

News from Institutional Research

This issue of “News from Institutional Research” compares the experiences of 431 undergraduate Creighton seniors who completed the 2006 College Student Survey last May with those of slightly over three thousand peers from Fairfield (689), Fordham (1,131), Gonzaga (702) and John Carroll (520).

The first page contrasts differences between the Creighton seniors and those at the other Jesuit institutions on their perceptions of various aspects of the campus climate.

Page 2 compares Creighton senior responses to their peers at the other Jesuit institutions regarding their experiences with faculty and satisfaction with various aspects of collegiate life.

2006 Jesuit Senior Comparisons - Perceptions of Campus Climate

A new series of questions on the Senior Survey in 2006 asked students to “rate the climate of your college” on nine different attributes on 5-point scales. An Independent-Samples *t* Test of Means found there were statistically significant differences ($p < .001$) between Creighton seniors and those at the other Jesuit institutions on six of the nine attributes.

As can be seen below, the Creighton seniors (designated in **green**) rated our campus higher than their Jesuit peers (designated in **red**) as a group rated their campuses on “friendliness”, “individualistic”, “caring”, “improving” and “conservative”. The Jesuit peers as a group rated their campuses as more “accepting of diversity” than Creighton seniors perceive on the Creighton campus.



When the Independent Samples *t* Test is applied to the data but controlled for sex, we find some interesting nuances, however. While there were statistically significant differences ($p < .001$) between both men and women at Creighton and those at the peer institutions on their perceptions of “friendliness”, “caring” and “improving”, Creighton men were the driving force behind the difference in the two groups on perceptions of openness to “diversity”; Creighton women were not significantly different from their female peers on this attribute. Similarly, Creighton women were the influence behind the difference between the two groups on the climate of “conformist/individualistic”; Creighton men were not significantly different from their male peers on this attribute.

	<u>CU Men</u>	<u>Peer Men</u>	<u>CU Women</u>	<u>Peer Women</u>
“Diversity” mean	2.38	2.77 ($p < .001$)	2.51	2.67
“Conformist” mean	3.15	3.03	3.39	3.10 ($p < .001$)

2006 Jesuit Senior Comparisons– Experiences with Faculty

As can be seen below, compared to seniors at Fairfield, Fordham, Gonzaga and John Carroll, Creighton men and women had a significantly more positive experience with faculty. While an Independent-Samples *t* Test of Means found statistically significant differences between the groups ($p < .001$), for this purpose, I believe the differences are better shown using percentages. Twice as many Creighton seniors indicated they had at least “occasionally” been a guest in a professor’s home. Further, a minimum of twenty-five percent more Creighton seniors reported faculty had frequently provided various services and that they were very satisfied with the academic aspects of their collegiate experience.

	All CU Seniors	All Jesuit Seniors	CU Men	Jesuit Men	CU Women	Jesuit Women
Have been a guest in a professor’s home	55%	27%	57%	27%	54%	26%
Frequently observed professors actively engaging students during class	58%	46%	60%	39%	56%	50%
Faculty Frequently Provided:						
Emotional support and encouragement	39%	25%	28%	17%	46%	29%
Advice & guidance about your educational program	41%	29%	35%	24%	45%	33%
Intellectual challenge and stimulation	50%	40%	46%	34%	53%	43%
Opportunity to discuss coursework outside of class	49%	37%	42%	33%	54%	40%
Help in achieving your professional goals	40%	27%	35%	22%	43%	30%
Very Satisfied:						
Academic advising	21%	15%	21%	12%	21%	16%
Courses in your major	46%	36%	46%	33%	46%	38%
Amount of contact with faculty	45%	31%	44%	27%	45%	33%
Overall quality of instruction	37%	25%	36%	23%	38%	26%

2006 Jesuit Senior Comparisons– Weekly Schedule

The table below reflects responses to a question asking seniors how much time they have spent during a typical week in the past year on various tasks. As can be seen, the 2006 Creighton seniors (both men and women) spent significantly more time attending class, studying, and working (for pay) on and off campus than their peers at the other four Jesuit institutions.

The Creighton senior men, however, surpassed their Jesuit school peers in the percentage who reported 11 or more hours per week “socializing with friends” and there is no meaningful difference between the two groups in the percentage who reported spending 11 or more hours per week “partying”. The Creighton senior women, on the other hand, appear not to have experienced the social life of either their Jesuit school peers or the senior men at Creighton.

During the past year, how much time is spent in a typical week.....	All CU Seniors	All Jesuit Seniors	CU Men	Jesuit Men	CU Women	Jesuit Women
11+ hrs per week attending classes/labs	71%	53%	69%	50%	72%	56%
11+ hrs per week studying/homework	46%	28%	41%	21%	48%	32%
11+ hrs per week working (for pay) on campus	17%	11%	18%	9%	16%	12%
11+ hrs per week working (for pay) off campus	39%	31%	40%	28%	39%	33%
11+ hrs per week socializing with friends	45%	48%	54%	48%	40%	47%
11+ hrs per week partying	14%	23%	24%	26%	8%	21%