

California State University, Fullerton

STUDENT AFFAIRS Research CENTER

Research Report / October 2005

Portrait of the First Time Freshman – Fall 2004

There were 3,627 First Time Freshmen (FTF) at CSU Fullerton in Fall 2004.

98% of respondents attend CSUF as “Full Time” students (“Full Time” is 12 or more units for undergraduates).

Sources: Institutional Research & Analytical Studies (Characteristics of First-Time Freshmen and New Undergraduate Transfers), Fall 2004 and Student Profile–At-A-Glance, Fall 2004.

First Time Freshmen Ethnic Distribution

Ethnicity	Survey Respondents ¹	First Time Freshmen ²
American Indian	0.3%	0.4%
Black	2.1%	5.0%
Chicano	22.3%	23.5%
Other Hispanic	9.2%	8.9%
Asian	19.0%	17.1%
Pacific Islander	1.2%	0.6%
Filipino	4.7%	5.6%
White	33.5%	31.5%
Unknown	7.7%	7.4%

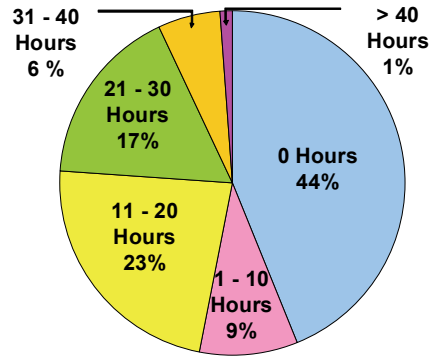
Sources: ¹ FTF Experience Survey, Fall 2004 and ²Institutional Research & Analytical Studies (Characteristics of First-Time Freshmen and New Undergraduate Transfers), Fall 2004.

Note: Unless otherwise stated all charts, graphs and bullet point information came from FTF Experience Survey, Fall 2004.

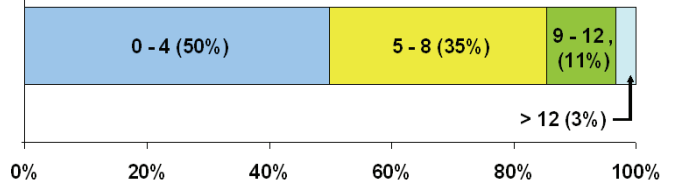
- ◆ 99% of the FTF respondents were 18 years or older.
- ◆ 71% of the respondents were female, 29% were male.
- ◆ 87% responded that they were “born in the United States”
- ◆ 45% of the students surveyed reported that either their mother, father, or both had “graduated from college”.
- ◆ 89% of respondents said they were “Day” Students (8 AM – 4 PM), 1% were “Evening” or “Night” Students (4 PM – 7 PM and 7 PM – 10 PM), and 10% attended class during all periods.

- ◆ 92% of FTF respondents spend between 0 – 30 hours studying during a typical week (41% 0 – 10 hours, 27% 11 – 20 hours, 16% 21 – 30 hours).

Hours Worked for Wages

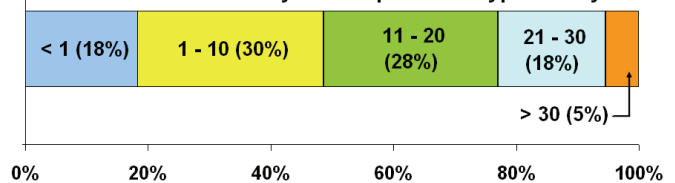


Hours spent traveling to and from campus on a typical week.



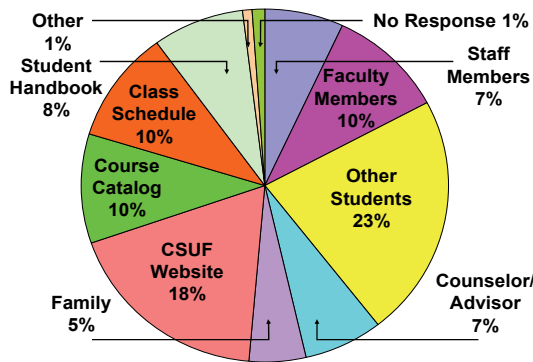
Time & Distance from Campus

Miles traveled one-way to campus on a typical day.



- ◆ 48% of respondents have their parents pay for all of their college education, 8% pay for their college education completely on their own, and 44% of FTF share the costs of college education with their parents.
- ◆ 43% of respondents found that they worked harder than expected in order to meet the standards and expectations of their professor / instructor (26% indicated “Often” and 17% “Very Often”).
- ◆ 40% of respondents found that they worked harder than they were capable of working in order to meet the standards and expectations of their professor / instructor (25% indicated “Often” and 15% “Very Often”).
- ◆ 71% of those surveyed speak only English at home and 8% speak a language other than English at home.

