

# ORAP Research Bulletin

Office of Research, Assessment & Planning  
Adelphi University

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## Highlights from the CIRP Survey: Fall 1991 to Fall 2006

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 41 private universities across the country that administered the CIRP survey in 2006 and a subset of 12 medium-selectivity private institutions. (HERI categorizes Adelphi as a medium-selectivity private institution.)

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 2006*, is available online at <http://intranet.adelphi.edu/orap/>.

This ORAP Research Bulletin presents highlights from the full report.

### Survey Highlights:

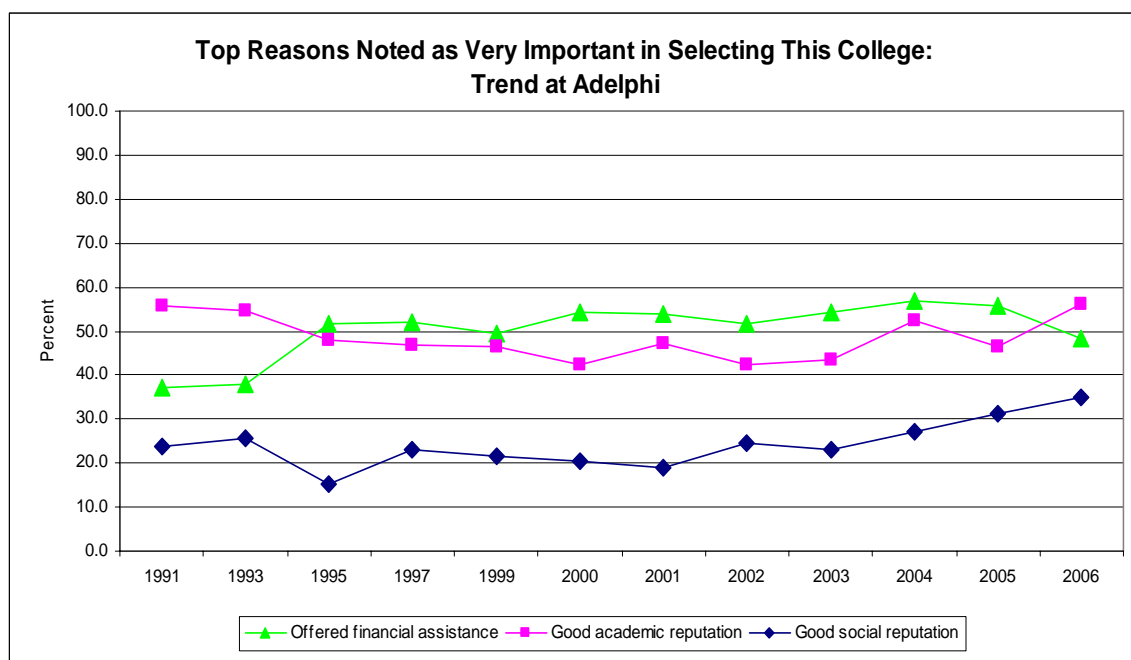
#### [Demographic Characteristics](#)

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 (75%, 40%, and 23%, respectively). Adelphi entrants also had a lower parental income: Sixty-eight percent of Adelphi freshmen estimated their parental income to be less than \$100,000, compared with 58 percent at medium-selectivity universities and 46 percent at all private universities. Compared with their medium-selectivity and all private university peers, Adelphi freshmen were also less likely to have parents with a graduate degree:

