

California State University, Fullerton

STUDENT AFFAIRS

# Research

# CENTER

Research Report / August 2006

## Portrait of the First Time Freshman – Fall 2005

(Surveyed Spring 2006)

There were 3,679 First Time Freshmen (FTF) at CSU Fullerton in Fall 2005 to Spring 2006.

Source: Admissions and Records.

### Survey Sample Comparisons

Ethnicity	Survey Respondents <sup>1</sup>	First Time Freshmen <sup>2</sup>
American Indian	0.5%	0.3%
Black	1.9%	5.6%
Chicano	20.8%	25.9%
Other Hispanic	8.2%	8.5%
Asian	18.6%	17.3%
Pacific Islander	1.4%	0.7%
Filipino	6.3%	5.6%
White	31.7%	29.5%
Unknown	10.4%	6.6%

Gender	Survey Respondents <sup>1</sup>	First Time Freshmen <sup>2</sup>
Male	31%	41%
Female	69%	59%

Sources: <sup>1</sup> FTF Experience Survey Fall 2005 & <sup>2</sup> Institutional Research & Analytical Studies (Characteristics of First-Time Freshmen and New Undergraduate Transfers, Fall 2005).

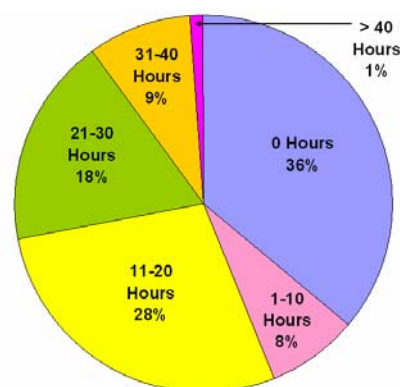
Note: Unless otherwise stated all charts, graphs, and bullet point information came from FTF Experience Survey, Fall 2005.

- ◆ 98% of the FTF participants were 18 years or older and 2% were under 18 at the time of survey completion.
- ◆ 92% of the FTF participants are US citizens.
- ◆ 43% of the students surveyed reported that their father had “graduated from college” and 39% reported their mother had “graduated from college.”
- ◆ 82% of respondents said they were “Day” Students (8AM - 4PM), 2% were “Evening” Students (4PM - 7PM), 1% were “Night” Students (7PM - 10PM), 2% were “Evening and Night” Students (4PM - 10PM), and 14% attended class during all periods.

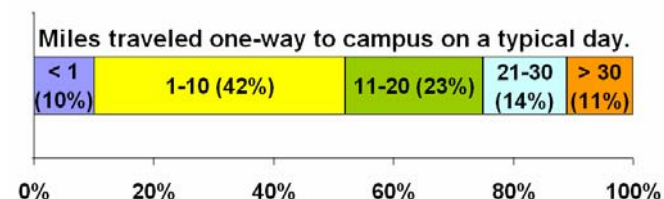
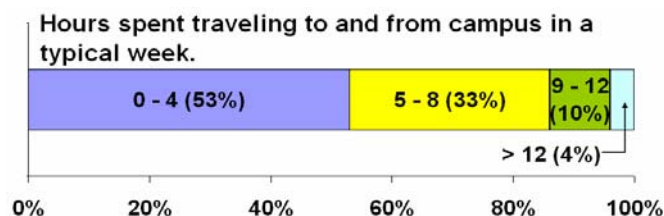
- ◆ 92% of FTF students spend between 0 – 30 hours studying during a typical week (41% 0 – 10 hours, 27% 11 – 20 hours, 16% 21 – 30 hours).
- ◆ 97% of respondents attend CSUF as “Full Time” students (“Full Time” is 12 or more units for undergraduates).

Source: Institutional Research & Analytical Studies (Student Profile At-A-Glance, Fall 2005).

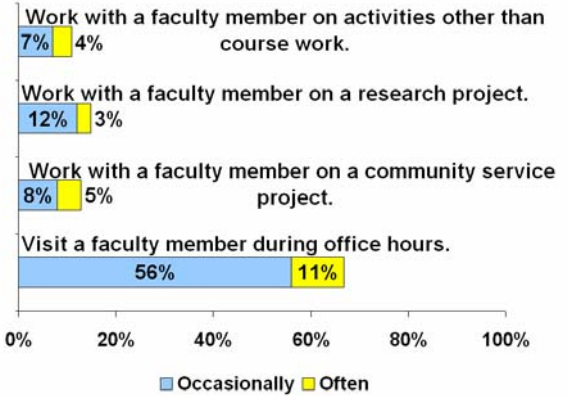
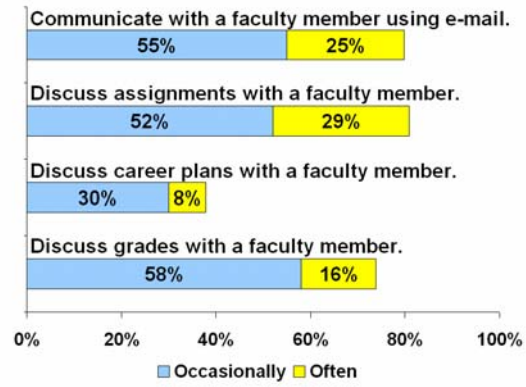
### Hours Worked for Wages



