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 students live?

According to the CIRP, of 2012 FY entering students, almost 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 reported living at a sorority/fraternity house or other locations.

By the end of their first year, only 33 percent of FY students reported living on campus; only 2 percent of seniors reported living on campus.

Ten percent of end-of-first-year students and seniors reported living within walking distance of UCO.
In addition to coming to class, UCO students are on our campus for a variety of reasons. For instance, students come to campus to work at on-campus jobs, study, work on group projects, meet with professors, hang out with friends, and attend student functions. Fifty-two percent of end-of-first-year students and 64 percent of seniors reported that within the past year they spent five hours a week or less on campus outside of class. Compared with universities where large numbers of students live on campus, UCO has to use different strategies to engage students in out-of-class activities.

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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