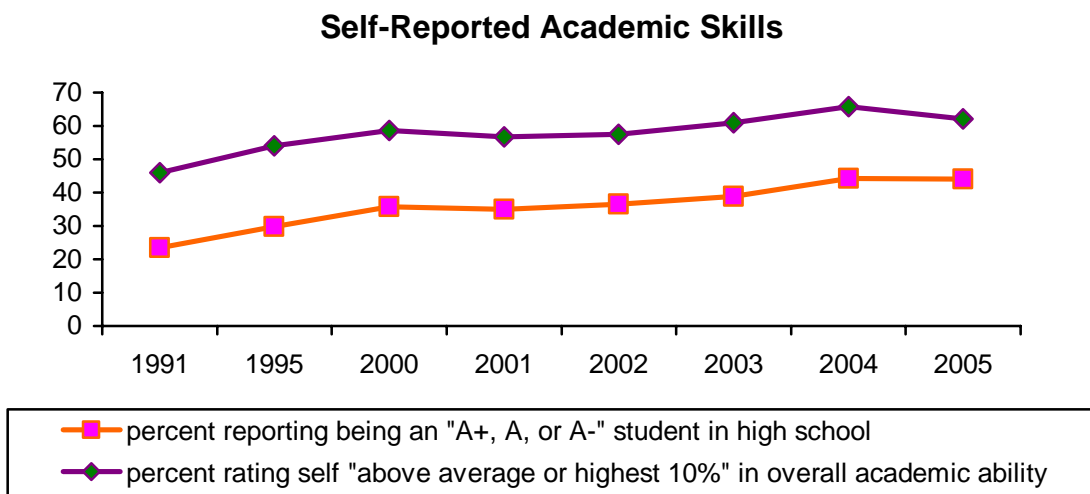
How were Adelphi freshmen similar to their peers?

Although Adelphi freshmen and freshmen entering all private universities were distinct on many CIRP items, they expressed similar personal and professional objectives.

Percent reporting the following personal objectives as “essential” or “very important”:	Adelphi	All private universities
• being very well off financially	77%	72%
• raising a family	75%	76%
• helping others in difficulty	70%	68%
• obtaining recognition from colleagues	61%	57%
• becoming an authority in my own field	58%	64%

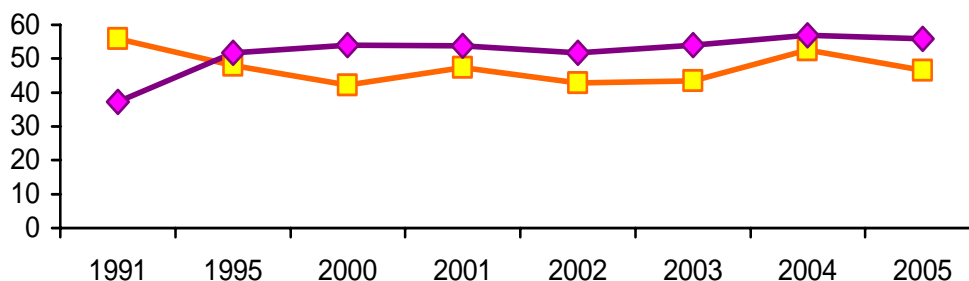
What are the trends at Adelphi?

Over the past fifteen years, the self-reported academic skills of Adelphi’s entering freshmen showed generally steady improvement. Forty-four percent of the 2005 cohort reported being “A-, A, or A+” students in high school, and nearly two-thirds rated their overall academic ability “above average or in the highest 10 percent” as compared to the average person of their age.



Consistently over time, entering students have reported that the two most important reasons for selecting Adelphi University are its “good academic reputation” and “offers of financial assistance.” Prior to 1995, academic reputation was the most frequently cited reason for new freshmen choosing Adelphi; offers of financial assistance ranked second. Since 1995, however, offers of financial assistance have assumed first place.

Top Reasons for Selecting Adelphi University



—■ percent noting "good academic reputation" as very important
—◆ percent noting "offered financial assistance" as very important

Although academic reputation and financial aid were the primary reasons new freshmen gave for choosing Adelphi, trend results from the past five years point to a number of other factors of increasing importance. Supporting the institution’s success in recruitment and advertising, a growing proportion of freshmen reported choosing Adelphi because of information from its web site; rankings in national magazines; and advice from relatives, teachers, and high school guidance counselors.

Percent reporting the following reasons as “very important” in selecting Adelphi University:	2001	2005
• information from the web site	9%	20%
• rankings in national magazines	4%	10%
• relatives wanted me to come	7%	15%
• teacher advised me	1%	9%
• advice of high school guidance counselor	8%	17%

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