

BY THE NUMBERS: Fall 2004 MSU Freshmen Facts

Montclair State University enrolled 1,754 first-time, full-time freshmen this past fall. All full-time freshmen, except for nontraditional, Center for Adult Learning (CAL) students, were asked to participate in the CIRP Freshman Survey. Their responses give us an in depth portrait of these entering students: what they did in their senior year of high school, what their life aspirations are, why they are attending college and in particular MSU, what their beliefs are, if they have concerns about financing college, as well as a host of other issues.

Who Responded to the Survey?

- 46% completion rate
- The sample slightly under represents males

Again this year Freshman Seminar classes were the collection points for the survey.

The overall completion rate of 45.5% percent, 798 respondents, is less than last year. The sample somewhat under represents males. Males make up 41.5 percent of the overall full-time freshman population and 37.6 percent of the sample. If possible, the CIRP Freshman Survey should be administered during Freshman Orientation, which affords better control of the process because distribution and collection are completed at one time and in one place.

Who Are our Freshmen?

- 40% of freshmen report they are members of an ethnic or racial minority group
- 74% are 18 years old
- 47% identify themselves as Roman Catholic
- 20% say English is not their native language

Montclair State University's freshmen are more ethnically and racially diverse, younger, and living closer to home than freshmen at other four-year medium-selective universities/colleges. The ethnic and racial diversity of our freshmen is also reflected in the higher percents that report English is not their native language and that they hold permanent resident status. MSU freshmen are also more likely to be Roman Catholic (Table 1).

Table 1
Demographic Characteristics, Fall 2004

Characteristics:	Montclair State University	Medium Selective Colleges
Racial/ethnic group:	%	%
African American	10.3	9.0
Asian	6.9	5.6
Latino/a	15.4	9.4
White	66.9	76.8
Other	5.7	3.2
Sex:		
Male	37.6	42.2
Female	62.4	57.8
Age:		
18 Years	73.6	67.0
19 Years	22.9	29.4
Other	3.5	3.7
Religious preference:		
Baptist	4.9	12.1
Buddhist	0.7	1.1
Church of Christ	4.1	4.2
Eastern Orthodox	1.2	0.5
Episcopalian	0.9	1.1
Hindu	1.4	0.5

Islamic	2.8	0.7
Jewish	3.4	1.4
LDS (Mormon)	0.0	0.6
Lutheran	0.9	5.2
Methodist	2.4	5.5
Presbyterian	2.0	3.1
Quaker	0.1	0.1
Roman Catholic	46.9	28.3
Seven Day Adventist	0.5	0.3
Unitarian/Universalist	0.1	0.2
UCC/Congregational	0.0	1.1
Other Christian	10.0	11.8
Other religion	3.7	3.1
None	14.0	18.8
U.S. citizen:		
Yes	92.6	97.3
Permanent resident	5.8	2.0
Neither	1.6	0.7
English is native language:		
Yes	80.5	93.8
College is miles from home:		
5 or less	10.6	5.9
6 to 10	18.7	8.7
11 to 50	47.7	39.2
51 to 100	16.5	17.6
101 to 500	5.9	24.8
Over 500	0.5	3.9

What Are Freshmen Parents Like?

- 23% of freshmen parents are college graduates and an additional 13% have graduate degrees
- 28% of fathers are in business and 13% of mothers are school teachers

Over a quarter of all employed fathers are in business, about 8 percent are skilled workers and over 7 percent are engineers. Mothers who work are found in most of the listed occupations but are more represented in elementary education, nursing, and the clerical side of business than fathers. About 8 percent of MSU freshmen mothers, and almost 9 percent of the comparator group, are full-time homemakers.

Nearly a quarter of MSU freshmen fathers and mothers are college graduates; and an additional 13.5 percent of fathers, and 11.5 percent of mothers, have graduate degrees (Table 2).