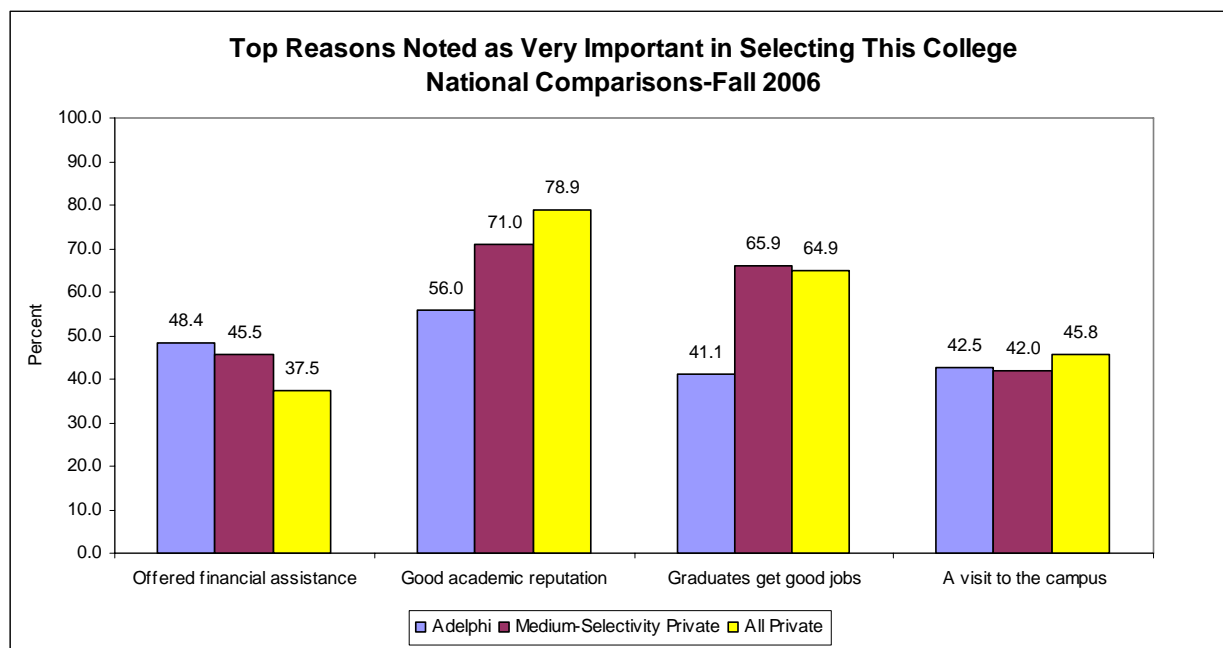
	Adelphi	Medium selectivity	All private universities
Permanent home was within 50 miles of their college:	75%	40%	23%
Parental income less than \$100,000:	68%	58%	46%
Father has a graduate degree:	20%	28%	43%
Mother has a graduate degree:	22%	24%	34%

### College Choice and Expectations

The most encouraging finding of this survey was the significant increase in the proportion of freshmen who chose Adelphi because of its academic reputation, which rose from 47 percent in 2005 to 56 percent in 2006, the highest rating of the past decade. Moreover, the proportion of freshmen who chose Adelphi because of its academic reputation surpassed that of financial offers for the first time. There was also an increase in the proportion that chose Adelphi because of its social reputation, which reached its highest rating (35%). Additionally, the rating for “rankings in national magazines” as a very important reason in selecting Adelphi more than doubled, from 5 percent in 2003 to 12 percent in 2006, its highest rating since this item was first included in the survey. A notable improvement was also noted for “advice of high school guidance counselor” which grew from 10 percent in 2003 to 18 percent in 2006, its highest rating.



However, Adelphi's ratings for good academic and social reputations were still lower than those of its national peers:



### **Financial Aid –Concerns and Sources**

Although most freshmen across the nation expressed concern about their ability to finance their college education, this concern was significantly higher among Adelphi freshmen than at the comparison groups. Differences were also evident among the three groups regarding working for pay in high school:

	Adelphi	Medium selectivity	All private universities
“Some” or “major” concern about their ability to finance their college education:	72%	68%	62%
Expecting \$10,000 or more in financial assistance from their families for their first year in college:	36%	50%	63%
Worked for pay during last year in high school:	72%	65%	57%

