Volume 7
Issue 5
January 2011

News from Institutional Research

This issue of "News from Institutional Research" begins a series of reports on the results of the 2010 Freshman Survey completed by 872 undergraduate freshmen in August of 2010, 86% of the entering class.

2010 Freshman - Internal and External Comparisons

"Constructs"

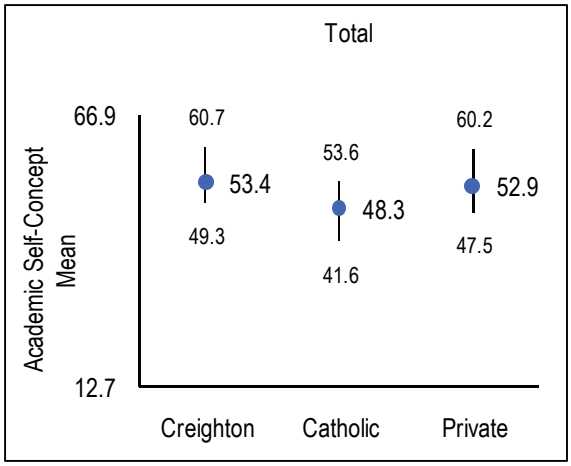
The Cooperative Institutional Research Project (CIRP) has designed "constructs" which combine weighted individual survey items into global measures they believe capture the experiences and outcomes which reveal information about the student experience. This issue of "Research Notes" examines 1) the differences between entering students at Creighton compared to Private Universities and Catholic Colleges and 2) the differences among the freshmen in each school of enrollment.

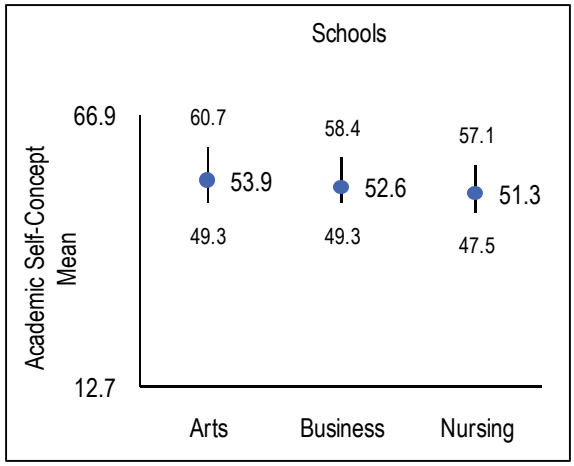
The chart included in each section is a visual display of the "construct" scores for Creighton, Private Universities and Catholic Colleges as well as each school of enrollment. The Y axis is defined by the highest and lowest possible construct score. Mean scores are bolded. The numbers at the top and bottom of the vertical line are values for the 75th and 25th percentile.

CONSTRUCT– Academic Self-Concept

Academic Self-Concept measures "the students' beliefs about their abilities and confidence in academic environments". It includes the following items in response to "rate yourself on each of the following traits as compared with the average person your age": academic ability, mathematical ability, intellectual self-confidence and drive to achieve.

	Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile		Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Creighton	53.4	49.3	60.7	Arts	53.9	49.3	60.7
Catholic Colleges	48.3 ***	41.6	53.6	Business	52.6	49.3	58.4
Private Universities	52.9	47.5	60.2	Nursing	51.3**	47.5	57.1





Creighton freshmen had a significantly higher mean score on Academic Self-Concept Construct than freshmen at the Catholic Colleges ($p<.001$).

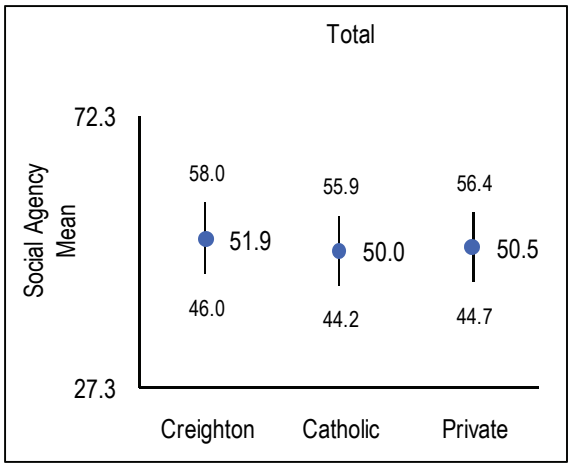
Among Creighton freshmen, Arts and Sciences students had a significantly higher mean score than Nursing students ($P<.01$). As a group, male freshmen had a significantly higher mean score (55.2) than women (52.4) at the $p<.001$ level on the Academic Self-Concept construct. Men in Arts and Sciences and Business had significantly higher mean scores (55.4 and 54.2, respectively) than women in Arts and Sciences and Business (52.9 and 50.5, respectively). There was no meaningful difference between men and women in Nursing.