### Time & Distance from Campus

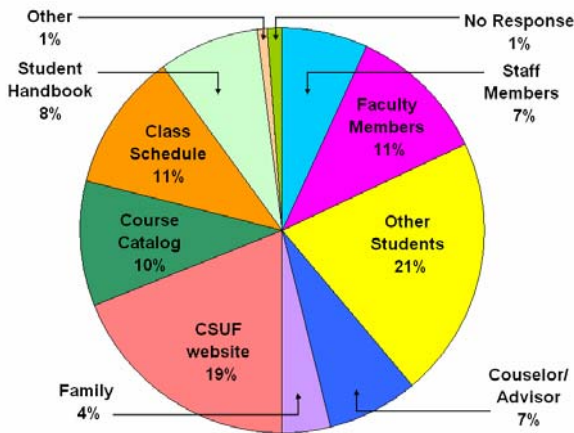


## Faculty/Student Interaction

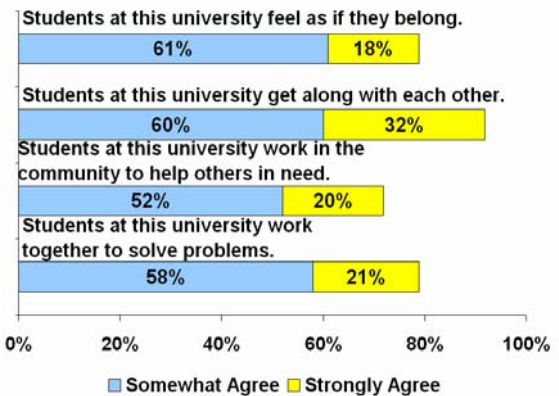
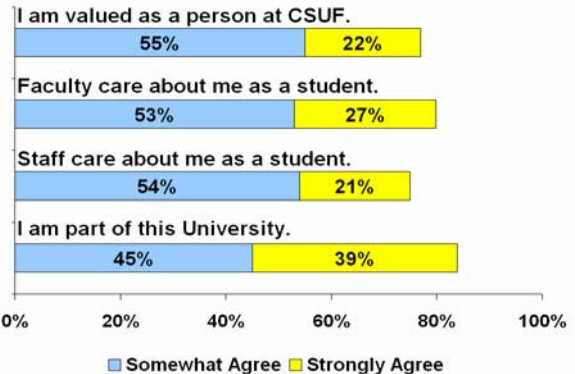


- ◆ 44% of FTF respondents have their parents pay for all of their college education, 13% pay for their college education completely on their own, and 43% of FTF share the costs of tuition with their parents.
- ◆ 42% of respondents found that they worked harder than expected in order to meet the standards and expectations of their professor / instructor (30% felt that often and 12% very often).
- ◆ 36% of FTF 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% felt that often and 11% very often).
- ◆ 70% of those surveyed speak English exclusively at home and 8% speak a language other than English consistently at home.

## Source of Information About How Things Work at Cal State Fullerton



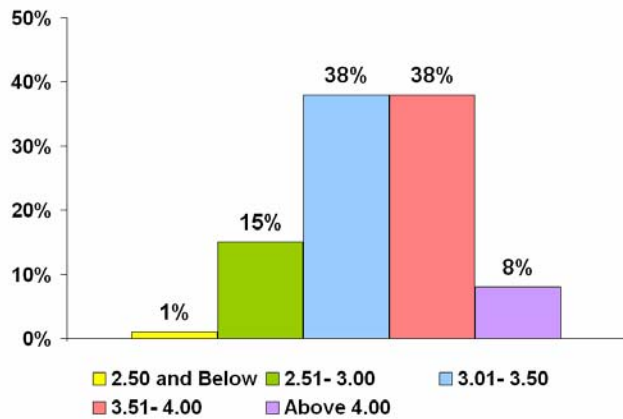
## First Time Freshmen Perception of CSUF



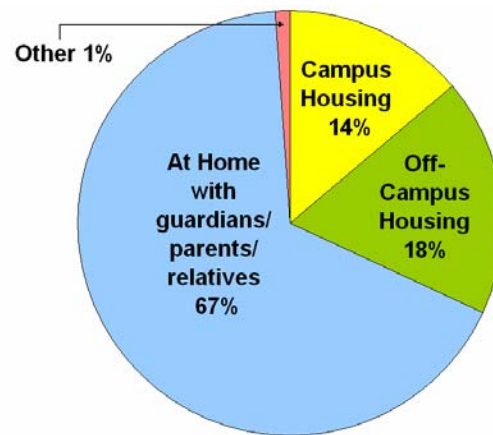
## First Time Freshmen College Distribution

Colleges of declared majors	Percentage of FTF
Arts	8%
Business & Economics	20%
Communication	11%
Education	3%
Engineering & Computer Science	7%
Health and Human Development	9%
Humanities & Social Sciences	22%
Natural Sciences & Mathematics	5%
Undeclared	15%

