

CIRP 2005 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 the freshmen during the 2005 fall orientation program while the subsequent response rate was 93.5%. In March 2006, the Higher Education Data Sharing (HEDS) Consortium provided the Office of Institutional Research the 2005 Wake Forest freshman survey results as well as results from other institutions.

Findings

Following this analysis are graphs with results of selected items from the CIRP Freshman Survey in different years for Wake Forest, Vanderbilt, Washington & Lee, Furman and a university "Peer Group" consisting of Emory, Georgetown, Northeastern, University of Miami, Texas Christian and Villanova.

Average High School Grade of A or A+ and Mean Composite SAT

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshman students reporting an average high school grade of A or A+ was 40.7%, lower than 2004. The self-reported mean SAT score of 1338 for 2005 Wake Forest freshmen is slightly higher compared to 2004.

Distance From Home

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen more than 500 miles away from home is 42.4%, slightly lower than 2004.

Father and Mother Did Not Attend College

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their father did not attend college was 7.1%, lower than 2004. The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their mother did not attend college was 7.9%, lower than 2004.

Current Religious Preference

- Wake Forest had a slight increase in 2005 freshmen indicating Baptist (13.6%) and a slight increase indicating Catholic (23.8%) compared to 2004.

First Choice College and Applied to Six or More Colleges

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that Wake Forest was their first choice college decreased slightly to 72.0% from 2004. The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen applying to six or more colleges decreased slightly to 32.1%.

Good Academic Reputation and Size of College Very Important in "Choosing this College"

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating good academic reputation as very important in choosing their school decreased slightly to 91.7%. The percentage of

2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating size as very important decreased very slightly to 69.0%.

Offered Financial Aid and Magazine Rankings Very Important in “Choosing this College”

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating offered financial aid as very important increased slightly to 28.2%. The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating rankings in magazines as very important decreased very slightly to 40.8%.

Political Views Characterized as Conservative

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating their political views as conservative decreased to 34.6%.

Parental Income Above \$150,000

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their parental income exceeded \$150,000 (the prior year) increased to 49.0%.

Doctorate Highest Degree Planned

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that they plan to obtain a doctorate degree decreased to 17.3%.

Performed Volunteer Work

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that they had performed volunteer work decreased very slightly to 94.4%.

Racial Background

- The racial identification for 2005 Wake Forest African-Americans increased to 7.4%; Asians increased slightly to 4.5%; and Hispanics increased slightly to 2.9%.

Used Internet for Research/Homework

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that they used the internet for research/homework frequently increased to 84.3%.

Probable Field of Study

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their probable field of study will be arts and humanities decreased to 12.2%; biological science decreased to 10.9%; business increased significantly to 29.1%; physical science or mathematics decreased very slightly to 5.7%; and social science decreased very slightly to 16.6%.

Student’s Probable Career – Lawyer and Physician

- The percentage of 2005 Wake Forest freshmen indicating that their probable career would entail being a lawyer decreased to 9.3% and the percentage for being a physician remained the same at 16.1%.

Studying Abroad and ThinkPads “Very Important” (Additional questions by Wake Forest)

- The percentage of 2005 Freshmen indicating that studying abroad opportunities at Wake Forest were “very important” as a reason for attending increased to 44.6% and “ThinkPads for every student” decreased significantly to 19.5%.

Summary

The CIRP 2005 Freshman Survey results indicate that the quality in terms of mean SAT scores is higher for the 2005 Wake Forest freshmen compared to 2004 but lower for average GPA's from high school.

The 2005 freshman class has a significantly higher percentage of parents with incomes above \$150,000 and a lower percentage of parents who did not attend college. However, the 2005 freshman class is less conservative in their political views compared to 2004.

The 2005 Wake Forest freshman class has a higher percentage of African Americans, Asians and Hispanics compared to 2004. The highest percentage of Wake Forest 2005 freshmen choosing a probable field of study was again in business, representing a significant increase compared to 2004. The percentage of pre-law students decreased and the percentage of pre-med students remained the same for 2005 Wake Forest freshmen compared to 2004.

Study abroad opportunities at Wake Forest continue to be important in influencing students to attend. Receiving ThinkPads appears to be significantly less important compared to the past.

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