

Selected Findings from GVSU's 2007 CIRP results

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January 20, 2008

Attached is the report of the results of the 2007 administration of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program Freshman Survey. The survey was administered during orientation last summer. The results reported here are for the 3,309 who indicated that they would be full-time FTIACs in the fall.

Following are some areas in which GVSU's freshmen differed from freshmen at similar schools nationwide. I have done some grouping into apparent themes, but please use your own judgment in interpreting the responses. For each item mentioned I have given the page number from the CIRP Institutional Summary where you can see the full questionnaire item and responses.

A report showing trends in GVSU freshmen's responses to selected items is also attached.

GVSU freshmen regard GVSU highly...

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
This college was first choice	81.7%	71.4%	11
Applied to 2 or fewer other colleges	66.5%	53.2%	12
Applied to 4 or more colleges	16.4%	29.2%	12
Very good chance they'll be satisfied with this college	61.7%	53.2%	16

GVSU freshmen are less politically involved...

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Discussed politics last year	26.4%	31.1%	6
Very good chance they'll participate in student gov't	3.5%	6.2%	16
Consider influencing the political structure very important	14.1%	21.7%	16
Consider keeping up to date with political affairs very important	31.4%	36.3%	17

Diversity

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Roughly half high school was non-White	14.2%	22.2%	5
Neighborhood where grew up was mostly or completely White	86.2%	80.5%	5
Feel helping to promote racial understanding is "essential" or "very important"	28.9%	32.1%	17
Feel improving understanding of other countries & cultures is "essential" or "very important"	44.7%	49.1%	17
Feel "strongly" or "somewhat" that racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America	19.1%	23.2%	17
Feel "strongly" or "somewhat" that affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished	60.4%	53.8%	17
Socialized with someone of another racial/ethnic group	61.7%	65.8%	6

Study habits

During the past year students	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Were bored in class	32.9%	44.5%	6
Studied with other students	92.7%	86.9%	6
Spent 3 or more hours per week with students outside class	10.6%	14.9%	7
Used the Internet for research or homework	80.9%	74.6%	6
Studied less than 1 hour per week	13.5%	18.3%	7
Studied more than 10 hours per week	9.2%	12.0%	7

Extra-curricular activities

During the past year students	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Performed a community services as part of a class	60.1%	55.2%	6
Performed volunteer work during the past year	88.2%	82.6%	6
Volunteered, but spent 2 hours or less per week volunteering	56.9%	48.7%	8
Spent 2 hours or less per week in student clubs/group	75.6%	69.9%	8
Spent 6 or more hours per week watching TV	6.5%	10.0%	8
Spent 16+ hours per week socializing w/ friends	22.7%	29.4%	7
Did not read for pleasure last year	18.9%	25.4%	9
Did not work (for pay) last year	23.1%	27.3%	8
Worked more than 20 hours per week	9.3%	15.8%	8

GVSU freshmen report less drinking and smoking

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Smoked cigarettes frequently in last year	1.4%	5.9%	6
Drank beer in last year	20.3%	41.9%	6
Drank wine or liquor in last year	25.2%	47.5%	6
Partied less than 1 hour per week	55.8%	42.9%	7
Partied 6 to 10 hours per week	6.6%	11.6%	7
Strongly agree that marijuana should be legalized	26.6%	35.8%	17

Some hints as to why they chose GVSU...

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Parents wanted them to go	6.5%	11.5%	10
College has a very good academic reputation	69.7%	60.4%	10
College has a good reputation for its social activities	37.4%	33.4%	10
Wanted to live near home	13.8%	17.2%	10
Cost of attending was very important reason to choose this college	36.9%	42.4%	11
A visit to campus was a very important reason to choose this college	45.3%	42.8%	11
Rankings in national magazines	8.9%	15.0%	11

Information from a website	13.5%	16.7%	10
Athletic department recruited	3.6%	8.1%	10
Admitted into Early Action or Early Decision program	3.3%	11.5%	11

How they will finance college...

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Expect family resources to cover \$10,000 + of first year's educational expenses	22.2%	25.7%	19
Expects no state scholarships or grants	23.6%	37.1%	19
Expects \$1,000 - \$5,999 in state scholarships and grants	47.0%	31.6%	19
Confident in ability to finance education	36.2%	46.8%	19
Some concern about ability to finance education	56.8%	45.8%	19
Very good chance they'll get a job to help pay for college	64.1%	43.0%	16

Miscellaneous

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Parents' income > \$150K	11.8%	17.7%	2
Felt overwhelmed by all they had to do during the past year	22.0%	27.5%	6
Felt depressed during the past year	2.6%	6.7%	6
Plan to live in college resident hall	77.7%	84.2%	16
Expects bachelors degree to be highest degree	31.8%	26.9%	12
Expects bachelors degree to be highest degree at this college	70.7%	74.5%	12
Very good chance they'll play varsity/intercollegiate athletics	10.8%	18.9%	16
Very good chance they'll participate in student clubs/groups	40.7%	43.0%	16
Characterize self as "middle of the road" politically	47.2%	43.4%	18
Agree with "Abortion should be legal"	45.7%	53.7%	17
Agree with "The death penalty should be abolished"	35.5%	31.7%	17
Agree with "Federal military spending should be increased"	29.0%	40.4%	17
Considers influencing social values "essential" or "very important"	38.7%	43.1%	16
Considers becoming an authority in field "essential" or "very important"	53.4%	58.9%	16
Considers becoming a community leader "essential" or "very important"	28.0%	35.6%	17