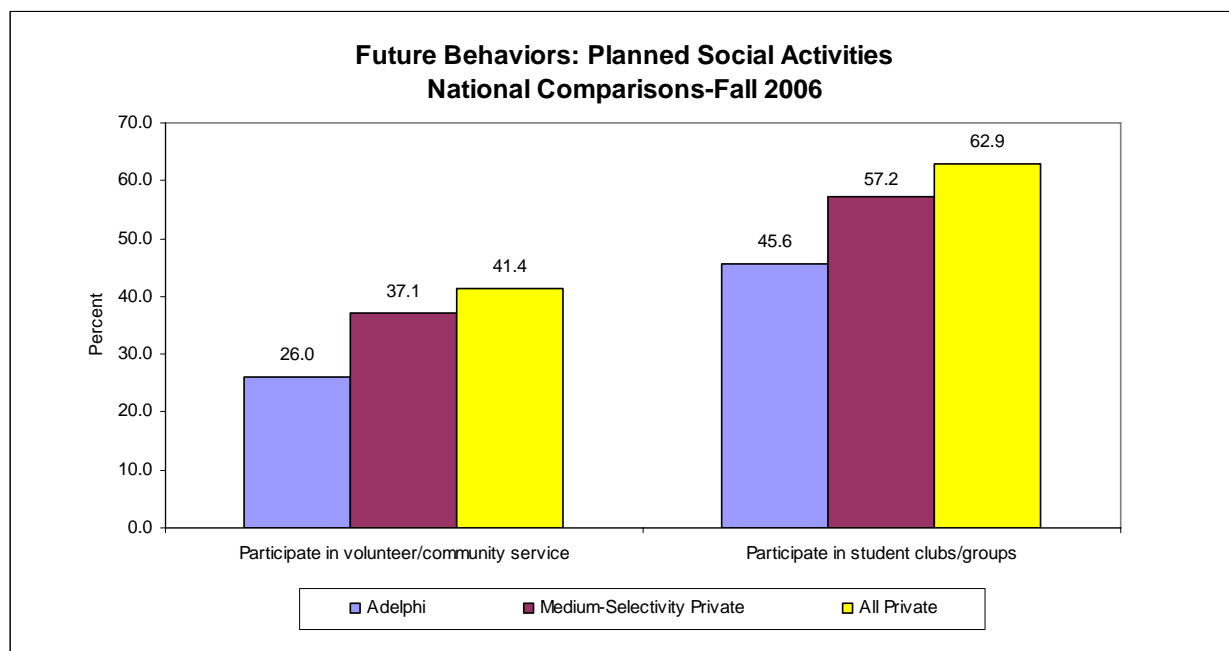
### **Student Abilities and Aspirations**

Almost two-thirds of Adelphi freshmen rated their academic ability in the top 10 percent of their high school class and almost half of Adelphi entrants were “A” students (including “A-”) in high school, the highest proportion to date. Further, nearly two-thirds of Adelphi freshmen aspired to make at least a “B” average in college, a slight increase over 2005. However, these proportions were relatively low compared to those in comparison groups:

	Adelphi	Medium selectivity	All private universities
Rated their academic ability in highest 10%:	59%	78%	87%
Estimated it very likely they will make at least a "B" average:	64%	70%	70%
Were "A" students in high school:	46%	52%	73%

### **College Plans and Social Activities**

On another positive note, the proportion of Adelphi entrants indicating interest in volunteer/community service increased from 22 percent in 2005 to 26 percent in 2006, its highest rating to date. Also, interest in student clubs/groups among Adelphi freshmen increased from 37 percent in 2005 to 46 percent in 2006, the highest since 2000 when this item was first included on the survey. However, these ratings were lower than those of Adelphi's peers nationally:



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**For additional information on this Research Bulletin topic or other ORAP projects and reports, contact:** The Office of Research, Assessment and Planning, Levermore Hall, Rm. 307, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY 11530. Phone: 516.877.3233 Fax: 516.877.3237  
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