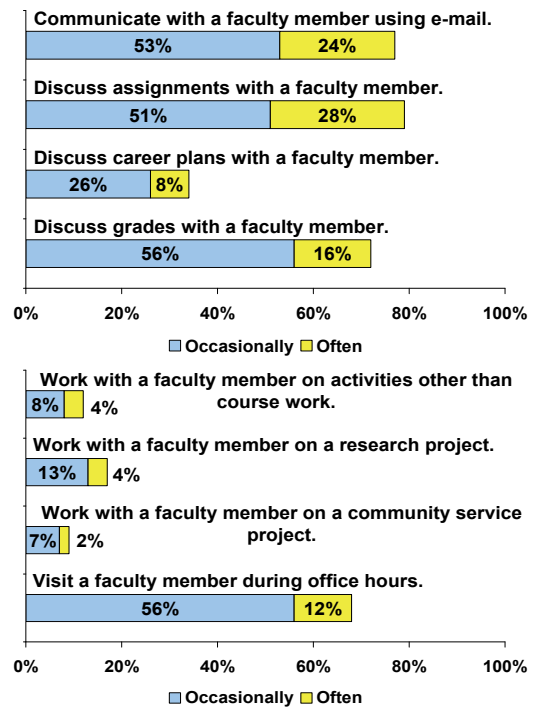
Source of Information about How Things Work at Cal State Fullerton



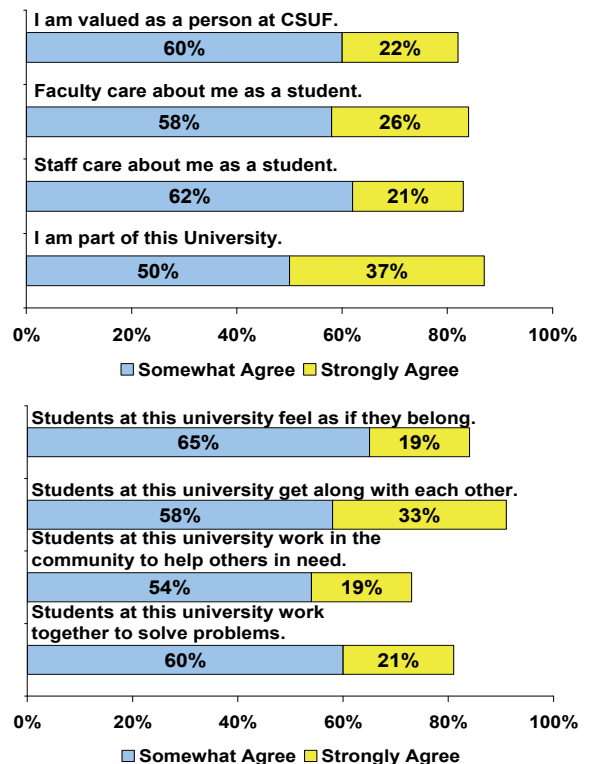
First Time Freshmen College Distribution

Colleges of declared majors	Percentage of FTF
Arts	10%
Business & Economics	21%
Communication	12%
Education	5%
Engineering & Computer Science	4%
Human Development & Community	6%
Humanities & Social Sciences	16%
Natural Sciences & Mathematics	8%
Undeclared	18%

