



## **2013 CIRP FRESHMAN SURVEY SUMMARY**

Office of Institutional Research  
April 2014

## 2013 CIRP Freshman Survey

The CIRP freshman survey is administered to incoming freshmen and collects demographic and attitudinal data. This survey asks freshmen about the reason for attending and choosing a certain institution, pre-collegiate activities and academic courses, career goals, extracurricular and community involvement.

This past fall, Montclair State University's full-time freshmen enrollment was 3,030. All first-time full-time freshman, with the exception of non-traditional, Center for Adult Learning (CAL) students, were invited to participate in the CIRP freshman survey. The survey is integrated into freshman orientation conducted in the summer of 2013. Students were asked to complete and return the survey in sessions scheduled during orientation. Due to the integration of the survey with orientation, we had a 92% response rate. While this rate has dropped slightly since our last report, it is still an adequate representation of our student population. Please note the answers that are analyzed in this report are those from our first time, *full-time*, freshmen.

**Table 1**  
**Demographics of Freshmen at MSU and Respondents of the CIRP Survey: Fall 2013**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>MSU Freshmen N= 3,030</b>	<b>CIRP Respondents N=2,785</b>
Gender	Male	37%
	Female	63%
Race/Ethnicity*	American Indian	0.1%
	Asian	6.7%
	Black	8.4%
	Hispanic	15.2%
	White	55.4%
	Other	2.8%
Age	Two or more Races	11.4%
	18-19 years	96.3%

*Source: HERI, UCLA*

### Freshmen demographics:

- 96% of incoming freshmen are U.S. citizens
- 87% report English being their first language
- 40% identify as Roman Catholic
- 49% intend to pursue a Master's degree
- 73% are 18 years old
- 60% of students plan to live on campus
- 30% report they are the first generation to attend college

Montclair State University appears to have more diversity among their Latino populations than peer institutions. A high percentage of incoming freshmen live 11 miles or more away from MSU. Forty percent of incoming freshmen identify as Roman Catholic, a similar figure to our last survey. See Table 2.

**Table 2**  
**Race/Ethnicity of MSU population vs. Peer Institutions**

		<b>Montclair State University</b>	<b>Public four year institutions</b>
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	American Indian/Alaska Native	1.6%	4.6%
	Asian American/Asian	7.8%	7.2%
	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1.6%	1.5%
	African American/Black	11.9%	11.8%
	Mexican American/Chicano	1.4%	13.2%
	Puerto Rican	6.8%	3.2%
	Other Latino	15.9%	9.5%
	White/Caucasian	64.1%	62.7%
	Other	5.4%	4.4%
<b>Sex</b>	Male	37%	39%
	Female	63%	61%
<b>Age</b>	18 Years	72.7%	70.2%
	19 Years	23.6%	25.9%
	Other	3.7%	3.9%
<b>Education</b>	Public	92.4%	92.3%
	Private	7.3%	7.2%
	Home School	0.3%	0.3%
<b>Religious preference</b>	Baptist	4.1%	9.4%
	Buddhist	1.0%	1.2%
	Church of Christ	7.7%	8.6%
	Eastern Orthodox	1.8%	0.6%
	Episcopalian	0.5%	0.6%
	Hindu	1.5%	0.4%
	Jewish	2.9%	1.0%
	LDS (Mormon)	0.1%	0.2%
	Lutheran	1.0%	1.9%
	Methodist	1.5%	2.4%
	Muslim	4.4%	1.6%
	Presbyterian	1.6%	1.2%
	Quaker	0.2%	0.1%
	Roman Catholic	40.0%	28.8%
	Seventh-day Adventist	0.5%	0.5%
	United Church of Christ/Congregational	0.2%	0.6%
Other Christian	8.7%	13.2%	

