2007 CIRP Freshman Survey
Analysis and Results
Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
CIRP 2007 Freshman Survey Analysis

Background

Wake Forest has been administering the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey from UCLA to different freshman classes since 1979. The survey was administered by the University Counseling Center to approximately one-half of the freshman class during the 2007 fall orientation program. The CIRP survey was completed by 534 freshmen representing 48% of the entering class. Wake Forest now administers the survey to entering freshmen every other year effective with fall 2005.

Findings

Following this analysis are graphs with results of selected items from the 2007 CIRP Freshman Survey for entering freshmen at Wake Forest, Vanderbilt, and all of the “Private Universities” combined. Graphs are also provided for the results of Wake Forest additional questions and results of Wake Forest vs. Vanderbilt since 2001. Several of the additional questions were specifically designed for our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

Average High School Grade of A or A+
- The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen reporting an average high school grade of A or A+ was 44% compared to 41% in 2005.

Distance From Home
- The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen more than 500 miles away from home was 43% compared to 42% in 2005.

Father and Mother Did Not Attend College
- The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their father did not attend college was 7% compared to 7% in 2005. The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their mother did not attend college was 9% compared to 8% in 2005.

Current Religious Preference
- The percentage of 2007 freshmen indicating a religious preference of Baptist was 10% vs. 14% in 2005 and the percentage of those students indicating Catholic was 26% vs. 24% in 2005.

First Choice College and Applied to Six or More Colleges
- The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that Wake Forest was their first choice college was 65% compared to 72% in 2005. The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen applying to six or more colleges was 39% compared to 32% in 2005.
Good Academic Reputation and Size of College Very Important in “Choosing this College”
• The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen indicating good academic reputation as very important in choosing their school was 90% compared to 92% in 2005. The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen indicating size as very important was 67% compared to 69% in 2005.

Offered Financial Aid and Magazine Rankings Very Important in “Choosing this College”
• The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen indicating offered financial aid as very important was 24% compared to 28% in 2005. The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen indicating rankings in magazines as very important was 34% compared to 41% in 2005.

Political Views Characterized as Conservative
• The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen indicating their political views as conservative was 35% compared to 35% in 2005.

Parental Income Above $150,000
• The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their parental income exceeded $150,000 (the prior year) was 53% compared to 49% in 2005.

Doctorate Highest Degree Planned
• The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that they plan to obtain a doctorate degree was 13% compared to 17% in 2005.

Racial Background
• The racial identification for 2007 Wake Forest African-Americans was 6% compared to 7% in 2005; Asians were 4% vs. 4% in 2005; and Hispanics were 3% vs. 3% in 2005.

Probable Field of Study
• The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their probable field of study will be arts and humanities was 12% vs. 12% in 2005; biological science was 12% vs. 11% in 2005; business 27% vs. 29% in 2005; physical science or mathematics was 6% vs. 6% in 2005; and social science was 15% vs. 17% in 2005.

Student’s Probable Career – Lawyer and Physician
• The percentage of 2007 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their probable career would entail being a lawyer was 10% vs. 9% in 2005 and the percentage for being a physician was 15% vs. 16% in 2005.

Studying Abroad, ThinkPads and Research with Professors “Very Important” (Additional questions by Wake Forest)
• The percentage of 2007 Freshmen indicating that studying abroad opportunities at Wake Forest were “very important” as a reason for attending was 51% vs. 45% in 2005, “ThinkPads for every student” was 12% vs. 19% in 2005, and “Opportunity to participate in collaborative research with a professor” was 20% vs. 15% in 2002.
Summary

The CIRP 2007 Freshman Survey results indicate that the academic quality is higher in terms of average GPA’s from high school compared to the 2005 Wake Forest freshmen.

The percentage of 2007 entering freshmen indicating Wake Forest as their first choice is lower compared to 2005 and a higher percentage of students applied to six or more schools. The survey results indicate that financial aid offers and magazine rankings were less of a factor as a reason for attending Wake Forest in 2007 vs. 2005.

