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News from Institutional Research

Institutional Research has the ability to track students not only by academic division but also by participation in 8 different activities/programs (Cortina Community, Encuentro Program, Freshman Leadership Program, Greek System, Honors Program, Semester Study Abroad, Service Trip Participation and Summer Study Abroad). This issue of "News from Institutional Research" examines the 2010 seniors by academic division and activity "membership" with regard to their Pluralistic Orientation and Positive Cross-Racial Interaction.

2010 Graduating Seniors - Pluralistic Orientation

"Constructs"

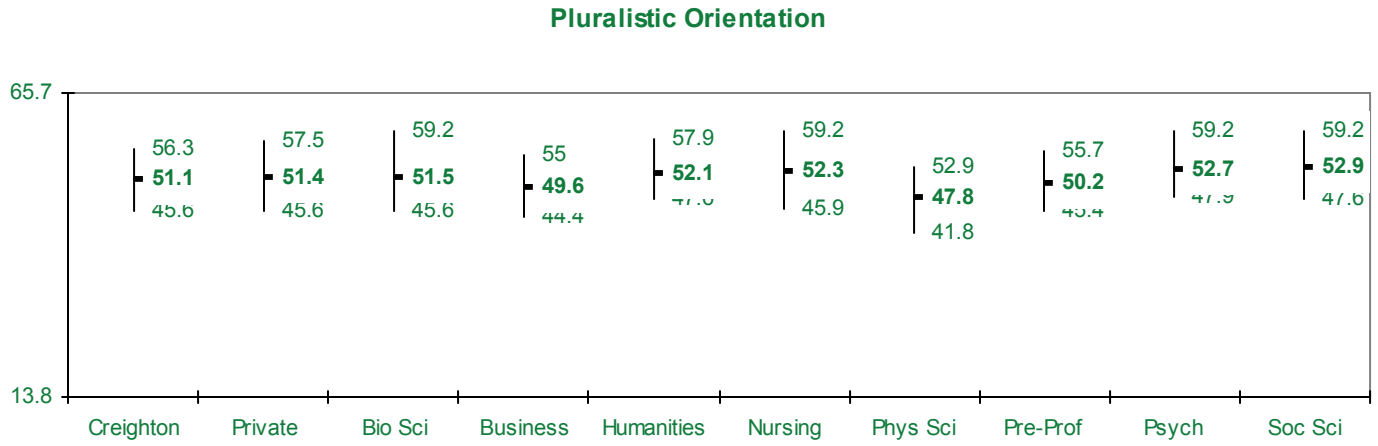
The Cooperative Institutional Research Project (CIRP) has designed "constructs" which combine weighted individual survey items into global measures they believe capture the experiences and outcomes which reveal information about the student experience.

The first chart included in each section is a visual display of the "construct" scores for Creighton, private universities and the Creighton seniors' major areas of study as described in the first Bulletin. The second chart in each section repeats the "construct" scores for Creighton as a whole but adds the scores of students participating in the various organizations/ programs. The Y axis is defined by the highest and lowest possible construct score. Mean scores are bolded. The numbers at the top and bottom of the vertical line are values for the 75th and 25th percentile.

CONSTRUCT– Pluralistic Orientation

Pluralistic Orientation measures "skills and dispositions appropriate for living and working in a diverse society". It includes the following items and weights in response to "rate yourself on each of the following traits compared with the average person your age": tolerance of others with different beliefs (3.35), ability to work cooperatively with diverse people (3.14), openness to having my views challenged (2.76), ability to see the world from someone else's perspective (2.55) and ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues (2.11).

	Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile		Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Creighton	51.1	45.6	56.3	Nursing	52.3	45.9	59.2
Private Universities	51.4	45.6	57.5	Physical Sci.	47.8	41.8	52.9
Biological Sciences	51.5	45.6	59.2	Pre-Profess.	50.2	45.4	55.7
Business	49.6	44.4	55.0	Psychology	52.7	47.9	59.2
Humanities	52.1	47.6	57.9	Social Sci.	52.9	47.6	59.2



