ANALYSIS OF RUTGERS-NEWARK DATA

It should be noted at the outset that CIRP included the Rutgers-Newark campus in the "highly selective public university" stratum. Given the different character and mission of some of the institutions included in this stratum (see Attachment C), the following comparisons between Rutgers-Newark and peer institution students should be viewed cautiously.

The responses to questions in the Selection of College section (Items A1-A5), reveal some interesting differences between Rutgers-Newark and peer institution students. Rutgers-Newark students and peer institution students both state that their institution is their first choice (71% and 66%, respectively). The most important reasons in deciding to go to college differ slightly for Rutgers-Newark and its peer institutions. Rutgers-Newark students are more likely to be motivated by the ability to make more money (77% vs. 71%), to gain a better education (76% vs. 70%), and to improve reading and study skills (53% vs. 43%).

Rutgers-Newark students and peer institution students cite similar reasons for selecting their institutions: good academic reputation (71% and 72%, respectively), graduates get good jobs (63% and 61%, respectively), and because graduates are admitted to top graduate/professional schools (50% and 46%, respectively). However, Rutgers-Newark students are much more likely to cite two additional reasons: low tuition and the desire to remain close to home (49% vs. 33% and 43% vs. 14%, respectively).

Fifty-one percent of both Rutgers-Newark students and peer institution students reported some concern about financing college, but slightly more Rutgers-Newark students said it was a major concern (19% vs. 13%). Although the majority of Rutgers-Newark
students plan to receive some financial aid from parents or family (74%), more students at
the peer institutions plan on receiving familial support (87%). More Rutgers-Newark
students plan to rely on a part-time job off-campus (31% vs. 13%) as a source for
educational expenses and while fewer plan to use savings from summer work (28% vs.
52%).

In responding to questions developed for Rutgers students only (Items A6-A10),
Rutgers-Newark students reported which sources of information about college selection
were important to them. Considerably more students indicated college guides compared to
magazine ratings or the World Wide Web (28% vs. 7% and 5%). However, the majority
said that they relied on other sources of information not listed in the survey (60%).
Rutgers’ position as a major research university influenced the decision to attend to a high
degree for 35 percent of the respondents, to a moderate degree for 49 percent, to a small
degree for 12 percent, and only 4 percent reported it having no influence at all. “Breadth of
the academic program” was cited as the most appealing aspect of Rutgers as a major
research university by 43 percent of Rutgers-Newark students, while “opportunity to obtain
an internship” and “opportunity to participate in research” were cited by 24 and 16 percents,
respectively. Rutgers-Newark students from New Jersey who were accepted at colleges out
of state but elected to stay in New Jersey indicated Acost@43% and Ahigh academic
reputation@25% as their most important reasons for selecting Rutgers; students not from
New Jersey noted Ahigh academic reputation@34% “cost” (16%) and as their top reasons
for coming to New Jersey and attending Rutgers. “Locality” and Arecommendation of
friend/relative/high school counselor@were each listed as reasons for selecting Rutgers by
thirteen percent of the students not from New Jersey.
With respect to **Educational and Career Plans** (Items B1-B4), peer institution students plan on attaining a postbaccalaureate degree at a higher rate than students from Rutgers-Newark (86% vs. 76%). While a similar percentage of peer institution students and Rutgers-Newark students plan to obtain a Master’s degree (42% and 47%, respectively), a higher percentage of peer institution students plan to seek other professional and terminal degrees, including Ph.D., Ed.D., medical, law, and other degrees than Rutgers-Newark students (44% vs. 29%). Notwithstanding, of those students indicating that they intend to pursue postbaccalaureate degrees, a higher percentage of Rutgers-Newark students (46%) than peer institution students (34%) intend to do so at their current institution.

The most probable undergraduate major field of study at Rutgers-Newark was professional fields\(^1\) (29%). This was less frequently cited among peer institution students (13%). Business and biological sciences were the second and third most probable majors at Rutgers-Newark (20% and 9%), with similar rates of students from peer institutions intending to go into those fields (17% and 13%).

With regard to **Student Attitudes and Background** (Items C1-C15), Rutgers-Newark students are more likely than peer institution students to consider financial success an essential or very important objective to achieve (86% vs. 75%), while being slightly more likely to see themselves as "middle-of-the-road" on political issues (57%) compared to students at peer institutions (50%). Rutgers-Newark students place greater importance on helping others in difficulty (76% vs. 63%), having administrative responsibility (51% vs. 42%).

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\(^1\) Professional fields include architecture/urban planning, home economics, health technology, library/archival science, nursing, pharmacy, predental/medical/veterinarian, occupational/physical/speech therapy, and other professional.
38%), and promoting racial understanding ((48% vs. 35%). Rutgers-Newark students are much more ethnically diverse than peer institution students, as there is a higher percentage of students at Rutgers-Newark who are Asian American (27%), Latino (15%), and African American (9%) compared to students at peer institutions (19%, 8%, and 6%, respectively).² Peer institution students report considerably higher parental income than Rutgers-Newark students. Twenty-six percent of Rutgers-Newark students report parental income of less than $30,000 compared to 16 percent of peer institution students, while a far lower percentage of Rutgers-Newark students report parental income exceeding $100,000 (14%) compared to peer institution students (31%). Only 54 percent of Rutgers-Newark students state that they are native English speaking, while 84 percent of peer institution students indicate their native language as English.

NOTE: Percentages for Rutgers University on the comparison table (Attachment A) may not match corresponding percentages on Attachment B (official CIRP report) for both Rutgers-Newark and Rutgers-New Brunswick reports. This is because respondents from the Rutgers University School of Nursing were reported in the Rutgers-Newark comparison table but included in the Rutgers-New Brunswick CIRP report.

² In answering the question about racial background, students may have selected more than one category. Consequently, the percentages may add to more than one hundred percent when the total percentage of minority students is added to the percentage of white students. This is true for both Rutgers-Newark and its peer institutions.