Table 2
Parental Background Characteristics, Fall 2004

	Montclair State University		Medium Selective Colleges	
	Father %	Mother %	Father %	Mother %
Religious preference:				
Baptist	4.8	5.0	11.5	12.5
Buddhist	0.7	0.9	1.4	1.3
Church of Christ	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.5
Eastern Orthodox	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.6
Episcopalian	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.4
Hindu	1.5	1.7	0.6	0.6
Islamic	3.8	2.8	1.0	0.8
Jewish	4.5	4.8	2.0	1.8
LDS (Mormon)	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7
Lutheran	0.9	1.1	6.0	6.2
Methodist	1.8	2.8	6.1	6.8
Presbyterian	2.9	3.0	3.6	3.9
Quaker	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Roman Catholic	50.9	52.6	31.1	33.0

Seven Day Adventist	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.3
Unitarian/Universalist	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
UCC/Congregational	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.2
Other Christian	9.2	11.4	10.6	11.6
Other religion	3.2	2.1	2.3	2.3
None	8.9	4.4	15.4	10.1
Occupation:				
Artist	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.3
Business	28.3	16.2	26.5	16.9
Business (Clerical)	1.3	4.8	1.3	6.4
Clergy	1.2	0.3	0.8	0.2
College teacher	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.3
Doctor (MD or DDS)	0.5	0.7	1.3	0.9
Education (secondary)	2.5	5.4	2.5	4.4
Education (elementary)	0.5	7.8	0.8	8.0
Engineer	7.4	0.1	9.0	0.5
Farmer or forester	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.3
Health professional	0.9	1.7	1.5	2.8
Homemaker (full time)	0.0	8.3	0.2	8.6
Lawyer	1.9	0.4	1.2	0.4
Military (career)	0.5	0.0	1.6	0.2
Nurse	0.1	7.5	0.6	9.1
Research scientist	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2
Social/welfare/recreation worker	0.4	1.3	0.5	1.5
Skilled worker	8.3	2.6	9.6	2.0
Semi-skilled worker	3.2	2.0	3.5	2.4
Unskilled worker	5.1	2.7	3.8	2.1
Unemployed	3.5	5.7	2.8	5.2
Other	32.8	30.7	29.2	26.4
Educational level:				
Grammar school or less	6.8	5.9	3.0	2.7
Some high school	8.9	5.9	5.1	4.1
High school graduate	28.2	32.0	26.4	26.7
Post secondary other than college	4.5	5.8	4.6	5.2
Some college	13.8	13.9	17.6	20.3
College degree	22.6	23.8	26.1	26.5
Some graduate school	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.8
Graduate degree	13.5	11.5	15.7	12.6

MSU freshmen report that 18 percent of their parents have family incomes of less than \$30,000; the comparable figure for medium-selective colleges is 17 percent. At the other end of the income range, 23 percent of MSU parents and 25 percent of the comparator group report having incomes of \$100,000 or more.

Table 3
Other Parental Characteristics, Fall 2004

	Montclair State University	Medium Selective Colleges
Income range:	%	%
Less than \$10,000	3.8	3.2
\$10,000 to \$14,999	3.2	2.9
\$15,000 to \$19,999	2.7	2.8
\$20,000 to \$24,999	3.8	4.2
\$25,000 to \$29,999	4.3	4.1
\$30,000 to \$39,999	9.0	7.6
\$40,000 to \$49,999	9.1	9.6
\$50,000 to \$59,999	12.7	11.0
\$60,000 to \$74,999	12.9	13.6
\$75,000 to \$99,999	15.9	16.0
\$100,000 to \$149,999	14.2	14.7
\$150,000 to \$199,999	3.6	5.1
\$200,000 to \$249,999	2.6	2.0
\$250,000	2.3	2.9
Parents are:		
Both alive & living w/ each other	69.3	68.6
Both alive, divorced or living apart	26.4	27.6
One or both deceased	4.4	3.8

What was High School Like for Freshmen?

Grades

- 33% had average high school grades ranging from A- to A+
- 89% report B or better high school averages

Table 4
Average High School Grades

Grade Range:	Montclair State University %	Medium Selective Colleges %
A or A+	12.2	14.9
A-	20.7	20.4
B+	30.3	22.7
B	25.3	26.2
B-	7.6	9.5
C+	2.3	4.2
C	1.5	2.0
D	0.1	0.0

Typical Weekly High School Activities

- 77% worked for pay during the senior year of high school
- 39% worked 16 or more hours a week
- 61% spent some time volunteering
- 70% spent five or fewer hours a week studying and doing homework

The New York Times referred to the senior year in high school as the senior slide year; a time described as not quite as “productive, stimulating and challenging as it needs to be” (*The New York Times*, 1/19/03, Section 14, page 1, How Schools Are Trying to Avoid the ‘Senior Slide’). Table 5 summarizes the time spent in each activity during a typical week as high school seniors. Traditional school activities – studying and homework—were not primary activities for most seniors. Slightly more than 6 out of 10 seniors participated in volunteer work; one of the activities suggested as a counter to the ‘senior slide’.