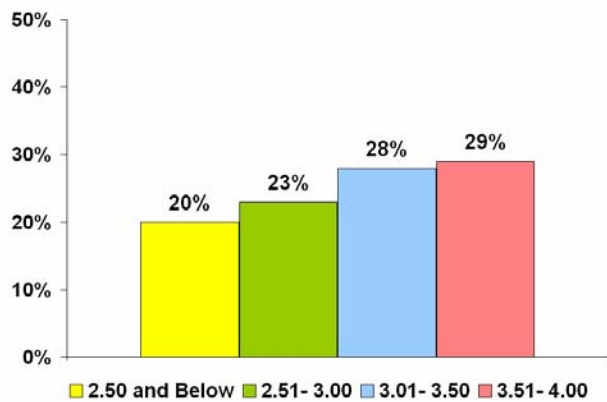
## High School GPA Reported by First Time Freshmen



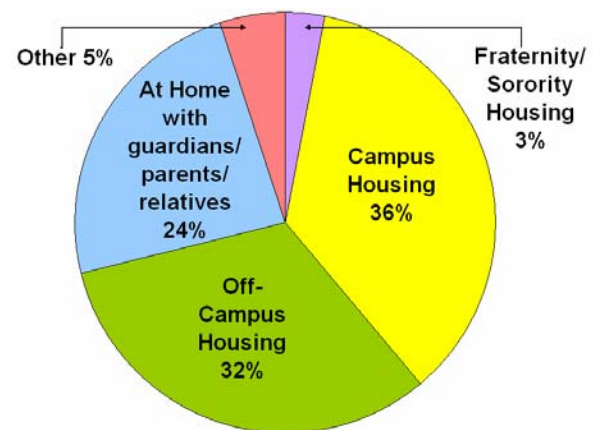
## Living Situations of Surveyed First Time Freshmen



## CSUF GPA Reported by First Time Freshmen

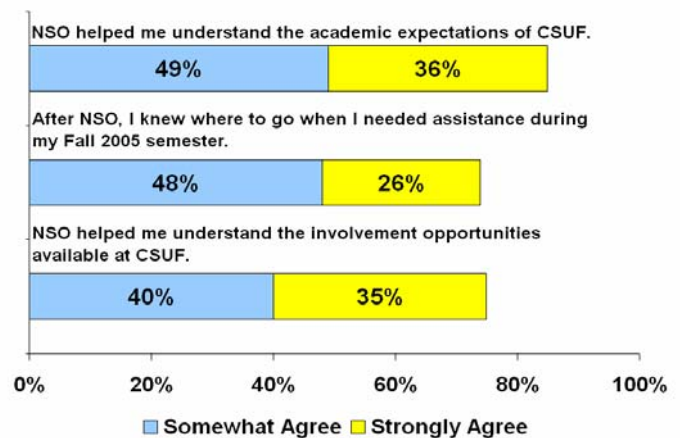


## Preferred Living Situations of Surveyed First Time Freshmen



- ◆ 58% of FTF respondents plan to apply for an internship, practicum, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment while enrolled at Cal State Fullerton (31% are undecided).
- ◆ 29% of respondents plan to study abroad while enrolled at Cal State Fullerton (40% are undecided).
- ◆ 17% of those surveyed have enrolled in a Service Learning course where the instructor integrates community service with academic coursework.
- ◆ 62% of surveyed participants used an electronic medium to discuss or complete an assignment during the school year (28% Often and 34% Very Often).

## Perception of New Student Orientation (NSO)\*



\*The NSO was held for FTF the summer preceding the Fall 2005 semester.

- ◆ 46% of FTF respondents said that Cal State Fullerton was their first choice of colleges to attend.
- ◆ 90% of FTF respondents are “proud to attend Cal State Fullerton” (34% Somewhat agree and 56% Strongly agree).
- ◆ 60% of surveyed participants “feel a sense of community on this campus” (36% Somewhat agree and 24% Strongly agree).
- ◆ 83% of FTF 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).
- ◆ 44% of surveyed participants ask questions during class (28% Often and 16% Very Often).
- ◆ 56% of FTF respondents participate in classroom discussions (34% Often and 22% Very Often).
- ◆ 86% of surveyed participants were satisfied with the registration process at Cal State Fullerton (50% Somewhat agree and 36% Strongly Agree).

---

*End Note-*

*During the Spring 2006 semester, the Student Affairs Research Center conducted a web-based survey using an online survey software called Zoomerang. Three hundred and seventy three First Time Freshmen responded. 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.*

**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.

Howard S. Wang, Ph.D.  
*Acting Director*  
E-Mail: [hwang@fullerton.edu](mailto:hwang@fullerton.edu)

Rachel D. Kaplan  
*Research Assistant*  
E-Mail: [vpsaresearch@fullerton.edu](mailto:vpsaresearch@fullerton.edu)

---

Student Affairs Research Center  
Langsdorf Hall 805  
California State University,  
Fullerton  
P.O. Box 34080  
Fullerton, CA 92634-9920  
714.278 3201  
<http://www.fullerton.edu/sa/SARC/index.htm>