

News from Institutional Research

This issue of “News from Institutional Research” continues to report the results of the 2011 College Student Survey examining differences in the financing students utilize to pay for their senior year and their political views, attitudes and life goals.

2011 Graduating Seniors - Comparisons by Academic Divisions

Financing a Creighton Education

Seniors were asked 1) how much money they had borrowed to help pay college expenses and 2) how much of the past year's educational expenses were paid for by family resources or loans using a 6 point scale (1 = none, 2 = less than \$1,000, 3 = \$1,000—\$2,999, 4 = \$3,000—\$5,999, 5 = \$6,000—\$9,999 and 6 = \$10,000 or more).

A comparison of mean scores by academic division using analysis of variance with post hoc tests shows statistically significant differences between mean scores (\blacktriangle = highest mean and \blacktriangledown = lowest mean) on the amount borrowed/owed and the amount of senior year expenses paid from family resources or loans.

- Pre-Professional majors reported borrowing significantly more money ($p > .024$) than Biological Science, Business, Humanities and Physical Science majors.
- Biological Science majors reported receiving significantly more money from family resources ($p > .003$) than Nursing or Social Science majors.
- Nursing and Pre-professional majors reported receiving significantly more money from loan ($p > .003$) than Biological Science and Business students.

Sources of educational expenses this past year	All Seniors	Biological Science	COBA	Humanities	Nursing	Physical Science	Pre-Profess.	Psychology	Social Science
Amount of money borrowed	\$41,814	\$34,420	\$34,986	\$33,250	\$48,900	\$33,438	\$54,251	\$42,251	\$36,168
Number responding	N=316	N=41	N=49	N=38	N=40	N=24	N=78	N=8	N=18
Percent of all respondents	56%	46%	53%	59%	65%	51%	63%	56%	47%
		\blacktriangledown	\blacktriangledown	\blacktriangledown		\blacktriangledown	\blacktriangle		
Money from family resources (parents, relatives, spouse, etc.)	4.16	4.70 \blacktriangle	4.31	4.07	3.33 \blacktriangledown	4.31	4.22	4.30	3.42 \blacktriangledown
Aid which must be repaid (loans, etc.)	3.77	3.24 \blacktriangledown	3.43 \blacktriangledown	3.68	4.57 \blacktriangle	3.33	4.25 \blacktriangle	3.54	3.97

It is also interesting to note the responses to a question asking seniors if they had contributed money in the past year to help support their family (3 point scale: 1 = not at all, 2=occasionally and 3 = frequently).

Humanities, Pre-Professional and Social Science seniors were significantly more likely ($p > .017$) to have contributed money to their families than Business seniors.

Contributed money to support my family	All Seniors	Biological Science	COBA	Humanities	Nursing	Physical Science	Pre-Profess.	Psychology	Social Science
Mean score	1.34	1.25	1.20 \blacktriangledown	1.47 \blacktriangle	1.29	1.27	1.45 \blacktriangle	1.30	1.50 \blacktriangle

2011 Graduating Seniors - Comparisons by Academic Division,

Political Views, Attitudes and Life Goals

As the choice of an academic major field of study is influenced by many variables, it is not surprising that the political views, attitudes toward social issues and life goals of the 2011 seniors would differ when examined by academic division. As seen below, Business seniors tend to be the “yin” to the Social Sciences “yang”.

Seniors were asked to indicate their political views on a five point scale (1= far right, 2=conservative, 3=middle of the road, 4=liberal and 5=far left). Attitudes toward social issues are computed on a four point scale (1=disagree strongly, 2=disagree somewhat, 3=agree somewhat and 4=agree strongly). Finally, goals are ranked on a four point scale (1=not important, 2=somewhat important, 3=very important and 4=essential). A comparison of mean scores by academic division using analysis of variance with post hoc tests shows statistically significant differences between mean scores (▲ = highest mean and ▼ = lowest mean).

Mean Scores	All Seniors	Biological Science	COBA	Humanities	Nursing	Physical Science	Pre-Profess	Psychology	Social Science
Political views	3.03	2.96	2.64▼	3.31▲	3.00	3.02	3.01	3.17▲	3.59▲
<u>View:</u> Gays & lesbians should have the legal right to adopt a child	3.31	3.34	3.10▼	3.26	3.33	3.36	3.20▼	3.55	3.78▲
<u>View:</u> Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status.	3.22	3.19	2.96▼	3.23	3.28	3.26	3.12	3.49	3.69▲
<u>View:</u> The federal government is not doing enough to control environmental pollution	2.91	3.04▲	2.59▼	3.02▲	2.89	2.90	2.90	3.06▲	3.16▲
<u>View:</u> Addressing global warming should be a federal priority	2.81	3.00	2.57▼	2.95	2.80	2.81	2.67	2.87	3.16▲
<u>View:</u> Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now	2.73	2.56	2.31▼	3.02▲	2.69	2.76	2.83▲	2.87▲	3.19▲
<u>View:</u> Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished	2.67	2.83	2.88▲	2.65	2.57	2.81	2.59	2.54	2.28▼
<u>View:</u> A national health care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical costs	2.67	2.51	2.23▼	2.95▲	2.72	2.69	2.72▲	2.81▲	3.22▲
<u>View:</u> Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education	2.17	2.36	2.49▲	1.86▼	2.15	2.29	2.09	2.26	1.50▼
<u>Goal:</u> Improving my understanding of other countries & cultures	2.95	2.91▼	3.01	3.03	2.89	2.74▼	2.82▼	2.98	3.55▲
<u>Goal:</u> Developing a meaningful philosophy of life	2.91	2.82▼	2.90	3.19▲	2.98	2.88	2.78▼	2.79▼	3.24▲
<u>Goal:</u> Being very well off financially	2.68	2.64▼	3.16▲	2.28▼	2.76	2.64	2.69▼	2.56▼	2.36▼
<u>Goal:</u> Influencing social values	2.60	2.39▼	2.59	2.76	2.56	2.45	2.57	2.70	3.00▲
<u>Goal:</u> Keeping up to date with political affairs	2.52	2.31▼	2.77	2.55▼	2.47▼	2.38▼	2.40▼	2.28▼	3.27▲
<u>Goal:</u> Helping to promote racial understanding	2.44	2.38	2.20▼	2.66	2.38	2.24▼	2.43	2.60	2.97▲
<u>Goal:</u> Influencing the political structure	1.89	1.75▼	1.99▼	2.00	1.93▼	1.76▼	1.76▼	1.74▼	2.58▲