	Other Religion	2.8%	2.9%
	None	19.3%	24.7%
<b>U.S. Citizen</b>	Yes	96.0%	96.1%
	Permanent resident (green card)	3.4%	2.6%
	Neither	0.7%	1.3%
<b>English is native language</b>	Yes	87.3%	87.2%
	No	12.7%	12.8%
<b>College is miles from home</b>	5 or less	9.9%	10.2%
	6 to 10	15.6%	13.8%
	11 to 50	49.3%	40.1%
	51 to 100	17.8%	15.7%
	101 to 500	6.2%	17.6%
	Over 500	1.1%	2.7%
<b>Plans to live in fall</b>	Family or relatives	37.5%	37.8%
	Other private	0.8%	2.2%
	College residence hall	60.4%	57.5%
	Fraternity or sorority house	0.0%	0.2%
	Other campus student housing	1.2%	2.1%
	Other	0.1%	0.2%

*\*Total may add up to over 100% for race/ethnicity; students are allowed to choose more than one category*

#### Parental Characteristics of Incoming Freshmen

- 80% or more of incoming freshmen have one or both parents who are employed
- A higher amount of fathers are employed
- Nearly a quarter of students have a mother or father who obtained a college degree
- About the same percentage of parents who obtained a college degree also obtained a high school diploma

**Table 3**  
**Parental Characteristics of Incoming Freshmen**

<b>Current Employment Status</b>		<b>Mother</b>	<b>Father</b>
	Employed	79.9%	88.0%
	Unemployed	18.9%	9.0%
	Retired	1.2%	3.0%
<b>Religious preference</b>	Baptist	5.0%	4.2%
	Buddhist	0.8%	0.6%
	Church of Christ	8.0%	8.2%
	Eastern Orthodox	1.9%	2.0%
	Episcopalian	0.8%	0.6%
	Hindu	1.9%	1.8%
	Jewish	3.9%	3.8%
	LDS (Mormon)	0.2%	0.2%
	Lutheran	1.2%	0.9%
	Methodist	2.1%	1.5%
	Muslim	4.7%	5.5%
	Presbyterian	2.2%	2.2%
	Quaker	0.3%	0.2%
	Roman Catholic	46.6%	45.5%
	Seventh-day Adventist	0.6%	0.4%
	United Church of Christ/Congregational	0.1%	0.1%
	Other Christian	9.5%	9.1%
	Other Religion	2.4%	2.3%
	None	7.8%	10.8%
<b>Education Level</b>	Junior high/Middle school or less	6.5%	8.0%
	Some high school	4.9%	7.0%
	High school graduate	23.1%	25.4%
	Postsecondary school other than college	4.7%	4.6%
	Some college	17.0%	16.0%
	College degree	29.1%	24.3%
	Some graduate school	2.2%	1.6%
	Graduate degree	12.6%	13.1%

- Thirty-three percent of MSU freshman reported their annual family income to be over \$100,000 compared to 26% at other four-year institutions
- Nineteen percent of MSU freshman reported their annual family income to be less than \$30,000 compared to 23% at other four-year institutions
- Less than a quarter of MSU students reported they'd be able to obtain \$10,000 or more from family resources to help cover their first year's expenses

**Table 4**  
**Other Parental Characteristics: Fall 2013**

<b>Income Range</b>	<b>Montclair State University</b>	<b>Public four year institutions</b>
Less than \$10,000	4.5%	5.6%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	3.4%	4.3%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	3.3%	4.0%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	4.3%	5.0%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	3.2%	3.9%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	7.2%	7.9%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	7.8%	8.7%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	8.1%	8.9%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	11.0%	11.3%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14.5%	14.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	17.2%	15.3%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	7.9%	6.0%
\$200,000 to \$249,999	3.5%	2.7%
\$250,000 or more	4.0%	2.4%

