The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey is designed to capture a portrait of student characteristics of our incoming first-year (FY) class. This survey was administered early in the fall 2012 semester to students enrolled in English Composition I. There were 1,132 respondents. Of these, 998 (88 percent) were first-time, full-time college students.

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is designed to capture the views of FY and senior students on the nature and quality of their undergraduate education. This survey was administered in the spring of 2012 to all FY and senior students. There were 1,149 respondents (805 senior students and 344 FY students).

Together these surveys provide a glimpse of student habits and perceptions as they enter UCO, as they finish their first year, and before they graduate.

**Service Work**

Compared to their national peers, entering FY students are far less likely to have demonstrated for a cause or to have publicly communicated their opinion about a cause within the past year. These students also indicated, at a rate higher than their national peers, that there was no chance of them participating in student protests or demonstrations or in student government. Similarly, entering UCO FY students are less likely than their peers to have done volunteer work in the past year. At the end of their first year, however, students reported more often than their national peers that they planned to or had done community service or volunteer work. Does this change suggest that UCO is doing something specific to engage students in these activities during their first year?
Citizenship

At the end of their first year and as seniors, UCO students reported on average that their college education was important to their ability to make informed decisions as citizens. They also reported that keeping up to date with political affairs was important. Regarding UCO’s impact on citizenship, about 40 percent of FY students and 32 percent of seniors reported that their experience at UCO has contributed *quite a bit or very much* to their knowledge, skills, and personal development in voting in local, state, or national elections.

Could this data be relevant to your work?

This report highlights several findings that the Office of Institutional Assessment thought might be of interest to you. The Freshman Survey Report and the NSSE data are very rich and can provide many insights into our students and their experiences at UCO. Sometimes the data is much more meaningful if the responses are disaggregated to reveal contrasts or patterns among different categories of students or over time. Please let us know if you want us to create a report for you that reflects your specific interests. If you are unsure how the data could be helpful to you, the Institutional Assessment staff will work with you to clarify the parameters of a useful report. Please call or send us an e-mail; we welcome working with you to use the data to help us understand and improve UCO.

Contact us...

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