Table 5
% MSU Freshmen Spending Time in Activities in a Typical Week During the Last Year of High School

Activities:	Hours Spent in Activity							
	None	< One	1 to 2	3 to 5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	20 +
Studying/homework	2.2	12.8	21.8	32.7	18.0	6.7	4.0	1.8
Socializing with friends	0.3	1.2	3.1	17.4	23.4	20.4	12.1	22.2
Talk w/teachers outside class	12.3	42.0	29.7	11.3	3.2	0.8	0.4	0.4
Exercise or sports	8.8	9.6	16.8	19.3	15.3	12.9	8.2	9.2
Partying	18.1	10.3	18.6	24.1	16.2	7.4	2.5	2.8
Working (for pay)	22.8	1.4	2.8	6.2	13.1	15.1	19.1	19.4
Volunteer work	38.9	17.0	21.6	13.9	5.6	1.6	0.5	1.0
Student clubs/groups	28.8	13.6	22.9	19.6	7.7	3.0	2.29	1.6
Watching TV	2.5	11.3	21.2	30.0	18.6	10.0	3.1	3.4
Household/childcare duties	17.8	19.9	28.8	20.1	8.4	3.1	0.9	0.9
Reading for pleasure	30.6	24.8	23.4	12.6	4.9	2.3	0.7	0.7
Play video/computer games	41.3	18.2	19.4	11.6	5.7	2.0	0.5	1.3
Prayer/meditation	42.5	31.6	17.8	4.8	1.7	0.5	0.3	0.8

There are some differences in how males and females spend their time. Slightly more females worked the last year of high school than males, 79 percent and 74 percent, respectively. The number of hours spent in household/childcare duties also varied; 70 percent of females and 49 percent of males reported spending one

hour or more in these activities. Females also spent more time doing volunteer work than males, 70 percent and 46 percent respectively. Females were far less likely to play video/computer games than males; 59 and 12 percent, respectively, reported spending no time playing these types of games.

Community Service / Volunteer Activities

- 43% spend time tutoring or teaching as a volunteer
- 37% participate in child care as a volunteer activity

Table 6
Type of Community Service / Volunteer Activity During the Past Year

Activities:	Montclair State University %	Medium Selective Colleges %
None	12.5	12.1
Tutoring/teaching	43.0	38.3
Counseling/mentoring	18.3	16.5
Environmental activities	18.8	21.8
Child care	36.5	32.6
Elder care	18.8	15.8
Hospital work	10.5	8.4
Substance abuse education	5.0	4.0
Other health education	4.4	3.8
Services to the homeless	18.4	17.6
Community improvement/construction	12.9	20.8
Conflict mediation	6.1	4.1
Service to my religious community	28.1	28.0
Other community service	35.7	40.1

Other High School Activities

- 83% frequently used the Internet for research or homework
- 80% frequently socialized with someone of another racial/ethnic group (compared to 68% for other four-year medium-selective colleges)
- 81% reported they studied with other students
- 44% frequently or occasionally performed community service as part of a class
- 64% reported coming late to class
- 49% were frequently bored in class
- 39% also reported frequently feeling overwhelmed by all they had to do
- 17% voted in a school election
- 63% drank wine or liquor occasionally or frequently
- 55% drank beer occasionally or frequently
- 10% smoke cigarettes frequently

Respondents were asked if they had participated “frequently”, “occasionally”, or “never” during the past year in a list of activities. Four broad areas are highlighted: computer proficiency, academically related activities/behaviors, health or student well-being issues and political interest. Table 7 summarizes student responses.