**High school background**

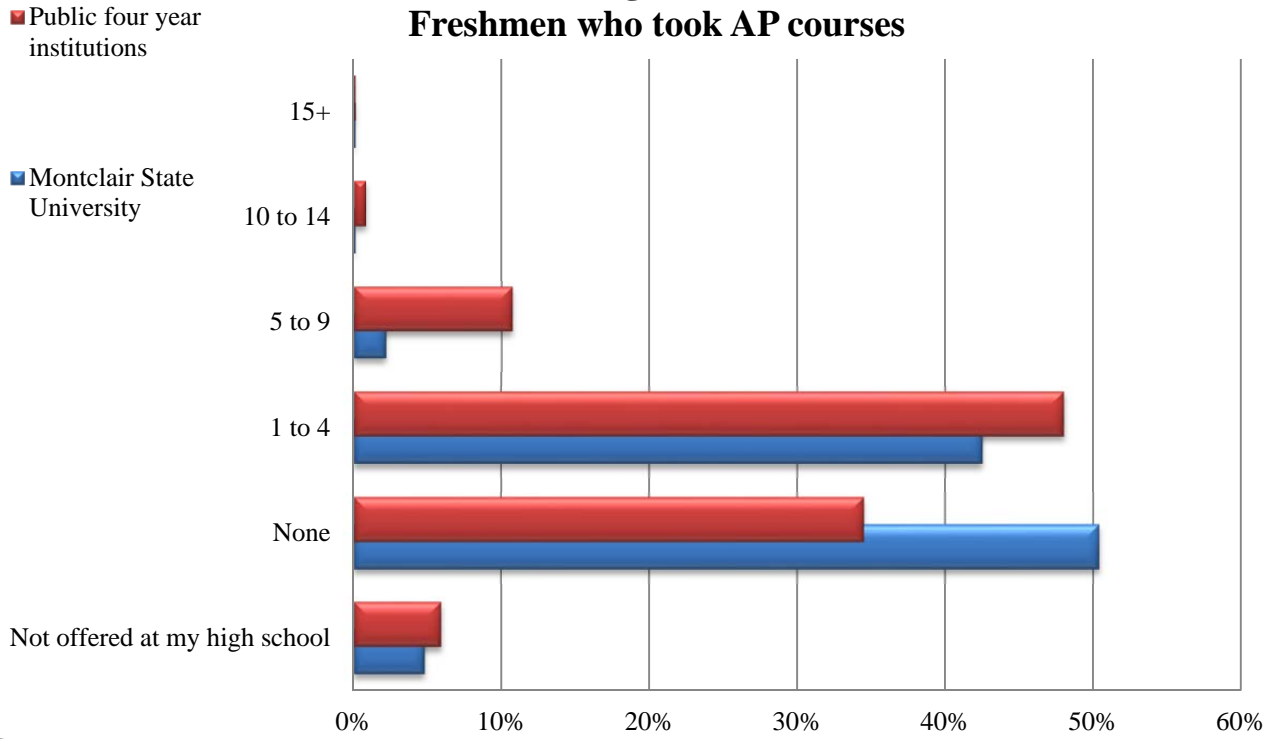
- Nearly three-quarters of freshman reported a “B” high school average
- Less than one quarter reported an “A” average
- The numbers are slightly lower compared to other public four year institutions