The 2007 survey results indicate that the Wake Forest freshman class has a lower percentage of African Americans compared to 2005. The highest percentage of Wake Forest 2007 freshmen choosing a probable field of study was in business and the other disciplines remain approximately the same compared to 2005.

Study abroad opportunities at Wake Forest continue to be even more important to Wake Forest freshmen as a reason to attend. Receiving “free” ThinkPads continues to be less important but research collaboration with professors is more important in 2007 compared to the past.

Ross A. Griffith
Director of Institutional Research
and Academic Administration
April 21, 2008
CIRP Freshman Survey
Results 2007
Wake Forest University, Vanderbilt University, All Private Universities
Probable Career/Occupation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Lawyer</th>
<th>Physician</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Wake Forest, 2007
- Vanderbilt, 2007
- Private Universities, 2007
Current Religious Preference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholic</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Profile Items

- Current College First Choice: 65 (Wake Forest), 65 (Vanderbilt), 61 (Private Universities)
- Applied to Six or More Colleges: 39 (Wake Forest), 47 (Vanderbilt), 42 (Private Universities)
- Average High School Grade of A or A+: 44 (Wake Forest), 54 (Vanderbilt), 46 (Private Universities)
- More than 500 Miles from Home: 43 (Wake Forest), 54 (Vanderbilt), 33 (Private Universities)

Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
Factors Cited as "Very Important" in Choosing a School

- Size of College: Wake Forest, 2007 = 67%, Vanderbilt, 2007 = 56%, Private Universities, 2007 = 42%
Respondents Indicating their Mother and/or Father did NOT attend College

![Bar graph showing percentages of respondents indicating their mother or father did not attend college at Wake Forest, Vanderbilt, and private universities in 2007.](#)
Additional Questions
Wake Forest University
As a reason in your decision to attend Wake Forest, how important were ThinkPads for every undergraduate?
As a reason in your decision to attend Wake Forest, how important was the opportunity to participate in collaborative research with a professor?
As a reason in your decision to attend Wake Forest, how important was the opportunity for studying abroad?
To what extent do you think your college education will enhance your understanding of foreign cultures and societies?

![Bar chart showing responses to the question on a scale from 'Not at all' to 'A great deal'. The percentages are: Not at all: 1, Very little: 2, Unsure: 17, Somewhat: 42, A great deal: 38. The chart is dated 2007.]

Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
What one experience at Wake Forest do you think will be most significant in shaping your understanding of foreign cultures and societies?

- Overseas study: 64%
- On campus course work: 16%
- International research or service: 6%
- On campus internationally oriented extra-curricular activity: 4%
- Interaction with international students: 11%

Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
What study abroad program(s) would you like to participate in while a student at Wake Forest?

- WFU year or semester program: 51
- WFU other program: 20
- Non WFU program: 4
- More than one above: 17
- None: 9

2007
If you are planning to study abroad while a student at Wake Forest, how would you regard this experience as a part of your education?
*If you are not planning to study abroad while at Wake Forest, what is the ONE most important reason for not participating?

- No interest: 20%
- Financial Considerations: 23%
- Conflict with major or pre-professional course requirements: 26%
- Participation in campus activities: 31%

*Excludes those indicating "Not applicable" (70%)

2007
How interested are you in participating at Wake Forest in outdoor pursuits such as hiking, climbing, paddling, or cycling?

Percentage


Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
CIRP Freshman Survey
2001-2007 Longitudinal Results
Wake Forest University and Vanderbilt University
Respondents Indicating a Probable Field of Study in Arts & Humanities

![Bar chart showing percentage of respondents indicating a probable field of study in Arts & Humanities for Wake Forest and Vanderbilt universities across different years: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2007. The chart indicates that Wake Forest had higher percentages than Vanderbilt in most years, with the exception of 2005 when the percentage was the same.](image-url)
Respondents Indicating a Probable Field of Study in Biological Science

![Bar chart showing percentage of respondents indicating a probable field of study in biological science at Wake Forest and Vanderbilt from 2001 to 2007.](chart.png)

Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
Respondents Indicating a Probable Field of Study in Business
Respondents Indicating a Probable Field of Study in Physical Science or Mathematics

Figure showing changes in students indicating a probable field of study in Physical Science or Mathematics at Wake Forest and Vanderbilt from 2001 to 2007.