Table 7
Freshmen Indicating They Participated in Activity During the Past Year

Activities:	Participated Frequently/Occasionally	
	Montclair State University %	Medium Selective Colleges %
Studied with other students	80.7	84.3
Stayed up all night	78.0	80.0
Attended a religious service	76.4	78.4
Performed volunteer work	71.5	77.3
Came late to class	63.9	64.6
Drank wine or liquor	62.9	51.2
Participated in organized demonstration	54.3	53.8
Drank beer	49.9	44.5
Tutored another student	48.2	50.1
Performed community service as part of a class	44.0	50.1
Played a musical instrument	35.5	40.5
Was a guest in a teacher's home	20.9	22.1
Worked on a local, state, or national political campaign	7.3	7.2
Used a personal computer*	87.3	83.2
Used the Internet for research or homework*	82.8	76.1
Socialized with someone of another racial/ethnic group*	80.0	68.0
Was bored in class*	48.7	44.9
Felt overwhelmed by all I had to do*	38.8	27.9
Maintained a healthy diet	23.6	30.4
Discussed religion/spirituality*		
In class	14.8	17.4
With friends	21.1	24.9
With family	25.1	25.3
Asked a teacher for advice after class*	18.2	22.9
Voted in a student election*	17.3	19.0
Discussed politics*	18.8	22.1
Felt depressed*	14.2	8.7
Smoked cigarettes*	10.2	8.0
Missed school because of illness	9.0	5.7

*Percentage reporting "frequently" only. Results for other items represent percentage responding "frequently" or "occasionally".

What are Freshmen's Higher Education Aspirations?

- 51% intend to earn a master's degree as their highest degree
- 64% want to earn a bachelor's degree and 27% want to earn a master's degree at MSU
- 58% said MSU was their first choice of college/university to attend

Why Do MSU Freshmen Want to Attend College?

- 79% want to get training for a specific career
- 77% say to be able to make more money
- 74% are attending college because they want to learn more about things that interest them

Respondents were asked to choose from a list of 12 possible reasons for attending college. Table 8 summarizes these responses. For MSU freshmen, to get training for a specific career was the top reason for attending college, followed by to be able to make more money and learning about things that interest me. MSU freshmen put a bit more emphasis on "gaining a general education and appreciation of ideas" and "to make me a more

cultured person” as important reasons for attending college than those in the comparator group and somewhat less emphasis on “getting away from home” as a reason.

Table 8
% Of Freshmen Responding Reason is Very Important in Deciding to Go to College

Reasons:	Montclair State University %	Medium Selective Colleges %
To get training for a specific career	78.8	77.9
To be able to make more money	77.0	72.9
To be able to get a better job	74.2	72.9
To learn more about things that interest me	73.5	74.4
To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas	64.0	61.0
To find my purpose in life	56.7	53.0
To prepare myself for graduate or professional school	55.6	52.3
My parents wanted me to go	49.2	43.7
To make me a more cultured person	40.4	36.7
Wanted to get away from home	18.3	21.5
I could not find a job	5.6	7.4
There was nothing better to do	4.9	3.8

Why Are Freshmen Attending MSU?

- The top three reasons for attending MSU are:
 - 51% say its good academic reputation is very important
 - 53% say the cost of attending is very important
 - 42 % say living close to home is very important

Table 9 lists all the reasons freshmen gave as “very important” in their decisions to attend MSU. Academic reputation, low tuition and nearness to home play significantly larger roles for MSU freshmen than for those in other four-year medium-selective colleges.

Table 9
% Of Freshmen Responding Reason is Very Important in Deciding to Go to MSU

Reason:	Montclair State University %	Medium Selective Colleges %
This college has a very good academic reputation	51.3	44.4
The cost of attending this college	53.4	39.2
I wanted to live near home	41.9	25.3
This college’s graduates get good jobs	39.2	39.3
I wanted to go to a school about the size of this college	33.1	31.7
Visit to campus	31.4	32.2
I was offered financial assistance	26.0	26.3
This college has a good reputation for its social activities	25.3	23.2
This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools	19.6	18.8
Information from Website	13.3	11.6
High school counselor advised me	11.7	7.5
My relatives wanted me to come here	10.5	8.5
Rankings in national magazines	9.5	6.7
My teacher advised me	7.8	5.0
Not offered aid by first choice	7.7	5.5
I was admitted through an Early Action or Early Decision program	3.1	5.5
I was attracted by the religious affiliation of this college	1.6	2.3
Private college counselor advised me	1.2	1.7

Which Personal Life Objectives Do Freshmen Think Are Very Important?