**Table 5**  
**Incoming Freshman High School Average (self-reported)**

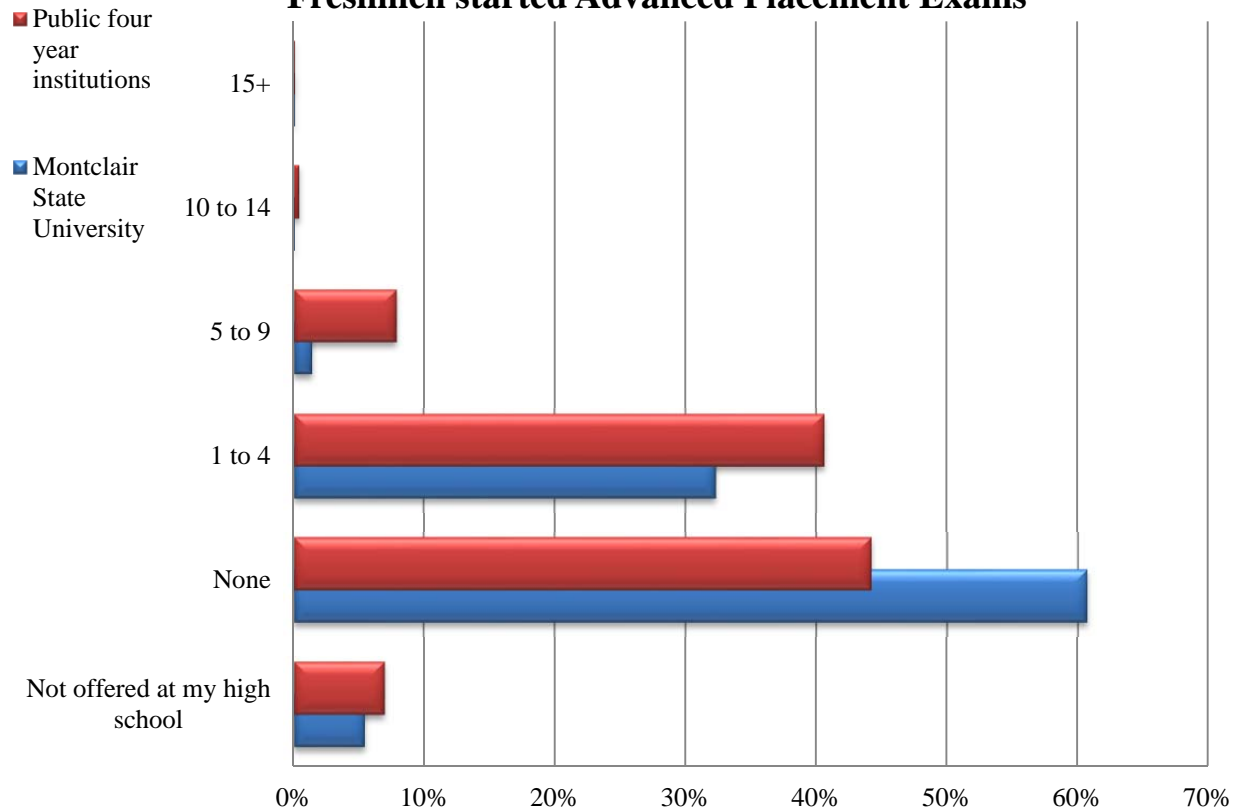
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Montclair State University</b>	<b>Public four year</b>
A or A+	18.5%	7.7%
A-	3.7%	17.4%
B+	25.9%	27.5%
B	44.4%	30.9%
B-	3.7%	11.1%
C+	3.7%	3.9%
C	0.0%	1.4%
D	0.0%	0.0%

- Forty-five percent of freshmen students have taken at least one AP course
- Five percent have not taken any AP classes because they weren’t offered at their school
- Compared to other four year institutions, more MSU students took AP exams rather than AP courses

