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.

Where do our students live?

Of Fall 2012 FY entering students, nearly 45 percent reported living in on-campus student housing. Approximately 33 percent reported living with family or other relatives; twenty percent reported living in a private home or apartment and the remaining students reported living at a sorority/ fraternity house or other locations.

Interestingly, by the end of their first year, while 33 percent reported living on campus, only eleven percent of FY students reported not spending time commuting to class. Might students be counting walking from the residence halls “commuting?” The majority of students reported spending between 1 and 5 hours commuting to class. Among seniors, only five percent reported not commuting to class.
The working UCO student

During their senior year in high school, almost 70 percent of FY students reported they spent time during the week working for pay. During their first year at college, 13 percent of students reported working at on-campus jobs and fifty-seven percent of reported working off-campus. By their senior year, thirty-two percent of seniors reported working on campus and sixty-eight percent reported working off campus.

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...

Office of Institutional Assessment

405-974-3342
Cia Verschelden (cverschelden@uco.edu)
Heather Rabalais (hrabalais@uco.edu)
Sarah Combs (scombs3@uco.edu)