- 86% want to be very well off financially
- 83% want to raise a family
- 64% say it is very important to help others who are in difficulty

Table 10 shows, being financially well off was “very important” to 86 percent of this fall’s respondents, higher than respondents at other four-year medium-selective public colleges. A larger percent of MSU freshmen, 36, than those from four-year medium-selective colleges, 30, consider helping to promote racial understanding an essential or very important objective.

Table 10
% Freshmen Considering Various Objectives Essential or Very Important

Objectives:	Montclair State University	Medium Selective Colleges
Being very well off financially	86.1	76.2
Raising a family	83.0	74.5
Helping others who are in difficulty	64.3	61.0
Becoming an authority in my field	63.0	56.5
Obtain recognition from colleagues for contributions to my field	59.7	51.0
Becoming successful in a business of my own	48.3	40.9
Improving my understanding of other countries and culture	40.6	38.1
Having administrative responsibility for the works of others	40.7	38.6
Influencing social values	42.9	37.7
Developing a meaningful philosophy of life	39.0	39.4
Integrating spirituality into my life	31.9	34.8
Helping to promote racial understanding	35.5	29.6
Becoming a community leader	27.1	27.3
Keeping up to date with political affairs	26.8	30.3
Working to find a cure to a health problem	22.5	21.5
Participating in a community action program	17.6	19.1
Becoming accomplished in one of the performing arts	21.9	16.3
Influencing the political structure	16.8	18.5
Writing original works (poems, novels, short stories, etc.)	18.7	16.0
Creating artistic work (painting, sculpture, decorating, etc.)	15.0	17.1
Becoming involved in programs to clean up the environment	14.2	16.8
Making a theoretical contribution to science	12.3	14.8

MSU freshmen also viewed several other life goals as more important to them than freshmen in other four-year medium-selective colleges: helping others who are in difficulty, becoming an authority in my chosen field, obtaining recognition from colleagues for contributions to my field, and improving my understanding of other countries and cultures.

What Majors Are Freshmen Pursuing?

- The three top areas in which freshmen expect to major in are:
 - Education
 - Business
 - Arts and Humanities
- 10 percent are undecided about their major

Freshmen were given a long list of possible majors and asked which one they thought might be their choice. Table 11 groups majors by area as well as selected majors within an area. The three top areas in which freshmen expect to major are: education, business, and the arts and humanities.

Table 11
% Of Freshmen Indicating This Area as Their Probable Major

Probable Major Areas With Selected Majors:	Montclair State University %	Medium Selective Colleges %
Arts and Humanities	16.3	11.7
Art, fine and applied	3.4	2.6
Music	1.8	1.9
Theatre or drama	2.7	1.1
Biological Sciences	5.0	5.1
Biology (general)	3.0	3.0
Business	18.1	16.6
Accounting	3.0	2.5
Business administration (general)	2.4	3.6
International business	1.6	1.2
Marketing	2.8	2.9
Management	4.9	4.4
Education	23.9	16.5
Elementary education	10.6	7.7
Physical education or recreation	4.0	1.5
Secondary education	6.1	4.0
Physical Sciences	1.9	2.3
Professional (e.g. physical therapy)	4.4	13.9
Social Science	10.6	9.3
Psychology	7.7	4.8
Other fields	8.5	8.5
Computer science	0.4	1.8
Undecided	10.0	8.0

What Are Some of the Expectations Freshmen Have for Their Upcoming College Years?

- 52% expect to get a job to help pay for college expenses
- 41% expect to be satisfied with their choice of MSU
- 33% expect to participate in student clubs/groups
- 21% will participate in volunteer or community service work
- 16% want to study abroad
- 8% expect to transfer from MSU

Another set of questions asked freshmen to speculate a bit on their actions during their upcoming college years, e.g., do they think they will transfer to another college, complete their degrees or work full-time. Table 12 summarizes the percents for freshmen saying they thought chances were “very good” that they would participate in the activity.