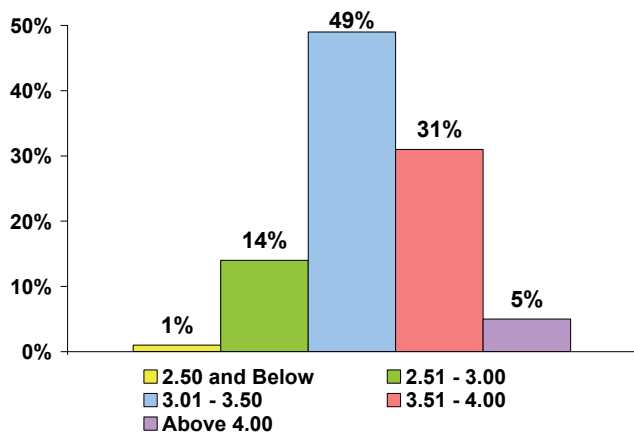
Faculty and Student Interaction



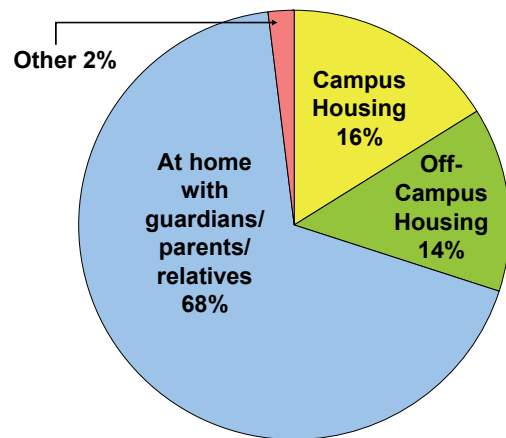
First Time Freshmen Perception of CSUF



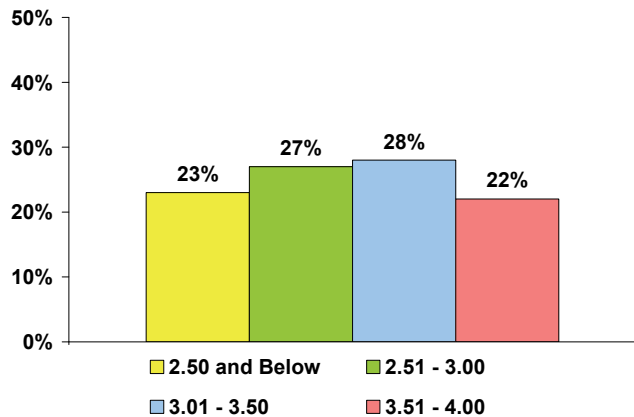
First Time Freshmen Reported High School GPA



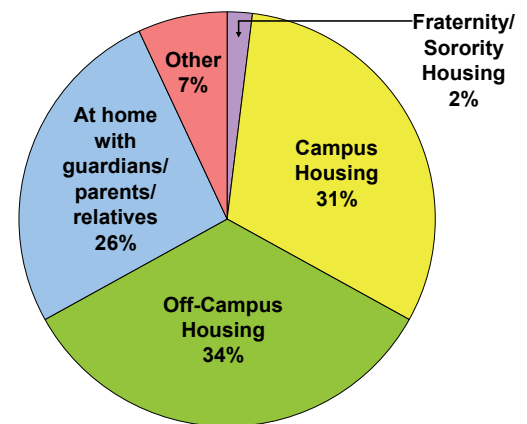
Living Situations of Surveyed First Time Freshmen



First Time Freshmen Reported CSUF GPA

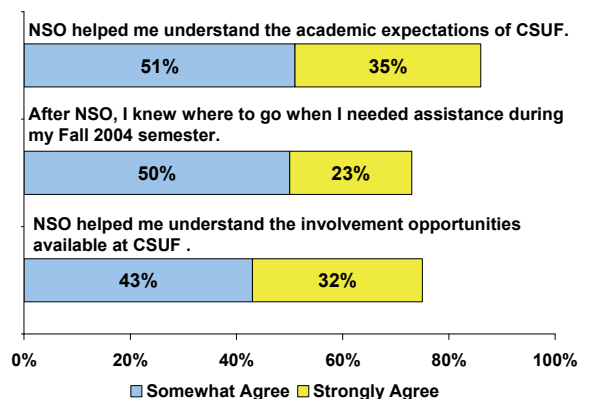


Preferred Living Situations of Surveyed First Time Freshmen



- ◆ 48% of respondents plan to apply for an internship, practicum, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment while enrolled at Cal State Fullerton (38% are undecided).
- ◆ 20% of respondents plan to study abroad while enrolled at Cal State Fullerton (50% are undecided).
- ◆ 17% of those surveyed have enrolled in a Service Learning course where the instructor integrates community service as part of the class curriculum.

Perception of New Student Orientation (NSO)*



*The NSO was held for FTF the summer preceding the Fall 2004 semester.

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- ◆ 53% of FTF respondents said that Cal State Fullerton was their first choice of colleges to attend and the other 47% said it was either their second, third, or last choice.
- ◆ 92% of FTF respondents are “proud to attend Cal State Fullerton” (33% Somewhat agree and 59% Strongly agree).
- ◆ 66% of respondents “feel a sense of community on this campus” (41% Somewhat agree and 25% Strongly agree).
- ◆ 83% of respondents say that their experience at Cal State Fullerton has increased their “appreciation and understanding of people from different cultural backgrounds” (53% Somewhat agree and 30% Strongly agree).

Student Affairs research is a major priority.

This report reflects the Student Affairs commitment to a continual focus on research relating to student affairs.

The Mission of the Student Affairs Research Center

is to coordinate studies of the student population using various surveys, such as the First Time Freshman Experience Survey, and to coordinate support of the Student Affairs directors and staff who conduct evaluation and assessment of their services and/or programs.

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End Note-

During the Spring 2005 semester, the Student Affairs Research Center conducted a web-based survey through an online survey software called Zoomerang. 340 First Time Freshmen responded to the First Time Freshman Experience Survey Fall 2004. The survey consisted of questions that address the formal and informal environment in which students interact with faculty, staff, and other students, including how they learn, live, and conduct their curricular (i.e. academic) as well as co-curricular (non-academic) activities both inside and outside the classroom setting.

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