**Figure 1**  
**Freshmen who took AP courses**

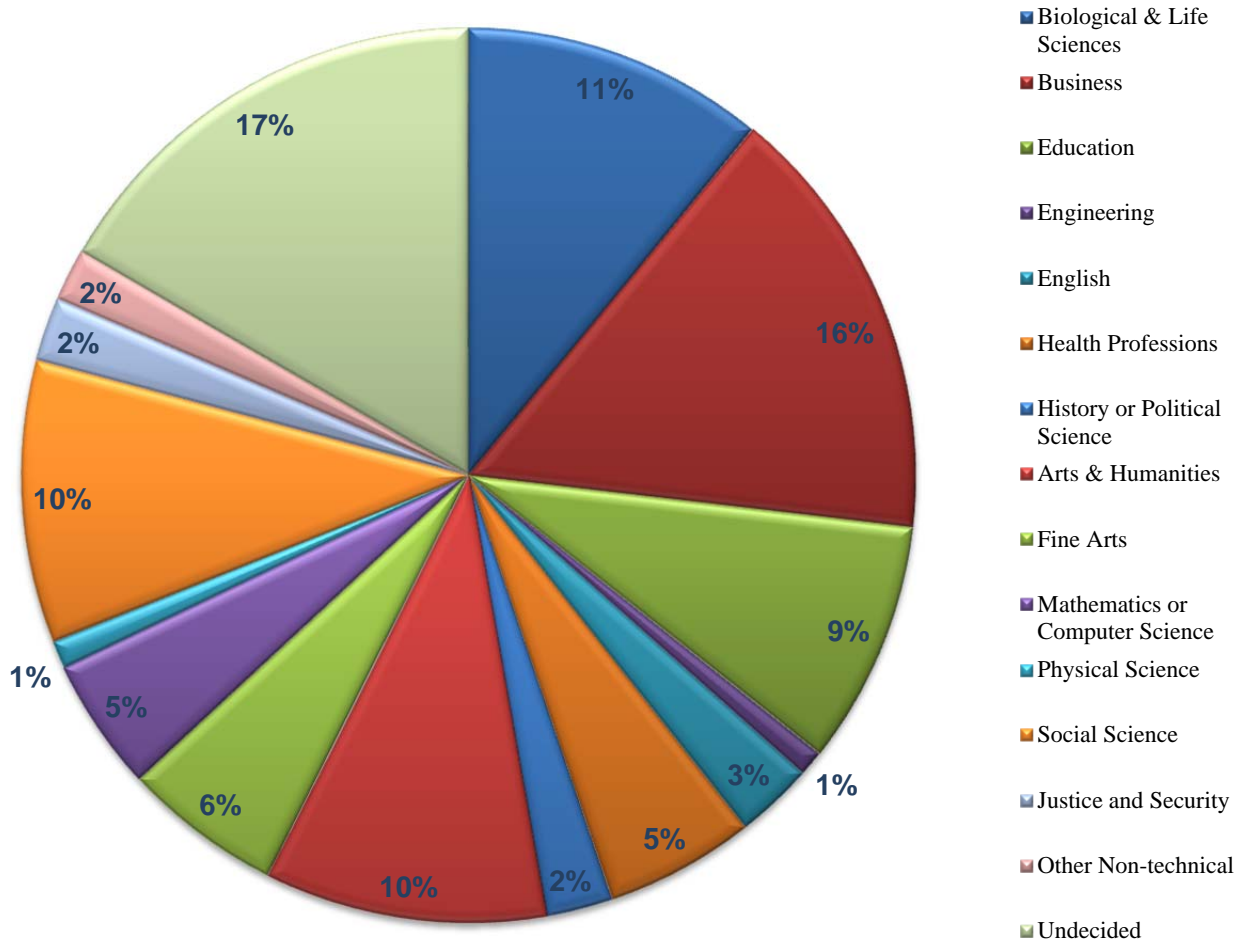


**Figure 2**  
**Freshmen started Advanced Placement Exams**



- The highest percentage of freshmen denoted Education as their intended major
- Other popular majors are: Business, Biological and Life sciences, Arts & Humanities, and Social Sciences

**Figure 3**  
**Intended Major for Incoming Freshmen**



\*MSU doesn't offer undergraduate majors in agriculture, engineering, or library science. These majors are not included in the graph.



As indicated by their intended major, student’s parents’ occupations mirror their popularity with students with Business as the highest occupation, and government and health professions following as the next popular occupation. More mothers than fathers are employed in education, and the fathers have a higher employment rate than mothers, of whom more than 12% are homemakers or stay at home parents (see Table 6).