Freshmen expect to be engaged in social activities as well as extracurricular ones while they are attending MSU. Almost three-quarters expect they will socialize with someone of another race or ethnic group. Eleven percent want to join a social fraternity or sorority. Thirty-three percent expect to participate in student clubs or groups, 12 percent want to play college sports, and 5 percent think they will join in student government activities.

Even though freshmen see the University's low tuition as one of its selling points, over 50 percent say there is a very good chance they will get a job to help pay for college expenses; only 11 percent think they will have to work full-time while attending college.

Table 12
% Reporting Chances are Very Good That S/he Will Participate in This Activity

Activity:	Montclair State University	Medium Selective Colleges
	%	%
Socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group	73.8	61.5
Develop close friendships with other students	64.4	64.1
Make at least a "B" average	60.9	56.1
Get a job to help pay for college expenses	51.7	52.5
Be satisfied with your college	41.3	44.7
Participate in student clubs/groups	32.7	33.3
Communicate regularly with your professors	16.8	26.0
Participate in volunteer or community service work	21.4	17.2
Strengthen religious beliefs/convictions	18.7	19.1
Participate in a study abroad program	12.6	12.3
Change major field	13.7	13.5
Play varsity/intercollegiate athletics	12.4	12.5
Change career choice	11.6	11.9
Seek personal counseling	7.0	6.7
Join a social fraternity or sorority	10.8	9.0
Work full-time while attending college	11.4	9.8
Participate in student government	5.1	6.1
Transfer to another college before graduating	8.2	11.0
Participate in student protests or demonstrations	4.0	5.3

How Do Freshmen Characterize Themselves?

- 62% of male and 55% of female freshmen rate themselves as above average in leadership ability
- 61% of male and 55% of female freshmen rate themselves as above average in academic ability
- 48% of male and 25% of female freshmen characterize themselves as above average in computer skills

Table 13
% Rating Themselves on Certain Characteristics as Above Average or in the Highest 10% as Compared to the Average Person of His/Her Age

Attributes/Abilities:	Montclair State University		Medium Selective Colleges	
	Men %	Women %	Men %	Women %
Academic ability	61.4	54.6	66.8	59.1
Artistic ability	27.3	29.1	31.4	29.4
Compassion	57.8	69.9	57.8	72.1
Computer skills	47.8	24.7	50.8	29.0
Cooperativeness	64.7	66.6	67.1	69.8
Courage	67.6	43.8	62.7	45.7
Creativity	59.7	54.3	57.6	54.6
Drive to achieve	66.1	65.1	61.7	68.8
Emotional health	44.5	34.3	59.3	42.6
Forgiveness	49.7	53.3	57.1	55.6
Generosity	64.4	73.0	64.8	69.9
Kindness	72.9	77.8	72.3	77.7
Leadership ability	62.0	54.5	59.7	54.5
Mathematical ability	44.9	28.0	48.6	30.7
Physical health	58.2	35.2	60.8	38.6
Public speaking ability	33.3	30.1	36.1	29.3
Religiousness	19.6	27.4	25.5	29.4
Self confidence (intellectual)	61.6	44.3	62.1	46.5
Self confidence (social)	55.7	46.2	53.0	44.8

Self-understanding	55.3	44.5	53.7	45.1
Spirituality	24.8	31.8	32.2	34.3
Time management	35.7	33.4	29.0	34.5
Understanding of others	61.9	69.4	57.9	65.5
Writing ability	47.2	46.9	41.8	44.9

Freshmen were asked to rate themselves in relation to others their own age on a number of attributes and abilities. Table 13 summarizes the responses for those rating themselves “above average” or in the “highest 10 percent”. For this particular table the comparison will be between male and female respondents for MSU and other public four-year medium-selective college freshmen.

For about half of these abilities and attributes there are some interesting differences between men’s and women’s self-assessments. For example, 28 percent of MSU's female freshmen feel they have above average mathematical ability, while 44.9 percent of males do. Forty-four percent of the women compared to 62 percent of the men, report intellectual self-confidence that is above the average for students their own age. Women are less likely to report being above average in emotional and physical health.

What Political Views Do Freshmen Hold?