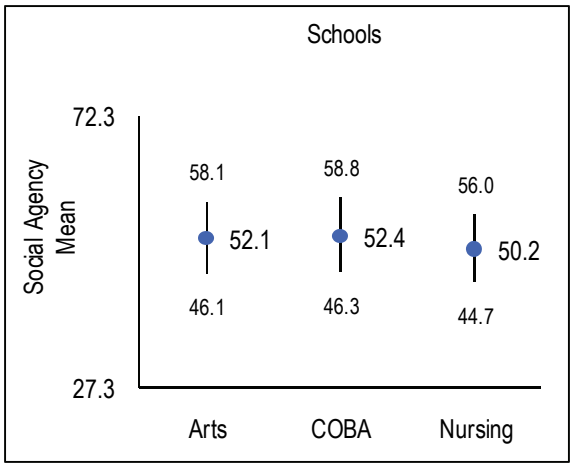
CONSTRUCT- Social Agency

Social agency measures "the extent to which students value political and social involvement as a personal goal". It includes the following items and weights in response to "indicate the importance to you personally": participating in community action program, helping to promote racial understanding, becoming a community leader, influencing social values, helping others who are in difficulty and keeping up to date with political affairs.

	Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile		Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Creighton	51.9	46.0	58.0	Arts	52.1	46.1	58.1
Catholic Colleges	50.0 ***	44.2	55.9	Business	52.4	46.3	58.8
Private Universities	50.5 ***	44.7	56.4	Nursing	50.2	44.7	56.0

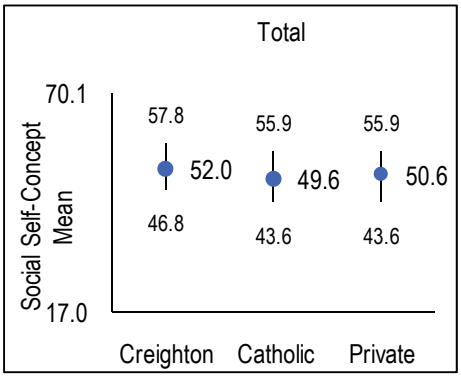
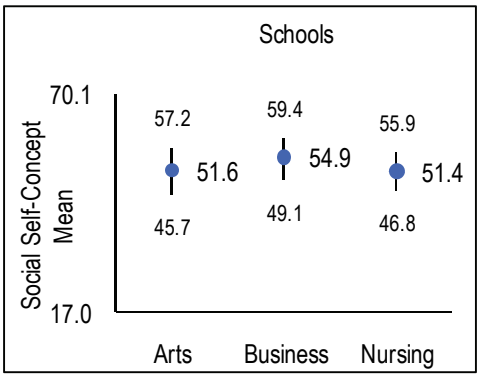
Creighton freshmen had a significantly higher mean score on the Social Agency Construct than freshmen at the Catholic institutions and freshmen at the Private Universities at the p<.001 level. There are no meaningful differences among the schools of enrollment or between genders on the Social Agency Construct.





CONSTRUCT- Social Self-Concept

Social self-confidence measures "the students' beliefs about their abilities and confidence in social situations". It includes the following items and weights in response to "rate yourself on each of the following traits as compared with the average person your age": social self-confidence, leadership ability, popularity and public speaking ability.

	Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile		Mean	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Creighton	52.0	46.8	57.8	Arts	51.6 ***	45.7	57.2
Catholic Colleges	49.6 ***	43.6	55.9	Business	54.9	49.1	59.4
Private Universities	50.6 ***	43.6	55.9	Nursing	51.4 ***	46.8	55.9

Creighton freshmen had a significantly higher mean score on Social Self-Concept Construct than freshmen at the Catholic Colleges and freshmen at Private Universities at the p<.001 level. Among Creighton freshmen, College of Business students had a significantly higher mean score than Arts and Sciences and Nursing students (P<.01). As a group, male freshmen had a significantly higher mean score (53.2) than women (51.4) at the p<.001 level on the Social Self-Concept construct. Men in Arts and Sciences had significantly higher mean scores (52.9) than women in Arts and Sciences (50.8) . There was no meaningful difference between men and women in Business or Nursing.