



Surveys

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC PLANNING

Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) First Year Student Survey

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About This Site

As part of our efforts to expand the university's institutional research agenda, all three Rutgers campuses participated last fall in the 2004 Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) First Year Student Survey. CIRP is a continuing longitudinal study of the American higher education system sponsored by the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Graduate School of Education at UCLA. Alexander Astin is the founding director of the project, which was instituted in 1966. The principal purpose of CIRP is to assess the opinions and interests of first-year college students. During the past 30 years CIRP has generated an array of research about a wide range of issues in American higher education. CIRP is the largest and oldest empirical study of higher education, involving data on approximately 1,400 institutions and over 8 million students. National data, which are statistically weighted to provide a normative profile of the American first year student population, are released annually; the most recently issued report is entitled *The American First Year Student: National Norms For Fall 2002*.

A link to a listing of the peer universities and colleges (as defined by CIRP) that participated in the 2004 CIRP First Year Student Survey is provided below. For a four- year college to be included in the national norms sample by CIRP, 85% of its first-time full-time student population had to complete the survey. For universities, CIRP required 75% of an institution's first-time full-time student population to return the survey. These are the minimal sample proportions that CIRP asserts will provide a representative sample of the first-time full-time population of a particular institution. CIRP uses these counts to develop "weights" that are then used to represent the population of entering first-time full-time first-year students for various selectivity strata. Thus it is important to remember when comparing each campus of the university to their respective peer groups that these normative data are based on a limited (and possibly skewed) number of institutions.

These survey results contain a wealth of information on students entering our university. The accompanying tables and text provide some highlights comparing data on our first-time full-time first-year students with national normative data. These highlights are presented under the following headings: 1) responses that relate to a student's **Selection of College** (a set of items in this category includes questions that were specifically designed by Rutgers University to be asked only of Rutgers students); 2) responses that tell us about the **Educational and Career Plans** of these students; and, 3) responses describing **Student Attitudes and Background**.

Also provided are results from Rutgers participation in the CIRP surveys from 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

These files require [Adobe Acrobat 5.0](#) or better to view.

2005

Camden Report

 [Narrative](#)

 [Report](#)

Newark Report

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New Brunswick Report

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2004

Camden Report

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