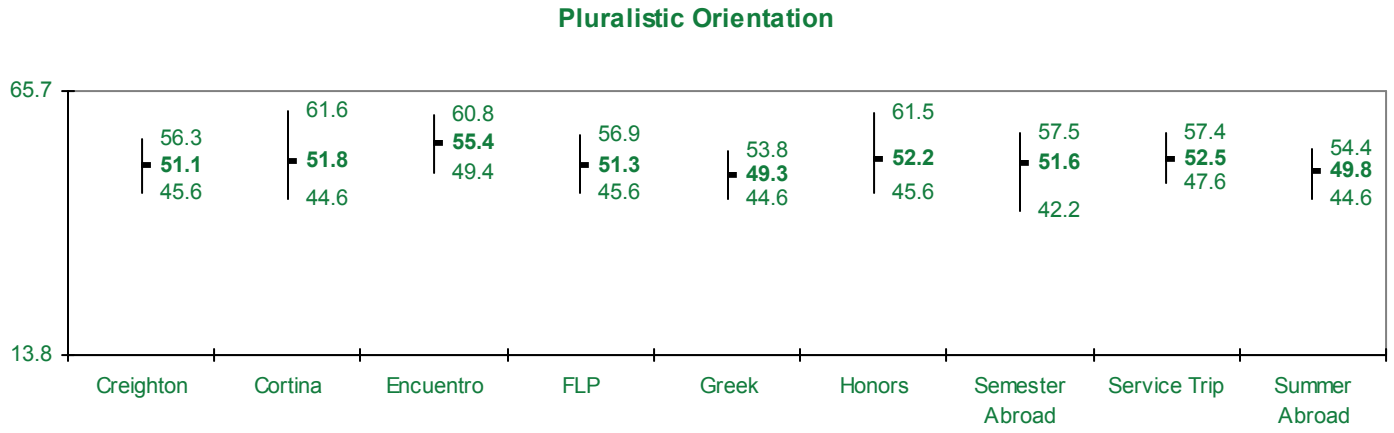
There was no meaningful difference between Creighton seniors and seniors at the private universities. Among Creighton seniors, Nursing and Social Science students had a significantly higher mean score than Business and Physical Sciences students. Biological Sciences, Humanities and Psychology also has a significantly higher mean score than Physical Sciences.

[1] Fordham, Howard, Loyola Chicago, University of the Pacific and Villanova

CONSTRUCT– Pluralistic Orientation (cont.)

The overall mean score and 25th and 75th percentile scores for Creighton as well as the seniors in the eight activities/ programs are shown below:

	Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile		Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Creighton	51.1	45.6	56.3	Honors Program	52.2	45.6	61.5
Cortina Community	51.8	44.6	61.6	Semester Abroad	51.6	42.2	57.5
Encuentro program	55.4	49.4	60.8	Service Trip	52.5	47.6	57.4
Freshman Leadership	51.3	45.6	56.9	Summer Abroad	49.8	44.6	54.4
Greek	49.3	44.6	53.8				



Seniors who participated in Encuentro had a significantly higher mean score on Pluralistic Orientation than all other seniors. Students who participated in Honors and Service Trips had a significantly higher mean score than seniors who were members of a social fraternity or sorority and those who spent a summer studying abroad. Seniors who participated in the Cortina Community, FLP and the semester abroad program had a higher mean score than all Creighton seniors but not significantly higher.

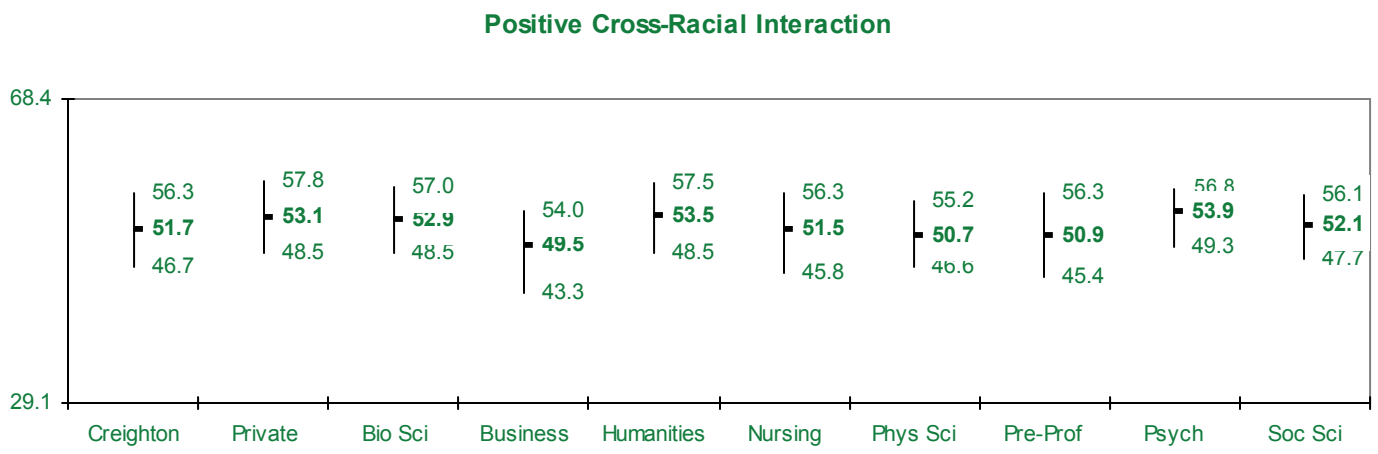
2010 Graduating Seniors - Positive Cross-Racial Interaction

CONSTRUCT– Positive Cross-Racial Interaction

Positive Cross-Racial Interaction measures "students' level of positive interaction with diverse peers". It includes the following items and weights in response to experiences with students from a different racial/ethnic group: had intellectual discussions outside of class (3.57), shared personal feelings and problems (3.52), dined or shared a meal (2.72), had meaningful and honest discussions about race/ethnic relations outside of class (2.46), studied or prepared for class (2.22) and socialized or partied (2.12).

	Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile		Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Creighton	51.7	46.7	56.3	Nursing	51.5	45.8	56.3
Private Universities	53.1	48.5	57.8	Physical Sci.	50.7	46.6	55.2
Biological Sciences	52.9	48.5	57.0	Pre-Profess.	50.9	45.4	56.3
Business	49.5	43.3	54.0	Psychology	53.9	49.3	56.8
Humanities	53.5	48.5	57.5	Social Sci.	52.1	47.7	56.1

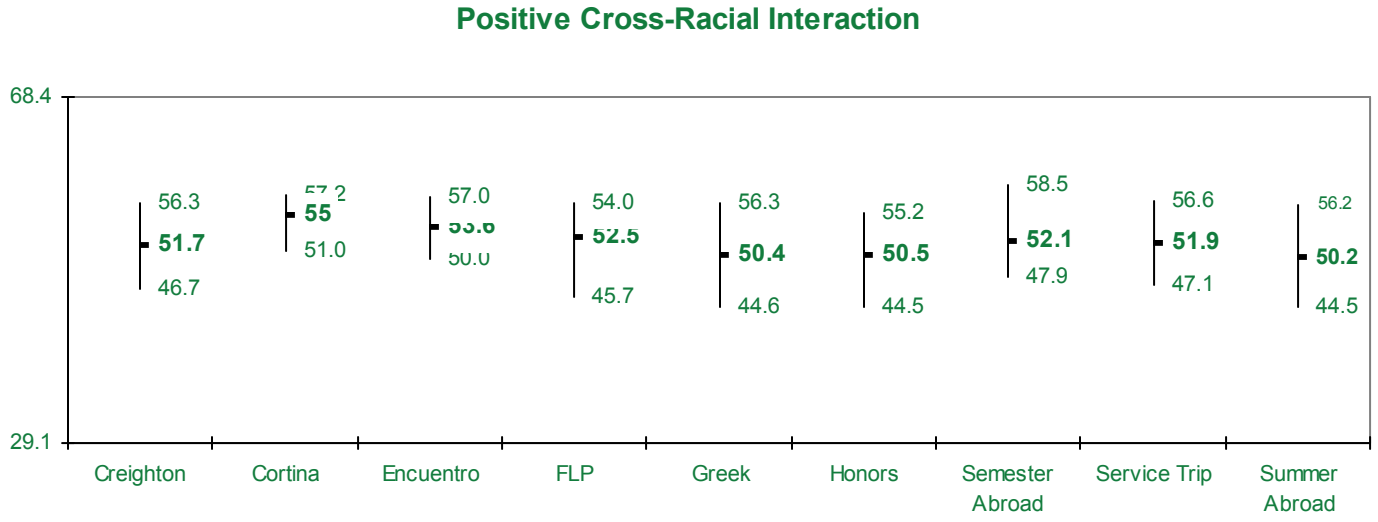
Creighton seniors had a significantly lower ($p<.001$) mean score on the Positive Cross-Racial Interaction construct than seniors at the other private universities. Among Creighton seniors, College of Business seniors has a significantly lower mean score than Biological Sciences, Humanities, Psychology and Social Sciences.



The overall mean score and 25th and 75th percentile scores for Creighton as well as the seniors in the eight activities/ programs are shown below:

	Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Creighton	51.7	46.7	56.3
Cortina Community	55.0	51.0	57.2
Encuentro program	53.6	50.0	57.0
Freshman Leadership	52.5	45.7	56.3
Greek	50.4	44.6	56.3

	Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Honors Program	50.5	44.5	55.2
Semester Abroad	52.1	47.9	58.5
Service Trip	51.9	47.1	56.6
Summer Abroad	50.2	44.5	56.2



Seniors who participated in the Cortina Community had a significantly higher mean score on Positive Cross-Racial Interaction than all others seniors except those who participated in the Encuentro program. Students who participated in FLP and semester abroad study programs had a significantly higher mean score than seniors who were members of a social fraternity or sorority, Honors program students and those who spent a summer studying abroad. Seniors who participated in Service Trips had a higher mean score than all Creighton seniors but not significantly higher.

News from Institutional Research is intended for internal use only. Comments or questions should be directed to Stephanie Wernig, Ph.D., 280-1164, wernig@creighton.edu.