**Table 6**  
**Occupation of MSU students’ parents**

Occupation	Father	Mother
Agriculture/Natural Resources	0.2%	0.3%
Artist	2.7%	1.9%
Business	17.7%	14.2%
Business (Administrative Assistant)	0.3%	2.2%
Clergy	0.4%	0.6%
College Faculty	0.4%	0.4%
Communications	0.7%	0.5%
Doctor (MD or DDS)	2.8%	0.7%
Education (elementary/secondary)	6.0%	10.0%
Engineer	4.7%	0.5%
Government	8.5%	3.0%
Health Professional	8.1%	9.9%
Homemaker/Stay at Home Parent	1.4%	12.3%
Information Technology Professional	4.2%	3.2%
Lawyer	1.3%	0.3%
Military	1.6%	0.7%
Nurse	0.9%	4.7%
Research Scientist	0.2%	0.2%
Service Industry	4.0%	4.9%
Skilled Worker	9.0%	0.4%
Social/Non-Profit Services	0.7%	5.2%
Other	24.3%	23.9%
Undecided	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>1,474</b>	<b>1590</b>

## Students' Responses on Affordability and Financial Expenses

More than 1/3 of MSU students responded that they didn't expect any financial help from family resources in order to cover the cost of education. This is markedly higher than other comparable four-year institutions. However, a higher percentage of students expected help of \$10,000 or more from family resources than comparable four-year institutions.

When asked about their own resources, more than half answered "none," while comparable institutions had 38% respond "none." On average, MSU students had access to less resources on their own than other institution's students' responses. Nearly 60% of entering freshmen have some concern about their ability to finance their college education. An additional 17% had major concerns about it.

Family resources (parents, relatives, spouse, etc.)	MSU	Public Four-Year Institutions
None	37.1%	29.2%
Less than \$1,000	7.4%	14.5%
\$1,000 to \$2,999	11.1%	14.9%
\$3,000 to \$5,999	11.8%	13.5%
\$6,000 to \$9,999	8.8%	9.9%
\$10,000 or more	23.8%	18.1%
Total (n)	2,785	12,544
<b>My own resources (savings from work, work-study, other income)</b>		
None	52.0%	37.8%
Less than \$1,000	20.8%	28.7%
\$1,000 to \$2,999	15.7%	21.2%
\$3,000 to \$5,999	6.2%	7.4%
\$6,000 to \$9,999	2.5%	2.6%
\$10,000 or more	2.9%	2.4%
Total (n)	2,785	12,544

### Pre-college Student Life

Students were asked about a number of activities they performed prior to entering college. Here are the following highlights from those who answered they "frequently" did the following:

- 31% performed volunteer work
- 28% asked a teacher for advice after class
- 19% voted in a student election
- 8% failed to complete homework on time
- 11% used an online instructional class as assigned for a class
- 36% used an online instructional site to learn something on their own
- 50% ask questions in class
- 33% explored topics on their own, even if it wasn't required for a class
- 41% sought feedback on their academic work