- The most popular political label is middle of the road
- Few students say they are at the extremes of the political spectrum: 4% at the far left and 2.5% at the far right
- 91% somewhat or strongly agree that the federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns
- 70% somewhat or strongly agree that same sex couples should have the right to legal marital status
- 39% somewhat or strongly agree that marijuana should be legal

Table 14
% Freshmen Holding This Political View

Political Views:	Montclair State University %	Medium Selective Colleges %
Far left	4.0	3.4
Liberal	32.3	24.6
Middle of the Road	49.3	51.5
Conservative	12.0	18.7
Far Right	2.5	1.9

Freshmen were asked their opinions on a number of social issues. Table 15 summarizes the responses of those who agree “strongly” or “somewhat” with each statement. MSU freshmen are more liberal than their peers in other four-year medium-selective colleges especially for the two issues: controlling the sale of handguns, 91 percent of MSU freshmen agree and 795 percent of the comparative colleges do; and the right to legal marital status for same sex couples, 70 percent and 59 percent respectively.

Table 15
% Freshmen Agreeing Strongly or Somewhat with These Opinions

Issues:	Montclair State University %	Medium Selective Colleges %
There is too much concern in the courts for rights of criminals	56.2	60.1
Abortion should be legal	66.5	53.9
The death penalty should be abolished	36.0	29.9
Marijuana should be legalized	38.9	37.9
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships	20.2	28.5

The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns	91.2	78.7
Racial discrimination no longer a major problem in America	19.9	23.2
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society	30.9	28.2
Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now	61.8	56.4
Colleges should prohibit racist/sexist speech on campus	56.0	59.3
Same sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	69.5	58.8
Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished	44.2	47.9
The activities of married women are best confined to the home and family	28.2	21.9
Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers	37.1	42.4
If two people really like each other, it's all right for them to have sex even if they've known each other for only a very short time	37.1	42.4
Federal military spending should be increased	34.0	35.0

How Will Freshmen Finance A College Education?

- Over half of our freshmen, 55%, have some concern about their ability to finance college
- 17% are not sure they will have enough money to complete college
- A family's own resources is the major source for financing a college degree

Finally, freshmen were asked how much of their first year's educational expenses such as room, board, tuition and fees, they expected to cover from a variety of sources. Table 16 summarizes these responses. Family resources are the major source for funding college costs. For MSU, 78 percent of freshmen say some amount of their college expenses will be paid for from family resources and the same percent report this at medium-selective colleges. A smaller percent of our freshmen also say their own personal resources will be used as a source of funding: 53 percent for MSU and 63 percent for medium-selective institutions. This is also the case for aid which need not be repaid, such as scholarships and grants: 48 percent of MSU freshmen say this is a source for some of their college expenses and 61.6 percent cite this at other four-year medium-selective colleges.

Table 16
% Freshmen Reporting This as a Source for College Funding

Sources:	Montclair State University %	Medium Selective Colleges %
Family resources (parents, relatives, spouse etc.)		
None	21.8	21.0
Less than \$1,000	11.9	14.5
\$1,000-2,999	12.3	17.5
\$3,000-5,999	17.8	16.5
\$6,000-9,999	14.2	12.4
\$10,000+	22.1	18.1
My own resources (savings from work, work-study, other)		
None	47.0	36.9
Less than \$1,000	30.5	31.2
\$1,000-2,999	13.9	22.1
\$3,000-5,999	6.3	6.8
\$6,000-9,999	1.0	1.7
\$10,000+	1.4	1.2
Aid that need not be repaid (grants, scholarships, etc.)		
None	52.3	38.8
Less than \$1,000	8.8	11.4
\$1,000-2,999	17.5	22.1
\$3,000-5,999	11.3	15.6
\$6,000-9,999	6.8	7.2
\$10,000+	3.8	4.8
Aid, which must be repaid (loans, etc.)		
None	52.6	53.3
Less than \$1,000	5.1	6.3
\$1,000-2,999	19.3	17.2
\$3,000-5,999	11.0	11.8
\$6,000-9,999	7.1	6.5
\$10,000+	4.8	5.0

Other than above		
None	96.7	94.2
Less than \$1,000	1.8	2.5
\$1,000-2,999	0.6	1.7
\$3,000-5,999	0.6	0.8
\$6,000-9,999	0.3	0.4
\$10,000+	0.0	0.5