Legend:
- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005
- 2007
Respondents Indicating a Probable Field of Study in a Professional Discipline
Respondents Indicating a Probable Field of Study in Social Science
Respondents Indicating a Probable Career as a Lawyer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Wake Forest</th>
<th>Vanderbilt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Respondents Indicating a Probable Career as a Physician

Percentage

Wake Forest
14
17
16
16
15

Vanderbilt
17
20
20
19
20
19

Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
Respondents Indicating their Current Religious Preference as Baptist

Percentage

Wake Forest

Vanderbilt

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2007

Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
Respondents Indicating their Current Religious Preference as Roman Catholic

![Bar chart showing percentages of respondents indicating their religious preference as Roman Catholic from 2001 to 2007 for Wake Forest and Vanderbilt universities.](chart.png)
Respondents Indicating their Current School as their First Choice

![Bar chart showing respondents indicating their current school as their first choice over different years for Wake Forest and Vanderbilt.](chart.png)
Respondents Applying to Six or More Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Wake Forest</th>
<th>Vanderbilt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Respondents Indicating an Average High School Grade of "A" or "A+"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Wake Forest</th>
<th>Vanderbilt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mean Composite SAT for Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen*

*Question not asked in 2007

Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
Respondents Indicating a Distance from Home Greater than 500 Miles

![Bar chart showing the percentage of respondents from Wake Forest and Vanderbilt indicating a distance from home greater than 500 miles over the years 2001 to 2007.](chart.png)

Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
Respondents Indicating Their Father/Mother did NOT Attend College

Percentage

Father | Mother
---|---
Wake Forest | 9 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 9 | 9
Vanderbilt | 9 | 9 | 9

Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
Respondents indicating a good academic reputation was "very important" in choosing a school.
Respondents Indicating that Size of the College was "Very Important" in Choosing a School

![Bar chart showing percentages of respondents indicating size of college was very important for different years and institutions.](chart.png)
Respondents Indicating that Financial Aid Offers were "Very Important" in Choosing a School

Percentage

Wake Forest

Vanderbilt

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2007

Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
Respondents Indicating that Rankings in Magazines were "Very Important" in Choosing a School

![Bar chart showing the percentage of respondents indicating that rankings in magazines were "Very Important" in choosing a school for Wake Forest and Vanderbilt from 2001 to 2007. The chart displays the following percentages:

- Wake Forest:
  - 2001: 32%
  - 2002: 44%
  - 2003: 42%
  - 2004: 42%
  - 2005: 41%
  - 2007: 34%

- Vanderbilt:
  - 2001: 33%
  - 2002: 46%
  - 2003: 44%
  - 2004: 39%
  - 2005: 46%
  - 2007: 49%]

Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
Respondents Characterizing their Political Views as Conservative
(Excluding "Far Right")

Wake Forest
Vanderbilt

Percentage

2001  2002  2003  2004  2005  2007

Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08
Respondents Indicating that their Parents' Before-Tax Income exceeded $150,000 in the Previous Year

![Bar chart showing percentages for Wake Forest and Vanderbilt from 2001 to 2007.]

Wake Forest:
- 2001: 43%
- 2002: 43%
- 2003: 44%
- 2004: 45%
- 2005: 49%
- 2006: 53%

Vanderbilt:
- 2001: 46%
- 2002: 45%
- 2003: 43%
- 2004: 47%
- 2005: 45%
- 2006: 51%
Respondents Indicating Doctorate as their Highest Planned Degree

![Bar chart showing the percentage of respondents indicating Doctorate as their highest planned degree for Wake Forest and Vanderbilt universities across different years (2001-2007). The chart displays data from the Office of Institutional Research, 4/23/08.](image-url)