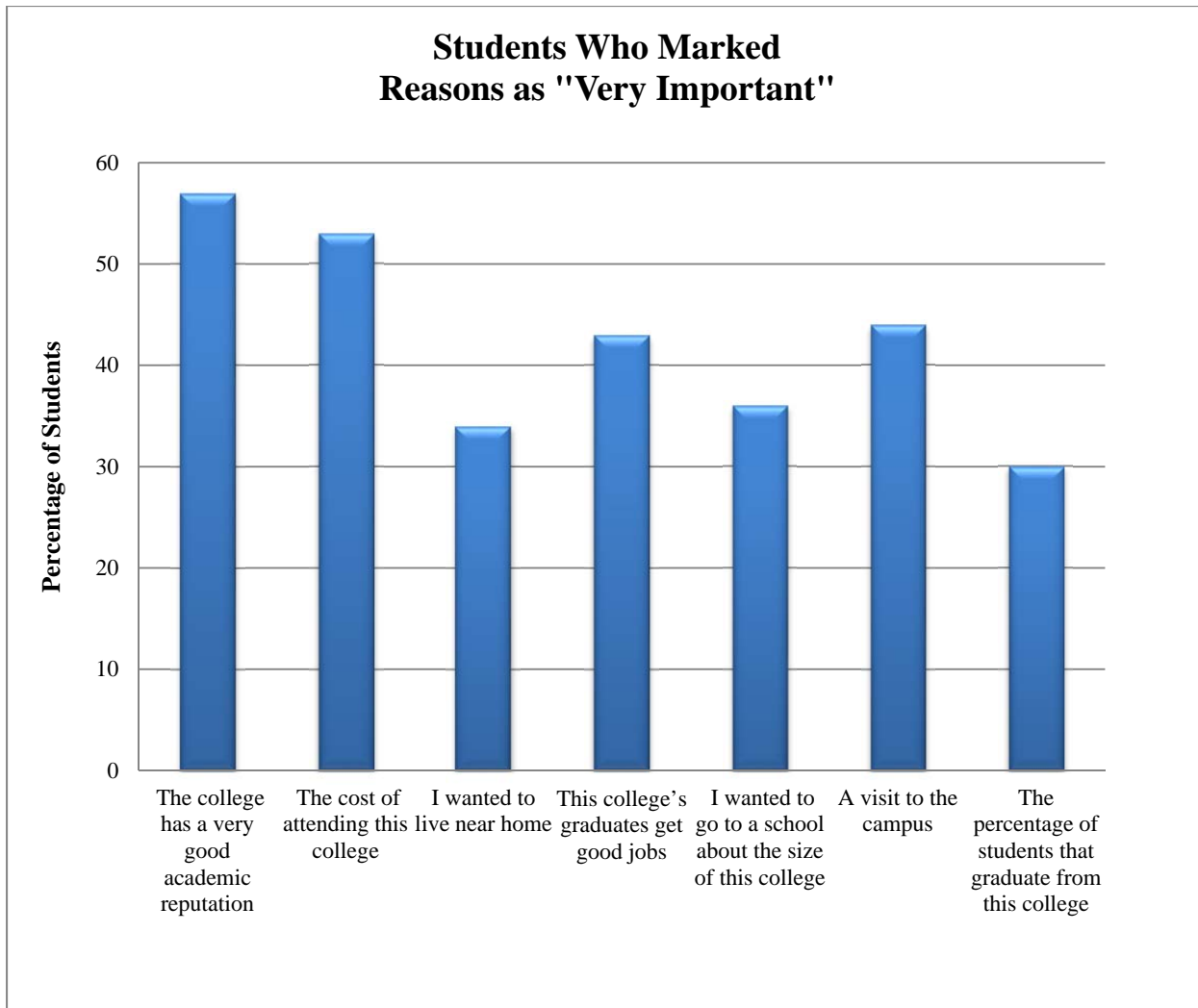
It's interesting to note that students were not averse to using online resources to learn, but a very small percentage used it for a class. This may mean that their class didn't require or have the resource available to them, or the appeal to use online resources even if available for the course, was not strong for them.

## Reasons for attending College

When answering questions about why they decided to attend college, students rated the following reasons highly (“very important”):

- 87% To be able to get a better job
- 80% To be able to make more money
- 80% To learn more about things that interest me
- 80% To get training for a specific career

Thirty-seven percent of seniors assessed their drive to achieve to be in the highest 10%, however a lower amount (25%) considered leadership abilities to be a major strength.



## How Incoming Freshmen spent their last year in High School

- 57% spent between 6 and over 20 hours a week working for pay
- 35% spent between 1 and 5 hours performing volunteer work
- 28% spent 1-2 hours per week reading

**Freshmen were asked to rate the importance of several goals. The most students responded the following were “essential” to them:**

- Becoming an authority in my field (26%)
- Obtaining recognition from my colleagues for contributions in my special field (27%)
- Raising a family (47%)
- Being very well off financially (57%)
- Helping others with difficulty (34%)
- Becoming successful in a business of my own (26%)

### **Other Highlights**

With regard to their expectations, students were positive about:

- being able to get a job to pay for expenses (53%)
- making a “B” average (62%)
- being satisfied with college (49%)
- participating in student clubs/groups (42%)
- participating in a study abroad program (30%)
- discuss course content with students outside of class (32%)
- work on a professor’s research project (28%)