

Wake Forest University HERI Freshman Survey Results 2013

Freshmen entering Wake Forest University in 2013 compared favorably to freshmen at 340 [administering institutions](#) on every construct in Higher Education Research Institute's Freshmen Survey. Wake Forest trended positively in the areas of diversity and pre-college alcohol consumption, while greater percentages indicated fewer financial restrictions. Additionally, more reported Wake Forest as their "first choice" than in 2011 or compared to very high selectivity private universities. Within WFU, male respondents rated themselves higher than did females on their own abilities and confidence in academic and social situations.

The Freshman Survey (TFS) is a national survey directed by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute (HERI). TFS results are useful for determining from incoming freshmen their background, reasons for choosing college, and their plans and expectations during college. The TFS was first administered to Wake Forest freshmen entering in the Class of 1979 and has been administered every other year since 2005.

TFS was distributed electronically by the Office of Institutional Research in July 2013 to all Wake Forest freshmen scheduled to enter in fall 2013. A total of 588 freshmen submitted responses, representing 48% of the entering freshmen. The respondents were mostly representative of the freshman class. Although over 20% of respondents did not report their race, the remaining respondents represented the freshman class fairly closely with slightly more respondents reporting two or more races and slightly fewer reporting Hispanic or Latino. Women were over represented at 57% of respondents compared to 52% of the freshman class.

[WFU Compares Favorably to Nation on Item Constructs](#)

Due to the large quantity of individual questions asked and the complexity of assessing specific areas of potential concern, HERI developed a number of constructs which group information gathered from numerous items into a more reliable, cumulative measure. These construct scores, which provide a way of looking at overall trends among survey respondents, are standardized to have a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of 10.

Constructs in Which WFU Freshmen Scored High (WFU Average Score):

- Likelihood of College Involvement (56.1)
- Academic Self-Concept (55.3)
- Habits of Mind (55.1)
- Social Self-Concept (53.2)

Notably, Wake Forest did not score below 51.2 on any construct. WFU construct scores did not differ markedly from the very high selectivity private university scores or from WFU 2011 respondents. However, within Wake Forest, male students had higher construct scores than female students on Academic Self-Concept (57.2 vs. 53.9) and Social Self-Concept (55.0 vs 51.9; [see all results by gender](#)).

[Individual Items of Note](#)

Although less reliable than constructs, several items showed noticeable [trends](#). For example, incoming freshmen spent less time partying during their final year of high school and [drank less than previous years](#). In 2013, incoming freshmen reported parents with higher incomes and decisions less influenced by financial cost/aid than in 2011. Also, freshmen were increasingly likely to report they will socialize with someone of another race/ethnicity, yet fewer chose college to make them "a more cultured person."

More Wake Incoming Freshmen in [2013 Compared to 2011 Report](#):

- Having had special tutoring or remedial work in high school.
 - Nearly one in five of this year's freshmen anticipate needing in college special tutoring or remedial work in math, foreign language, and/or writing.
 - Of those anticipating needing tutoring, three-quarters or more did not have tutoring prior to coming to Wake, the exception being math where 42% who anticipate needing it at Wake had tutoring in math previously.
- The decision to attend Wake was influenced by others (parents, relatives, teacher, and private college counselor), while fewer reported rankings as being "very important."
- Expecting none of their first year's educational expenses to be covered by student's own resources.

Fewer Wake Incoming Freshmen in 2013 Compared to 2011 Report:

- English as native language.
- "Some chance" they will work full-time while attending college.

Because TFS is a national survey, the responses of Wake incoming freshmen may be [compared to the responses of freshmen at fourteen very highly selective private universities](#).

More Wake Incoming Freshmen Compared to Private University Incoming Freshmen Report:

- School size was "very important" in decision to attend.
- Reasons for attending college more post-graduation oriented:
 - Ability to get a better job "very important"
 - Ability to make more money "very important" or "somewhat important"
 - Preparing for graduate or professional school "very important"
- "Very good chance" of communicating regularly with professors.
- "Very good chance" of participating in study abroad.
- Attending "First choice" college.

Fewer Wake Incoming Freshmen compared to Private University Incoming Freshmen reported:

- Expecting \$10,000 or more of their first year's educational expenses to be covered by aid which need not be repaid.
- Being offered financial aid was "very important" in decision to attend.
- "No chance" of joining a social fraternity or sorority.

[WFU Custom Questions](#)

In addition to HERI items, WFU has added a number of custom items to the survey over the years. Trends from these items included:

- Rising
 - Planning to participate in multiple study abroad programs.
 - Decision to study abroad influenced by "the chance to study in a place that interests me."
- Falling
 - Think that overseas study will be most significant in understanding foreign culture and society.