



STUDENT AFFAIRS Research C E N T E R

Research Report / May 1999

Portrait of the First Time Freshman

There were 2,265 First Time Freshmen at CSU Fullerton in Fall 1998.

- Most first time freshmen are **18 years old**. Only 1% are 20 years of age or older.
Source: Office of Analytical Studies, Statistical Handbook, Fall 1998
- Fifty-eight percent are female and 42% are male.
Source: Statistical Handbook, Fall 1998
- First Time Freshmen **average 15.25 miles** in their one-way commute to campus. Some travel no miles and some travel as far as 60 miles one way.
Source: Climate Survey Dec 1998
- First Time Freshmen **study an average 11.0 hours per week**. Some report studying zero hours; others as much as 35 hours per week.
Source: Climate Survey Dec 1998
- First Time Freshmen **work for wages an average 18 hours per week**. Some report working as few as one hour or as many as 38 hours.
Source: Climate Survey Dec 1998
- First Time Freshmen carry an average class load of **13.0 units**.
Source: Statistical Handbook, Fall 1998
- Twenty-seven percent of First Time Freshmen are the **first person in their family** ever to attend college.
Source: Climate Survey Dec 1998
- Ninety-five percent of First Time Freshmen **attend Full Time** ("full-time" is 12 or more units for undergraduates).
Source: Statistical Handbook, Fall 1998
- For half the First Time Freshmen, CSU Fullerton was their first choice of colleges to attend. For the other half, it was their second choice.
Source: Climate Survey Dec 1998
- First Time Freshmen are **proud to attend** Cal State Fullerton. $M = 8.4$; $sd = 2.0$, scale of 1 to 10.
Source: Climate Survey, Dec 1998
- No one **ethnic category** represents First Time Freshmen. Twenty-nine percent are Latino, 29% are Anglo, and 26% are Asian/Pacific Islander.
Source: Statistical Handbook, Fall 1998

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Student affairs research is a major priority. This research 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 administer and support research on students, including campus climate assessment.

Upcoming Reports:

- Computer Skills Among First Time Freshmen: Climate Survey.
- Census of Computer Skills Among Student Affairs Staff Before and After Rollout.
- How Far Do Our Students Travel to Cal State Fullerton? Climate Survey.
- How Many Hours Do Our Students Study?: Climate Survey.
- Portrait of the Cal State Student
- Sense of Community at CSU Fullerton: A Test of Competing Causal Models.
- How Many Hours Do our Students Work?: Climate Survey.
- Profile of CSU Fullerton Students: Campus Climate Survey

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- Sixty-five percent of First Time Freshmen were **born in this country**. Thirty-five percent were not. Source: *Climate Survey Dec 1998*
- First Time Freshmen are primarily **Day students**, with 82% classifying themselves so. Four percent are evening students (4 p.m. classes) and one percent are night students. Twelve percent report that they attend classes both day and night. Source: *Climate Survey Dec 1998*
- Most First Time Freshmen, 75%, have **declared a major**. The most common is in Business Administration and Economics; the next most common is in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Source: *Statistical Handbook, Fall 1998*
- First Time Freshmen feel a **moderate sense of community on this campus**. $M = 6.8$, $sd = 2.5$, on scale of 1 to 10. Source: *Climate Survey, Dec 1998*
- First Time Freshmen perceive that they are **well treated at Cal State Fullerton**. They report that they are "treated with respect and courtesy" by instructors, $M = 8.8$, $sd = 1.5$; by other students, $M = 8.6$, $sd = 1.7$; and by our staff, $M = 8.8$, $sd = 1.4$. Scales of 1 to 10 with 1 = Strongly Disagree and 10 = Strongly Agree. Source: *Climate Survey, Dec 1998*
- First Time Freshmen are **happy with the class schedules** they received. $M = 7.3$, $sd = 2.1$, on scale of 1 to 10 with 1 = Strongly Disagree and 10 = Strongly Agree. Source: *Climate Survey, Dec 1998*
- First Time Freshmen report that at CSU Fullerton they **have learned how to better relate with people of different cultural backgrounds**. $M = 7.3$; $sd = 2.6$ scale of 1 to 10. Source: *Climate Survey, Dec 1998*
- Eighty-three percent of First Time Freshmen have **access to a computer at home**. They have most experience with word processing (100%), and Internet use (94%). Eighty-two percent have experience with e-mail. Source: *Climate Survey, Dec 1998*
- Where do our First Time Freshmen come from? Forty-three percent report their **county of origin** as Orange; 36% report Los Angeles County. Three percent come from outside California. Eighty-two percent arrive from California public high schools. Source: *Statistical Handbook, Fall 1998*

NOTE: The Campus Climate Survey involved 538 randomly selected students. Margin of error for subset of 75 FTF on reported percentages is +/- 8%.